



Lampkin brings championship alive

The Italian Grand Prix to be held in the town of Darfo Boario Terme this coming weekend, arrives a point in the championship, when the battle for the title has really come to life. Dougie Lampkin's – Repsol Montesa HRC first victory this year, in France last Sunday could not have come at a more important point in the series for the British rider.

Followed home by his team mate Takahisa Fujinami – Repsol Montesa HRC, Lampkin must thank both his Japanese counterpart and Antonio Bou – Beta for keeping championship leader Adam Raga off the podium and down in fourth place. Raga lost seven valuable points in the title race as he failed to finish in the top two for the first time this season.

The Italian Grand Prix has a special tradition in the championship and is one that the riders universally look forward to. This year promises to be no different, with the trial returning to a region it knows well, in the valleys just North of Bergamo and one hundred and fifty kilometres North West of the fashion conscious city of Milan.

Although it is Raga and Lampkin who have emerged as the main contenders at this point, Bou, Fujinami and Albert Cabestany – Sherco will be looking at the closing half of the championship knowing that they still have a good opportunity to play their part in the final outcome that will be decided in Belgium in late September.

The Junior championship has its own battle to decide, with Daniel Oliveras – Gas Gas having taking control of this class after his win at the French GP. Michael Brown – Beta knows that he must re-find his early season form if he is to keep Oliveras and Daniel Gibert – Montesa at bay and regain the lead that he had held since the opening round in Spain back in April.

Alfredo Gomez – Gas Gas is the man on the move in the Youth category and will be arriving in Italy hoping to close the gap on Loris Gubian – Sherco, who currently holds the top spot in this particular title fight, whilst also increasing his advantage over Matteo Grattarola – Sherco who will be competing on home soil.

The Italian venue will host a European event the day prior to the World trial over a similar, but varied course.



- Past winners –
 GP Italy
 1991 – Jordi Tarres
 1992 – Diego Bosis
 1993 – Jordi Tarres
 1994 – Diego Bosis
 1995 – Jordi Tarres
 1996 – Marc Colomer
 1997 – Dougie Lampkin
 1999 – Dougie Lampkin
 2000 – Albert Cabestany
 2001 – Dougie Lampkin
 2002 – Takahisa Fujinami
 2003 – Takahisa Fujinami
 2004 - Takahisa Fujinami
 2005 - Takahisa Fujinami

- 2006 Riders
 Championship
 Current Standings:
 World
 1: Raga 121
 2: Lampkin 110
 3: Bou 102
 Junior
 1: Oliveras 124
 2: Brown 120
 3: Gibert 120
 125cc
 1: Gubian 115
 2: Gomez 93
 3: Grattarola 92

- 2006 Manufacturers
 Championship
 Current Standings:
 1: Montesa 205
 2: Gas Gas 196
 3: Beta 157
 4: Sherco 94
 5: Scorpa 84
 6: Honda 28
 7: Yamaha 6

This round: 2nd July
Darfo Boario Terme, Italy

Next round: 9th July
Myslenice, Poland

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