

MotoGP facts & figures

■ **Jorge Lorenzo** has had three wins at Assen in the smaller classes; the 125cc race in 2004 and the 250cc races in 2006 & 2007, both times from pole position. In his first ride at the circuit on a MotoGP machine in 2008 he finished in 6th place while still recovering his confidence from a succession of crashes in the previous few races. Last year he finished second at Assen – his 50th podium finish in Grand Prix racing.

■ **Dani Pedrosa's** only win at Assen was in the 125cc race in 2002, which was also his first ever Grand Prix victory. He has had two podium finishes from four starts in the MotoGP class at the Dutch TT, 3rd in 2006 and 2nd in 2008. Last year he qualified in second place on the grid but crashed out at turn 1 on the fifth lap.

■ **Andrea Dovizioso's** only podium at Assen came in 2006 when he finished 3rd in the 250cc race. In 2008, in his debut at the track on a MotoGP machine, he finished 5th after qualifying down in 11th on the grid. Last year he crashed on lap eleven at the same place as his teammate Pedrosa. Following his second place finish at Silverstone, Dovizioso is holding second place in the championship table, which is his highest position since moving up to the MotoGP class.

■ Prior to last year, **Nicky Hayden** has finished in the top four at Assen for four successive years, including a victory in 2006 and 3rd in 2007 from 13th place on the grid. In 2008 he was in 3rd place exiting the final corner, but ran short of fuel before the finish line and ended up 4th. Last year he qualified down in 13th place but had a great start to end the first lap in eighth, which is where he eventually finished – his first top ten on the Ducati.

■ **Casey Stoner** has finished on the podium for the last three years at Assen. In 2007 he was second after leading the race up to four laps from the end, in 2008 he qualified on pole and set a new lap record on his way to giving Ducati their first MotoGP win at Assen. Last year he took the final podium slot, while showing signs of the illness that was to affect his season.

■ **Randy de Puniet** has not had much success in the MotoGP class at the Dutch TT; in 2006 he finished 14th after starting from pit lane on his spare bike after a problem on the warm-up lap with his

The historic TT

Assen is the only venue that has hosted a Grand Prix event every year since the motorcycle World Championship Grand Prix series started in 1949. Below is a selection of highlights and milestones from the 61 Dutch TT events that have taken place since it became part of the world championship series:

- 1949** – Held on the original 16.5 km long circuit. History was made by Nello Pagani, who won both the 500cc and 125cc races to become the first rider to win two races at a Grand Prix event.
- 1955** – This year saw a major revision of the circuit, which was reduced in length to 7.7km. There was a riders' protest during the 350cc race when more than a dozen riders pulled into the pits at the end of the first lap in protest at the lack of financial rewards for taking part in Grand Prix racing. As a result 13 riders were suspended from racing for six months.
- 1964** – Jim Redman became the first rider to win three Grand Prix races on the same day when he took the victories in the 125cc, 250cc and 350cc classes on his Honda.
- 1967** – Mike Hailwood (Honda) matched the feat of Redman by winning three GP races on the same day; this time in the 250cc, 350cc and 500cc classes.
- 1968** – Paul Lodewijkx, riding the Dutch built Jamathi, won the 50cc race to become the first Dutch rider to stand on the top step of the podium at his home Grand Prix.
- 1974** – American Kenny Roberts (Yamaha) made his Grand Prix debut in the 250cc race. He qualified on pole before finishing third in the race.
- 1975** – Barry Sheene (Suzuki) took his first victory in the 500cc class from Giacomo Agostini. The two riders were so close across the line that they were credited with the same time – the only occasion this has occurred in the premier-class.
- 1976** – Giacomo Agostini gave MV Agusta the last of their 76 victories in the 350cc class.
- 1977** – At his home Grand Prix, Wil Hartog riding a Suzuki became the first Dutch rider to win a 500cc Grand Prix.
- 1980** – Jack Middleburg, on his privateer Yamaha, took his first GP victory at his home Grand Prix. This was the last win in the class for a bike using an in-line 4-cylinder arrangement.
- 1985** – Randy Mamola won the wet 500cc race riding the three-cylinder NS500 Honda. This was the last time that a premier-class race has been won by a machine with less than four-cylinders.
- 1988** – Christian Sarron (Yamaha) started from pole in the 500cc race to complete a unique family double with his brother Dominique (Honda) starting from pole in the 250cc class.
- 1991** – Kevin Schwantz (Suzuki) set a new lap record, on his way to winning the 500cc race that was never bettered in the ten years up to 2001 when significant alterations were made to the circuit.
- 1992** – Championship leader Mick Doohan crashed in qualifying and missed the race due to injuries. Alex Criville (Honda) became the first Spanish rider to win a 500cc Grand Prix.
- 1998** – Valentino Rossi (Aprilia) won for the first time in the 250cc class and Marco Melandri (Aprilia) won the 125cc race to become the first 15 year old rider to win a Grand Prix race.
- 2001** – Jeremy McWilliams (Aprilia) became the first British rider to win a 250cc GP since 1983.
- 2002** – Dani Pedrosa (Honda) took his first Grand Prix victory in the 125cc class to become the youngest Spanish rider to win a GP at that time.
- 2006** – Nicky Hayden's victory in the MotoGP race was the 200th victory in the premier-class for Honda.
- 2007** – Valentino Rossi gives Yamaha their 150th Grand Prix victory in the premier-class.



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race bike, in 2007 he crashed out after a collision with Vermeulen and in 2008 he was a victim of Rossi's first lap mistake. Last year was much better and he ended up being the first Honda rider across the line in seventh.

■ **Ben Spies** qualified on pole for the world superbike race at Assen last year and won the first race. In the second race he crashed out on lap two while leading. At the Silverstone Grand Prix Spies took his first MotoGP podium in just his ninth start in the class. This was the first podium in MotoGP by a non-factory rider since **Alex de Angelis** was second at the Indianapolis GP last year.

■ **Marco Melandri** finished on the podium in the MotoGP class at Assen in both 2004 and 2005. He also won in both of the smaller classes at the Dutch TT; the 125cc race in 1998, when he became the youngest ever GP winner, and the 250cc race in 2002. He has had less success in the last two years; he was 13th and last finisher on a Ducati in 2008 and in 2009 he was 11th suffering with a broken bone in his hand as a result of a crash during testing. His crash at Silverstone on the first lap resulted in his first none finish of the year.

■ At Silverstone, **Marco Simoncelli** had his best result since moving up to the MotoGP class, finishing in seventh place. He has been third for the last two years at the Dutch TT in the 250cc class, which are his only two podium finishes at the Assen circuit.

■ **Colin Edwards** has twice finished on the podium at the Dutch TT; finishing 3rd in both 2005 and 2008. He was also leading the race on the final corner in 2006 before dramatically crashing out then re-starting and finishing 13th. Last year he was fourth at Assen, equalling his best dry weather result of the year.

■ Last year at the Dutch TT, **Hector Barbera** qualified on pole for the 250cc race and finished second – his best ever result at the Assen circuit.

■ **Aleix Espargaro** made his first GP appearance of 2009 in the 250cc class at the Dutch TT and finished fourth, which is his best ever Grand Prix result.

■ **Mika Kallio's** only podium at Assen was a victory in the 125cc race from pole position in 2006. Last year he was battling for sixth when he crashed on the final lap

Milestone win for Jorge Lorenzo

Jorge Lorenzo's race victory at Silverstone, in addition to extending his lead in the championship standings, was significant in a number of ways:

Jorge Lorenzo has finished on the podium at the opening five races of the year, something only three other Yamaha riders have achieved previously in the premier-class: Eddie Lawson, Wayne Rainey and Valentino Rossi. This win was just the third time he had won a MotoGP race from pole position – the other two occasions he had done this were both at Estoril, in 2008 and 2009.

For just the second time in the MotoGP class, Lorenzo did the clean sweep of pole, race win and fastest race lap. The only other occasion he had achieved this was at Estoril in 2008.

This was his eighth win in the MotoGP class, which is just one less victory than fellow Spanish riders Dani Pedrosa and Sete Gibernau.

This was Lorenzo's 29th victory across all GP classes, the same number of GP wins as Loris Capirossi. There are now only two current GP riders with more victories than Lorenzo: Valentino Rossi with 104 and Dani Pedrosa with 32.

In the eighteen races he has finished since the start of last season only once has he been off the podium, which was a 4th place finish at the Malaysian Grand Prix last year when he started from the back of the grid after problems with his bike resulted in him not taking his correct place on the grid.



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and damaged his hand which resulted in him missing the next race at Laguna Seca.

■ **Loris Capirossi** finished on the podium in the 500cc class at Assen in both 200 and 2001 but has not had a podium finish there on a four-stroke MotoGP machine. After competing at eighteen successive Dutch TT races, Capirossi missed the race in 2008 due to an injury sustained in a crash during free practice. Last year he was lying sixth going into the final chicane but was knocked of the track by **Toni Elias** and finished ninth. He had his first ever 250cc GP win at Assen back in 1993 and won again there in the 250cc class in 1999.

■ **Alvaro Bautista** finished on the podium on three occasions at the Dutch TT when competing in the smaller classes, including winning the 250cc race in 2008 when he also qualified on pole and set a new lap record.

Moto2 facts & figures

■ **Toni Elias** has not had much luck racing in the MotoGP class at the Dutch TT over the last few years; he did not start in 2005 due to injuries suffered in a crash at Le Mans and was eliminated in both 2006 and 2007 after suffering a crash during the first practice sessions. He finished 12th in both of the last two years. Last year he actually crossed the line in eighth but was given a 20 second penalty following a clash with Capirossi at the final chicane. Elias had his first ever GP win in the 125cc class at Assen in 2001.

■ **Shoya Tomizawa** suffered a high speed crash last year at Assen on the very first lap, after losing his front brake lever in a first-corner collision.

■ **Thomas Luthi's** second place finish at Assen in 2008 is his only podium finish at the Dutch TT and his best ever result whilst racing in the 250cc class. His second place finish at Silverstone is his best result since that podium at Assen two years ago.

■ **Julian Simon's** second place finish in the 125cc race at the Dutch TT last year is his only podium finish at the Assen circuit.

■ **Sergio Gadea** won the 125cc race at last year's Dutch TT from ninth place on the grid – his only victory of 2009.

Jules Cluzel becomes second youngest French rider to win in GP racing

At the British Grand Prix, Jules Cluzel took his first ever GP victory, which makes him the second youngest French rider ever to win a Grand Prix race. As shown in the following table this win makes him the youngest French rider to win outside the 125cc class, taking this honour from 1984 world 250cc champion Christian Sarron.

YOUNGEST FRENCH RIDERS TO WIN A GRAND PRIX

1. Mike di Meglio	17 years 279 days	125cc/2005/Turkey/Istanbul
2. Jules Cluzel	21 years 251 days	Moto2/2010/Great Britain/Silverstone
3. Christian Sarron	22 years 42 days	250cc/1977/West Germany/Hockenheim
4. Randy de Puniet	22 years 121 days	250cc/2003/Catalunya/Barcelona
5. Olivier Jacque	23 years 38 days	250cc/1998/Brazil/Rio



Marc Marquez is youngest Spanish rider to take back-to-back GP wins

Marc Marquez followed his up maiden GP victory at Mugello with a second one at Silverstone just two weeks later, to become the youngest ever Spanish rider to win back-to-back Grand Prix races, taking this record from Dani Pedrosa.

The only rider to have won back-to-back races at a younger age is Italian Marco Melandri, who won the German and Czech GP's in 1999. Melandri followed up these two wins by a third successive victory at the Grand Prix of Imola. The following table shows the six youngest riders to win back-to-back GP races:

YOUNGEST RIDERS TO WIN BACK-TO-BACK GP RACES

1. Marco Melandri	17 years 15 days	125cc/German/Czech/1999
2. Marc Marquez	17 years 123 days	125cc/Italy/Great Britain/2010
3. Loris Capirossi	17 years 165 days	125cc/Hungary/Australia/1990
4. Valentino Rossi	18 years 91 days	125cc/Spain/Italy/1997
5. Manuel Poggiali	18 years 221 days	125cc/Portugal/Valencia/2001
6. Dani Pedrosa	18 years 300 days	250cc/Germany/Great Britain/2004

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■ **Jules Cluzel** has failed to score points in any of his four previous appearances at the Dutch TT. Following his victory at Silverstone he could become the first French rider to score back-to-back GP victories since Arnaud Vincent in the 125cc class on his way to winning the world title in 2002.

■ **Gabor Talmacsi** won the 125cc race at the Dutch TT in 2005 and repeated the success in 2008 after qualifying in 13th place on the grid.

■ **Mattia Pasini** won the 125cc race at the Dutch TT in 2007 after qualifying on pole. He failed to reach the end of the race in his two appearances at Assen in the 250cc class, crashing out of the race on both occasions.

■ **Scott Redding's** fourth place finish at Silverstone is his best result since he was third in the 125cc race at Donington last year.

■ **Xavier Simeon's** eighth place finish at Silverstone is the best result in Grand Prix racing by a Belgium rider since Didier de Radigues was eighth in the 500cc race at the Malaysian Grand Prix at the Shah Alam circuit in 1991, riding a factory Suzuki, as team-mate to Kevin Schwantz.

125cc facts & figures

■ **Pol Espargaro's** ninth place finish in the 125cc race last year is his best result at the Assen circuit. He finished 11th on his debut at the Assen circuit in 2007 and missed the race in 2008 after crashing in free practice at the previous GP at Donington and breaking his collarbone. Following his second place finish at Silverstone, Espargaro moves to the head of the world championship standings for the first time in his Grand Prix career.

■ **Nico Terol's** fourth place finish at Silverstone is the first time this year he has failed to get on the podium. His fifth place finish in the 125cc race last year is Terol's best ever result at the Assen circuit.

■ **Marc Marquez, Nico Terol and Pol Espargaro** have all finished on the podium four times in the opening five races of the year.

■ **Bradley Smith's** third place finish at the British Grand Prix was the first podium this year in the 125cc class for a non-Spanish rider. Last year he finished third in the 125cc race at Assen, which was his first podium finish at the Assen circuit.

Grand Prix racing numbers

241 - There have been a total of 241 motorcycle Grand Prix races held at the Assen circuit.

80 - This is the 80th time that a Dutch TT event has been held. The first running of the Dutch TT was in 1925 and it has taken place every year since with the exception of the years 1940 to 1945 because of the Second World War.

56 years ago - On the first day of practice at Assen, it will be 56 years ago to the day that the 1954 Ulster Grand Prix took place. The 500cc event, won by Ray Amm on a Norton, was reduced to 112 miles due to adverse weather conditions and consequently did not count towards the world championship as it was below the minimum length of 125 miles for a GP event at that time.

23 - Claudio Corti will celebrate his 23rd birthday on the day of qualifying at the Dutch TT.

16.161 seconds - The top fifteen finishers in the Moto2 race at Silverstone were covered by just 16.161 seconds. Outside the 125cc class, this is the closest ever top fifteen for a Grand Prix that has run for the full race distance.

15 - Spanish riders have won the last fifteen 125cc races. The last non-Spanish winner in the 125cc class was Andrea Iannone at the Catalan Grand Prix last year. This equals the longest sequence of successive 125cc GP wins by one nation, which was achieved by Italian riders over the 1955/56/57 seasons.

4 - Yamaha are the most successful manufacturer at the Dutch TT since the start of the four-stroke MotoGP formula with four victories. Honda have had three MotoGP wins at the Dutch TT, the last one being in 2006. Ducati's single MotoGP win at Assen was two years ago.

4 - Derbi riders have won the last four races in the 125cc race. This is the best performance by the Spanish manufacturer since they won four successive races in 2001. If a Derbi rider wins at Assen then it will equal their longest ever run of successive 125 cc GP wins achieved in 1988.

2 - Following Simone Corsi's crash at Silverstone, there are now only two riders in the Moto2 class who have scored points at all of the first five races - Toni Elias and Sergio Gadea.

