



25/03/2017

Bou closes in on eleventh title

Toni Bou - Repsol Honda survived a stalled engine in the last section of the night in Marseille, France to secure his third win in a row in the 2017 FIM X-Trial World Championship and in doing closed in on an eleventh successive title with just one round remaining. Typically, Adam Raga - TRS kept Bou true and finished only a single mark behind the defending champion and as runner up after Toni fived the final hazard. Albert Cabestany - Sherco fought off Jaime Busto - Repsol Honda for the last podium placing as the teenager claimed his maiden top four spot in the series.



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With just five sections squeezed onto the small arena floor, there was never going to be much margin for error in qualification for any of the eight riders if they were going to transfer to the final. Wild card entrant Jaime Busto - Repsol Honda out-paced Franz Kadlec - Gas Gas in their head-to-head duel to force the young German rider to ride first in the initial pairing. Again Kadlec put up a brave performance, but was to end his night with little reward for his efforts as he placed eighth on a score of twenty-one marks. In contrast Busto produced his best ride to date and booked his place in the main event, for the first time in his career, with a total of twelve marks.

The sheer speed of the dual lane race suited Takahisa Fujinami - Repsol Honda perfectly as he easily beat James Dabill - Gas Gas to the line in their side-by-side encounter. Dabill was never to recover from this early set back and suffered three fives on the bounce midway through qualification to rule himself out of contention as he finished in a below par seventh spot. Fujinami fared a little better and had to rely on a tie-break race to finally secure fifth position after what was a torrid night for the experienced campaigner.

Well defeated in his sprint against Cabestany, Jeroni Fajardo - Vertigo looked far from his best as he made heavy work of the technical hazards with a trio of failures in the first four sections. Fajardo would eventually be demoted to sixth place as he lost out to Fujinami in the tie-break as they both notched up a total of

sixteen marks.

As has become the pattern this season, the last pairing of Bou and Raga served up the best drama of qualification as Raga got the better of the defending champion in their race before then topping the initial rankings with a stand out lap of just two marks. Bou's uncharacteristic five in the fourth hazard as he slipped back off the awkward concrete double step would leave him down in third spot at the end of qualification and trailing Raga and Cabestany respectively.

Despite his qualification placing Bou soon rode himself back into command as he came out on top of the races that decided the running order for the final. Although forced to ride first, Busto acquitted himself well in his first ever main event and was unlucky not secure a podium position. Cabestany needed a clean in the last section to secure third spot, whilst it looked like the top two places were already decided as Toni rode himself clear of his rivals with an emphatic clean in the second hazard, this time ridden in the reverse direction as with the other four sections. Thankfully this gave Bou a sufficient-enough gap to win despite him stalling his engine in the closing section of the event.

The final round of the 2017 FIM X-Trial World Championship will play out next Friday evening further along the southern French coastline in the affluent city of Nice. Here, Bou who now holds a fifteen-point lead in the general standings, will be the odds on favourite to seal an unbelievable eleventh indoor title in a row.

Marseille - Key Facts

- Bou survives late scare for third victory
- Toni now favourite to secure eleventh title
- Raga runner up by a single mark, Cabestany third
- Busto makes his debut in a final
- Spanish lock out top four once again
- Fujinami beats Fajardo in tie-break to claim fifth

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ABOUT THE FIM (www.fim-live.com)

The FIM (Federation 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 113 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.





27/03/2017

Ferrer back in the mix for Nice

Alexandre Ferrer - Sherco will be hoping to give himself a late birthday present when he appears as a wild card rider at the fourth and final round of the 2017 FIM X-Trial World Championship in Nice, France this coming Friday. The experienced Frenchman from the region of Pertuis, two hundred kilometres west of Nice, celebrates his twenty-seventh birthday two days before the series concludes in the Mediterranean city and will be aiming to earn himself a place in the final on his twentieth X-Trial start.



© FIM/Good-Shoot

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2016 saw Ferrer compete in the FIM X-Trial World Championship as a permanent rider, however unfortunately he failed to reach the automatic selection criteria this season. Over the four rounds last year Alexandre amassed a total of thirteen points to secure sixth in the final overall rankings. This comprised a trio of sixth spot placings, including at the closing round in Marseille, France and was only spoiled by an eighth position at the event in Wiener Neustadt, Austria.

Alexandre made his championship debut in 2010 and has competed every year since 2012 with his highest

finish coming in 2015 when he ended the series in fifth overall.

Despite his undoubted skills he has never qualified for a final although he has come close on a number of occasions, most notably in 2015 when he was eliminated in the semi-final stages four times.

The reigning French national outdoor champion, Alexandre has won his domestic title on three occasions - 2012 / 2015 / 2016 - and has represented his country in the FIM Trial des Nations for the last eight years, finishing third in 2013 and 2014 and second in 2015. He has also ridden for France three times in the FIM X-Trial des Nations, finishing third in 2012 and second in 2015 / 2016.

Alexandre was the 2008 FIM Junior European Champion and followed this up by winning the 2012 FIM Junior World Cup.

Since competing in the final three rounds of the FIM Trial World Championship in 2012 he has been a series regular outdoors with his best finish coming in 2015 when he ended the season in seventh with his best result being a sixth on the opening day in Teo, Spain.

Alexandre Ferrer - Key Facts

- **FIM X-Trial World Championship debut Marseille, France 2010 - Aged 19**
- **Winner - FIM Junior European Championship 2008 - Aged 18**
- **Winner - FIM Junior Trial World Cup 2012 - Aged 22**
- **3 x French Trial Champion 2012 / 2015 / 2016**
- **FIM X-Trial World Championship best final ranking 5th 2015 - Aged 25**
- **8 x member of French FIM Trials des Nations team - 2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 / 2013 / 2014 / 2015 / 2016**

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