

2013 AT A GLANCE

-  **1** **PHILLIP ISLAND**
AUSTRALIA
FEBRUARY 24
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ARAGON
APRIL 14
-  **3** **ASSEN**
THE NETHERLANDS
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GERMANY
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-  **11** **INTERCITY ISTANBUL**
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-  **12** **LAGUNA SECA**
USA
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-  **13** **MAGNY-COURS**
FRANCE
OCTOBER 6
-  **14** **JEREZ**
SPAIN
OCTOBER 20

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LAVERTY FLAT OUT IN BATTLE FOR THE TITLE

Eugene Laverty has vowed to give his all every single time he gets on his Aprilia during the final two rounds of the season after hauling himself back into the eni FIM Superbike World Championship title race.

Laverty was top scorer at Laguna Seca last weekend, taking a third place and a victory to close to within 23 points of series leader Tom Sykes with only two rounds remaining, at Magny-Cours and Jerez. There is no respite before the French round, which comes only a week after the excursion to California.

Laverty could only manage seventh and fourth last time the series visited Magny-Cours, but is hoping for better this time round having won three of the previous four races at Laguna Seca and Istanbul.

"This is a result that I really didn't expect, which now takes me to second place in the rider standings, but we have two very different rounds ahead of us," said Laverty of his American triumph. "I struggled last year at Magny-Cours, but my RSV4 has grown a lot so

things could change, whereas Jerez is our test track, so I could have an advantage there. In any case, I'll need to give 100 per cent in every session for the next two weekends."

For Kawasaki rider Sykes, the return to Magny-Cours is sure to rekindle the pain of his heartbreaking title loss to Max Biaggi in the final round of the 2012 season.

The Englishman did all he could to try to deny the Italian veteran a second world title, winning the last race, but Biaggi's fifth was enough to deny Sykes by the margin of a mere half a point.

While Sykes spent the majority of last season as the man in pursuit of his rivals, this year he has held the lead for a number of rounds, keeping the likes of Laverty, Sylvain Guintoli and Marco Melandri at bay – and he remains confident of taking his first title.

Sykes said: "Overall, we have extended our championship lead, although it would have been nice to have taken that second podium at Laguna. We can keep improving and we have a couple of good circuits coming up, so we will move on with confidence."

He added after the round in California: "In less than a week's time, we will be in France and doing it all over again. We have worked hard and well all race weekend, and took a win on Saturday."



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SUPERSPORT
FIM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The waiting is almost over for Sam Lowes as he stands on the brink of securing the FIM Supersport World Championship at Magny-Cours this weekend. Yakhnich Motorsport Yamaha rider Lowes is 49 points clear of Kenan Sofuoglu, with only 50 left on the table. Even if his rival wins this weekend, Lowes would need only two points to take the crown. The British rider said: "I was sure I could win it at Istanbul, but when I saw how well Kenan was riding, I understood we would have to wait for Magny-Cours."



SUPERSTOCK 1000
FIM CUP

BMW Motorrad Golbert sport director Serafino Foti has told his team to retain their focus as Sylvain Barrier goes for the FIM Superstock 1000 Cup title on home soil. The French rider is 40 points clear of his nearest challenger as the series heads to Magny-Cours for the penultimate round. He is one good result from glory, but Foti said: "Sylvain really likes the circuit, and knows it very well. He also rode the 24-hour race there. We are quite confident, but we know that we have to keep our concentration."



SUPERSTOCK 600
UEM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

One title fight that is unlikely to be settled in France this weekend is for the Superstock 600 European Championship crown. Italy's Franco Morbidelli (below) currently leads the way with two rounds remaining, with his compatriot Christian Gamarino just six points back in second. But, behind them, Bastien Chesaux, Gauthier Duwelz, Alessandro Nocco, Tony Coveni and Robin Mulhauser still retain mathematical chances of landing the title.



HONDA PAIR SIGN UP FOR NEXT YEAR

Pata Honda have confirmed they will retain the all-British rider line-up of Jonathan Rea and Leon Haslam for the 2014 season. The deal means Rea continues his loyalty to Honda, having ridden for them since his arrival in the eni FIM Superbike World Championship in 2009, even though he had other options available to him.

Rea is currently sidelined by the broken leg he suffered at the Nürburgring, while Haslam suffered a similar injury at Assen earlier in the season, but team boss Ronald Kenyon is happy to have kept them on board. He said: "Of course, with injuries, it has not been an easy season for Jonathan or for his team-mate, so we are very happy that Leon will join us again next season. With two fit riders and some further development on the bike, we can look forward with renewed confidence and optimism."

SYKES THE KING OF TISSOT-SUPERPOLE

Tom Sykes may still be battling to go one better and win the eni FIM Superbike World Championship this year, but nobody can dislodge his crown as king of the Tissot-Superpole.

After 12 rounds, and with only two to go at Magny-Cours and Jerez, the Kawasaki rider has won the Tissot-Superpole an incredible seven times to sit in prime position come race time.

Even more remarkably, no other rider has managed more than one Tissot-Superpole this season. Sylvain Guintoli took his first of the season at Laguna Seca last weekend – only the second of his career – to join Aprilia team-mate Eugene Laverty, Team Ducati Alstare pair Ayrton Badovini and Carlos Checa and Davide Giugliano (Althea Racing) on one each.

APRILIA IN HUNT TO RETAIN TEAM TITLE

While the riders' title looks set to go down to the wire once again in the eni FIM Superbike World Championship, Aprilia are in pole position to take their second successive manufacturers' title, and third in the last four years. They currently head Kawasaki by 45 points, with BMW a further 25 behind in third place.

Aprilia and Kawasaki actually have the same number of race wins this season (Eugene Laverty seven and Sylvain Guintoli one for Aprilia; Tom Sykes seven and Loriz Baz one for Kawasaki), but the Italian marque's greater consistency has seen them edge ahead with 18 other podium finishes, compared to Kawasaki's 11.

For BMW, Chaz Davies has three race wins and team-mate Marco Melandri two.

JEREZ WILDCARD IS TASTE FOR PARKES

The final round of this season's eni FIM Superbike World Championship in Spain could offer a glimpse of the future. Mandy Kainz, boss of Monster Energy Yamaha Austria Racing Team, said: "We plan to enter Broc Parkes as a wildcard at Jerez."

Australian rider Parkes had been a regular in the FIM Supersport World Championship up to 2012, finishing runner-up in 2007, and is now back on the WSBK scene. Kainz added: "Our expectations are not particularly high. We do not know the track in Jerez, and have no experience with the Pirelli tyres. A place in the top 10 would be great in these circumstances. We are seriously thinking about competing in the eni FIM Superbike World Championship, but only at a few selected events. The whole thing is a matter of budget, of course. A full season is not an option at the moment."

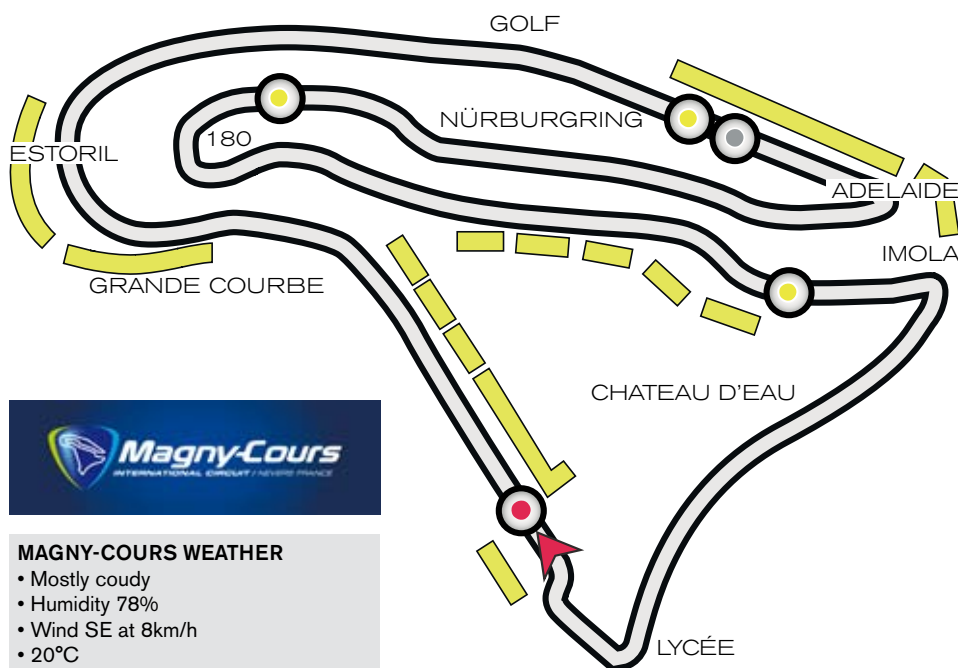
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WSBK FLASHBACK: MAGNY-COURS 2012

Magny-Cours hosted the final round of last season's eni FIM Superbike World Championship – and witnessed one of the remarkable climaxes in the series' history as Max Biaggi took the title by a mere half a point from Tom Sykes.

The Aprilia rider fell in the first race, allowing rivals Sykes (Kawasaki) and Marco Melandri (BMW Motorrad Motorsport) to make the podium and close the points gap to 14.5 and 18.5 points respectively. But the Italian's fifth-placed finish in the second race was enough to ensure his second World Championship success, even though Sykes was the race winner. "It's an indescribable feeling, and I still can't believe it," said Biaggi. "Everything that could have happened did happen, in every race."



CIRCUIT GUIDE: MAGNY-COURS

MAGNY-COURS WEATHER

- Mostly cloudy
- Humidity 78%
- Wind SE at 8km/h
- 20°C

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS
WORLD SUPERBIKE

1	Tom Sykes	GBR	Kawasaki ZX-10R	361
2	Eugene Laverty	IRL	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	338
3	Sylvain Guintoli	FRA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	337
4	Marco Melandri	ITA	BMW S1000 RR	319
5	Chaz Davies	GBR	BMW S1000 RR	259
6	Loris Baz	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-10R	180
7	Michel Fabrizio	ITA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory/Honda CBR1000RR	177
8	Jonathan Rea	GBR	Honda CBR1000RR	176
9	Davide Giugliano	ITA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	169
10	Jules Cluzel	FRA	Suzuki GSX-R1000	160
11	Leon Camier	GBR	Suzuki GSX-R1000	114
12	Ayrton Badovini	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	114
13	Max Neukirchner	GER	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	84
14	Leon Haslam	GBR	Honda CBR1000RR	83
15	Carlos Checa	ESP	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	80

WORLD SUPERSPORT

1	Sam Lowes	GBR	Yamaha YZF R6	205
2	Kenan Sofuoglu	TUR	Kawasaki ZX-6R	156
3	Fabien Foret	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-6R	121
4	Michael van der Mark	NED	Honda CBR600RR	107
5	Lorenzo Zanetti	ITA	Honda CBR600RR	99

SUPERSTOCK 1000

1	Sylvain Barrier	FRA	BMW S1000 RR HP4	165
2	Niccolò Canepa	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale	125
3	Leandro Mercado	ARG	Kawasaki ZX-10R	115
4	Jeremy Guarnoni	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-10R	103
5	Eddi La Marra	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale	85

LAST TIME
LAGUNA SECA 28-29.09.13
RACE ONE (12 laps)

1	Tom Sykes	Kawasaki	16'55.703
2	Chaz Davies	BMW	@1.253
3	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia	@2.454
4	Marco Melandri	BMW	@2.650
5	Sylvain Guintoli	Aprilia	@3.430
6	Davide Giugliano	Aprilia	@3.584
7	Jules Cluzel	Suzuki	@9.134
8	Toni Elias	Aprilia	@11.252
9	Ayrton Badovini	Ducati	@14.140
10	Mark Aitchison	Kawasaki	@17.830
11	David Salom	Kawasaki	@18.010
12	Blake Young	Suzuki	@21.767
13	Michel Fabrizio	Honda	@22.087
14	Federico Sandi	Kawasaki	@32.837
15	Vittorio Iannuzzo	BMW	@34.267
16	Glenn Allerton	BMW	@50.167

RACE TWO (26 laps)

1	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia	36'44.555
2	Davide Giugliano	Aprilia	@0.112
3	Marco Melandri	BMW	@2.051
4	Tom Sykes	Kawasaki	@2.304
5	Sylvain Guintoli	Aprilia	@2.959
6	Jules Cluzel	Suzuki	@10.187
7	Toni Elias	Aprilia	@17.789
8	Roger Lee Hayden	Suzuki	@20.602
9	David Salom	Kawasaki	@22.055
10	Michel Fabrizio	Honda	@23.472
11	Leon Haslam	Honda	@24.118
12	Blake Young	Suzuki	@29.563
13	Mark Aitchison	Kawasaki	@32.565
14	Danny Eslick	Suzuki	@51.777
15	Niccolò Canepa	Ducati	@1'05.824
16	Vittorio Iannuzzo	BMW	@1'23.892
17	Glenn Allerton	BMW	@1 lap
Ret	Ayrton Badovini	Ducati	@8 laps
Ret	Chaz Davies	BMW	@24 laps
Ret	Federico Sandi	Kawasaki	