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**EMX125 European Championship:  
solid Mancini gets his second overall win**



The 4th Round of the EMX125 presented by FMF Racing in Lugo, Galicia showed all the intensity of European rounds. The races throughout the Saturday and Sunday were really competitive and displayed many twists in a thrilling racing weekend.

It was Fantic Factory Racing EMX125's Simone Mancini who proved to be the best in Lugo with a 2-2 to win his second overall of the season as he showed a lot of composure and consistency!

The first race began with a chaotic start, as multiple riders collided in the first turn, setting the stage for an action-packed event. Dex Kooiker from De Baets Yamaha MX-Team seized the early lead, closely pursued by Salvador Perez of RFME GASGAS MXJunior Team. However, Perez wasted no time in making his move, swiftly overtaking Kooiker to

claim the lead after a few turns. Fantic Factory Racing EMX125's Simone Mancini followed closely behind, securing 2nd place in the opening lap.

As the race progressed, Kooiker slipped to 3rd, with Gyan Doensen of Racestore KTM Factory Rookies in 4th and Jezyk Racing Team's Tom Brunet in 5th. Meanwhile, the red plate holder, Noel Zanocz of Fantic Factory Racing EMX125, encountered early trouble, crashing in the opening lap and facing an uphill battle to regain lost ground.

Despite Zanocz's setback, he showcased his skill and determination, steadily climbing back up the ranks to 18th by lap 11. Dreams Racing's Francesco Bellei capitalized on the chaos, moving up to 4th place, with the French pair of Brunet and Yamaha Europe EMX125 MJC's Mano Faure close behind.

Mancini, determined to challenge Perez for the lead, pushed hard but couldn't close the gap, as Perez maintained a strong pace to secure his first race win of his career, much to the delight of his home fans.

Behind the leaders, Doensen showcased his championship ambitions, battling his way to a hard-fought 3rd place, enough to claim the lead of the Championship at that moment. Meanwhile, Kooiker and Motovation Motosport's Kasimir Hindersson engaged in a fierce battle for 7th place, exchanging positions multiple times. However, it was Áron Katona who stole the spotlight with an impressive comeback from 17th to finish 7th, followed by Hindersson in 8th and Kooiker in 9th.

Zanocz, despite his early troubles, fought valiantly to salvage crucial points, finishing in 12th place and minimizing the impact on his Championship standing.

Race 2 started fast with Faure this time taking the command of the race with a strong start, Mancini and Heitink trailing behind him. Some riders went down at the first turn including first race winner Perez, Kooiker and Katona.

Mancini started to attack Faure from the opening lap and apply pressure on the French man. Heitink managing to follow them in 3d.

After falling down Doensen began his climb through the rank as he was 17th on the opening lap. Meanwhile Faure clocked the Fastest Lap to maintain his lead and keep Mancini in

trail. However, on lap 6 while comfortably leading the race, Faure lost the front wheel and crashed out of the lead gifting number 1 position to Mancini well placed behind. Faure picked up in 5th.

It was an excellent race for the Latvian **Markuss Ozolins** after a strong start he managed to get himself up to 3rd following Faure's crash with Faure's teammate Heitink going 2nd. Bellei kept his good form over the weekend and got himself to 4th.

Meanwhile Zanocz again having to show his determination after his poor start went up to 9th in the end as you could feel a sense of emergency for the Hungarian in getting as much points as possible.

Bellei did everything right to pass Ozolins for 3rd on lap 12 while Heitink managed to reduce the gap with Mancini. Following a mistake and ggl's issues from Mancini, Heitink pounced and took the lead to win his first race this season!

With his issues, Mancini safely finished 2nd to win the overall for his second overall win of the season.

Bellei finished 3rd for an excellent 4-3 and the 2nd overall while it was a first podium for Ozolins who had to keep Faure at bay until the last turns to finish 4th and get on the 3rd step of the podium. Faure just misses out on the podium for one point.

Despite two complicated starts that saw him going from the back end of the pack twice, Zanocz managed to show a lot of determination to keep his red plate in the end.

**EMX125 - Overall Classification:** 1. Simone Mancini (ITA, FAN), 44 points; 2. Francesco Bellei (ITA, KTM), 38 p.; 3. Markuss Ozolins (LAT, GAS), 33 p.; 4. Mano Faure (FRA, YAM), 32 p.; 5. Dani Heitink (NED, YAM), 30 p.; 6. Salvador Perez (ESP, GAS), 26 p.; 7. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 24 p.; 8. Tom Brunet (FRA, KTM), 23 p.; 9. Noel Zanocz (HUN, FAN), 21 p.; 10. Maximilian Ernecker (AUT, GAS), 21 p

**EMX125 - Championship Classification:** 1. Noel Zanocz (HUN, FAN), 145 points; 2. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 140 p.; 3. Salvador Perez (ESP, GAS), 129 p.; 4. Francesco Bellei (ITA, KTM), 123 p.; 5. Simone Mancini (ITA, FAN), 119 p.; 6. Mano Faure (FRA, YAM), 119 p.; 7. Dani Heitink (NED, YAM), 94 p.; 8. Áron Katona (HUN, KTM), 89 p.; 9. Markuss Ozolins (LAT, GAS), 86 p.; 10. Maximilian Ernecker (AUT, GAS), 73 p

### EMX Quad European Championship: delight for Walker as he stamps authority on in The Netherlands



The EMX Quad European Championship was back to action in Heerde, in The Netherlands, for the second round of the season.

#### Qualifying Race

The bellow of a full grid of 4-stroke quad machinery reverberated around the woods as the gate dropped, and it was the fastest qualifier, Karl Robin Rillo, who raced into the lead to take the holeshot ahead of Harry Walker, with hard-charging home heroes Mike van Grinsven and Joe Maessen looking to impress in front of the supporting fans. Veldman completed the opening lap in 6<sup>th</sup> position, however, the big news at the completion of lap 1 was that the championship leader of Patrick Turrini was languishing outside of the top 10 - plenty of work ahead for the reigning champion.

Rillo certainly had the hammer down as he had his eyes set on increasing his advantage over Walker in the early stages, but this was not to come to fruition as Walker stormed by the Estonian teenager to take the lead, with van Grinsven and Maessen going with them -

this quartet seemingly finding more speed in the deep sand than the chasing field, as the gap stretched to seven seconds between Maessen in 4<sup>th</sup> position, and Tarald Hellebust in 5<sup>th</sup> position. Tarald Hellebust, despite not having raced in the European championship since last year, was fighting for the top five positions, albeit 10 seconds away from the leading pack.

Only a handful of laps later, and Rillo slipped to the rear of the quartet, now doing the chasing as opposed to being chased as he had done in the opening laps. A mighty battle was brewing for 5<sup>th</sup> position, and Hellebust, Mike Verboven and Julian Veldman all looked to put themselves in prime position. In the meantime, Patrick Turrini was trying with all his championship-winning might to clamber back as many positions as he could, to give himself a better gate pick for tomorrow's races - by the completion of lap 7, he was up to 7<sup>th</sup> place and less than two seconds behind the fight for 5<sup>th</sup>.

Walker was metronomically consistent, setting the pace at the front of the race to increase his lead over van Grinsven and Maessen. What once was a quartet, soon became a 2-way fight for 2<sup>nd</sup> position between the Dutch riders of van Grinsven and Maessen, with Rillo losing momentum as the race drew on. Verboven climbed to 5<sup>th</sup> position, to make it three Dutch riders inside the top five positions, but Turrini was on the charge and gaining ground with each passing lap. The amount of time left was crucial, and no one knew this better than Turrini at this stage. Veldman, who was showcasing his talents in the sand with a strong start, would drop way back to 24<sup>th</sup> position in the closing stages - a difficult day at the track for the likeable local.

The board was shown to signify that only 2 laps were remaining in the race, and with a 5 second advantage over his nearest rival, all Walker needed to do was hit his markers, and this would surely be enough to see him take victory in the qualifying race. Compatriots van Grinsven and Maessen had drifted apart on circuit as the amount of time between them opened to, what would become, an insurmountable amount for Maessen, however,

a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish would be key for the racing tomorrow. Rillo would take the chequered flag in, what developed into, a relatively lonely 4<sup>th</sup> place, with Verboven completing the top 5. An inspired ride from Turrini would see him climb up to 6<sup>th</sup> position ahead of Dutchman Richard Ruttenberg.

### Race 1

The gates dropped and the fight was on for the lead of the race, with Karl Robin Rillo, Mike van Grinsven, Joe Maessen, and Patrick Turrini locked together contesting the lead - Harry Walker and Mike Verboven were only a small distance behind the dicing quartet. Just a couple of laps later, and Mike van Grinsven, who has not contested a round since the SQMXoN in 2019, led the way around this 2km circuit ahead of Karl Robin Rillo, who seemed to lose momentum in the early stges of the race, dropping back to as low as sixth position. Harry Walker was a man on the charge, as he picked off the opposition one-by-one, to place himself firmly in the wheeltracks of van Grinsven.

After a poor result in the qualifying race yesterday, Julian Veldman was carving his way through the field and, after his 24<sup>th</sup> gate pick, was knocking on the door of the top 10 by a mid-point of the event; a fantastic start for the Dutchman, but he wasn't done yet!

Such is the nature of racing in the sand, the local riders were showing their prowess with the six of the top 10 positions being occupied by Dutch competitors, much to the delight of the home supports. Norwegian rider Tarald Hellebust held on to the seventh spot for much of the event, however, he was to soon find himself relegated to 11<sup>th</sup> by the chequered flag, as Ricardo Phoelich, Richard Ruttenberg and Valentino Roks each saw individual opportunities to promote themselves a position.

Back to the front, a six-way dice was unfolding before us, with Turrini doing everything in his power to close the gap to Walker, who had stretched his lead to 2.5 seconds at its maximum, however, it would prove to be effort spent for no reward as his Yamaha started

smoking, which seemed to be a manageable problem initially, but would soon be enough to force him to retire from the race. He watched Walker and Rillo dice for the lead from the sidelines, both disappointed and frustrated that the Yamaha had let him down on this occasion.

Mike van Grinsven, who is still not quite 100% race fit, would soon slip down to fifth position, as his compatriots Maessen and Verboven moved ahead, however, the fight on circuit that had the fans gripped was the one for the lead as, in what appeared to be a second-wind for the Estonian, Rillo was putting in a hard-charge in the dying stages of the race, and back on the rear wheels of Walker. This charge seemed to be offset by backmarkers being in between himself and Walker, and this would be enough to see Walker open his advantage once more, to 3.5 seconds by the chequered flag.

A victory for Walker would see him take the lead of the championship, however, it is all the play for in race 2 as Turrini seeks to make amends for his unfortunate retirement. An aggressive race for Julian Veldman saw him take the chequered flag in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

### Top five

1. Harry Walker; 2. Karl Robin Rillo; 3. Joe Maessen; 4. Mike Verboven; 5. Mike van Grinsven.

### Race 2

A lightning start from Manfred Zienecker, who was not in the opening race, saw him storm to the front of the pack to lead them around on the opening lap until, in what was an inspired move, Louis Pinchon took over the reins of the race to lead the German and Harry Walker, who was looking to confirm himself as the leader of the championship. Turrini was languishing outside of the top 10 positions in the opening laps, but he was to soon pick them off one-by-one until he was into 8<sup>th</sup> position.

In the meantime, Julian Veldman was once again carving his way through the field from the back row of the gate, in a case of déjà vu for the tall Dutchman. The field had spread out quickly, much quicker than it did in the first race, which would make it more difficult for Veldman to make up positions, however, he did so with style and commitment. Walker set about hounding Zienecker for the race lead, but it was to no avail for the young Brit as Zienecker pulled the pin to increase his lead with every passing lap, but the main story of the race was that, at the halfway point, Turrini was seen stranded on the outside of the circuit, with what appeared to be yet again, a mechanical issues - a highly disappointing end to the weekend for the already down-trodden Turrini. Disaster was to strike once more for one of the top competitors, and this time it would be for Rillo, who was forced to retired after completing only 9 laps. It is unsure at this stage whether Rillo will be contesting the remaining three rounds, however, a big blow to his potential championship hopes, nonetheless.

Early race leader, Louis Pinchon, would slip down the order as the race progressed to the closing stages, as he came under pressure and was relegated by Joe Maessen, Keveen Rochereau, Mike Verboven and Julian Veldman, but a 7<sup>th</sup> place finish was a fine way to round off the weekend for the Frenchman.

The chequered flag was to be greeted by Zienecker, who took his first race victory of the season by an impressive 13.9 seconds over the new red plate holder, Harry Walker, with Joe Maessen completing the podium once more.

#### Top five

1. Manfred Zienecker; 2. Harry Walker; 3. Joe Maessen; 4. Keveen Rochereau; 5. Mike Verboven.

#### Overall top five

1. Harry Walker, 47 points; 2. Joe Maessen, 40; 3. Mike Verboven, 34; 4. Keveen Rochereau, 32; 5. Julian Veldman, 30.



**Individual Speedway Championship:  
Janowski won in the SEC Challenge**



After 4 Qualifying rounds, the Individual Speedway Championship raced the ECC in Daugavpils, Latvia.

The level of racing had been high, this was already visible in the training sessions with close racing between the riders, ready to fight and qualify for the final series.

In the first heats, the crucial factor was the start from the gate. Dimitri Berge showed a very good reaction in the first heat of the day, confidently securing a win. In the third heat, spectators witnessed an interesting battle between Thorssell and Cierniak throughout the distance, with the Swede ultimately emerging victorious.

In his second start, Anders Thomsen fired up. The acclaimed Dane showcased a phenomenal attack on Timo Lahti and celebrated a victory. Also notable was Piotr Pawlicki's performance in his second race. In heat 7, the Pole defeated the previously unbeaten Janowski and Thorssell.

The younger of the Pawlicki brothers didn't intend to stop and confidently sealed his second win in Daugavpils. Leading the event thanks to a victory over Andersen Thomsen, Maciej Janowski strengthened his position as the leader of the competition. In three starts, the Pole lost only one point.

Magic began the fourth series with another heat win, thereby securing a place in the top five of the competition, which guarantees advancement to SEC 2024. Despite an earlier mechanical failure, Thomsen still fought for a chance to advance thanks to a victory in heat 15.

In the first heat of the final series, the Dane's motorcycle malfunctioned for the second time, denying him the coveted advancement. In much better spirits, Piotr Pawlicki and Vaclav Milik ended the competition in second and third place, respectively. The last two spots granting advancement to this year's series were decided in a runoff race. Afterward, Kacper Woryna and local hero Jevgenijs Kostigovs celebrated their entry into the SEC 2024 lineup.

#### Top five

1. Maciej Janowski, POL, 12
2. Piotr Pawlicki, POL, 11
3. Vaclav Milik, CZE, 11
4. Kacper Woryna, POL, 9+3 points in runoff race
5. Jevgenijs Kostigovs, LAT, 9+2 points in runoff race