



FIM WORLD TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

Raga moves to the top with a double victory

For the second day running Adam Raga (Gas Gas) stepped to the top of the podium to collect the winners' trophy and champagne, and by doing so also became the new championship leader. Raga now heads Dougie Lampkin (Repsol – Montesa – HRC) by one point, after the reigning champion finished third today, the runners up spot going to Takahisa Fujinami (Repsol – Montesa – HRC) after only two marks split the top three places.

It was the organisers who were fighting the first battle of the day, as they had to quickly reverse their overnight changes to four sections when heavy early morning rain added the extra severity they were looking for by a more natural means. With the rain still falling and the mist covering the highest sections on the course, eventually only sections four and seven were made more easy due to the worsening conditions.

Little separated the top riders as they fought their way through the early sections. Lampkin stole an initial advantage after he dropped only a single mark in section three, a feat only matched by Fujinami, and then became the only rider in the field to escape section four for less than five marks. However it was Raga who was becoming stronger hazard by hazard, to first catch and then overtake Lampkin and put himself three marks clear of both Lampkin and a slightly surprised Jeroni Fajardo (Gas Gas) come the close of the first lap.

With the rain now stopped, and the strong wind drying the steep rocky sections, it always seemed that the scores would fall as the riders made their way around the long course for the final time this weekend. As yesterday Lampkin sealed his own fate with a five at section six, this not being his favourite hazard of the trial. Lucky for Raga, he had already created a margin of safety when he failed in section ten, this mistake would not prove to be too costly. Fujinami produced the best lap of the day, just eight marks, but this was not enough for victory, however it was enough for an important second place.

Day 2 Results:

- 1: Raga 23
- 2: Fujinami 24
- 3: Lampkin 25
- 4: Cabestany 36
- 5: Freixa 37
- 6: Fajardo 39
- 7: Bou 45
- 8: Kuroyama 49
- 9: Jarvis 50
- 10: Blazusiak 61

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: 17-18th April
Gouveia, Portugal

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

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