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Moto2 European Championship, ETC and Stock: Garcia, Cano and McDonald claim victory in Algarve



The Moto2 European Championship, ETC and Stock made its way to the south of Portugal for Round 4 of the campaign, and beneath the baking heat of a scorching Algarve sun, six phenomenal races unfolded to keep fans on the edge of their seats.

Roberto Garcia (Fantic Cardoso Racing) made the double in the Moto2 European Championship. There was plenty of joy too for Carlos Cano (SeventyTwo Artbox Racing Team) in the European Talent Cup, while birthday boy Archie McDonald (MRE Talent) went from pole to P1 in the Stock European Championship.

Moto2

Having secured a dream debut Moto2™ European Championship pole position on Saturday, Roberto Garcia made it Portimao perfection as he did the double on Sunday. Race 1 saw an electric start as Alberto Surra (Team Ciatti - Boscoscuro) took the holeshot ahead of

Garcia, but the polesitter quickly responded as the two went toe-to-toe across the opening lap. Both riders broke away from the rest of the pack, but didn't relent as they traded overtakes across 16 entertaining laps, with some truly sensational efforts from both riders. In the end, it was the polesitter Garcia who had the last laugh in an epic battle, making his final move with just a couple of laps remaining and then opening up a two second gap to take his second win of the campaign, and become the new Championship leader.

As Garcia romped home to victory, the on track excitement continued as Alberto Ferrandez (Finetwork Team) charged hard in the finale to steal the final podium place away from Dani Muñoz (Gas Up Racing Team), his third of the campaign.

If the opening race was frenetic, Race 2 was coolness personified as Garcia once again claimed an early opening lap lead from pole, and he failed to relinquish it over the course of the race to ensure he made it back-to-back wins in the Algarve. Once again Surra had to settle for second place, while Unai Orradre (STV Laglisse Racing) secured his second podium in as many rounds after Daniel Muñoz crashed out of third place.

All that means Garcia will head to Jerez in September with an 18 points advantage over Mattia Casadei (Team Ciatti - Boscoscuro), with Surra just one point further behind.

ETC

Carlos Cano came out on top of a thrilling multi-rider battle for victory in the European Talent Cup. The Spaniard started second on the grid and proved a consistent race threat, leading over the line for more than half the race. In classic ETC fashion, a large group of riders huddled up with podium and victory ambitions, but it was Cano, Giulio Pugliese (CFMoto Aspar Junior Team) and polesitter David Gonzalez (AC Racing Team) who were the main protagonists out front. The likes of Pau Alsina (Team Estrella Galicia 0'0), Alex Longarela (Liqui Moly Husqvarna Intact GP Junior Team) and Valentin Perrone (Frando Racing VHC Team) all played a part in the fight for honours, but it was Cano who ultimately proved good value for the win, as he beat Pugliese and Gonzalez in a dash to the line.

It means the Spaniard is right back in Championship contention, slashing Marco Morelli's advantage to just four points, with the Argentinian coming home in seventh as he had a quiet race relative to the high standards he has set in the current campaign.

Stock

It proved the perfect birthday weekend for Archie McDonald, as the Australian rider backed up his maiden Stock European Championship pole with victory following a thrilling last lap shootout with Mario Mayor (Yamaha GV Racing). Having led every lap, McDonald slipped to second place as Mayor made his move as they came across the line for the penultimate time, with both riders almost colliding down the front straight. It seemed Mayor had done enough for the victory, but McDonald invented a brilliant final corner maneuver to poke his nose in front as they took the chequered flag, helping crown the perfect weekend in Portugal for the #69.

Mayor's second place and 20 points sees him go level with the absent Lorenzo Dalla Porta atop the standings, while Adrian Rodriguez crossed the line in third, helping him move to P3 in the standings.

European Under19 Pairs Speedway Championship: Polish team makes it double



Single-race event for the European Under19 Pairs Speedway Championship in Pila, Poland. The race, scheduled on Saturday, was postponed of one day because of the heavy rain and a big crash in the first heat.

In a nice and thrilling atmosphere, on Sunday's race the Polish team confirmed its supremacy, winning the 2024 European title after the success of last year.

Winner in 2023, favoured Polish trio took the win ahead of Sweden, at the end of a race with a lot of overtaking and fights.

Great show and battle for the 3rd position, with the fight between Denmark, Great Britain and Czech Republic.

Standings - Top three

1. Poland (Paweł Trzeźniewski, Bartosz Bańbor, Wiktor Przyjemski), 25 points
2. Sweden (Rasmus Karlsson, Anton Jansson, Sammy Van-Dyck), 22 points
3. Denmark (William Drejer, Villads Nagel, Bastian Pedersen), 19 points

European Individual Grass Track Championship: Semi Final 2



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Challenging weekend for the European Individual Grass Track Championship with the Semi Final 2 of the season. After the Semi Final 1, raced in Germany at the beginning of the month, the series was hosted in Saint-Macaire, France.

Originally, the 2nd Semi Final was scheduled to be held on June 8th at Loppersum, in the Netherlands, but the heavy rain did not allow to follow the schedule and the Jury was forced to cancel the event.

Once more, the heavy rain did not make the things any easier. The track staff and volunteers fought all Saturday to make the track suitable for racing, but due to the bad weather conditions and the lack of significant changes forecasted, the racing was postponed to Sunday.

Finally, in good weather conditions, the Semi Final 2 was run on a light cloudy and later sunny day. The track conditions improved rapidly until Final B and Final A were organised under normal conditions.

In a dramatic Final A, after the super start, Dave Meijerink turned first and led until the second lap, when he unfortunately had to retire. Romano Hummel took the occasion to win the heat and rule the whole day.

Top three

1. Romano Hummel, NED, 20 points
2. Kenneth Kruse Hansen, DEN, 17 points
3. Paul Cooper, GBR, 14 points

Now all eyes on the Final of the series, scheduled on July 6th in Tayac, France.