

FIM SUPERBIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 4 – MONZA, ITALY – 7 MAGGIO 2006
Race Release

7 May 2006, Monza, (Italy) – With the advent of Monza the championship entered a new level of excitement. Above all in Superbike the fourth round of the season saw increased tension in the paddock. It was an important appointment, with riders of many machines in the hunt for a coveted win. **Haga**, who was out to stop the two **Troys' powertrain**, showed his tension both on and off track. A nervous time for everyone, but especially the riders.

On Friday the lap times were already interesting, but on Saturday **Troy Bayliss** running race tyres, took a new best lap at the Monza circuit. The other Troy was still on his guard, and took the Superpole win thanks to a magnificent lap - on qualifiers – pulverising the previous best with a **1'46.564** (compared to a 1'46.981 set by Neil Hodgson on prototype tyres in 2003).

Corser was on pole, followed by Bayliss, Barros and Laconi. Four different bikes were present on the front row: **Suzuki, Ducati, Honda** and **Kawasaki**.

In Supersport the practice domination of **Charpentier** continued on his Honda, but this time it was **Vizziello** who was closest, repeating the Honda/Yamaha rivalry which had characterised the start of the year.



AIR HUMIDITY	44%	AIR TEMPERATURE	20°C
TRACK CONDITION	Dry	TRACK TEMPERATURE	31°

At the end of Superpole, on Saturday, the **Superstock 600** race was unveiled.

On the first lap the boys (with no riders allowed over 20 years) demonstrated their desperation to do well a little too strongly, unfortunately, and a crash involved many of them, with riders and machines slithering across the track. The red flag was displayed to make a new race.

On the restart a duel developed between **Canepa – Simeon**, and a great race ensued, one which was only determined on the last lap, when an exhausted Canepa fell from his Ducati, having suffered from a fever for three days before the race. Another win for Simeon and his **Suzuki GSX600R**, followed by two **Kawasaki ZX6RRs (Giugliano e Colatosti)** and the Yamaha R6 of **Lamarra**. There is a great equality between the different manufacturers, all chasing the championship with close to street spec Supersport machines. An important signal for this category, with great respect by the pilots for the sense of competitiveness was noted by **Paolo Flammini** (FGS CEO) in the Saturday press conference. He asserted that the 600 Superstock class was not just an important class in its own right but a real entry level opportunity for riders who wished to join in a European Championship level to enhance their careers.

Because of this entry level status, Pirelli uses tyres directly designed for street use, but with a sporting potential to allow the riders to push the limits on the track.

Monza was the second time that the new **Pirelli Diablo Corsa III** – three zone compound – had proved itself well suited to this racing class, and Monza will host the international launch of this tyre on Monday 8 May, at the same time as it goes on sale across the world.

Championship Standings:

	Rider	Bike	Team	Points
1	Simeon	Suzuki GSXR	Alstare Suzuki Corona Extra	50
2	Giugliano	Kawasaki ZX6RR	Lightspeed Kawasaki Supp	30
3	Canepa	Ducati 749R	Ducati Xerox Junior	20



AIR HUMIDITY	46%	AIR TEMPERATURE	20°C
TRACK CONDITION	Dry	TRACK TEMPERATURE	28°

The first race on Sunday is always **Superstock 1000**, and always a great spectacle. A real scrap between **Polita** and **Chiarello** developed and it is always a difficult battle in this class, given the speed of the machines in use. The power of the streetbike derived 1000cc machines – not many modifications are allowed in this class – make the role of the tyres particularly important. Also in this class the tyres are DOT versions, homologated for street use - **Pirelli Dragon Supercorsa PRO** in the **SC2 compound** – and once more it is a tyre which works on all the participating machines. Like other classes which use control Pirelli tyres, this results in very competitive races, and once again there were diverse machines on the podium (**Suzuki, Kawasaki, MV Agusta**).

Polita finished the race with another win, to add to his victory from Valencia.

Championship Standings:

	Rider	Bike	Team	Points
1	Polita	Suzuki GSXR	Celani Suzuki Italia	50
2	Badovini	Mv Agusta	Biassono – Unionbike	30
3	Chiarello	Kawasaki ZX10R	Lightspeed Kawasaki	20



World superbike provides races which deliver an incredible spectacle. Frequently there are **new lap records and great on-track battles**. At Monza this trend continued, and even in warm up the times were fast, with the Honda of **Alex Barros** capable of setting the best time.

Race 1

AIR HUMIDITY	70%	AIR TEMPERATURE	20°C
TRACK CONDITION	Dry	TRACK TEMPERATURE	25°

When the green lights came on **the two Troys** headed a group which included **Noriyuki Haga**, confirming his form at this circuit.

After a few laps the group was ahead of **Alex Barros**, riding behind with another Honda, belonging to **Toseland**. A great battle was to come between these two riders, but not right to the flag. Although the three leading riders had some great battles, it was an eventual clear win for Bayliss.

Barros was behind and took second place, setting a new lap record of **1'47.027** (four tenths faster than the previous record, set by Troy Bayliss in 2002). With just over one lap to go, Toseland lost his gamble to get into contention with the top runners again, crashing out at the Parabolica and scoring no points.

It was **an important victory for Bayliss**, who made another jump over Troy Corser in terms of the overall classification.

Race Standings:

	Rider	Bike	Team	Race time
1	Bayliss	Ducati 999F 06	Ducati Xerox	33'23.100
2	Barros	Honda CBR1000RR	Klaffi Honda	+3.982
3	Corser	Suzuki GSXR1000K6	Alstare Suzuki Corona Extra	+4.216
4	Haga	Yamaha YZF R1	Yamaha Motor Italia WSB	+4.395
5	Pitt	Yamaha YZF R1	Yamaha Motor Italia WSB	+13.605

Race 2

AIR HUMIDITY	34%	AIR TEMPERATURE	24°C
TRACK CONDITION	Dry	TRACK TEMPERATURE	44°

Warmth and sun, perfect conditions for racing... they were all present.

Race two was once more a fissured affair, recalling race one when Troy Corser took an immediate lead, this time with **with Haga**. **Barros** did not make a fantastic start but put his head down once more to catch up the group behind the leaders in fine style.

The choices of tyres were substantially those of the first race. The majority of the riders had opted for the 'big tyre', the 200mm Pirelli rear, while the fronts were largely more varied.

It was "A" (soft) for Bayliss, Corser and Haga, "C" (hard) for Barros, and "B" (medium) for Toseland, and all the top five chose to use the "B" rear.

Bayliss and Corser, once more locked together, made for a fantastic race, continuing their tremendous feud at the head of the championship. After four laps Bayliss set the best lap of the second race, 1'46.815, the new record, and the public were wowed by another great performance from **Barros**, who finished the first Honda pilot and fourth, ahead of **Toseland**.

It was once more a great advert for Superbike, and proved the competitiveness of the series. Three different manufacturers took podiums in races one and two. Superbike is in fantastic form at the moment, and the fight between the riders has really captured the imagination of the public. **96,000 spectators** were at Monza over three days, coming to watch a race series of unsurpassed passion in motorcycling terms, and which needs a large garage to keep all the participating bikes in – using tyres which have the same mass produced nature as the ones we all use.

Race Standings:

	Rider	Bike	Team	Race time
1	Bayliss	Ducati 999F 06	Ducati Xerox	32'17.705
2	Corser	Suzuki GSXR1000K6	Alstare Suzuki Corona Extra	+1.916
3	Haga	Yamaha YZF R1	Yamaha Motor Italia WSB	+6.479
4	Barros	Honda CBR1000RR	Klaffi Honda	+10.227
5	Toseland	Honda CBR1000RR	Winston Ten Kate Honda	+11.910

World Championship Standings:

	Rider	Bike	Team	Points
1	Bayliss	Ducati 999 Fo6	Ducati Xerox	150
2	Corser	Suzuki GSXR	Alstare Suzuki	139
3	Toseland	Honda CBR1000RR	Winston Ten Kate Honda	97
4	Barros	Honda CBR1000RR	Klaffi Honda	95
5	Haga	Yamaha YZF R1	Yamaha Motor Italia WSB	93
6	Pitt	Yamaha YZF R1	Yamaha Motor Italia WSB	79
7	Lanzi	Ducati 999F 06	Ducati Xerox	59
8	Rolfo	Ducati 999F 05	Ducati SC - Caracchi	46
9	Abe	Yamaha YZF R1	Yamaha Motor France	40
10	Nieto	Kawasaki ZX10 R	PSG-1 Kawasaki Corse	37

AIR HUMIDITY	37%	AIR TEMPERATURE	23°C
TRACK CONDITION	Dry	TRACK TEMPERATURE	40°

Emotion and spectacle were not in short supply at Monza for Supersport, and the action appeared to be never-ending.

The leader of the championship, Charpentier, started from pole and was immediately in command, on the hunt for his latest victory. During lap five of his reign, a stop go penalty for jumping the start was taken, dropping him as far down as 13th, and setting up a spectacular revival in his fortunes.

Tiberio profited, as did **Curtain**, and there were more developments of great importance in the championship battle. Tiberio found himself alone at the head of the field when Curtain's R6 failed. Tiberio used his head to keep the lead and earned a deserved victory, in only his third World Supersport race.

Also on form was **Harms**, on another Honda, just ahead of Charpentier who had made a tremendous recovery after his dramatic early race adventures. Three Hondas enjoyed the champagne festival at Monza, and Roccoli, in fourth was the first Yamaha home.

Charpentier leaves Monza with his championship lead made all the more secure by Curtain's retirement, with a new lap record and with a new all-time best Supersport lap: 1'50.580.

Race Standings:

	Rider	Bike	Team	Race time
1	Tiberio	Honda CBR600 RR	Megabike Honda	30'14.618
2	Harms	Honda CBR600 RR	Stiggy Motorsports	+1.924
3	Charpentier	Honda CBR600 RR	Winston Ten Kate	+4.255
4	Roccoli	Yamaha YZF R6	Yamaha Team Italia	+7.224
5	Charpentier	Honda CBR600 RR	Winston Ten Kate	+7.499

World Championship Standings:

	Rider	Bike	Team	Points
1	Charpentier	Honda CBR600 RR	Winston Ten Kate	91
2	Curtain	Yamaha YZF R6	Yamaha Motor Germany	60
3	Harms	Honda CBR600 RR	Stiggy Motorsports	52
4	Tiberio	Honda CBR600 RR	Megabike Honda	48
5	Parkes	Yamaha YZF R6	Yamaha Motor Germany	38
6	Roccoli	Yamaha YZF R6	Yamaha Team Italia	36
7	Fores	Yamaha YZF R6	SLM Racing	30
8	Stigefelt	Honda CBR600 RR	DarkDog StiggyMotorsport	28
9	Sofuoglu	Honda CBR600 RR	Winston Ten Kate	27
10	Brookes	Ducati 749 R	Ducati SC – Caracchi	21