



## FIM WORLD TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

### Raga leads his challengers to the Far East

The 2004 FIM World Trial Championship resumes this coming weekend with the Grand Prix of Japan, after a break of four weeks. It may have been a month since the last round in Portugal, but Adam Raga (Gas Gas) will certainly not have forgot that it his name at the top of the standings. This is the first time in eight years since a Spanish rider has held this position, a starvation caused by Dougie Lampkin's (Repsol – Montesa – HRC) great reign, his presence remains strong, as he is the man who currently holds second place in the series just one point behind Raga after the opening two rounds.

The superb permanent facilities of the famous Twin Ring circuit at Motegi makes this perhaps the most prestigious trial of the tour. The garages on pit lane will be home to the riders on this the first fly away of the year. Without their usual European based back up trucks, each of the leading teams will have air freighted several tonnes of bikes, parts and tools many weeks in advance to ensure their safe arrival in this far away land. With a hotel, museum and fun park all located within the walls of the circuit there is few reasons for the riders to leave this mighty Honda owned complex during their stay.

Last year's event was hit by a typhoon that continued for most of the weekend. Incredibly despite severe weather warnings and absolutely torrential rain, still several thousand fans braved the conditions to witness an epic battle between their home rider Takahisa Fujinami (Reposol – Montesa – HRC) and a more unusual British rider this time around in the form of Graham Jarvis (Sherco). After two gruelling days nothing separated these two riders, as they each recorded a win and a second place apiece, but thanks to a better result on the Sunday, Jarvis was declared the overall winner of the Grand Prix, thus marking an end of Lampkin's Japanese domination.

Again Jarvis and Fujinami will be looking to make the most of a venue that perhaps best suits their aggressive riding styles. Takahisa will certainly want to use his home advantage to the maximum and close the gap on Lampkin and Raga, as he still looks to become World champion after five years of being a runner up in the series. Having recently taken an important win at the tough Scottish Six Day Trial, Jarvis will also be hoping to put his campaign back on track after a poor start to the season. These riders will not be alone in the hunt for victory, as Raga, Lampkin, Cabestany, Freixa and maybe Fajardo will all have a plan to take maximum points and the winners champagne.

#### Past results – GP Japan 2000 –

1: Dougie Lampkin  
2: Takahisa Fujinami

#### 2001 –

1: Dougie Lampkin  
2: Takahisa Fujinami

#### 2002 –

1: Dougie Lampkin  
2: Takahisa Fujinami

#### 2003 –

1: Graham Jarvis  
2: Takahisa Fujinami

#### 2004 Championship standings to date:

1: Raga 68  
2: Lampkin 67  
3: Fujinami 61  
4: Cabestany 58  
5: Freixa 49  
6: Fajardo 40  
7: Kuroyama 36  
8: Bou 29  
9: Jarvis 28  
10: Blazusiak 21

This round: 22-23<sup>rd</sup> May  
Twin Ring Motegi, Japan

Next round: 5-6<sup>th</sup> June  
Duluth, USA

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