



Grand Prix **Maxxis** of Greece – Grevena

May 21st/22nd

## Greece Ready to Welcome EnduroGP

More than one month after a very muddy **Grand Prix Polisport of Portugal**, **EnduroGP** is back in action this weekend for the third round of the season in **Grevena**, a small town in northern Greece...



After, Kastoria, Kalambaka (twice) and Serres, the **AMOTOE** (Greek Federation) and its president **Stelios KORELIS** wanted to renew the host city. In the end, it's the charming little town of **Grevena**, in the outskirts of West Macedonia that was chosen to host this **Grand Prix Maxxis of Greece**.

As so often, the **AMOTOE** will build on the experience of **Dimitris ATHANASOULOPOULOS** and all his staff of the **Off-Road** team to make this event a great success, supported by local bikers led by **Vassilis SIAFARIKAS**...

So, it is **Dimitris ATHANASOULOPOULOS** aka "**Doc**" who had the difficult task of creating a course worthy of a World Championship round in the region of **Grevena**.

"**Grevena** and its surroundings are really conducive to the practice of Enduro. Even if I didn't know the place, it was not difficult for me to make a loop of 65 kilometers around the city," told **ATHANASOULOPOULOS**. "The paddock is

located in the centre of **Grevena** and we think it is appropriate to build the Friday night **Super Test** next to it. The course will leave the paddock and take the direction of the **Maxxis Cross Test** which is about 6 kilometers from **Grevena**. Then we'll go directly to the **Technomousse Xtreme Test** located in the same place than the CT to finally finish with the **Enduro Test in Kalamitsi** for a real typical Greek Enduro test! There will be two Time Checks with service - one between the Cross and the Xtreme tests and then one in the paddock. Riders also should love the terrain in the transfers."

**Grevena** is a town of Greek West Macedonia with about 13,000 inhabitants. This small city of northern Greece is 180 km from **Thessaloniki**. It's area full of natural treasures with beautiful mountain scenery but also the green **Venetikos** river and especially the **Pindus National Park** also known as **Valia Kalda**. This Natural Park is one of the finest in Greece and it is also one of three places in the Hellene country where you can see bears in the wild. We could also see some rain, and eventually thunderstorms, during this **Grand Prix Maxxis of Greece**.



*The Venetikos river*

## Phillips In Charge

Youth power! After two Grand Prix, the **EnduroGP** category is dominated by three riders under 26 years old: **Matthew PHILLIPS (AUS)**, **Mathias BELLINO (F - Husqvarna)** and **Steve HOLCOMBE (GB - Beta)**. **PHILLIPS** has been on top form this season, delivering Sherco an early grasp of the **EnduroGP** leader's plate. But he can't afford to relax with both **HOLCOMBE** and **BELLINO** just five points behind. Easily one of the revelations of the 2016 series, **HOLCOMBE** - a senior class rookie - appears to be getting stronger and stronger with every round. Struggling in the mud of Gouveia (Portugal), **BELLINO** looks to make amends in Greece. His goal is to win back the **EnduroGP** leader's plate he held in Morocco.

Behind this trio and **Eero REMES (SF - TM)** remains threatening. With two podium results to his credit, he's proven the speed is there to challenge for **EnduroGP** honours, however, poor results on the opening days of racing in both Morocco and Portugal have put him 13 points behind both **HOLCOMBE** and **BELLINO**. Six points behind **REMES** and Italy's **Alex SALVINI (Beta)** has yet to find his groove in **EnduroGP** as he settles into his new team awning for 2016. But with an impressive victory at the recent round of the Italian Enduro Championship, **SALVINI** will be hoping to transfer that momentum across to the world scene in Greece.

Edging ever closer to his debut EnduroGP podium, KTM's **Taylor ROBERT (USA)** is proving a fast learner as he

continues his rookie season in the world championship. A pair of fourth place results in Portugal lifts the American to sixth overall in the classifications. Currently seventh in the provisional standings, **Antoine BASSET (F - KTM)** will want to confirm his excellent results of the early season. **Nathan WATSON (GB-KTM)** is another rookie turning heads in 2016. Rapidly improving to place third in the horrendously wet conditions in Portugal bumps him up to eighth overall. Despite finishing second overall on day one in Morocco, Frenchman **Johnny AUBERT (Beta)** picked up an elbow injury in Portugal that prevented him from scoring points on day two. Behind **AUBERT** in ninth, **Gianluca MARTINI (I - Kawasaki)**, **Jaume BETRIU (ESP - KTM)**, **Loïc LARRIEU (F - Yamaha)**, **Cristobal GUERRERO (E - Yamaha)**, **Jamie MCCANNEY (GB - Yamaha)** and **Manuel MONNI (I - TM)** will feature strongly in Greece. We also expect a return to the forefront of **Ivan CERVANTES (E -KTM)** - who has not scored any points in the **EnduroGP** standings. And it is the same for **Luis CORREIA (P - Beta)**, **Danny MCCANNEY (GB - Husqvarna)** and **Jonathan BARRAGAN (E - Gas Gas)**...



*Matthew PHILLIPS (Pic: Carlos Larreta)*

## Can anyone stop REDONDI?

In Junior Class, **Diogo VENTURA (P - Gas Gas)**, **Kirian MIRABET (E)**, **Josep GARCIA (E - Husqvarna)** and **Albin ELOWSON (S - Husqvarna)** will have to raise their game if they want to stay in the race for the title with leader **Giacomo REDONDI (I-Honda)**. Indeed, during this early season, the category is under the total control of **REDONDI**. The Italian remains unbeaten, with nobody seemingly able to worry him. His nearest rival, **VENTURA**, is already 24 points behind. In addition to these five riders, we will be happy to see the Finn **Henric STIGELL (TM)**, currently sixth, **Oliver NELSON (S - TM)**, **Mika BARNES (FIN - KTM)** and French **David ABGRALL (Yamaha)** and **Anthony GESLIN (Yamaha)**. In contrast, we expect more from **Davide SORECA (I - Honda)**, presented as a potential preseason favourite. Note that **Jeremy CARPENTIER (F - Honda)** will not be in Greece due to his leg injury sustained in Portugal.

Finally, in the FIM Youth Cup 125cc, this **Grand Prix Maxxis of Greece** should offer us an intense battle between

headliners **Jean-Baptiste NICOLOT (F - Yamaha)**, current leader of the class, **Valerian DEBAUD (F - Yamaha)**, **Erik APPELQVIST (S - Yamaha)** and **Lee SEALEY (GB - Yamaha)**. Absent in Portugal, **Jack EDMONDSON (GB - KTM)** will be back in business. The former point's leader will be intent on reestablishing his dominance in Greece. Italian prospect **Mirko SPANDRE (KTM)** will look to get in the mix, while we will take pleasure in welcoming Chilean **Ruy BARBOSA (Husqvarna)** to the world stage.

This **Grand Prix Maxxis of Greece** will therefore offer an authentic place to the stars of **EnduroGP**. No doubt thousands of Greek fans will line the different special tests to cheer for the elite of the World Enduro series to make of this third round of the season a big party.

### Informations :

- Grevena (West Macedonia);
- 180 kilometres from Thessaloniki;
- Friday, May 20th: KTM Super Test from 18.00;
- Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May: Start 9h00 – Finish around 16h30;
- Organiser: **Off-Road Team - AMOTOE**;
- Websites: [www.endurogp.org](http://www.endurogp.org) and [www.ewc.gr](http://www.ewc.gr);
- Track: 65kms – 3 laps;
- Airport: Thessaloniki (180kms),



Giacomo REDONDI

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