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Dragbike European Championship: the bad weather affected the event in Sweden



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Unlucky weekend for the Dragbike European Championship, that stopped in Tierp for the second round in a row and the third round of the season.

For the second time in a row the city of Tierp hosted the Dragbike European Championship. Unfortunately, it has been a tough weekend because of the severe weather in the whole Scandinavia. In fact, Storm Hans has swept over Norway and Sweden, terrorizing these countries. And we know that rain and Dragracing are not the world's best friend.

However, above all expectations, the organizer has managed to get most of the racing done. Against all odds and in an uphill battle, 3 rounds of qualifying have been laid down on Friday and Saturday. Unfortunately, on Sunday the weather got even worse. The

scheduled start of the elimination rounds had to be postponed time after time and the first rounds only started at 16:00 instead of the programmed 10:00.

The audience saw good racing with some remarkable performances showing the skills and determination of both the racers and the track crew until 20:00, time set by the Government to make noise. The event ended up after the Semi Finals with the following racers. In Top Fuel Bike the two finalists were Rikard Gustafsson (5.98) from Sweden and Kari Rautanen (7.86) from Finland. In Super Twin Bike the two finalists were Marcus Christiansen (6.32) from Denmark and Per Bengtsson (6.61) from Sweden. In Super Street Bike the two were Daniël Donat Lencses (6.80) from Hungary and Mathias Bohlin (6.93) from Sweden. In Pro Stock Bike the two were Bertrand Maurice (7.69) from France and Theodor Vik (7.73) from Norway.

European Sidecar Championship:

Markus Brandhofer and Sandra Mollema are the new 2023 Champions



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The Final of the European Sidecar Championship took place in Bad Hersfeld, a nice town in central Germany in a picturesque setting in a wooded valley, on the outskirts of the town.

Great job done by the staff of the MSC Bad Hursfeld, that worked extremely hard to ensure the event was completed, despite the bad weather that threatened to jeopardise the whole event.

A good crowd of approximately 2,500 people of all ages eventually witnessed a great evening's racing, but the meeting itself was delayed due to a heavy downpour of rain, just as the riders came out to be presented to the crowd. Due to the surface water that was now laying on the track, the Jury agreed that the commencement of the meeting would be delayed until the track was in a suitable condition to race on. With the track maintenance team working together, fine wood chippings were spread on the track to assist in drying out the surface water that was laying on both corners.

After a delay of one hour, the track was finally in a suitable condition and the first three heats were completed without any incidents. However, due to the bad weather forecast, after a short break the next three heats followed very quickly.

It was during this third session of heats that race 8 produced the first of a number of exciting races. Dutch reserve Sven Holsten and passenger Dennis Smit came into the heat to replace the German team of Markus Venus and Markus Eibl. The Austrian team of Markus Hundsrucker and Florian Niedermeier made a fast start and lead the race, but Holsten was not done and chased Hundsrucker for three laps before finally beating his opponent in the run up to the finish flag.



With signs of more rain fading, it was agreed that the Solo support races would be brought back into the race programme, giving the European Sidecar riders a chance to catch their breath.

Once the support Solos had completed their races, the action return to the last section of qualifying heats for the Sidecars.

Race 11 had the spectators on their feet once again, as one of the pre meeting favourites, English team Mitch Godden and Paul Smith, dropped the clutch and the bike stood on “up on end” 5 metres from the start. All three other teams were already into the corner as Gooden now had to get his head down, if he wasn’t going to lose vital points. One by one he picked off his opponents over the three remaining laps with only French team Remi Valladon and Dylan Fourcade between him and the finish flag. With great determination, Godden gave one last brave attempt to defeat his opponent with both teams neck and neck coming out of the last bend, with Godden getting the verdict as he just got his front wheel over the finish line before Valladon.

With the qualifying heats completed, all the riders were allocated into the C, B and A Finals.

With the first and second winning riders in B Final qualifying through into the A Final, this was always going to be a tough race.

Swiss team Imanuel Scramm and Nadin Foftier and German crew Markus Brandhofer and Sandra Mollema, fought let another hard race with both riders eventually beating their rivals for this last chance opportunity to have a crack at the European crown.

With the crowd rising to their feet, the four A finalists came out onto the track like Roman centurions entering the arena in their chariot’s. Brandhofer made another lightening start. Godden tried as he could to chase after the German for four laps, but was unable to make up the ground he needed. At the end Brandhoffer took the chequered flag and the 2023

title. Godden was second, Dutch team Wilfred Detz and Bonita Van Dijk third and Imauel Scramm fourth.

Top three:

1. Markus Brandhofer - Sandra Mollema, GER
2. Mitch Godden - Paul Smith, GBR
3. Wilfred Detz - Bonita Van Dijk, NED

European 85cc Youth Speedway Racing Cup: Danish Jacob Bolcho takes the title



The final of the European 85cc Youth Speedway Racing Cup was a one-off event held in Rybnik, Poland, in perfect weather conditions.

17 riders from 5 nations faced a great race day in front of an excited crowd that has the pleasure to see some very exciting heats.



As usual, Danish riders ruled the event, but the German and Swedish didn't make things easy.

Fourth in 2022 one step away from the podium, this year Jacob Bolcho grabbed the title after a great fight against compatriot Phillip Ekfeldt. The race was decided by the 19th race, at the end of which the fourteen-year-old Bolcho became the winner of the duel.

The 2022 Champion, the Danish Villads Pedersen, tried to hold on to the title, but he finished third.

Top three:

1. Jacob Bolcho, DEN
2. Phillip Ekfeldt, DEN
3. Villads Pedersen, DEN

**Trial European Championship:
Teo Colairo continues his race for the title**





Second round of the Trial European Championship in Hobøl, Norway, where the bad weather conditions have put a strain on the entire country.

In occasion of this second round the Championship had a new live results system with also the championship standings (trial-live.eu). The same system will be also available for the next and last event in Sweden, scheduled for next weekend.

Despite the rain the Moto Club of Hobøl did a great job preparing a very selective and well-prepared sections, not dangerous, but extremely muddy and slippery.

Both on Saturday and Sunday the participants were almost 130, proving the great formula of this European Championship.

In the opening day of action 132 riders started the race: Trial European Championship (61 riders in 4 classes), Women's Trial European Championship (31 riders in 2 classes), Youth Trial European Championship (40 riders in 2 classes). On Sunday 128 riders took part to the race.

After the amazing opening round in Italy, French rider Teo Colario had another great performance in Norway, finishing second on Day1 and first on Day2. On the first day of action the Championship leader had a three time penalties in the first lap and the tie points in the second lap with home rider Jarand-Matias Vold Gunvaldsen was not enough to give him the victory. Third position for Swiss rider Noè Pretalli. Instead, on Day2 Colario made it perfect and with a total of 37 points he grabbed another success that confirmed him leader of the standings. Second position for Pretalli and third for Vold Gunvaldsen.

One win each for home hero Sander Bjoraa and Italian rider -leader of the Junior Cup- Giacomo Brunisso. The Norwegian Jonas Jørgensen finished third on Day1, while Danish rider Alex Overby on Day2.

Double victory for Dan Clark in the Over 40 Cup, British rider Alice Minta in the Woman Class and Fabio Sacht in the Youth Class.

EMX125 and EMX250 European Championship:

Valk sees double in EMX250 while Reisulis gets closer to the EMX125 title



The Round of Sweden delivered intense racings and battles over the whole weekend in both categories. It was especially challenging on Sunday for the riders with the rain coming in play.

In EMX250, Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Cas Valk got the perfect win with a 1-1 in front of Red Plate Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing Team's Andrea Bonacorsi who stayed solid to go 2-2 while BT Racing Team's Kay Karssemakers fought hard to get on the third step of the podium.

In EMX125 presented by FMF Racing, MJC Yamaha Official EMX125's Janis Martin Reisulis continued his winning streak with his 3rd win in a row in front of 737 Performers GASGAS's Mathis Valin who went 2-2 to keep a chance of Title victory on the last round. Kasimir Hidersson completed the podium to get a good back-to-back podium.



EMX250

In Race 1 Cas Valk made an outstanding start to get the Holeshot and keep going at the lead. The Dutch rider showed that he is on form after winning the EMX2T in Czech Republic at Loket. Cas Valk kept leading the race and managed to keep a comfortable cushion thanks to his great speed. Valk in the end won his second race of the season.

Behind him, the EMX250 Red Plate Andrea Bonacorsi rose in power throughout the race as he started 5th on lap 1 of 15. Bonacorsi gradually found his flow as he first overtook his teammate Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing Team's Ivano Van Erp on lap 4 and then capitalised on the fall of Husqvarna BT Racing Team's Maxime Grau on lap 10 to move up to 3rd. The Italian rider then got faster and faster each lap to finally catch up and pass Bud Racing Kawasaki's Quentin Prugnieres on the last lap to finish 2nd. Van Erp who found himself 3rd on the opening lap got overtaken several times to finish 6th.

On his side Grau took a great start to be 2nd from lap 1 but could do nothing to prevent Prugnieres to overtake him on lap 7. Prugnieres rode very well and although he got overtaken by Bonacorsi finished at a great 3rdplace in the end. Grau however crashed in lap 9 to move down to 10th where he stayed until the end.

The second in the Championship, Kay Karssemakers had to fight his way after an average start going 6th on lap 1. The young Dutch rider displayed a great effort to move up to 4th just in front of another great performer, VRT KTM Factory Juniors' Ferruccio Zanchi who went from 9th on lap 1 to finish 5th in the end. Zanchi had to deal with Van Erp for the 5th place as Van Erp didn't let the Italian pass without a fight. A give and take lasted over a couple of laps where Zanchi finally got the last word on lap 6 and moved up and finished in 5thplace.

In Race 2, Fueri took the fastest start although Valk was right behind and got the best drive on a landing on the opening lap to take the lead. Valk then didn't give any chance to the other riders as he was the fastest under the rain. Similarly to race 1, Valk controlled the race from start to finish and went 1-1 to win his second round of the season dominantly and consolidated his 3rd place in the Championship.



Bonacorsi got a decent start to go 4th on lap 1 but had to work to move up and took 4 laps of 13 to pass Fueri for 3rd. Haakon Osterhagen also got a great start as he overtook Fueri on the opening lap to move up to 2nd. Ensued then a relentless charge forward from Bonacorsi who felt better as the race went on to reduce the gap with Osterhagen. Bonacorsi eventually got very close to Osterhagen after a mistake from the Norwegian. On lap 11, Bonacorsi managed to power through to pass Osterhagen for 2nd and go 2-2 for the 2nd overall extending his advance in the Championship on the second Karssemakers. Osterhagen finished at good 3rdplace in the end to finish 8th overall.

Karssemakers got some issues during the race as he got to 6th on lap 1 and quickly got goggles issues but pushed hard to get as close as possible to Bonacorsi. Maybe a bit too hard as his bike started to smoke, envisaging a future bike issue. In the end Karssemakers showed great character and grit to overtake SM Action Racing Team Yuasa Battery's Federico Tuani on lap 8 for 5th. In the end Karssemakers got overtaken by a late charging KTM Beddini Racing Team's Valerio Lata on the last lap to finish 6th to go 4-6 and round the podium in 3rd, getting his 6th podium out of 7 rounds. Lata finished 5th for 6th overall while Tuani finished 7th for 7th overall.

Prugnieres delivered an outstanding performance after getting tangled at the start to find himself 19th. The French rider had a mountain to climb to get a chance to get on the podium but he finished incredibly in 8thplace. Despite this comeback, Prugnieres went levelled with Karssemakers to finish 4th overall.

EMX250 - Overall Top 10 Classification: 1. Cas Valk (NED, FAN), 50 points; 2. Andrea Bonacorsi (ITA, YAM), 44 p.; 3. Kay Karssemakers (NED, HUS), 33 p.; 4. Quentin Marc Prugnieres (FRA, KAW), 33 p.; 5. Alexis Fueri (FRA, FAN), 32 p.; 6. Valerio Lata (ITA, KTM), 25 p.; 7. Federico Tuani (ITA, KTM), 24 p.; 8. Haakon Osterhagen (NOR, FAN), 23 p.; 9. Nico Greutmann (SUI, KTM), 20 p.; 10. Maxime Grau (FRA, HUS), 20 p

EMX250 - Championship Top 10 Classification: 1. Andrea Bonacorsi (ITA, YAM), 306 points; 2. Kay Karssemakers (NED, HUS), 260 p.; 3. Cas Valk (NED, FAN), 226 p.; 4. Ferruccio Zanchi (ITA, KTM), 204 p.; 5. Marc-Antoine Rossi (FRA, KTM), 199 p.; 6. Ivano Van Erp (NED, YAM), 190 p.; 7. Quentin Marc Prugnieres (FRA, KAW), 181 p.; 8. Valerio Lata (ITA, KTM), 174 p.; 9. Karlis Alberts Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 171 p.; 10. Federico Tuani (ITA, KTM), 118 p



EMX125

In race 1, Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Maximilian Werner took the best start in front of Mathis Valin and Janis Reisulis. Reisulis went on the charge straight away and launched a successful attack on Valin for 2nd on lap 2 of 14, Reisulis didn't take long to take the lead off Werner as he managed to pass him a lap later on lap 3. Reisulis flew to victory and extended his lead in the Championship. His closest pursuer this season, Valin got the best of Werner to go 2nd on lap 4. Valin rode well in 2nd although Werner didn't give up without a fight and was showing a better pace than Valin as he closed in on the French rider towards the end. Valin managed to hold onto his 2nd place to not let Reisulis gain too many points on him. Werner finished fast but settled for 3rd.

WZ Racing Team's Gyan Doensen rode really solidly in 4th place and even put pressure on Werner for 3rd but in the end stayed 4th until the end. Kasimir Hindersson confirmed his recent showing in Flanders as he made a good start to go 5th on the turn of lap 1. Hindersson was never put under pressure the whole race to finish 5th in the end.

Vitzslav Marek, Noel Zanocz and Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Elias Escandell had to battle together for the 6th place. Escandell took a good start to see himself in 6th place for half of the race but Marek made his move and passed him on lap 8 after coming back from the 9th place on lap 1. Marek didn't last long in 6th place as Zanocz charged a lap later to take his place after overtaking Escandell. In the end Zanocz finished 6th while Marek ended the race in 7th and Escandell 8th.

In Race 2, Werner took control of the race early on with a great start in front of Escandell and Reisulis. Werner made an incredible effort as he created up to 12 seconds gap in front of Escandell. The conditions started to worsen with the rain inviting itself to the race. Reisulis was 3rd and took some time to get closer to Escandell while dealing with Valin behind in 4th. Reisulis managed to keep Valin at bay the whole race. The gap between Werner and Escandell started to melt and with Reisulis closing in on the front two riders the last laps were going to be intense.



Escandell did very well to keep Reisulis behind him although, unknown to him, the young Spanish rider did not respect a yellow flag on a jump during the race and was going to be demoted 10 places. Reisulis threw off his goggles and kept putting pressure on Escandell until the very last corners of the race when Escandell who was also going to make a move on race leader Werner crashed down while in the same time Werner made a mistake and had his bike completely come to a stop and stalled. Reisulis managed to avoid the chaos that gifted him his second race win of the round while Valin who was few seconds behind also capitalised on that to finish 2nd. Werner finished 10th in the end while Escandell finished 16th due to the penalty.

Reisulis went 1-1 to win the round the perfect way and extended his lead on Valin who thanks to his 2-2 and 2nd overall still kept a slim chance to win the title on the last round in Great Britain. It was another strong performance for Hindersson who managed to gained many positions from 8th on lap 1 to 4th in the end to go 5-4 for 3rd overall and a back-to-back podium for the Finnish.

EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing - Overall Top 10 Classification: 1. Janis Martins Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 50 points; 2. Mathis Valin (FRA, GAS), 44 p.; 3. Kasimir Hindersson (FIN, KTM), 34 p.; 4. Maximilian Werner (GER, FAN), 31 p.; 5. Francisco Garcia (ESP, GAS), 28 p.; 6. Vitezslav Marek (CZE, KTM), 28 p.; 7. Julius Mikula (CZE, YAM), 27 p.; 8. Nicolai Skovbjerg (DEN, YAM), 27 p.; 9. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 26 p.; 10. Elias Escandell (ESP, FAN), 18 p

EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing - Championship Top 10 Classification: 1. Janis Martins Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 363 points; 2. Mathis Valin (FRA, GAS), 326 p.; 3. Maximilian Werner (GER, FAN), 251 p.; 4. Vitezslav Marek (CZE, KTM), 236 p.; 5. Francisco Garcia (ESP, GAS), 219 p.; 6. Elias Escandell (ESP, FAN), 212 p.; 7. Mads Fredsoe (DEN, KTM), 176 p.; 8. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 156 p.; 9. Noel Zanocz (HUN, KTM), 156 p.; 10. Nicolai Skovbjerg (DEN, YAM), 128 p