

Every new season the European Dragracing Championship series start in the United Kingdom on the great Santa Pod Raceway track in Wellingborough.

Last season the Track owner Trackbak made a complete new racetrack for the 1/4, as the old surface was getting unsafe for the speeds and performance the teams these days are showing.

There were many entry's this new season and they found new sponsors to add to their race program.

he former European Champions made investments over the winter in chassis or engine program.

On Saturday the Pro classes started with their qualifying rounds, each getting 2 rounds on this day.



Sandro Bellio performed great over the weekend and took home the winners trophy in Top Methanol.

The FIM-E classes that were attending this Season opener(not SSB, they allready ran in Kunmadaras) all searching for quicker and faster runs.

In Top Fuel Bike Rikard Gustafsson from Sweden did excellent and after his crash last season at the NitrolympX he ran straight from the trailer an outstanding 5.91@234mph!

Thomas Pettersson ran a pb on his Turbocharged Funnybike, using methanol with an 6.65@195mph!

Filippos Papafilippou was still searching for an good set-up as they changed over the winter to an high gear set-up, so they run without and gearbox.



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In Pro Modified the “Dutch” did great and managed them in the top 10 which all ran in the 5 second on the 1/4 and that in itself was never done before!

A great class and crowd pleaser is Pro Modified indeed and the number 1 qualifier was David Vegter from Holland with his Pedal to the Metal 67' Camaro. Marck Harteveld with the Voodoo Hemi ran his first 5 and they deserved it after the accident he had last season. Same goes for the Pro Dutch team with their great looking Cuda with Michel Tooren.



Marck Harteveld did great and ran their first 5 second pass in FIA Pro Modified with an 5.95@241mph

In FIA Top Fuel it was also a world class act between Liam Jones in his CBD Asylum newly wrapped Dragster. He was going great guns against Anita Makela from Finland with her “Chicken” Dragster and both did an storming run as the fastest side by side run ever performed in Europe!

The footage link is added to re-watch this amazing run.

Also India Erbacher ran her first 3 second run and the Swiss team was really over the moon!

She damaged the Dragster, and the team worked all night to make it fixed.

It is always impressive to see these fire breathing monsters going down the track and the earth-shaking vibrations they produce from the 500CI SuperCharged V8's on Nitromethaan.







In FIM-E Super Twin Bike it was former European Champion from Denmark, Marcus Christiansen who was going strong and with his all new carbon wheelybar world first debut and all seem to work fine. Samu Kempainen who made the long trip all the way from Finland to race again on the allways good prepped Santa Pod Racetrack. After a great run fro Samu he discovered severe engine damage and they worked all night to make it ready again. Samu as an ex Stuntrider likes to have the wheelybar high and that gives spectacular runs as from the start line to the finish the 196CI Nitro Injected V60 Ron Houniet engine pulls like a tractor on steroids!

The Haas Brothers who sold their "Old" chassis and bought a new chassis from DJ out of the USA and made their debut with it. It still needs time to find the right set-up, and as former multiple European Champions they will make it work.

Gert-Jan Laseur also changed over the winter chassis set-up and now making pb after pb!

He ran his first 6 second run and improved over it during the weekend.

Same goes for Allan Davies who performed great after damaging the engine during testing.

Neil Midgley on the Chris Hannam Supercharged V-Twin makes really strong 1/8 mile runs and if he finds the good back-half he will show great numbers for sure!



FIM-E Pro stock bike was entered with 8 entry's and it was good to see former Multiple European Champion Fredrik Fredlund back and he was part of the Finnish team off Janne Koskinen who made his first outing in the United Kingdom. During qualification rounds a lot happend and after 2 days it was Fredrik who leaded the field with an strong 7.11@188mph. Still searching for the 6 seconds which he is capable off and all should be in the perfect order to make so.

During Eliminations on Monday it was Janne Koskinen, Former Champion from France Maurice Bertrand and Martin Bishop who went to round 2 of eliminations. Fredrik broke with gearbox and could not attend. Round 2 saw Janne took an importat victory over Maurice and would meet Martin in the final, who had a by run. The final round was a one man show because Martin broke and could not attend the startline.

It was the first FIM-E round win for Janne and his team and they were in extacy for sure!

The next round will be in Tierp Arene in Sweden on the 6th till 9 of June.

Fredrik will be back and Janne is now points leader in the FIM-E European Championship Pro Stock Bike. That will exciting in Tierp as Kalle Lyren will be joining the field and Maurice has to defend the title and has a new 2 valve V&H engine for more HP.

Als Kenneth Holmberg will be attending this round who was missed at the Main Event for sure, same as Charly Abraham with his Pro Stcok V-Twin from former champion Gert-Jan Laseur.

Also loved to see Martin Bishop to come over to Sweden , but he could not make it this time.





FIM-E Pro Stock Bike round 1 winner from Finland, Janne Koskinen on the ex Karlsson Suzuki.

In the FIM-E Super Street Bike class there were 25 entry's and that says a lot about the potential off the class A lot came from different country's to enter at the 2nd round in the European SSB Championship.

Team Zorzi from Italy with Simon Giordmania from Malta as tuner did great with another personal best! From Aland came Ida Zetterstrom for attending her first race at Santa Pod Raceway and after the interview I made with here she told me that she really liked it at Santa Pod and also ran a great PB of 7.28 with her new "Lucky" Suzuki Hayabusa that she bought in the USA last season and tested there and raced there also with the same Turbocahrged Bike.

It was great to see many of the competitors doing great and also Matte Bohlin from Sweden who allready made during testing a 6 second pass, and was offcourse really happy about that for sure!

Gary Bowe was back on top in SSB and making a strong 6 second pass during the qualification rounds.

From Holland Rudolfo Maduro with his 1000cc Suzuki GSXR also did great and again showed the potential of his team and tuning of the bike with a great 7.15@192mph during eliminations!

Steve Venables made a great pass of 6.87@201mph and later managed also a even stronger 6.85@213mph! He backed up therecord runs and is now the European record holder in speed and e.t.



Multiple Champion in Super Street Bike from the United Kingdom Steve Venables with his Turbo-charged Suzuki Hayabusa was going strong the whole 2nd round of the FIM-E SSB European Championship and took the Victory after Alex Hope did so in Kunmadaras, Hungary in the 1st round. The concistancy Ven made was really impressive and the potential to run a 6.7 run is there As he also is the current record holder in e.t. and speed in the class 25 entry's were at the Main Event! This class has a greatshow to offer!





Mogens Lund from Denmark with an great 6.96@209mph during qualification.

Same goes for the man from Denmark Mogens Lund who made another great 6 second pass during the rounds and that meant the first 3 in the qualification ladder made a 6 second pass which was outstanding. It was a racer from Austria that managed to get to the finals with a Kawasaki ZX-12 in the name of Erich Gruber who is attending the class for many years and is the oldest competitor in the class! He went in the finals against Steve Venables and it was great to see him there. He could not cope with Performance Ven was showing all weekend, but that is no shame at all. His first podium during a FIM-E SSB round and that will be allways his memory as runner-up at the Main Event 2019.



All the way from Austria came Erich Gruber and made it to the finals in FIM-E SSB and that was a first!





In FIM-E Junior Dragbike it was Meggie Talbot who became runner-up after going in the break-out

FIM-E Junior Drag Bike was at the Main Event with only 4 entry's and they competed like they did last season. As Meggie is last season Champion a lot was a steak, she did went trough the finals against Blade Dummer and went under the index with an break-out. Unfortunate for here.

That made Blade Dummer the event winner and now is leading the Championship in FIM-E Junior Dragbike

The 2019 Event Winners of the FIM-E and FIA Main Event at SANTA POD Raceway are:

FIM-E Top Fuel Bike: (Swe) Rikard Gustafsson & runner-up (Malta) Glenn Borg

FIM-E Super Twin Bike: (Den) Marcus Christiansen & runner-up (Fin) Samu Kemppainen

FIM-E Pro Stck Bike: (Fin) Janne Koskinen & runner-up (UK) Martin Bishop

FIM-E Junior Drag Bike Cup: (UK) Blade Dummer & runner-up (UK) Meggie Talbot

FIA Top Fuel Dragster: (Fin) Anita Makela & runner-up (Nor) Maja Udtian

FIA Top Methanol: (Bel) Sandro Bellio & runner-up (Malta) Manty Bugeja

FIA Pro Modified: (Swe) Micke Gullqvist & runner-up (Swe) Mats Eriksson

FIA Pro Stock: (Swe) Jimmy Alund & runner-up (Swe) Michael Malmgren

Nitro Funny Car: (UK) Steve Ashdown & runner-up (UK) Kevin Chapmen

Top Doorslammer: (Swe) Caroline Strand & runner-up (Swe) Mattias Wulcan

All results can be found at:

[www.santapod.co.uk/track/Results/2019/](http://www.santapod.co.uk/track/Results/2019/)

[www.eurodragstereventcoverage.com/santapod/live/2019fiamainevent/default.asp](http://www.eurodragstereventcoverage.com/santapod/live/2019fiamainevent/default.asp)

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