



FIM WORLD TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

New series kicks off in Bangor, Ireland

This coming weekend marks the start of the 2004 FIM World Trial Championship, the opening round of the new series will be held in Bangor, Ireland. The beautiful coastal venue proved to be highly popular with the riders and the public alike, when top level trials returned to the island twelve months ago after an absence of six years.

Reigning outdoor champion Dougie Lampkin, the winner of the series for the last seven years, will only have to make the relatively short journey from his new home in the Isle of Man to open the defence of his title. Lampkin heads up the field of thirty five riders that contains competitors from as far a field as Japan and Poland, with the strongest contingents from Spain and the UK.

Having already equalled Jordi Tarres' long standing record of seven traditional titles, Dougie is now in search of becoming the undisputed king of trials by collecting his eighth straight championship. However one of the riders who is recognised as perhaps the strongest challenger is twice indoor champion Adam Raga, who is coached by Tarres, since he retired from the competitive side of the sport himself.

When Ireland hosted its first World Championship trial during 1975, the same season when the series was upgraded from its previously European status, the venue near Newtownards offered a muddy woodland with tree roots and slippery banks. This remained the home of international Irish trials until 1989. Now the course in Bangor offers quite a different landscape, the natural rocky coastline providing the perfect modern trials terrain and is conveniently situated near to the busy town centre.

The competition will take place over two days, with the first rider departing from the McKee Clock Arena on the seafront at 10.00 hrs local time each day. The riders will be allowed five and a half hours to complete the two laps of fifteen sections on both Saturday / Sunday. Organised by The Lightweight Motorcycle Club in conjunction with North Down Borough Council, public entry to the trial is free of charge throughout the weekend.

Past winners – GP Ireland

1985 - Thierry Michaud
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1987 - Jordi Tarres
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1992 - Jordi Tarres
1994 – Jordi Tarres
1995 – Marc Colomer
1996 – Dougie Lampkin
2003 – Dougie Lampkin

2003 Championship

Final standings:
1: Lampkin – GBR - 308
2: Fujinami - JPN -290
3: Freixa – E - 255
4: Raga – E - 204
5: Jarvis – GBR - 203
6: Kuroyama – JPN - 166
7: Cabestany – E - 162
8: Colomer – E - 107
9: Fajardo – E - 93
10: Manzano – E - 86

This round: 3-4th April
Bangor, Ireland

Next round: 17-18th April
Gouveia, Portugal

For more information:
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