

2013 AT A GLANCE

-  **1** PHILLIP ISLAND
AUSTRALIA
FEBRUARY 24

-  **2** MOTORLAND ARAGON
ARAGON
APRIL 14

-  **3** ASSEN
THE NETHERLANDS
APRIL 28

-  **4** MONZA
ITALY
MAY 12

-  **5** DONINGTON
EUROPE
MAY 26

-  **6** PORTIMÃO
PORTUGAL
JUNE 9

-  **7** IMOLA
ITALY
JUNE 30

-  **8** MOSCOW RACEWAY
RUSSIA
JULY 21

-  **9** SILVERSTONE
UNITED KINGDOM
AUGUST 4

-  **10** NÜRBURGRING
GERMANY
SEPTEMBER 1

-  **11** INTERCITY
ISTANBUL
TURKEY
SEPTEMBER 15

-  **12** LAGUNA SECA
USA
SEPTEMBER 29

-  **13** MAGNY-COURS
FRANCE
OCTOBER 6

-  **14** JEREZ
SPAIN
OCTOBER 20

-  **15** BUDDH INTERNATIONAL
INDIA
NOVEMBER 17



TOM BIDS TO BUILD ON DONINGTON DOUBLE

Tom Sykes heads to Portimão bursting with confidence after a double win on home soil moved him to within four points of the lead of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship.

The 27-year-old British rider's two wins at Donington Park marked the first time he had won both races at a round of the series, and he now has points leader Sylvain Guintoli firmly in his sights.

After the heartbreak of missing out on last year's title by just half a point, the Kawasaki man has responded with great character to get himself back into the title battle, after a slow start to the season when he was hampered by a wrist injury.

Sykes won at Portimão last season and a repeat of that result could see him leave Portugal with the championship lead, and the Huddersfield racer expects to be strong over the next few rounds.

He said: "I have been in World Superbikes for a few years, and to get the first double win on home

soil is a fairytale. The Ninja ZX-10R is working well, and I feel very motivated. We are racing in a World Championship and these guys are as fast as you like and very competitive, so it is not as easy as it looked at Donington."

"Kawasaki is a very close unit and we have worked hard, and everybody has seen how much better we are in the races. I really enjoyed the support from the crowd and I hope they enjoyed the show. There was no better place to do my first double than at Donington."

"It was a good weekend for us and we are closer in the championship, just four points from the top. We're in a strong situation, we have a good base setting on the bike, and now we are going to some fantastic circuits."

Aprilia rider Guintoli may have seen his points lead slashed at Donington, but the Frenchman remains bullish after taking a double podium in the European round, and expects the Italian team to be fighting for victories in Portugal.

He said: "Third and second were excellent results for the championship on a track where we are not able to take full advantage of the RSV4's potential. Now we are off for Portimão, a track which is very well suited for the characteristics of my Aprilia, where we will be able to do some good teamwork."

SUPERSPORT 
FIM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Sam Lowes hopes to continue his run of success as he heads to Portimão leading the FIM Supersport World Championship. The Brit has won the last three rounds of the championship, including his home race at Donington, and the Yakhnich Motorsport Yamaha man is looking for more of the same in Portugal. He said: "I know we can be strong at Portimão, so I can't wait to get there. I really want another strong result to carry on the momentum we have now."



SUPERSTOCK 1000 
FIM CUP

Niccolò Canepa is looking to translate the confidence gained in his Superbike outing at Donington into more race wins as he returns to Superstock 1000 FIM Cup duty. The Italian stepped up to the top class at Donington, finishing a fine 13th and eighth, but is back with the Barni Racing Team this time. He said: "It was good to work with the Ducati technicians and to ride the SBK-spec 1199 Panigale, and feedback has given me a boost in terms of confidence."



SUPERSTOCK 600 
UEM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Gauthier Duwelz heads to Portimão targeting another victory to extend his advantage at the top of the UEM Superstock 600 European Championship. The 19-year-old Belgian has enjoyed an excellent season so far, claiming two race wins and two poles from three races. The MTM Racing Yamaha racer has a 17-point advantage over Ten Kate Junior rider Bastien Chesaux after the Swiss rider's eighth place last time out at Monza.



HAGA ROLLS BACK YEARS AT IMOLA

Veteran Japanese rider Noriyuki Haga is to make a one-off return to the eni FIM Superbike World Championship in round seven at Imola later this month. Now 38 years old, Haga won 43 times between 1994 and 2011 and is a former championship runner-up.

His comeback will be alongside regular rider Vittorio Iannuzzo in the Grillini Dentalmatic team, where he will ride a BMW S1000RR developed by Feel Racing and run by the Italian squad.

Team manager Andrea Grillini said: "I am very happy to have reached an agreement with Haga and his management. For the Italian round, Haga will be supported by a dedicated crew of technicians. I am sure that Haga's return to Superbikes is great news for his fans and for the series itself."

HASLAM SEEKING SUNSHINE CURE

Leon Haslam is hoping to be back in action at Portimão after missing the last three rounds of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship. A broken leg suffered in a practice crash at Assen forced him to miss both races at the Dutch circuit and the subsequent round at Monza.

The Pata Honda rider was passed fit for the last round at Donington, his home circuit, but despite qualifying on the fifth row of the grid was withdrawn after consultation with the team's management and medical staff.

Haslam said: "The leg is still quite sore so I'll get a bit more physio, have a few days off, and see how we get on. The surgeon who operated on me says the best thing would be a few days on a warm beach, so I'm going to look at an early flight out to Portimão and continue the work out there."

CHECA SHOULDERS A HEAVY BURDEN

Former champion Carlos Checa is hoping to turn his season around in round six of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship at Portimão. A persistent shoulder injury meant the 40-year-old was unable to start race two at Donington last time out, capping an unhappy start to the season for Team Ducati Alstare.

In the 25 seasons they have competed in the championship, Ducati have always posted at least one win in the first nine races, but Donington saw them go 10 races without even a podium place.

Checa, champion in 2011, has been troubled by the injury since round two at Aragón. He said: "I'll continue with the various treatments in preparation for Portimão, where I hope to be stronger. From the next round, I'd like to be able to focus more on the sporting side of things and less on health issues."

EFFENBERT LIBERTY BOW OUT OF SERIES

The Effenbert Liberty Racing Team have announced their withdrawal from the eni FIM Superbike World Championship.

They had competed at three rounds this season – at Aragón, Assen and Monza – in the shape of Australian rider Mark Aitchison. He retired from the first race at Aragón with technical problems and did not start the second race, but picked up a solitary point from each race in the Netherlands, thanks to two 15th-place finishes. Monza saw him finish 16th and then suffer another retirement in race two. Aitchison is hoping to pick up another ride this season, but accepts he may now have to wait until 2014.

The Czech-based team said their sponsors and partners have decided to promote their brand through other channels.

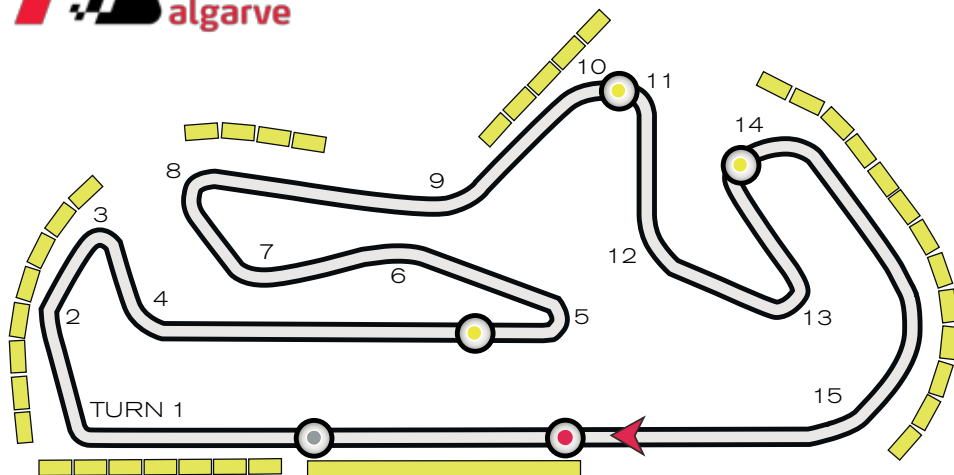
BMW TEST SESSION BLOWN OFF COURSE

The BMW Motorrad GoldBet team saw their preparations for the Portimão round of the eni FIM Superbike World Championship dented by bad weather during a two-day test at Motorland Aragón. Marco Melandri and Chaz Davies (pictured) were looking to evaluate upgrades to their machines in warm weather in Portugal but, while they felt some progress was made, they admitted the weather conditions were far from ideal.

Davies said: "We were hoping to do a little bit more, but it was incredibly windy. We learnt a few things about the bike and about the new parts we had to evaluate. They appear to be promising. We also improved a little bit on the electronics for wheelie control. I just wish the weather had been a bit better."



CIRCUIT GUIDE: PORTIMÃO



CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

WORLD SUPERBIKE

1	Sylvain Guintoli	FRA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	173
2	Tom Sykes	GBR	Kawasaki ZX-10R	169
3	Eugene Laverty	IRL	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	149
4	Marco Melandri	ITA	BMW S1000 RR	127
5	Chaz Davies	GBR	BMW S1000 RR	112
6	Loris Baz	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-10R	95
7	Jonathan Rea	GBR	Honda CBR1000RR	89
8	Michel Fabrizio	ITA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	86
9	Davide Giugliano	ITA	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	72
10	Jules Cluzel	FRA	Suzuki GSX-R1000	55
11	Leon Camier	GBR	Suzuki GSX-R1000	49
12	Max Neukirchner	GER	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	45
13	Ayrton Badovini	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	37
14	Carlos Checa	ESP	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	33
15	Leon Haslam	GBR	Honda CBR1000RR	29

WORLD SUPERSPORT

1	Sam Lowes	GBR	Yamaha YZF R6	95
2	Kenan Sofuoglu	TUR	Kawasaki ZX-6R	65
3	Fabien Foret	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-6R	61
4	Lorenzo Zanetti	ITA	Honda CBR600RR	53
5	Michael van der Mark	NED	Honda CBR600RR	49

SUPERSTOCK 1000

1	Niccolò Canepa	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	52
2	Eddi La Marra	ITA	Ducati 1199 Panigale R	49
3	Sylvain Barrier	FRA	BMW S1000 RR HP4	45
4	Jeremy Guarmoni	FRA	Kawasaki ZX-10R	44
5	Leandro Mercado	ARG	Kawasaki ZX-10R	36

LAST TIME

DONINGTON 26.05.13

RACE ONE (23 laps)

1	Tom Sykes	Kawasaki	34'10.881
2	Marco Melandri	BMW	@2.379
3	Sylvain Guintoli	Aprilia	@3.808
4	Jonathan Rea	Honda	@6.760
5	Loris Baz	Kawasaki	@13.649
6	Davide Giugliano	Aprilia	@15.551
7	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia	@17.453
8	Chaz Davies	BMW	@19.138
9	Jules Cluzel	Suzuki	@27.738
10	Michel Fabrizio	Aprilia	@30.817
11	Ayrton Badovini	Ducati	@31.611
12	Carlos Checa	Ducati	@31.816
13	Niccolò Canepa	Ducati	@31.930
14	Max Neukirchner	Ducati	@43.025
15	Vittorio Iannuzzo	BMW	@4 laps
Ret	Federico Sandi	Kawasaki	@5 laps
Ret	Alexander Lundh	Kawasaki	@9 laps
Ret	Leon Camier	Suzuki	@21 laps

RACE TWO (23 laps)

1	Tom Sykes	Kawasaki	34'06.921
2	Sylvain Guintoli	Aprilia	@8.035
3	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia	@10.738
4	Davide Giugliano	Aprilia	@12.257
5	Marco Melandri	BMW	@15.976
6	Chaz Davies	BMW	@16.475
7	Loris Baz	Kawasaki	@27.524
8	Niccolò Canepa	Ducati	@30.186
9	Jules Cluzel	Suzuki	@30.501
10	Michel Fabrizio	Aprilia	@30.885
11	Jonathan Rea	Honda	@31.529
12	Max Neukirchner	Ducati	@46.782
13	Leon Camier	Suzuki	@54.509
14	Federico Sandi	Kawasaki	@1'05.789
15	Alexander Lundh	Kawasaki	@1'20.431
16	Vittorio Iannuzzo	BMW	@1'20.719
Ret	Ayrton Badovini	Ducati	@5 laps
DNS	Carlos Checa	Ducati	