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**Mini Road Racing European Championship:
Italy crowned 2023 champions**



The Mini Road Racing European Championship was back in action for a weekend full of excitement.

If the 2022 edition was hosted by the “Cathedral of Speed”, the TT Assen in The Netherlands, this year the event took place at Circuito Internazionale D’Abruzzo, in Italy. The Championship aims to create opportunities for young riders to demonstrate their qualities. The Mini Road Racing is a fundamental step for the future motorcycling stars: it is a great platform for up-and-coming young road racers to hone their craft.

In Italy, riders from five different nations were in action and fought until the last lap for the European titles.

Here below the final results.

Junior A: 1. Ethan Botti, ITA 2. Oliver Tagliati, ITA 3. Marco Rizzi, ITA

Junior B: 1. Alessandro Souchet, ITA 2. Filippo Amico, ITA 3. Sebastiano Dossena, ITA

Junior C: 1. Alessandro Lora, ITA 2. Christian Marinello, ITA 3. Bartolomeo Roberto, ITA

Open 50: 1. Luca Da Dalt, ITA 2. Luca Bandini, ITA 3. Vincenzo Di Veroli, ITA

Ohvale Mini Bike 110: 1. Mattia Gabrielli, ITA 2. Viktor Cech, CZE 3. Simon Kucerik, CZE

Ohvale Mini Bike 160: 1. Luca Rizzi, ITA 2. Luca Turato, ITA 3. Carmelo Greco, ITA

Ohvale Mini Bike 190: 1. Edoardo Savino, ITA 2. Gabriel Fabio Vuono, ITA 3. Kevin Cancellieri, ITA

Yamaha R3 bLU cRU European Cup:

Ercolani and Manso come out on top in Catalunya's frantic races



In the second round of the Yamaha R3 bLU cRU European Cup Italy's Emiliano Ercolani increased his title lead with another masterful victory in Race 1 at the Circuit of Barcelona-Catalunya, while Brazil's Gustavo Manso finally took to the top step in Race 2.

The first race of the day saw more incredible racing among the youngest riders in the paddock as the R3 bLU cRU European Championship competitors vied for the podium



places. Mallorca's Marc Vich took the early lead, but he was quickly passed by a determined Aldi Satya Mahendra before the pair were joined by Brazilian battlers Manso and Kevin Fontainha. At times the riders were seven abreast in the clean but thrilling charge to the top step. Just as in Assen two weeks ago, Italy's Ercolani kept his cool and returned to the front of the field time and time again. At the chequered flag he grabbed the victory by just 0.025 ahead of Mahendra. R3 debutant, Dorian Joulin, impressed with third place. The Frenchman missed the opening round of the season recovering from appendicitis.

Expectations ran high for another dose of amazing action in Race 2, and the crowd weren't disappointed. It was Mahendra who made the initial break at the front, with three riders in tow. But just a few laps into the race the pack closed up to include almost the entire field of 20 riders - with most of them having a go at leading in the ever-changing race. It was Manso who consistently found his way to the front, and it paid off for the young Brazilian when he took the win by just 0.015 seconds. An increasingly consistent Ercolani managed 2nd place, and Manso's compatriot Fontainha took the final step on the podium.

**Moto2 European Championship,
European Talent Cup,
Stock European Championship:
2023 season kicked off in Estoril**

The 2023 Moto2 European Championship, European Talent Cup and Stock European Championship kicked off in style over the weekend at the Estoril Circuit.

Daniel Muñoz (SP57 Racing Team) took the win in the new era for the Stock European Championship. There was Portuguese perfection for two riders, as Senna Agius (Liqui Moly Husqvarna Intact GP) and Brian Uriarte (Team Estrella Galicia 0,0) had double delight

in Moto2™ European Championship and the European Talent Cup, winning both Race 1 and 2.



Moto2

In the end, it was a different story as the hot favourite for title honours in 2023 lived up to the billing. All eyes were on Senna Agius as he launched from pole position and in Race 1, he bolted. Having got the perfect start from the line, the 17-year-old Australian had to do it all again due to a red flag after a Martin Vugrinec (Fifty Motorsport) crash - rider ok. Not to be perturbed, Agius pulled the pin to come home seven seconds ahead of Carlos Tatay (Pertamina Mandalika SAG Team) and compatriot Harrison Voight (Yamaha Philippines Stylobike Racing Team) - both of whom are class rookies.

Despite celebrating a podium together in Race 1, sterner words were exchanged later in the afternoon during Race 2 as Voight and Tatay crashed out of the podium places, with the Australian pointing the finger of blame firmly at the #99. That incident didn't bother Agius, as he romped home towards a second win of the day to claim the maximum 50 points on offer in Estoril. His winning margin wasn't quite as emphatic as before, but he still had more than four seconds to spare over Xavi Cardelus (Promoracing) as the Andorran opened his account for the season, as did Niccolo Antonelli (MMR), with the Italian coming home third.



ETC

The European Talent Cup were the first class out on track on the west of the Iberian Peninsula, and they warmed up the day's action with a showstopper. Brian Uriarte, Rico Salmela (Team Estrella Galicia 0,0) and Hakim Danish (Monlau Motul) formed a breakaway trio out front and entered wheel-to-wheel combat over 15 laps. Victory wasn't decided until the three riders took the chequered flag within 0.054s of one another, with Uriarte first ahead of Salmela and Danish completing the podium.

Much like Moto2, the ETC saw a double winner, with Uriarte going back-to-back, with an even closer finish in Race 2. The young Spaniard pinched the win off of 2021 ETC Champion Maximo Quiles on the line with only 0.006s between them. Quiles, who finished fourth in Race 1 after starting at the back of the grid and going through the LLP loop, will be gutted to have missed out but still goes home with a P2 result, while David Gonzalez (Cuna de Campeones) capped an impressive run with a maiden podium in the class.

Stock

Ending the day's action was the solo Stock race, with the class now a different race to the Moto2™ category. Dani Muñoz carved out his own little piece of history as the maiden race winner, with the opportunity handed to him on a plate as poleman Eric Fernandez (FAU55

TEY Racing) crashed just three laps in. That gave Muñoz a country acre of space in P1 while Marco Garcia (EasyRace Team) and Alex Millan (Fifty Motorsport) battled for second place. In the end, it was Garcia who put in a classy ride to take the second step on the box, with Millan beginning his campaign with a third placed finish.

EMX250 European Championship:

Valk gets first win of his career



That was a great weekend and strong fourth round for the EMX250 Championship in Intu Xanadu Arroyonolinos, Spain, with many battles throughout the weekend.

At the end of the weekend, it was Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Cas Valk who clinched his first win of the season in front of Championship leader Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing Team's Andrea Bonacorsi and BT Racing Team's Kay Karssemakers once again on the podium.

In race 1, Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Alexis Fueri was the quickest out of the gate but the Red Plate Andrea Bonacorsi overtook him after few turns to take the lead. We thought that Bonacorsi would go on to win without trouble but Team VRT KTM Factory Juniors'



Marc-Antoine Rossi had a magnificent pace tried to disrupt that. Rossi went from 6th on Lap 1 to 2nd on lap 3 and inched his way closer to Bonacorsi until he was able to make a great move to overtake him for the lead on lap 13. However, Rossi made a mistake with 1 lap to go handing the win to Bonacorsi. Rossi settled for a good 2nd place but could have gone all the way considering his pace.

Cas Valk showed great pace too as after an average start, 7th at the turn of lap 1, he went on to pass Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing Team's Karlis Reisulis, VRT KTM Factory Juniors' Ferruccio Zanchi and Fueri over three laps to find himself 4th on lap 4. He was behind Husqvarna BT Racing Team's Maxime Grau until he found his way passed him on lap 8 to finish at a very great 3rd place. Grau had difficulties to keep the same pace and went down to 7th place in the end.

Zanchi had to settle for 4th in the end and Fueri managed to get to 6th while Reisulis could not do better than 9th unfortunately having started really well in 4th on lap 1. Kay Karssemakers made another good race on the back of Portugal and shows a lot of consistency. Following an average start and being 8th on lap 1, the young Dutchman managed to finish the race in 5th place.

Finding themselves on lap 1 in 9th and 10th, Nico Greutmann and TM moto SteelsDrJack's Meico Vettikended up at the 8th place for Vettik and 10th for Greutmann. Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing Team's Ivano Van Erp did not find his rhythm and finished 18th.

In race 2, Van Erp was the quickest out of the gates but it was all about Valk who overtook him after few turns to take the lead. His blistering pace made him increase his lead up to 20 seconds and won comfortably and in style to clinch his first overall of the year. Van Erp redeemed himself after his missed first race and finished at a good 4th place for a 9th overall.

Reisulis did also better in race as he was 2nd the way through although he got overtaken by the excellent Karssemakers with two laps to go. Karssemakers finished 2nd for 3rd overall and a back-to-back podium. Reisulis got the 3rd spot.



Bud Racing Kawasaki's Quentin Prugnieres who retired in the first race on the first lap, bounced back after a good start in race 2. He went 5th on lap 1 to move down to 7th on lap 3 but made two good overtakes on Bonacorsi first, as Bonacorsi went down on a turn, and on his countryman Grau to get back to 5th until the end. Grau ended up in 8th in the end.

After an uncharacteristically average start, Bonacorsi found himself in 9th on lap 1 but fought back to 6th on lap 3. As mentioned above, Bonacorsi while he was on the charge up, went down on the turn before the pitlane straight costing him a couple of positions. The Red Plate came back strong to finish 6th in the end, synonymous of a really good 2nd overall considering his fall.

Similarly for Rossi, a poor start hindered his chance to win the overall as he could not go higher than 7th in then end. With a 2-8, the Frenchman finished outside the podium in 4th overall. Zanchi was a bit quieter in race 2 and settled for 9th for 6th overall. Getting a good top 10 SM ACTION RACING TEAM YUASA Battery's Federico Tuani ended 10th riding inside the top 10 the whole race for a 13th overall.

In the end Cas Valk won the overall with an incredible showing to win race 2 and being solid throughout the whole round of Spain. Andrea Bonacorsi managed to get an important overall second place for the Championship and Kay Karssemakers makes another podium in third.

EMX250 - Overall Top 10 Classification: 1. Cas Valk (NED, FAN), 45 points; 2. Andrea Bonacorsi (ITA, YAM), 40 p.; 3. Kay Karssemakers (NED, HUS), 38 p.; 4. Marc-Antoine Rossi (FRA, KTM), 36 p.; 5. Karlis Alberts Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 32 p.; 6. Ferruccio Zanchi (ITA, KTM), 30 p.; 7. Maxime Grau (FRA, HUS), 27 p.; 8. Meico Vettik (EST, TM), 23 p.; 9. Ivano Van Erp (NED, YAM), 21 p.; 10. Alexis Fueri (FRA, FAN), 21 p.

EMX250 - Championship Top 10 Classification: 1. Andrea Bonacorsi (ITA, YAM), 182 points; 2. Kay Karssemakers (NED, HUS), 145 p.; 3. Cas Valk (NED, FAN), 138 p.; 4. Marc-Antoine Rossi (FRA, KTM), 126 p.; 5. Ferruccio Zanchi (ITA, KTM), 120 p.; 6. Karlis Alberts Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 109 p.; 7. Valerio Lata (ITA, KTM), 97 p.; 8. Quentin Marc Prugnieres (FRA, KAW), 95 p.; 9. Ivano Van Erp (NED, YAM), 93 p.; 10. Alexis Fueri (FRA, FAN), 82 p.