

WORLD SIDECAR-CROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

Bad luck for Brown in Latvia

MOST of the GP teams took a short holiday in the Baltic region between the races in Estonia and Latvia.

The event at Cesis, Latvia, is organised by Kristers Sergis, the unfortunate 5-times world champ, still recuperating from injuries sustained earlier in the season.

The track was well prepared and facilities for racers, press and VIPs was outstanding so before the bike was fired into life all could compliment Sergis and his team for a fine piece of work in organising the event.

Some 41 crews contested Saturday qualification. In Group A Willemsen was fastest again – not news anymore. It would be more remarkable if they were not. Kaurit was two seconds slower and Wittmann was third. Britain's John Lyne and Ian Beavis posted 12th fastest time in this group.

More of a surprise in Group B was Scherbinin, who put in the fastest lap ahead of Schrijver and Hendrickx.

In spite of their many attempts, Stuart Brown and Luke Peters were not able to improve the fifth fastest time in this group.

Race day started with a rain shower which was good for the track to help keep dust at bay. Race one went off with a tumultuous start.

A lot happened in the first lap. In front it was Wittmann,

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Scherbinin, Van Duynhoven, Soderqvist and Hofmann. Willemsen was midfield in 13th, just behind Brown.

Lyne completed the first lap 20th. Germany's Happich missed the start completely and was last to get away.

Russian, Scherbinin, took the lead on lap two and was able to create a gap to Wittmann. The Russians also had a big enough lead to take the heat win before the charging Willemsen forced ahead of all the chasing pack.

A strong charge by Henk Soderqvist overhauled Wittmann for third two laps before the flag. Wittmann was fourth and Kaurit fifth. The young Van Duynhoven brothers (number 13) finally avoided bad luck and consolidated their good start to finish sixth.

Wittmann was again the fastest starter in race two, but Willemsen was right there and passed for the lead on the first lap before slowly pulling away to record another moto victory.

For the other podium places a fierce battle ensued between Wittmann, Hendrickx, Soderqvist and

Kaurit.

On lap five Hendrickx moved into second place as Wittmann hit problems and dropped back to 27th. Soderqvist made a successful move on Kaurit and started to attack the Belgians. On lap nine the Swede was in second.

Hendrickx looked safe for third but in the final laps Kaurit found a way through.

Scherbinin rode behind the battling group but was not able to join the fight and ended in fifth.

Brown and Peters had a dif-

ficult weekend. In the first heat they went off in mid-pack and it took several laps to pass Marcel Willemsen. When Martin/ Kalin dropped back Brown moved up to tenth place.

In the second heat the story was very short for the British champs, as they did not complete the opening lap.

John Lyne and Ian Beavis first got into a fight with Witte and Van de Boomen but started to move forward in the second part of the race to finish 14th. As in heat one, Lyne was able to move up some

places to finish 17th in heat two after another poor start in 20th.

As a result of his poor day Brown drops in the overall standings to fourth only three-point behind Kaurit in third. But British honour is kept high by these lads as week by week they show that their racing is of world class level.

Willemsen is too fast for everyone but Scherbinin, Kaurit, Brown, Wittmann and Happich are all on the same pace and all have the ability to secure runner-up spot in the series.



As a result of a poor day Brown slips to fourth in the overall standings.

WORLD SIDECAR-CROSS CHAMPS Rd 9 - Cesis, LATVIA

- 1 Willemsen/ Stupells (NL - Zabel VMC) ... 22 + 25 = 47
- 2 Soderqvist/ Sylwan (S - KTM VMC) ... 20 + 22 = 42
- 3 Scherbinin/ Sosnovskikh (RUS - MTH APZ) 25 + 16 = 41
- 4 Kaurit/ Jakk (EST - KTM AYR) ... 16 + 20 = 36
- 5 Hendrickx/ Smeuninx (B - MTH BSU) ... 14 + 18 = 32
- 6 Van Duynhoven/ v/d Wiel (NL - MTH AYR) ... 15 + 12 = 27
- 7 Hofmann/ Somers (D - Zabel VMC) ... 12 + 13 = 25
- 8 Pulinx/ Sabbe (B - KTM VMC) ... 10 + 9 = 19
- 9 Schrijver/ Verhaegen (NL - MTH VMC) ... 13 + 6 = 19
- 10 Happich/ Weinmann (D - Zabel VMC) ... 3 + 15 = 18
- 11 Martin/ Kaelin (A - Zabel VMC) 4+14=18, 12 Wittmann/ Novotny (D - Yamaha AYR) 18+0=18, 13 Hendrickx/ Van de Lagemaat (B - MTH BSU) 0+11=11, 14 LYNE/ BEAVIS (GB - KTM VMC) 7+4=11, 15 BROWN/ PETERS (GB - Cradley Zabel VMC) 11+0=11, 16 Marcel Willemsen/ Kurpnelks (NL - Zabel VMC) 0+10=10, 17 Metz/ Saam (D - MTH EML) 1+8=9, 18 Vaks/ Kaul (EST - KTM AYR) 6+3=9, 19 Van de Boomen/ Van Gallen (NL - MTH BSU) 9+0=9, 20 Pohoral/ Hotovy (CZ - VMC Jawa) 8+0=8, 21 Burgler/ Schelbert (CH - KTM VMC) 0+7=7, 22 Gommeren/ Geerdink (B - MTH AYR) 0+5=5, 23 Tamullunas/ Karaliunas (Lit - Zabel EML) 5+0=5, 24 Muller/ Grutter (CH - Kawasaki JHR) 2+2=4, 25 Poldsaar/ Handsar (Est - AYR MTH) 0+1=1.

RACE ONE: 1 Scherbinin, 2 Daniel Willemsen, 3 Soderqvist, 4 Wittmann, 5 Kaurit, 6 van Duynhoven, 7 Hendrickx, 8 Schrijver, 9 Hofmann, 10 BROWN, 11 Pulinx, 12 v/d Boomen, 13 Pohoral, 14 LYNE, 15 Vaks, 16 Tamulinas, 17 Martin, 18 Happich, 19 Muller, 20 Metz.

RACE TWO: 1 Daniel Willemsen, 2 Soderqvist, 3 Kaurit, 4 Hendrickx, 5 Scherbinin, 6 Happich, 7 Martin, 8 Hofmann, 9 van Duynhoven, 10 Hendrickx, 11 Marcel Willemsen, 12 Pulinx, 13 Metz, 14 Burgler, 15 Schrijver, 16 Gommeren, 17 LYNE, 18 Vaks, 19 Muller, 20 Poldsaar.

SERIES STANDINGS after 9 (of 14) rounds: 1 Daniel Willemsen 408 points, 2 Scherbinin 267, 3 Kaurit 259, 4 BROWN 256, 5 Happich 246, 6 Hendrickx 220, 7 Wittmann 194, 8 Schrijver 177, 9 Sergis 167, 10 Marcel Willemsen 154, 11 Beaumont 142, 12 Martin 139, 13 Hofmann 135, 14 Hendrickx 133, 15 Burgler 121, 16 Soderqvist 109, 17 Metz 91, 18 van Duynhoven 76, 19 Goovaerts 71, 20 Brustmann 59, 21 WATSON 51, 22 LYNE 50, 23 Pulinx 44, 24 Rupeiks 39, 25 v/d Boomen 34,...

NEXT ROUND: July 11 - Zabok, CROATIA.