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**Individual Speedway Euro Championship:  
Michelsen claims his third European title!**



The Final 4 in Pardubice, in the Czech Republic, finished after the fourth series. Kołodziej, who only dropped a single point, took the first place. Dominik Kubera came second with ten points. Leon Madsen took the final podium spot. Right behind the podium finishers was Mikkel Michelsen. The Dane clinched the title after his third race. Despite a fall in his first heat, he stayed on course. Michelsen is now the only rider in the history of Speedway Euro Championship to win the European championship three times.

To the delight of local fans, Vaclav Milik performed well at the Pardubice track, finishing fifth with seven points. It was his best performance in TAURON SEC in a long time. Kai Huckenbeck also demonstrated his form once again, maintaining the level he showed in Bydgoszcz. The German secured sixth place on Czech soil.



It was a tough night for Kacper Woryna. The Polish rider managed to score only two points in four races. Unfortunately, this was not enough to secure a place in the top five of the series.

In TAURON SEC 2023, Michelsen claimed his third Individual European Championship title with 52 points. Madsen took second place with eight points less than his compatriot over the four rounds. The bronze medal of the European Championship went to Janusz Kołodziej. 'Koldi' managed to reach the podium despite missing the inaugural round. In next year's series, they will be joined by Patryk Dudek and Andzejs Lebedevs, who finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

#### Top five - Final 4 TAURON SEC 2023

1. Janusz Kołodziej (Poland) - (3,2,3,3) - 11
2. Dominik Kubera (Poland) - (2,3,2,3) - 10
3. Leon Madsen (Denmark) - (0,3,3,3) - 9
4. Mikkel Michelsen (Denmark) - (3,2,3,1) - 9
5. Vaclav Milik (Czech Republic) - (0,3,1,3) - 7

#### Standings - TAURON SEC 2023

1. Mikkel Michelsen (Denmark) - 52 pts
2. Leon Madsen (Denmark) - 44 pts
3. Janusz Kołodziej (Poland) - 42 pts

### Yamaha R7 European Superfinale: Valentin Folger becomes the 2023 winner

The second ever R7 SuperFinale saw two thrilling races at Motorland Aragon, Spain, for the 27 riders participating from all over the globe. The first race of the day had plenty of tense battles throughout the field, but pole-sitter Eric Molina was quick to stamp his authority during his second year at the SuperFinale. The Spaniard pulled a gap early on that proved insurmountable for his rivals after he extended the lead to 6.5 seconds.



However, the chasing pack squabbled amongst themselves for the remainder of the unpredictable race. Folger kept it smooth and consistent to push his way into podium contention, and this strategy paid off for the German when he took second place at the chequered flag. Italy's Davide Conte was thrilled to take a strong third place finish.

It was all to play for in Race 2, and with the temptation of winning the title of 'R7 SuperFinale winner' and picking up a brand new R7, the competition was hotter than ever. Molina used his track knowledge to take the holeshot, but this time he was unable to pull away and instead he was forced to battle it out with a huge lead group of riders. Italy's Nikolas Marfurt looked very strong, but a crash in Race 1 cost him the chance to progress in the points standings. Conte also put in another very impressive display, and the effervescent youngster came close to another podium spot. Eric Molina was urged on by the Spanish fans, but despite his best efforts he could only manage third in Race 2, while Italy's Tommaso Occhi took a great second place. But it was Folger who shone brightest, setting the fastest lap and carving through for the race victory and the overall win thanks to his haul of 45 points.

The Top 3 overall in the 2023 R7 SuperFinale were Folger (Germany), Molina (Spain), and Conte (Italy).

**Bajas European Championship:  
Baja TT Sharish Gin got underway in Portugal**



Round two of the Bajas European Championship got underway from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in occasion of the Baja TT Sharish Gin, official round of the Portuguese National Championship and FIA European Cup for Cross-Country Bajas.

Three days event in the amazing landscape of south Portugal, close to the border with Spain, through the towns of Reguengos de Monsaraz, Mourão and Redondo, on both sides of beautiful artificial Alqueva Lake and just a sight from Monsaraz Castle

The schedule saw Friday's Prologue of 7 km, Saturday one Selective Section (SS) of 182 km and 201 km, Sunday one Selective Section (SS) of 134 km. Total length of the race: 323 km of SS and additional 143 km of liasons on dry and hard routes.

After the victory in the first round in Spain in April, Portuguese rider David Megre won again the Moto class ahead of Bruno Borrego and Paulo Cardoso. Second victory for Antoine



Sanchez in the Quad category. In SSV amazing race for the Portuguese couple João Monteiro and Nuno Morais.

## Final classification

### MOTO

1. David Megre, POR#21
2. Bruno Borrego, POR #69
3. Paulo Cardoso, POR #25

### QUAD

1. Antoine Sanchez, FRA #104
2. Luis Fernandes, POR #152

### SSV

1. João Monteiro / Nuno Morais, POR - #803
2. Gonçalo Guerreiro / José Sá Pires, POR - #801
3. Mário Franco / Sara Diogo, POR- #817

## Northern Talent Cup:

**Sessler takes crown by five points in nail-biting finish**

Final round of the Northern Talent Cup at Hockenheim, Germany.

### Race 1

As the Northern Talent Cup approached its crescendo at the mighty Hockenheim, all eyes were on the leading cup trio of Lennox Phommara (Team Phommara), Rocco Sessler (MCA Racing) and Julius Frellsen (MCA Racing), the three separated by just 20 points, and each with a shot at title glory with a total of 50 points on the table.



Starting from pole Lenox Phommara took the holeshot and swiftly made a break from the chasing pack, followed closely by Maxime Schmid (Team Schmid). On lap 2 the Swiss made a lunge up the inside of the leader, only to misjudge the maneuver and slide off track and into the gravel trap. This promoted Sessler into second and it wasn't long before he was hot on his title rival's tail.

The calculating Sessler spent the remainder of the race sat behind his rival making the most of his vantage point to understand the cup leader's strengths and weaknesses, biding his time before making his move.

Further back in the chasing pack a battle raged between cup contender Frellsen, French rookie superstar Antoine Nativi (CTM 83 Junior Team), Hungarian veteran Martin Vincze (MV Racing), and others, the riders switching places back and forth. It seemed like Frellsen was coming out on top of the battle for third when he lost the front and slid off the track, his chances of cup glory going with him.

Meanwhile, out front, the two remaining contenders had pulled out a 10-sec gap. But it wasn't until halfway through the last lap that an epic duel truly began. Sessler left it late to make his move, diving up the inside of the Swiss and beginning a hair-raising sequence of corners where the two jostled for position, at times touching, Phommara retaking the lead, then losing it again. Into the penultimate corner Sessler retook the lead but the overtake compromised his line into the final corner giving Lenox Phommara a chance, which he took, but misjudged, hitting Sessler's rear tyre and crashing out in dramatic fashion, the finish line within sight - so close, and yet so far.

Sessler took a deserved victory and a 10-point advantage heading into the final race of the season. Behind him, it was Frenchman Nativi in second ahead of Vincze in third.

Jurrien Van Crugten (BB64 Academy), Filip Novotny (DG Corse), and rookie wildcard sensation Tobias Kitzbichler (Racing Team Kitzbichler) made up the top 6.



## Race 2

Race 2 in Hockenheim was very much a different affair to Race 1. Instead of a runaway battle between leading cup duo Lenox Phommara (Team Phommara) and Rocco Sessler (MCA Racing), there was a huge group at the front, led chiefly by Lenox Phommara, and one wonders if it was by chance or by design, the Swiss hoping perhaps that a bigger group might play into his hands by disrupting his rival, who started fourth on the grid and was quickly swallowed up by the pack, dropping as low as eighth position in the early stages of the race. It wasn't such a bad strategy, and it almost played out, as there were some tense moments for the German and MCA Racing star.

Lenox Phommara's victory in this race never really seemed in doubt, the question was whether Sessler could claim a third or second place to secure the cup victory. Fans and onlookers would not get an answer to that question until right at the end, when the riders crossed the finish line, Lenox Phommara in first and Sessler in third.

From the word go it was a tense encounter that had fans and team members biting their nails, on both sides. It could easily have played out in either contenders' favour.

By lap 6 Sessler had found his rhythm and joined the top 3, by lap 7 he had savored the taste of leading the race, and from then on he jostled for position with the likes of Lenox Phommara, Tobias Kirchbichler (Racing Team Kitzbichler), Jurrien Van Crugten (BB64 Academy), Julius Frellsen (MCA Racing), and Matteo Masili (Fairium Next Generation Riders Team). Huge shout out to Austrian wildcard rookie wonder boy Kitzbichler, who exceeded expectations in just his second race in the category, fighting hard and fair with Lenox Phommara at the sharp end of the race, and claiming P2 at the chequered flag.

And so it was that Sessler was able to claim the podium finish he needed to claim the title, securing his P3 on the last lap behind Lenox Phommara and Kitzbichler. Rounding out the top six was Dane Frellsen in fourth, ahead of Dutchman Van Crugten in fifth and Italian maestro Masili in sixth.

That makes Rocco Sessler the Northern Talent Cup's fourth Champion, the German joining Hungarian rider Soma Görbe (2020) Czech rider Jakub Gurecký (2021) and Hungarian Rossi Moor in the Northern Talent Cup hall of fame.





## EMX125 and EMX250 European Championship: Bonacorsi and Reisulis crowned in Great Britain



The ultimate round of the EMX250 and EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing displayed a lot of great racing across the board at the riders' favourite track of Matterley Basin for the round of Great Britain.

In EMX250, it was Team VRT KTM Factory Juniors' Marc-Antoine Rossi who closed the season from the best of manners with his second overall win of the season in front of his teammate Ferruccio Zanchi and Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing Team's Karlis Reisulis who clinched his first podium of the season in third place.

This last round witnessed the final decider in EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing that saw MJC Yamaha Official EMX125's Janis Reisulis taking the European Title on the first race with a dominant win. The Latvian made it even better on his last outing in the category with a perfect win to clinch the last round of the season that he has ruled. Completing the podium of the round of Great Britain were Simone Mancini in second place



for the first time this season and the ever-consistent Fantic Racing MX's Maximilian Werner in third place.

Both classes experienced the final Championship podiums on the Sunday that saw in EMX250, Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing Team's Andrea Bonacorsi who was competing in MX2 over the weekend, getting officially crowned and received his gold medal while Husqvarna BT Racing Team's Kay Karssemakers got the silver medal in front of Fantic Racing MX's Cas Valk who received the bronze medal.

### **EMX250**

In EMX250, Cas Valk got the best start as he came out of the second corner at the front ahead of Marc-Antoine Rossi and Fantic Racing MX's Alexis Fueri. Unfortunately for Fueri, his good start went to waste when he crashed out of the 3rd place in the opening lap and retired from the race. In the meantime, Valk was looking comfortable while Rossi had a close call but stayed in two wheels. After that Rossi regroup and started to look at one with his livery. This was acted when Rossi caught up with Valk on lap 4 of 12 and made a successful pass. Rossi quickly pulled away and flew to victory with a lot of confidence. Valk kept confirming his form with a solid 2nd place.

Behind them, Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing Team's Karlis Reisulis made a really good start to place himself in 4th and then 3rd after Fueri's issue. From then on, Reisulis showed a good speed although he got caught with a couple of laps to go by Husqvarna BT Racing Team's Maxime Grau and KTM Beddini Racing Team's Valerio Lata. The Latvian showed that he can defend his position and finished 3rd in the end. Grau had also to contain a late charging Lata which he did efficiently with Grau finishing 4th and Lata 5th.

Following an average start in 11th place, the talented VRT KTM Factory Juniors' Ferruccio Zanchi paced forward on lap 2 to overtake 2 riders and capitalised on Bud Racing Kawasaki's Quentin Prugnieres bike issue as the Frenchman retired from the race while



he was 7th. Zanchi in 8th put pressure on Husqvarna BT Racing Team's Kay Karssemakers who didn't have his usual flow. Zanchi made the difference on lap 8 when he passed the Dutch rider to finish 6th while Karssemakers finished 7th. Bud Racing Kawasaki's Benjamin Garib showed very good promises as he rode for the first half of the race in 5th but made a mistake and moved down to 8th and finished there.

In Race 2, Grau made a great start as he quickly took the lead in front of Reisulis, however the Latvian showed great speed as he overtook him on lap 3 of 12 and pulled away. In the meantime, Zanchi started to pick up his pace and flow and quickly put Grau under pressure. Zanchi passed him on lap 4 and kept pushing to close on Reisulis. A lap later Grau got threatened by Rossi who was on a mission to win the round. Rossi didn't take long to overtake his French countryman to go 3rd on lap 5. Zanchi's pace was incredible as he charged forward to launch an attack on Reisulis to take the lead. Not long after that it was the turn of Rossi to let his speed talk to go the long way round Reisulis and move to 2nd. Reisulis got overtaken again a lap later by Lata.

No one could challenge Zanchi for the lead as he brought it home to get on the second step of the podium while Rossi comfortably finished in 2nd position to secure his second overall win of the season and end this year on the best of ways before jumping up in MX2. Lata on his side made an excellent race two but came just short of the podium with the 4th overall but another solid weekend for the Italian. Reisulis in the end managed to finish 4th to climb on his first podium of the season which is encouraging for next season.

Following a great start Grau could not contain the riders charging behind and had to settle for the 5th place, to go 4-5 for 5th overall in front of Prugnieres who rode positively to gain several positions throughout the race overtaking the second in the championship, Karssemakers, on lap 9 to move up to 6th in the end. Karssemakers could not find the speed we saw throughout the season and settles for 7th after an average start for his standard finding himself in 8th on the opening lap. Prugnieres got another good 6th overall



while Karssemakers finished 7th overall to keep his excellent silver medal in the championship.

Similarly to Karssemakers, Valk was not on his best form in Matterley Basin as he could not pass many riders in race two and had to settle for 9th to finish 6th overall and missed the podium for the first time in three rounds.

**Andrea Bonacorsi:** *"It's a season that we've worked for as we struggled last season a lot but we came back this season and we made it. It's really good, I'm really happy and I want to thank all the team because without them I couldn't have achieved what I did this year. I'm very proud to be part of the Yamaha family and I want to thank everybody"*.

**EMX250 - Championship Top 10 Classification:** 1. Andrea Bonacorsi (ITA, YAM), 393 points; 2. Kay Karssemakers (NED, HUS), 362 p.; 3. Cas Valk (NED, FAN), 339 p.; 4. Ferruccio Zanchi (ITA, KTM), 312 p.; 5. Valerio Lata (ITA, KTM), 277 p.; 6. Quentin Marc Prugnieres (FRA, KAW), 264 p.; 7. Marc-Antoine Rossi (FRA, KTM), 246 p.; 8. Karlis Alberts Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 235 p.; 9. Ivano Van Erp (NED, YAM), 190 p.; 10. Maxime Grau (FRA, HUS), 168 p.

### EMX125

In Race 1, the best start was for Janis Reisulis who quickly got the lead and pulled away, showing great speed while his first rival in the championship 737 Performers GASGAS's Mathis Valin was falling early in the race. Reisulis needed to finish at least 8th to get officially crowned but the Latvian didn't wait for no one and flew at the lead to go and secure comfortably his European Title with a dominant race win. The whole MJC Team and his family was there to greet him after the chequered flag to celebrate this title in style. Reisulis showed again that he was the best out there.

Behind him, the two Fantic Racing MX riders, Elias Escandell and Maximilian Werner got a great start in 2nd and 3rd respectively. Escandell showed great speed as he found himself



riding with no one around him to get an excellent and season's best finish in 2nd position. Werner kept his usual flow and consistency to control his race and finish 3rd in the end.

Behind them, Julius Mikula pulled out a good performance after finding himself 7th on the turn of lap 1 of 12. Mikula overtook Noel Zanocz on lap 2 and rode behind the solid Simone Mancini for a while. Mancini who was 5th managed to pass Sturm STC Racing Team's Mads Fredsoe on lap 8 to go 4th but had to deal with the fast-pacing Mikula again behind him on lap 10. Mikula got great lines and managed to pass Mancini with two laps to go to finish 4th while the Italian settled for a good 5th place.

In Race 2, Simone Mancini took a great start to jump out of the gate at the lead in front of the two riders at the top of the Championship, Reisulis and Valin. In the meantime, the two teammates, Werner and Escandell clashed on the first corner which jeopardised Escandell's hope of a podium as he picked himself up in 20th position. Werner was quick to get back on it to go back in 7th. Escandell would make an outstanding comeback to finish 11th and still get an excellent 4th overall.

At the front the fast-starting Mancini quickly got caught by Valin and Reisulis on the opening lap to move down to 3rd. Valin took the lead but the newly EMX125 European Champion was simply too quick this weekend and took the lead a lap later and pulled away very quickly. Reisulis went to ride the perfect race and won, 40 seconds clear of Valin who finished comfortably 2nd. Reisulis had the perfect end of the season to win his 4th round in a row and further dominate the category to jump in EMX250 with a sense of duty accomplished.

Mancini managed to hang on in 3rd place while keeping Vitezslav Marek at bay. Marek was pushing hard to pass Mancini but jumped too long at one point and went off track. Mancini solidly stayed 3rd until the end to clinch his first podium of the season. After having to retire in race 1, Marek showed that he has all the qualities to fight at the top with a really



good 4th place in the end. Behind him was Maximilian Ernecker who kept riding consistently to finish 5th and go 8-5 for 6th overall.

It was another solid performance for Werner who gain a position from the opening lap to finish the race in 6th and clinch another podium. With a 3rd overall, the German rider who is still looking for a team next season proved that he has been one of the most consistent riders of the season to finish with a final 3rd place in the Championship.

**Janis Reisulis:** *“What an absolute banger of a weekend it was! I also had the perfect race in the second race. I would call this season where I learned the most, some up and downs but I learned from them. This is the perfect way to the season especially with this round. I really want to thank everyone around me, the team, the whole Yamaha squad and my family as they put so much worked into it”.*

**EMX125 - Championship Top 10 Classification:** 1. Janis Martins Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 413 points; 2. Mathis Valin (FRA, GAS), 353 p.; 3. Maximilian Werner (GER, FAN), 286 p.; 4. Vitezslav Marek (CZE, KTM), 254 p.; 5. Elias Escandell (ESP, FAN), 244 p.; 6. Francisco Garcia (ESP, GAS), 219 p.; 7. Mads Fredsoe (DEN, KTM), 205 p.; 8. Noel Zanocz (HUN, KTM), 181 p.; 9. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 176 p.; 10. Nicolai Skovbjerg (DEN, YAM), 146 p.