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### EMX 65 / EMX 85 European Championship: the season gets underway

With the first race of the South East zone and Central Europe zone, the EMX 65 / EMX 85 European Championship officially kicked off during the Easter weekend.



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The 2023 South East zone was up and run with the first race of the season kicking things off in the quaint town of Krinides, close to the tourist Kavala, in Greece. Lighting up round one in exciting style, the first seasonal race out of six saw 20 riders fought in harsh weather conditions, with cold, clouds and strong wind. More than 1500 spectators were present during the weekend to enjoy the races, which were held in a friendly atmosphere.



Aron Katona (KTM) of Hungary ruled the EMX85 class without big contest, managing to win in style every outing on the track. Second in both races was Sami Dumitru (KTM) from Romania, who managed to fend off Bulgarian Georgi Ginov (Husqvarna) in both races. Ginov finished third overall, followed by local rider George Koukaliotis (Yamaha) and Turkish rider Hasan Huseyin Bas.

In EMX65 the races were very disputed, with Romanian Daniel Marian (Gas Gas) winning both heats and scoring maximum points. Race 1 was red flagged due to an accident while some riders were penalized for jumping on the waved yellow flags, seeing top contenders Anna Kolnokoov and Efe Okur being relegated from their first and second positions. Second position for Bulgarian Nikolay Pavlov and third for Moldovan Ciorici Gheorghe. Race 2 saw Marian Daniel lead from start to finish, while Serbian Anna Kolnokoov and Turkish Efe Okur managed to score a second and a third, respectively.

The overall of the class was Marian Daniel first, Nikolay Pavlov in second and Anna Kolnokoov in third, while Greek Theodoros Strougkis was fourth and Efe Okur fifth.

Next round of the South East zone will take place in Sevlievo (Bulgaria) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**EMX85 top three**

1. Aron Katona, HUN
2. Sami Alexandru Dumitru, ROM
3. Georgi Ginov, BUL

**EMX65 top three**

1. Daniel Marian, ROM
2. Nikolay Pavlov, BUL
3. Anna Kolnokoov, SER



The opening round of the 2023 Central Europe zone saw almost 100 riders fight in the cloudy and cold Lommel, Belgium.

In EMX85 the first race wasn't the easy victory that favourite home rider Jarne Bervoets (KTM) hoped for. Starting 3<sup>rd</sup>, he quickly took the lead, but was unable to build up a large lead. Dutch Dani Heitink (Husqvarna) put him under pressure the entire race, even if at the end he finished second ahead of countryman Dex Kooiker (Husqvarna).

In Race 2 Heitink turned the tables, ruling from the beginning to the end of the race. He was in front after the start and steadily extended his lead. Local hero Bervoets had to settle with the second position and Dutch Dean Gregoire (KTM) with the third.

On the overall podium: Dani Heitink first, Jarne Bervoets second and Dean Gregoire third.

In EMX65 British Harry Dale (KTM) took a double win ahead of Dutch rider Kenzo Jaspers (Gas Gas) in Race 1 and Belgian Torre Van Mechelen (KTM) in Race 2. In the first heat great battle until the end for the second place with Dutch Teunis Spijkerman (Gas Gas). The overall of the class saw Harry Dale first, Kenzo Jaspers second and Torre Van Mechelen third.

Next round of the Central Europe zone will be next weekend in Slagelse, Denmark.



#### EMX85 top three

1. Dani Heitink, NED
2. Jarne Bervoets, BEL
3. Dean Gregoire, NED

#### EMX65 top three

1. Harry Dale, GBR
2. Kenzo Jaspers, NED
3. Torre Van Mechelen, BEL

### EMX 125 European Championship: first for Mathis Valin



The first round of the EMX125 presented by FMF took place in Frauenfeld, Switzerland, and it was 737 Performers GASGAS's Mathis Valin who clinched the victory with a strong performance throughout the whole round.



### Race1

MJC Yamaha Team's Janis Martin Reisulis took the lead from the first lap in front of Mathis Valin as the youngsters found themselves making a good gap with the rest of the riders. Valin managed to stay in touching distance with race Reisulis for few laps but the leader increased the gap to 5 seconds to keep his distance and not get under pressure by Valin until the end. Reisulis won the race while Valin settled for a solid 2nd place after showing very good speed over the race.

Behind them we thought that the 3rd place was promised to Fantic Maddii Factory Racing's Maximilian Werner as he was 3rd from lap 1 until 2 laps to go on lap 13. He had to resist to some attacks from Alfio Pulvirenti and Alban Alm successively. Unfortunately for the young German, a costly mistake on lap 13 saw him move down to 7th in the end. Alm benefitted from Werner's crash as he marked his comeback from 12th on lap 1 to 3rd in the end. Pulvirenti was unfortunate as he was 4th until lap 3 when he crashed to move down to 35th.

Vitezslav Marek rode strongly to go up the rank as he managed to go from 6th on lap 1 to finish 4th in the end as he capitalised on some crashes and mistakes in front of him. The promising Elias Escandell from Fantic Maddii Factory Racing is another rider who had to work hard as he gained 6 positions throughout the race. Going from 11 after an average start to steadily find his rhythm and finish 5th.

Fredsoe started well as he got himself to 5th after the first lap and even managed to get to 4th following Pulvirenti's misfortune.

### Race2

WZ Racing Team's Gyan Doensen got off the gate leading the way but had Reisulis quickly overtook him. Still in the first lap Valin passed Doensen for 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the remake of race 1 Reisulis and Valin got the better of the rest after 1 lap and started to make a consequent gap. Valin started to chase after Reisulis, clocking the fastest lap early on.



Reisulis, after a scare on lap 2, did really lose the control of his bike on lap 4 and moved down to 7<sup>th</sup>. Valin would keep his composure until the end to win the race. Reisulis finished in the at the 11<sup>th</sup> place.

Doensen also stayed strong to keep the 2<sup>nd</sup> place until the end even if he had to show his skill to stay in front of Escandell mid-race and also Marek in last laps. Marek finished 3<sup>rd</sup> after a strong performance today and great comeback coming from 7<sup>th</sup> after lap 1. Escandell had to settle for 4<sup>th</sup> giving him good point for the overall.

Behind them Salvini passed lap 1 on 5<sup>th</sup> place and remained there until the end. Noel Zannocz started well as he found himself 6<sup>th</sup> after lap 1 although he had to battle with Marek who passed him on lap 3. He then benefitted from Reisulis's fall to get back up to 6<sup>th</sup> and remain there until the end.

In the end, Valin got the overall win in Switzerland for the first round of the campaign in front of Marek and Reisulis 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

**EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing - Overall Top 10 Classification:** 1. Mathis Valin (FRA, GAS), 47 points; 2. Vitezslav Marek (CZE, KTM), 38 p.; 3. Janis Martins Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 35 p.; 4. Elias Escandell (ESP, FAN), 34 p.; 5. Laban Alm (SWE, HUS), 33 p.; 6. Nicola Salvini (ITA, YAM), 31 p.; 7. Francisco Garcia (ESP, GAS), 26 p.; 8. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 24 p.; 9. Maximilian Werner (GER, FAN), 22 p.; 10. Salvador Perez (ESP, YAM), 20 p.;