



PRESS RELEASE

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FIM Trial World Championship

Bou wins first day of Japanese Grand Prix

Reigning champion Toni Bou - Repsol Montesa picked up from where he left off last season by winning the opening day of the 2013 FIM Trial World Championship in convincing fashion. Bou's winning margin on the first of two days of competition at the Japanese Grand Prix was twenty marks over second placed rider Adam Raga - Gas Gas. Riding under the new no-stop rules Bou once again confirmed his sheer supremacy in the slippery conditions that caught out all of the riders during the day. Albert Cabestany - Sherco struggled to match the leading duo, but still managed to snatch the last podium place away from home hero Takahisa Fujinami - Repsol Montesa who eventually ended up in fourth spot.

Despite suffering from severe sickness Jeroni Fajardo - Beta battled well to secure fifth position and pushed his team mate James Dabill -Beta into sixth place by a mere three marks as the British rider faded over the closing stages. Tomoyuki Ogawa - Honda was the best-placed 'wild-card' entrant in seventh position, as he finished five marks clear of Michael Brown - Gas Gas. Kenichi Kuroyama - Yamaha and Jack Challoner rounded out the top ten respectively on a day when everyone was adapting to the new rules.

Heavy rain late yesterday afternoon forced the local organisers to make several changes to the twelve sections that were plotted on the mainly wooded hillsides, which overlook the tarmac facility. Most of the hazards featured the customary array of carefully placed boulders that became increasingly slippery as the mud dragged onto their smooth surfaces, and this despite the drying effect of the sun overhead. Maintaining forward motion when grip was at a minimum was a real test even for the leading World Pro riders and took its toll on the totals by the time the third lap had been completed.

With a total of ten, Bou was five marks clear of Raga after the first lap, and further stretch his advantage with two following single digit lap scores, whilst at the same time even his nearest challengers were watching their own scores rise rather than fall. The unpredictable nature of the conditions was highlighted as Toni was caught out on each of his three tours, his failures being in a different section on each occasion. In truth this did little to dent Bou's confidence as he marched on to his fifty-first GP win.

Although the conditions were very different to his native Spain Jorge Casales - Gas Gas used the opportunity of the opening event of the year to confirm himself as a real title contender by winning the Junior class, this being his first victory at this level. He recorded two strong closing laps to beat Pol Tarres - Sherco by seven marks, despite Tarres posting the best lap of the Trial on his final tour. Early class leader Jack Sheppard - Beta slipped back as the day went on, but he still was able to take his place on the last step of the podium four marks back from Tarres.

Matching Casales, Italian rider Pietro Petrangeli - Gas Gas also recorded his first ever win, his in the Youth class as he edged out Quentin Carles de Caudenberg - Beta by a single mark in what was a high scoring event for this category. Previously Petrangeli's best result was fourth spot, which he achieved on three separate occasions, and thus he had never been a podium finisher prior to his maiden victory today. Kenny Thomas - Beta made it two French riders on the rostrum as he trailed his compatriot by seven marks after three tough laps for the youngsters. Akira Isogaya - Beta was the highest placed home rider in this division, with him claiming tenth position.

About the FIM (www.fim-live.com)

The FIM (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) founded in 1904, is the governing body for motorcycle sport and the global advocate for motorcycling. The FIM is an independent association formed by 108 National Federations throughout the world. It is recognised as the sole competent authority in motorcycle sport by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Among its 50 FIM World Championships the main events are MotoGP, Superbike, Endurance, Motocross, Supercross, Trial, Enduro, Cross-Country Rallies and Speedway. Furthermore, the FIM is also active and involved in the following areas: public affairs, road safety, touring and protection of the environment. The FIM was the first international sports federation to impose an Environmental Code in 1994.