



Raga becomes the third winner in just three trials

Adam Raga (Gas Gas) confirmed just how competitive the 2004 FIM World Trials Championship is by becoming the third different winner, after only three trials. The young Spanish rider earned his first victory of the series thanks to an incredible last lap, when he only dropped five marks and eventually left Marc Freixa (Repsol – Montesa – HRC) to settle for second place a further four marks behind. Despite only managing to finish in third position today, Dougie Lampkin (Repsol – Montesa – HRC) maintains his lead in the championship.

However for Takahisa Fujinami (Repsol – Montesa – HRC) the day could not have been worse, his fifth place has dropped him from second to fourth place in the overall standings, Albert Cabestany (Beta) joining Raga in over taking him in the current rankings, this move thanks to Cabestany's fourth position today. It was also a bad day for World championship regular Graham Jarvis (Sherco) who finished a lowly tenth place.

Dry weather, which was mainly cloudy with some periods of sunshine left the steep rocky sections in excellent condition, only three of the fifteen hazards featured water and this included the final arena section back in the paddock. It was Raga, Cabestany and Freixa that were the early leaders, with Cabestany maintaining his charge right to the last two sections on the opening lap. Here he added ten marks to his otherwise perfect score very quickly. The large rock step in section fifteen also stopped Raga on his first visit and took two marks from Freixa, a clean here by Lampkin brought the reigning champion back into contention after he had already suffered two failures earlier in the lap.

A three way battle for the victory emerged during the second lap between Raga, Freixa and Lampkin, with the British rider holding a slim advantage right until section thirteen where he crashed back off the final step. This mistake would be decisive and was enough to allow Raga, who had been fantastic throughout his second tour to take the win ahead of Freixa, and leave Lampkin on the lowest step of the podium on this occasion.

Four sections will be modified overnight to increase the severity of the course ready for tomorrow's event.

Day 1 Results:

- 1: Raga 19
- 2: Freixa 23
- 3: Lampkin 25
- 4: Cabestany 28
- 5: Fujinami 31
- 6: Kuroyama 40
- 7: Fajardo 49
- 8: Bou 56
- 9: Pascuet 65
- 10: Jarvis 65

Championship standings:

- 1: Lampkin 52
- 2: Raga 48
- 3: Cabestany 45
- 4: Fujinami 44
- 5: Freixa 38
- 6: Fajardo 30
- 7: Kuroyama 28
- 8: Jarvis 21
- 9: Bou 20
- 10: Manzano 17

This round: 17-18th April
Gouveia, Portugal

Next round: 22-23rd May
Twin Ring Motegi, Japan

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