



FIM WORLD TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

Fujinami leads the championship back to Europe

Takahisa Fujinami (Repsol – Montesa – HRC) returns to Europe with a ten point lead in the 2004 FIM World trials championship having scored back to back - double victories at the last two rounds in Japan and the USA. After the pair of long haul trips, both the teams and riders now face another busy period with three rounds in France, Andorra and Italy over the coming three weekends. The main championship contenders will be only too aware that the results gained in these next events will go along way towards determining who ultimately will take the title in Switzerland during early September.

The current standings represent a new era in World trials, never before has Fujinami held the outright lead in the series and never during the last seven years has Dougie Lampkin (Repsol – Montesa – HRC) faced such a challenge to recover the top position in the standings. Whilst these two team mates fight, Adam Raga (Gas Gas) can not be forgotten – it may seem a long while ago since Adam achieved his own double victory at the Grand Prix of Portugal – but although he may have not travelled well outside of Europe, he is sure to be dangerous now he is back near home land.

This will be the second time that the World trial championship has visited Valderblore, France, the last time being back in 2000, when Lampkin both clinched the trial victory and his first championship for Montesa – HRC. The start area close to the small mountain village sits 1000 metres above sea level and just 60 kilometres due North and inland from the famous coastal city of Nice. Previously the course featured sections in a fast flowing river below the village and on the upper side - dry, steep rock faces.

Mika Vesterinen (Gas Gas) brings a slim single point lead in the Junior category back with him to Europe after a mixed showing in the USA, second place rider Isaac Pons (Gas Gas) will be looking to over turn this small advantage before returning to Andorra, which is effectively a home round in his case. Having been close on a few prior occasions, the championship's only female competitor Laia Sanz (Repsol – Montesa – HRC) will be going all out to achieve her first podium finish in this class.

Past winners – GP France

1992 – Tommi Ahvala
1993 – Amos Bilbao
1994 – Jordi Tarres
1995 – Jordi Tarres
1996 – Marc Colomer
1997 – Dougie Lampkin
1998 – Dougie Lampkin
1999 – Dougie Lampkin
2000 – Dougie Lampkin
2001 – Dougie Laampkin
2002 – Albert Cabestany
2003 – Dougie Lampkin

2004 Championship standings to date:

1: Fujinami 141
2: Lampkin 131
3: Raga 124
4: Cabestany 100
5: Freixa 94
6: Fajardo 79
7: Jarvis 78
8: Bou 62
9: Kuroyama 50
10: Blazusiak 35

This round: 19-20th June
Valdeblore, France

Next round: 26-27th June
Sant Julia de Loria, Andorra

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