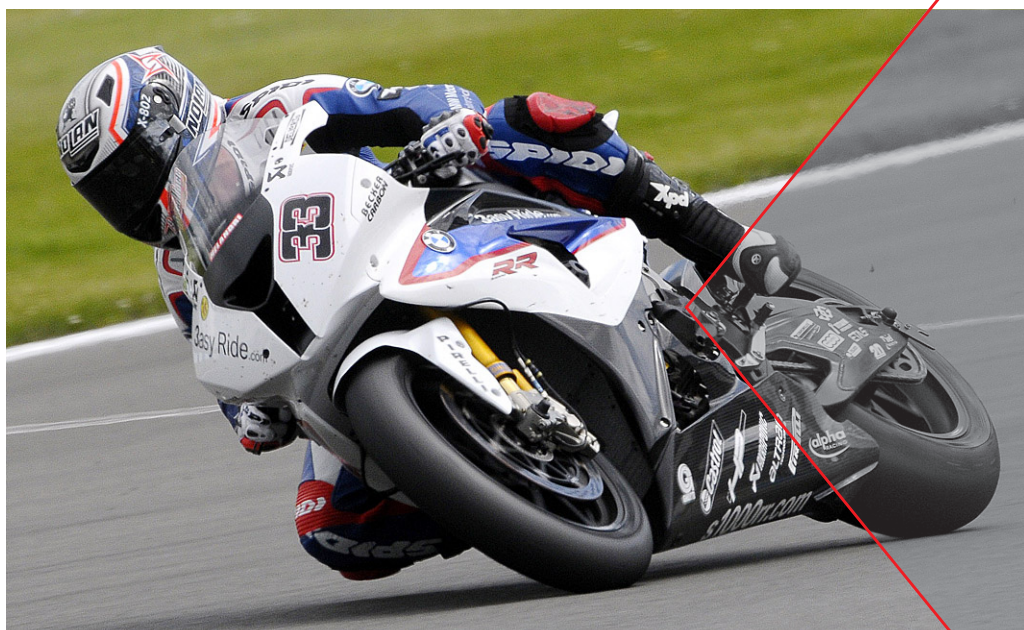


2012 AT A GLANCE

-  **1** PHILLIP ISLAND
AUSTRALIA
FEBRUARY 26
-  **2** IMOLA
ITALY
APRIL 1
-  **3** ASSEN
THE NETHERLANDS
APRIL 22
-  **4** MONZA
ITALY
MAY 6
-  **5** DONINGTON
EUROPE
MAY 13
-  **6** MILLER
MOTORSPORT
UNITED STATES
MAY 28
-  **7** MISANO
SAN MARINO
JUNE 10
-  **8** MOTORLAND
ARAGON
SPAIN
JULY 1
-  **9** BRNO
CZECH REPUBLIC
JULY 22
-  **10** SILVERSTONE
UNITED KINGDOM
AUGUST 5
-  **11** MOSCOW
RACEWAY
RUSSIA
AUGUST 26
-  **12** NÜRBURGRING
GERMANY
SEPTEMBER 9
-  **13** PORTIMÃO
PORTUGAL
SEPTEMBER 23
-  **14** MAGNY-COURS
FRANCE
OCTOBER 7



MARCO WON'T GIVE UP ON OUTSIDE CHANCE

Marco Melandri is ready to ride through the pain barrier as he attempts to snatch the eni FIM Superbike World Championship crown from Max Biaggi's grasp at Magny-Cours.

BMW rider Melandri led the standings two rounds ago, but two crashes at the Nürburgring were followed by another in race one at Portimão last time out as he slid out when trying to pass rival Biaggi in the damp conditions.

The fall in Portugal had serious consequences as the Italian was struck by a following bike, cracking two of his ribs and leaving him with painful contusions on his back. The injuries meant Melandri was forced to miss race two, and Aprilia rider Biaggi capitalised on his rival's misfortune by taking a solid third place in the second race of the day.

Biaggi now holds a handy 30.5-point lead over Kawasaki's Tom Sykes, with Melandri now a further eight points back. With a maximum of 50 points still up for grabs, Sykes and Melandri will need some bad

luck to befall Biaggi, but Melandri will do whatever it takes to ride in France with his hopes still alive.

"After the crash I am feeling better day by day, although my back and right side still feel sore," said Melandri. "When I watched my crash on TV, it really looked confusing. Actually when I was on the bike, it was simply impossible for me to do any different, as I did not see Max."

"I really hope to be fit for the final races in Magny-Cours. I simply want to jump on my S1000 RR, have some fun and finish the races in the best possible way and position."

Melandri was kept in hospital overnight after his accident, but quickly returned home in order to rest and ready himself for the demands of the final round at Magny-Cours. But BMW team doctor Vincenzo Tota believes Melandri will not be hindered too greatly by his injuries.

"The two ribs are not linked to the sternum, so they are not involved in breathing that much. Even if they are broken, it is not so painful," he said. "Another positive thing is that they are not misplaced. It is not a total fracture, but more a small crack. Marco now has to rest and avoid stress to the area. For the race weekend we will apply a taping to reduce the range of motion of the chest. Therefore it will not be painful and will be easy to handle."

infront

INFRONT MOTOR SPORTS (IMS)
Via di Tor Pagnotta 94,
00143 Rome, Italy
T +39 06 509 661
F +39 06 509 66350
www.infrontsports.com



TOP SPONSORS



OFFICIAL SPONSORS



SUPERSPORT
FIM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Supersport world champion Kenan Sofuoglu has praised his Kawasaki machine as he tries to end a fantastic season with another win at Magny-Cours. The Turkish rider cannot be caught in the race for the title, and believes winning his third crown has been made extra special by the qualities of his bike. He said: "I think in the race Kawasaki riders have much more advantage. My bike makes my job really easy."



SUPERSTOCK 1000
FIM CUP

Three riders head to Magny-Cours dreaming of title glory in the FIM Superstock 1000 Cup. BMW rider Sylvain Barrier leads Ducati's Eddi La Marra by just three points ahead of a tense final round. The third contender is Bryan Staring, whose impressive recent run on the Kawasaki, including victory at Portimão last time out, has left him 22 points adrift of Barrier, although the Australian will need fortune to smile on him if he is to secure the crown.



SUPERSTOCK 600
UEM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Michael van der Mark bids to secure the UEM European Superstock 600 Championship at Magny-Cours this weekend. The Ten Kate Junior rider has won the last two races and heads rival Riccardo Russo by seven points ahead of the final round in France. He said: "It will be very exciting at Magny-Cours for the last race. After two great wins, I can't wait to go to France."



JEREZ IS ADDED TO SBK CALENDAR

Spanish circuit Jerez de la Frontera will join the eni FIM Superbike World Championship calendar from 2013 onwards. The new agreement is for three years from 2013 to 2015, and next year's race has been confirmed as the final round of the season on 20 October 2013.

Paolo Flammini, CEO of championship promoters Infront Motor Sports, said: "Jerez de la Frontera is a circuit that is synonymous with great motorbike racing in general and is situated in a catchment area with an extraordinary sporting tradition and cultural heritage. It gives us great pleasure to return to Jerez for the first time in more than 20 years and we are sure that together we will work hard to make the event a great success."

The only time World Superbikes have raced at Jerez was in 1990, the championship's third year.

LORIS DELIGHT AT KAWASAKI DEAL

Loris Baz has expressed his delight after being confirmed as part of the Kawasaki Racing Team in the eni FIM Superbike World Championship for the 2013 season. The young Frenchman, UEM European Superstock 600 champion in 2008, stepped up into Superbike this year as replacement for the injured Joan Lascorz, and became the second-youngest World Superbike winner at the age of 19 years, six months and four days when he won at Silverstone.

"I am really happy, as you can imagine," said Baz. "Since I first got on the official Kawasaki Racing Team bike I have done everything I could to stay for the future. I think it is one of the best bikes and best teams, so I did not want to go anywhere else. We have a really good base and I want to be strong for next year. I am really happy to ride for Kawasaki again, and I cannot wait for next year."

FABRIZIO SIGNS FOR RED DEVILS ROMA

Italian racer Michel Fabrizio has signed to ride for the Red Devils Roma team in 2013. The former Ducati factory rider, who finished third in the 2009 FIM Superbike World Championship, has raced for the BMW Italia team this season, but was excited about linking up with team boss Andrea Petricca.

"My long friendship with Andrea and the professionalism of his team convinced me to tackle this new challenge which, I am sure, will give great satisfaction to both of us," said Fabrizio. "I am finishing off a good season with my current team and I'm enthusiastic about my decision to race for a young team, with whom I feel sure we will improve together. My experience and the team's determination will take us a long way."

Frenchman Maxime Berger will replace the injured Niccolò Canepa at Magny-Cours this weekend.

MUSICAL CHAIRS AT TOP OF PODIUM

The 2012 eni FIM Superbike World Championship season reaches its climax at Magny-Cours this weekend and, irrespective of the final outcome, the statistics show it has already proved one of the most competitive for many years.

Eugene Laverty's victory at Portimão last time means there have now been nine different winners from 25 races. The last time that happened was in 2001, and the figure stands only one short of the record 10 different winners in 1989, when SBK was in its infancy and a significant number of top local wildcard riders at each round made a wide range of winners likely.

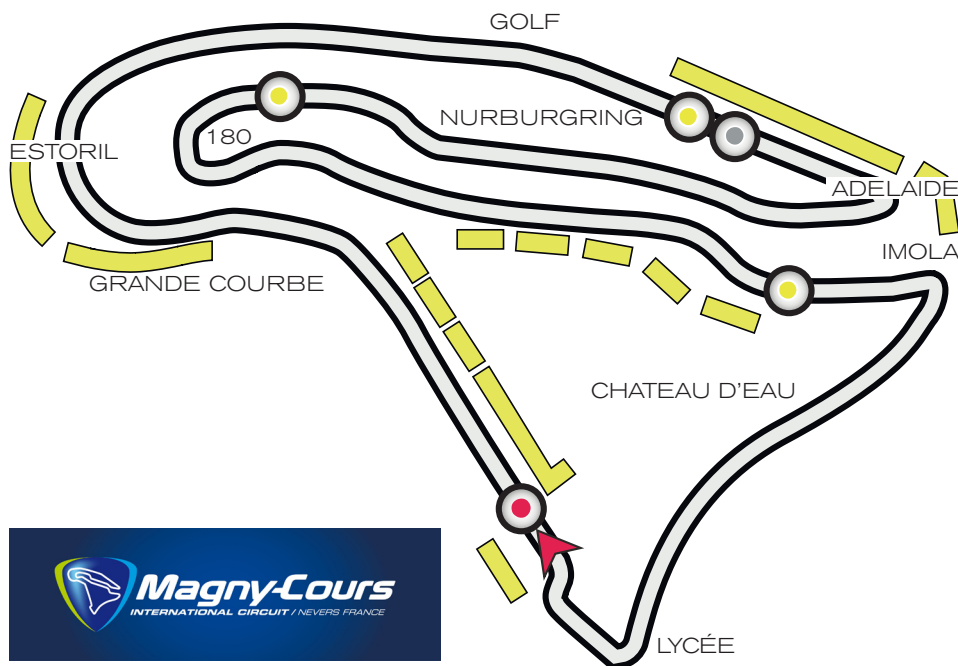
This year's nine winners so far are, in order, Max Biaggi, Carlos Checa, Sylvain Guintoli, Jonathan Rea, Tom Sykes, Marco Melandri, Loris Baz, Chaz Davies and Laverty.

HONDA UNVEIL NEW LINE-UPS FOR 2013

Honda has announced a major revamp for the 2013 World Superbike and World Supersport championships, which include a new four-rider line-up and a new title sponsor. In the eni FIM Superbike World Championship, current rider Jonathan Rea (right) will be joined on the CBR1000RR Fireblades by new signing Leon Haslam in an all-British rider line-up. In the FIM Supersport World Championship, Italian Lorenzo Zanetti will ride Honda's CBR600RR alongside Dutchman Michael van der Mark.

Italian snack manufacturer Pata is the new title sponsor of what will be known as the Pata Honda World Superbike and Pata Honda World Supersport teams. Both will again be run by the Netherlands-based Ten Kate organisation.



CIRCUIT GUIDE: MAGNY-COURS

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS
WORLD SUPERBIKE

1	Max Biaggi	ITA	Aprilia	347
2	Tom Sykes	GBR	Kawasaki	316.5
3	Marco Melandri	ITA	BMW	308.5
4	Carlos Checa	ESP	Ducati	278.5
5	Jonathan Rea	GBR	Honda	255.5
6	Eugene Laverty	IRE	Aprilia	241.5
7	Leon Haslam	GBR	BMW	189
8	Sylvain Guintoli	FRA	Ducati	172.5
9	Chaz Davies	GBR	Aprilia	156.5
10	Michel Fabrizio	ITA	BMW	133.5
11	Davide Giugliano	ITA	Ducati	125
12	Loris Baz	FRA	Kawasaki	116
13	Ayrtton Badovini	ITA	BMW	116
14	Leon Camier	GBR	Suzuki	109.5
15	Jakub Smrz	CZE	Ducati	92.5

WORLD SUPERSPORT

1	Kenan Sofuoglu	TUR	Kawasaki	218
2	Jules Cluzel	FRA	Honda	185
3	Fabien Foret	FRA	Kawasaki	160
4	Sam Lowes	GBR	Honda	152
5	Broc Parkes	AUS	Honda	135

SUPERSTOCK 1000

1	Sylvain Barrier	FRA	BMW	133
2	Eddi La Marra	ITA	Ducati	130
3	Bryan Staring	AUS	Kawasaki	111
4	Jeremy Guarnoni	FRA	Kawasaki	98
5	Lorenzo Savadori	ITA	Ducati	91

LAST TIME
PORTIMÃO 23.09.12
RACE ONE

1	T Sykes	Kawasaki Racing	31'42.011
2	C Checa	Althea Racing	@0.300
3	S Guintoli	PATA Racing	@2.732
4	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	@11.564
5	B McCormick	Effenbert Liberty	@11.771
6	J Rea	Honda	@11.792
7	L Baz	Kawasaki Racing	@28.693
8	H Aoyama	Honda	@29.581
9	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad Italia	@31.507
10	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad Italia	@31.587
11	L Camier	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@31.710
12	J Hopkins	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@33.167
13	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	@37.843
14	A Lundh	Team Pedercini	@37.993
15	M Baiocco	Red Devils Roma	@39.397
16	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@39.666
17	N Brignola	Grillini Progea	@42.434
18	L Lanzi	Effenbert Liberty	@1'00.356
19	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@1 lap
Ret	D Salom	Team Pedercini	@6 laps

RACE TWO

1	E Laverty	Aprilia Racing	38'35.105
2	J Rea	Honda	@0.162
3	M Biaggi	Aprilia Racing	@3.766
4	S Guintoli	PATA Racing	@10.440
5	C Checa	Althea Racing	@20.153
6	A Badovini	BMW Motorrad Italia	@23.152
7	L Baz	Kawasaki Racing	@27.314
8	M Fabrizio	BMW Motorrad Italia	@35.682
9	B McCormick	Effenbert Liberty	@35.766
10	L Lanzi	Effenbert Liberty	@38.311
11	J Hopkins	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@47.814
12	L Zanetti	PATA Racing	@57.359
13	D Salom	Team Pedercini	@1'11.035
14	A Lundh	Team Pedercini	@1'28.197
15	N Brignola	Grillini Progea	@1'42.589
NC	D Giugliano	Althea Racing	@12 laps
Ret	L Camier	FIXI Crescent Suzuki	@1 lap
Ret	H Aoyama	Honda	@13 laps
Ret	M Baiocco	Red Devils Roma	@14 laps
Ret	C Davies	ParkinGO MTC	@18 laps
Ret	T Sykes	Kawasaki Racing	@19 laps
Ret	L Haslam	BMW Motorrad	@20 laps