

WORLD 500CC MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

Noyce loses lead as Malherbe scores double

BELGIAN Andre Malherbe slithered firmly back into contention with two convincing wins at a mud-stricken West German GP on Sunday. The former champion took firm command of both heats, and now leads the championship by seven points from team mate Graham Noyce after two of the wettest races seen for many years.

Problems began when heavy rainfall after time training made conditions on the Norheim circuit farsical, and when called to the starting line only fastest in practice Kurt Nicoll appeared. The remaining riders stayed firmly in the *parc ferme* asking for certain track alterations to be made. Repeated messages over the loudspeakers were ignored by the riders until the track was suitably adjusted. It was 4 o'clock before the first heat got under way, 1½ hours behind schedule, and a further two hours for the results to be released.

The conditions made lap scoring impossible, to the extent that Hakan Carlqvist was initially credited winner of race one, but there was no mistaking it was Malherbe's.

"He didn't put a foot wrong and for sure the best man won on the day," said Carla after the two races. A pile-up in the first turn saw Frenchman J. J. Bruno, Andre Vromans, Jukka Sintonen, Kawasaki team mates Jonathan Wright and Howard Lucas, all laying in the mud at the start of the first race with the Belgians struggling to restart the big Suzuki. But out in front was Carlqvist with Malherbe on his heels. Such were the conditions that the leaders were lapping by lap three but a mistake by Carlqvist when holding a commanding lead let Malherbe through, and a front wheel puncture at half distance meant the Swede could not catch the Belgian's Honda.

Positions were changing throughout the race as riders fell all round the circuit. In third was Tapani Pikkarainen of Finland riding a brilliant race and keeping well out of trouble. However, not so lucky was championship leader before the weekend, Honda's Graham Noyce.

"I fell off about three times in the race, twice on the first lap," said the 1979 world champion. A missed gear by



Current 500cc world champion Andre Malherbe found the quickest route through the mud winning both legs in Germany.

RESULTS

1. A. Malherbe (Bel, Honda)	15+15=30
2. G. Noyce (GB, Honda)	8+12=20
3. H. Carlqvist (Swe, Yamaha)	12+5=17
4. A. Vromans (Bel, Suzuki)	4+8=12
5. D. Thorpe (GB, Honda)	6+6=12
6. T. Pikkarainen (Fin, Honda)	10+0=10
J.J. Bruno (Fra, Suzuki)	0+10=10
8. N. Hudson (GB, Yamaha)	5+0=5
9. J. Sintonen (Fin, Yamaha)	0+4=4
10. K. Nicoll (GB, Kawasaki)	3+0=3
J. Van Velthoven (Lux, KTM)	0+3=3
12. G. Semics (USA, Honda)	2+1=3
13. G. Reiter (Aus, KTM)	0+2=2
14. J. Christopherson (Nor, Yamaha)	1+0=1

World Championship Positions:

A. Malherbe, 79; Noyce, 72; Carlqvist, 62; Vromans, 40; Bruno, 27; Sintonen & Hudson, 19.

Next Round: Sweden May 29.

Thorpe caused Neil Hudson's Yamaha to ram the Honda and drop a further place while moving steadily up the field.

Gerard Rond surrendered eighth place when his Suzuki stopped on the last lap with

water in the carburettor. Vromans had moved up to seventh by the finish after being last away from the first corner crash. Before the results of race one were published the second heat was under way with

Round 3: West Germany



ABOVE: Britain's Graham Noyce maintained his challenge for this year's 500cc world title with an overall second place in the rain sodden West German GP.

BELOW: Dave Thorpe, head-toe in mud managed to steer his Honda to a fifth overall placing.



Pikkarainen leading for two laps before being overhauled by the brilliant Malherbe. In third place was Bruno with Ireland's Laurence Spence in fourth, only to stop on lap four with water in the ignition of the Maico. Pikkarainen was next to disappear pulling in with a sticking throttle while in second—a fault which also hampered Bruno who took over the spot left by the Finn.

As the Frenchman

struggled with the Suzuki, Noyce moved through on lap ten, but indications by the blond Honda rider that the bike was running low on petrol two laps from home were met with a "one lap to go" board—all is okay signal from the mechanic area. Neil Hudson disappeared on lap six while in seventh place when the chain jammed and broke the gear box. Second race results were not released until 9.30.

Brits go wild in Sweden

A SUPERB second place in the first race for Paul and Mark Millard, and fourth overall for Terry Good and Gary Withers, gave cheer to the British supporters in Sweden on Sunday as the world sidecar cross championship saw two proper races for the first time this year—a case of third time lucky.

Overall winners at the Sturup track near Malmo were Germans Jo Brockhausen and Hubert Rebele. Their 27 points lifted them to third in the title chase behind reigning champions Emil Bollhalder and Karl Buesser, who were second on the day despite back injuries sustained by the passenger in practice, and 1980 title holder Reinhard Boehler and Franz Burkhardt.

The Millards' runner-up placing in the first race, despite no front brake from half distance, has put them a good fourth in the table. Their chance of further points went when they were involved in a first corner pile up in the second moto.

Good might have scored even more points had he not tired towards the end of the day, this being the first time he has driven to GP

length races since his 1982 lay-off.

Third Britons, Doug Fox and John Cooper, crashed in practice. The Kent driver sustained back injuries to add to his cracked ankle. This forced them to quit the first race, and they failed to start the second on doctor's orders.

A broken leg, also sustained in practice, will put five times champion Robert Grogg out for at least two months.

1 J. Brockhausen/H. Rebele (West Germany, Yamaha Heos) 15 + 12 = 27; **2 E. Bollhalder/K. Buesser** (Switzerland, Yamaha EML) 6 + 15 = 21; **3 R. Boehler/F. Burkhardt** (West Germany, Yamaha Wasp) 10 + 10 = 20; **4 T.**

Good/G. Withers (GB, Yamaha Wasp) 8 + 6 = 14; **5 H. Baechtold/F. Fuss** (Switzerland, EML two-stroke) 5 + 8 = 13; **6 P & M. Millard** (GB, Wasp Twin) 12 + 0 = 12; **7 M. Bens/P. Van Deutekom** (Holland, Yamaha EML) 2 + 5 = 7;

R. Van Gestel/E. Hurkmans (Holland, EML two-stroke) 3 + 4 = 7; **A. Muller/C. Van Der Bijl** (Holland, Yamaha EML) 4 + 3 = 7; **10 B.**

Janssen/F. Geurts Van Kessel (Holland, Yamaha Wasp) 0 + 2 = 2; **11 T. Graf/M. Van Rotz** (Switzerland, Weslake Wasp) 1 + 0 = 1

P. Nielsen/I. Kragh (Denmark, Yamaha Wasp) 0 + 1 = 1.

Championship points to date: Bollhalder, 51; Boehler, 34; Brockhausen, 27; Millard, 22; Baechtold, 18; Good, 17; Grogg, 16; Van Heughten and Herren, 12; Graf, 11.

Next Round: Holland May 26

Jobe stretches out

FORMER 250cc moto cross world champion Georges Jobe, continued his domination of this year's 250 championship in the Dutch sand on Sunday.

Jobe easily won both motos and the challenge from Dutch sand specialist Kees Van Der Ven disappeared in a first bend pile-up which left the rider at the bottom of the heap.

Overall results: 1, G. Jobe (Belgium), 15 + 15 = 30; 2, J. Martens (Luxembourg, Yamaha), 10 + 12 = 22; 3, D. LaPorte (USA, Honda); 4, **Kees Van Der Ven** (Holland, KTM), 0 + 10 = 10; 5, Van Dooren, 5 + 4 = 9; 6, H. J. C. Laquaye (Belgium, Honda), 8 + 0 = 8; 7, Van Mierol (Holland, Yamaha), 0 + 6 = 6; 8, F. Dieffenbach (Germany, Honda), 6 + 0 = 6; 9, G. Rahier (Belgium, Suzuki), 5 + 0 = 5; 10, A. Dreschel (Germany, Honda), 0 + 4 = 4.

Championship positions: 1, Jobe, 87 points; 2, Martens, 56; 3, Laquaye, 51; 4, LaPorte, 40;

5, Van Der Van and Dreschel, 20; 7, Watson, 17; 8, Whately, 16; 9, Kinigadmer, 15; 10, Dieffenbach, 12.

Next round: Bulgaria, May 29.

Eccles cake walk

IN brilliant sunshine, Declan Eccles (250 Yamaha and 480 Honda) provided 6,000 plus crowd at Ainsdale Beach, Lancashire, with some scintillating riding to win the 250cc and 500cc and the 200/1000cc British Sand Race Championship.

RESULTS

250cc (ten laps): 1 D. Eccles (250 Yamaha); 2 J. Edwards (250 Yamaha); 3 R. Bayley (250 Yamaha); 4 T. Caston (250 Yamaha); 5 S. Auty (250 Honda); 6 S. Walker (250 Yamaha).

500cc: 1 D. Eccles (480 Honda); 2 G. Hartshorne (500 Weslake); 3 K. Edwards (500 Davis Weslake); 4 S. Parry (455 Yamaha); 5 C. Bartlett (500 Godden); 6 R. Backs (400 Yamaha).

200/1000cc: 1 D. Eccles (480 Honda); 2 A. Caston (252 Yamaha); 3 J. Edwards (250 Yamaha); 4 S. Parry (465 Yamaha)

ROAD RACING EXTRA

Essex star Mark Salle continued his fine run of form with outright victory in the Ken Redfern Trophy event at Oliver's Mount, Scarborough on Sunday, heading home Steve Henshaw in both legs.

The two Suzuki riders battled it out in close company through both races to give the 4000 strong sun-kissed crowd some of the most exciting action seen at the Yorkshire circuit for some time.

After his highly respectable performances in the Anglo-American match races, Salle had started the meeting as one of the firm favourites for the prestigious trophy, run annually in memory of one of the North East's finest ever road racers.

But Henshaw was the holder of the title, and was not going to let go in a hurry as the two legs were to prove.

Salle emerged victorious on both occasions, with Henshaw making a

fight of it to the chequered flag.

RESULTS: 125cc: 8 laps: 1 R. Swann (MBA) 16m 55.4s, 68.46mph, 2 T. Smith (MBA), 3 C. Peart (Honda), 4 P. Banks (MBA), 5 L. Young (Waddon), 6 R. Appleyard (MBA).

Fastest Lap Smith 2m 4s, 70.07mph. **250cc:** 8 laps: 1 A. Watts (EMC) 15m 29.1s, 74.82mph, 2 P. Tinker (Yamaha), 3 N. Tuxworth (British Wicks), 4 G. Atha (Yamaha), 5 R. Coates (Cotton), 6 M. Phillips (Yamaha).

Fastest Lap Tinker, 1m 56.6s, 75.82mph. **350cc:** 8 laps: 1 A. Watts (Yamaha) 15m 29.5s, 74.78mph, 2 P. Tinker (Yamaha), 3 G. Atha (Yamaha), 4 S. Johnson (Yamaha), 5 B. Ingham (Yamaha), 6 A. Cooper (Yamaha).

Fastest Lap Tinker 1m 54.1s, 76.15mph.

Ken Redfern Trophy: 8 laps each leg: 1 M. Salle (500 Suzuki) 15m 14.9s, 75.98mph, 2 S. Henshaw (500 Suzuki), 3 S. Johnson (500 Yamaha), 4 L. Burgan (750 Yamaha), 5 N. Fowler (500 Suzuki), 6 M. Crompton (750 Yamaha).

Fastest Lap: Salle 1m 51.3s, 78.07mph.

Second leg: 1 Salle, 2 Henshaw, 3 Burgan, 4 Johnson, 5 D. Griffith (500 Suzuki), 6 D. Seidel (500 Suzuki).

Fastest Lap: Henshaw 1m 51.7s, 77.79mph. Salle's race winning time 15m 9.1s, 76.46mph.

Overall Result: Salle, Henshaw, Burgan, Johnson, Fowler, Crompton.

1000cc: 8 laps: 1 A. Graves (350 Yamaha) 16m 22.3s, 70.06mph, 2 J. Mould (350 Yamaha), 3 K. Pearson (750 Yamaha), 4 S. Dowey (750 Yamaha), 5 A. Marshall (350 Yamaha), 6 S. Oliver (350 Yamaha).

Fastest Lap: Graves 1m 58.9s, 73.08mph.

250cc Heat Winners: Tuxworth and Watts.