

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024

Press Release n. 48

### TT Rally European Cup: Hellas Rally



Seven days of riding in central Greece from 25 May to 2 June. That was the Hellas Rally Raid 2024, valid as first round of the TT Rally European Cup.

A unique experience in the remote Greek territory, with mountains, forests, valleys and more, with everyday route between 100-300 kilometres. In the single bivouac in Itea Fokida the organizers provided tires, rider clothing and protections, medical first aid kit, mobile and GPS service and even more.

After 7 days of racing Finnish rider Toni Mulec won the Overall classification ahead of the French rider Loic Minaudier and Italian Jacopo Cerutti.

The winners of the classes: M1 - Ejder Eristi (TUR), M2 - Mattia Riva (ITA), M3 - Toni Mulec (SLO), M4 Andrea Rocchi (ITA), M5 Francesco Puocci (ITA), M6 - Jacopo Cerutti (ITA).

### EMX250 European Championship: Valin wins the German round



The fifth round of the EMX250 in Teutschenthal was an eventful one in the deep ruts of the German track that challenged every rider to pull off incredible skills to come out on top.

It was the EMX250 red plate, Bud Racing Kawasaki's Mathis Valin who was the winner of the day after showing a lot of composure with solid racing throughout the weekend and good determination.

#### Race 1

In Race 1, it was VRT Yamaha Racing's Karlis Reislulis who managed the Holeshot just in front of Beddini GASGAS Factory Juniors's Valerio Lata. The Italian then managed to get in front after a couple of corners.

The new red plate Mathis Valin could have made a better start as he found himself 6th but charged quickly to get behind Valk in 4th at the end of the opening lap. The new addition to the Championship, American Gavin Towers from VRT Yamaha Racing made a decent start on his debut to pass the first lap in 7th position.

Reisulis showed very good speed after making a great start and was trailing by only a couple of seconds behind Lata for the first 3 laps. Further down, Valin began to eat up the gap with Valk, 3rd at the time, and managed to outsmart him on lap 4 with a combination to go inside out to pass the Dutch rider. On lap 6, all the effort of the Frenchman Valin came to a waste when he crashed out of 3rd place and picked himself up in 5th just in front of Towers.

The other Frenchie, WZ Racing Team's Maxime Grau managed to get up from 6th on the opening lap to 4th on lap 6 of 15, and overtook Valk for 3rd a lap later after getting the best drive on a jump. Meanwhile Lata was setting his fastest lap of the race to move 6 seconds clear off Reisulis.

With 3 laps to go, the rain started to fall but Lata kept the lead until the end while Reisulis could not hold off Grau as he passed the Latvian for 2nd and kept that place until the end. Reisulis settled for 3rd while Valin could only come back up to 5th.

## Race 2

Race 2 was an eventful one, but it started perfectly for Towers who took the Holeshot in front of Grau and Valin. Alexis Fueri from Fantic Factory Racing MX2 made a decent start in 4th with Lata 5th after a couple of corners. Fueri finished 8th in the end.

After a few corners, Towers tipped over and threw away his lead to pick himself in 4th. It gave Grau, Valin and Lata the opportunity to pull away. Also falling early on was Reisulis who managed to come back to a very good 8th place in the end. Cat Moto Bauerschmidt Husqvarna's Nico Greutmann was one who started very well but fell a couple of times to finish 6th in the end.

On lap 2, leader Grau got caught by his countryman Valin for the lead as the red plate took the inside line in a corner. Unfortunately, while chasing back Grau tipped over to

find himself in 5th position. Valin led Lata and Towers who showed great technique and composure for his first European outing.

As the ruts were getting deeper, riders had to stay full focus to not make mistakes. This is what happen to Valin who miss stepped a rut and Lata took his chance to take the lead. Meanwhile Valk quickly climbed up to 4th where he would control this position until the end.

Lata showed all his qualities as he kept the lead until the end but he unfortunately jumped on a waved yellow flag which would be very costly for the young talented Italian, as he lost the European Championship standard 10 positions-penalty. With the top 10 riders winning a position in race 2, the entire podium was shaken up.

In the end, Valin climbed on the top step with a 5-1 and consolidated his red plate too. With two solid races, Grau went 2-4 for 2nd overall while Valk was the one who clinched an unexpected podium with a 3rd overall with a 4-3.

**EMX250 - Overall Classification:** 1. Mathis Valin (FRA, KAW), 41 points; 2. Maxime Grau (FRA, KTM), 40 p.; 3. Cas Valk (NED, KTM), 38 p.; 4. Gavin Towers (USA, YAM), 37 p.; 5. Valerio Lata (ITA, GAS), 35 p.; 6. Karlis Alberts Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 34 p.; 7. Nico Greutmann (SUI, HUS), 26 p.; 8. Benjamin Garib (CHI, KAW), 24 p.; 9. Saad Soulmani (MAR, YAM), 23 p.; 10. Alexis Fueri (FRA, FAN), 22 p

**EMX250- Championship Classification:** 1. Mathis Valin (FRA, KAW), 212 points; 2. Cas Valk (NED, KTM), 186 p.; 3. Valerio Lata (ITA, GAS), 182 p.; 4. Maxime Grau (FRA, KTM), 137 p.; 5. Ivano Van Erp (NED, YAM), 132 p.; 6. Saad Soulmani (MAR, YAM), 130 p.; 7. Francisco Garcia (ESP, GAS), 113 p.; 8. Karlis Alberts Reisulis (LAT, YAM), 105 p.; 9. Nico Greutmann (SUI, HUS), 104 p.; 10. Alexis Fueri (FRA, FAN), 79 p



### EMX Quad European Championship: Turrini turns fortunes around in condensed Sunday schedule



Full Sunday schedule for the EMX Quad European Championship for its third round of the season, raced in Kramolin, in the Czech Republic.

Following a night of heavy rain off the back of previous wet weather during the week, the decision was made to abort all track activity for Saturday and run all the sessions on Sunday with a short qualifying and the championship races.

#### Race 1

The threat of poor weather still loomed overhead, however, it held out for the first race of the weekend as 23 quadcross competitors took to the gate, with Turrini leading the charge from the front which would be a lead which he would not relinquish throughout the 25 minutes + 2 laps opening race. It was great to see Turrini turn his fortunes around after a dismal Heerde, and would put his title bid back on track. Harry Walker, try as he might, could not quite get the better of the reigning champion and would settle for second position. We mentioned in the pre-race build-up that Manfred Zienecker may well be a

dark horse this weekend, and this would prove to be the case as he was right in contention throughout much of the race, defending his position from Mark McLernon, Mike van Grinsven and Joakim Granli. As mentioned at the second round, van Grinsven has not been on the championship for over 4 years, and it is fantastic to see him battling for the high point-scoring positions.

The single-line that had formed around this Kramolin circuit would prove beneficial for the Italian, as he came to complete the race in first position, to put his championship contention back on track, and to make amends for the difficulties he and his team experienced in the deep sand of Holland. Completing the podium was the red-plate holder, Harry Walker, who was joined by the highly impressive Frenchman, Sylvain Petit.

### Race 2

The ruts had certainly dug up as the second race of the weekend for the European Quadcross championship took to the gate for their final time of the weekend, and this would undoubtedly work more favourably for some riders, than others.

In the early stages of the race, it was the German rider, Manfred Zienecker, who led from the Northern Irishmen Mark McLernon and Patrick Turrini, however, with the deep ruts making overtaking difficult, there were only a handful of opportunities for Turrini to place himself ahead of McLernon. Zienecker, in the meantime, sought about extending his race lead throughout these early stages and the good news for Turrini was that Harry Walker was languishing down in fifth position. It is worth mentioning that the Norwegian riders of Joakim Granli and Tarald Hellebust were doing themselves no disgrace by both being inside the top seven places.

A rare mistake from the race leader saw McLernon decimate the gap between himself and the German, and the battle at the sharp end of the race was stoked. Only half a second separated the main contenders in this race at the halfway point, however, Zienecker soon reacted to the error and stretched his advantage once more. Drama just a couple of laps later as McLernon was seen stopped on the inside of the circuit, and this would promote the chasing pack up a position respectively and, more importantly, this would place Harry

Walker inside the top three positions behind his arch-rival. At this time, he could not rest on his laurels as Joakim Granli was breathing heavily down his neck, only a second behind the championship leader.

The chequered flag beckoned the #89 Honda of Manfred Zienecker who would claim victory in the second race of the weekend, by 11 seconds over the overall winner Patrick Turrini, with Harry Walker keeping a hold on the red plate in third position.

**Race 1 top five** - 1. Patrick Turrini, 2. Harry Walker, 3. Sylvain Petit, 4. Manfred Zienecker, 5. Mark McLernon.

**Race 2 top five** - 1. Manfred Zienecker, 2. Patrick Turrini, 3. Harry Walker, 4. Joakim Granli, 5. Sylvain Petit.

**Overall top five** - 1. Patrick Turrini, 47 points, 2. Manfred Zienecker, 43 points, 3. Harry Walker, 42 points, 4. Sylvain Petit, 36 points, 5. Joakim Granli, 32 points.

## European Individual Grass Track Championship: Semi Final 1



The Semi Final 1 of the European Individual Grass Track Championship was held under challenging conditions in Bielefeld, Germany.

Despite the track being rough due to heavy rains in the weeks leading up to the event, the dedicated efforts of the track staff and club ensured the successful completion of all heats. Multiple track gradings throughout the meeting significantly improved the track, resulting in fast and exciting racing conditions.

German rider Lukas Fienhage set an outstanding performance, claiming his first victory on the Bielefeld grass track. With maximum points and incredible speed, Fienhage showcased his talent in a thrilling final battle against last year's winner, Chris Harris. Fienhage clinched the win with an impressive speed of 111 km/h, marking an exciting end to the day.

Third position for Danish rider Jakub Bukhave.

Now eyes on the Semi Final 2 next weekend in the Netherlands and the Final on July 6<sup>th</sup> in France.

### Top three

1. Lukas Fienhage, GER, 20 points
2. Chris Harris, GBR, 15 points
3. Jacob Bukhave, DEN, 15 points