



Press Release

Salbris, France – 15th September, 2012

SALBRIS SET FOR THE CLASH FOR THE MAX TITLES AT THE ROTAX EURO CHALLENGE

The famous Sologne Karting circuit at Salbris in France is geared-up for this weekend's fourth and final round of the 2012 ROTAX MAX EURO CHALLENGE as the battle for the European title in all four classes being contested goes down to the deciding edition of the series. This year, the championship has again visited Belgium and Germany, while Sweden made its debut onto the Euro program. For the very popular French venue, it's the seventh time they've played host in the last eight years and the racing looks set to be yet another memorable finale, with all titles able to be won or lost by this Sunday.

According to event organisers RGMMC Establishment, it's been an excellent season's racing to-date with drivers coming from all corners of the globe to compete in the international championship that regularly sees up to 30 different nations represented. The depth of the level of quality drivers participating also continues to grow, providing young karters with a great chance to develop their future Motorsport career within the CIK-FIA guidelines. In addition, the competition also gives the more experienced drivers an opportunity to match it with some of the best in their class in the Rotax categories.

In the Senior Max class, the trio of British drivers all capable of becoming the 2012 champion sit at the top of the results table led by well-known Euro Challenge young gun Edward Brand on 256. With a win at the second round of the series, he's followed just 4 points behind by Harrison Scott in his season return to Rotax racing, while Sean Babington, who secured two victories so far, seems to be the talk of the paddock as the possible challenger with 246 points. The 'middle man' Harrison Scott believes he's still in with a good chance to win at Salbris, *"It's been a great year with the team at Strawberry Racing and to be given this opportunity to race at the Euro Challenge. The competition is close, but we'll just keep working away with the testing and making progress to be quick for the racing. I love the long track here at Salbris, although the chicane is a little bit of a challenge. It should be good racing!"*

It's another Junior Max dual when it comes to the likely winner, as double-round champion Harry Webb currently leads and is tipped by many to fly the British flag at the prize-giving; although round 2 stand-out Dutchman Janneau Esmeijer, trailing by 9 points, is hoping to prove he's the deserving champ in juniors. Sitting in 3rd, Josh White can also stake his claim if it goes wrong for the front-runners, but he has to watch out for the likes of Max Aitken and Ryan Anderton not far behind him. *"If something went wrong for Webb or Esmeijer, I believe I can still win the championship"* White explains, *"but several other drivers can also compete with me for a top 3 finish this weekend. I thought I could be on the podium when I came into the series this year and I have had better results in Europe than I have at home, so I'm still feeling confident that I can do well."*

There are only two drivers in the Rotax DD2 who can realistically fight for the win, both having been victorious at one round of the series so far. Leading the points is the round 3 winner Mathias Detige of Belgium, while the driver from Finland Miika Laiho lies further down the order after not starting in the final at the same event in Sweden. In effect, he has to discount that race and have a good result in Salbris to claim the title from Detige. The second round winner Xen De Ruwe can still make the podium in the overall championship standings, but even his best result would be just 1 point short of what he needed to be the European champion. For Detige, the top step of the podium is possible, yet not a certain thing, *"There's a little bit of pressure this weekend seeing that Miika Laiho and I are both able to win the championship. I've not raced here in Salbris for four years and of course, it feels very different in the DD2. We'll keep trying some things up to the qualifying and see how it goes in the racing. I have been happy with the MS Kart with the Bouvin Power team, so I'm positive."*

The Rotax DD2 Masters running within the DD2 class has in fact four very experienced competitors who can each secure the title when the chequered flag comes out. The British lady driver Tamsin Germain with two round victories tops the leader-board as the highest placed Master, closely followed by the 2011 series' podium place-getters Dennis Kroes with round 3 winner Florent Lambert on equal points coming into the decider, and Christophe Adams the defending champ.

Follow the LIVE TIMING online across the weekend with the LIVE commentary at www.rotaxmaxeurochallenge.com as well as all championship points plus the results from each race with the lap-by-lap summary of every driver on track.

The latest news and video highlights from the 2012 ROTAX MAX EURO CHALLENGE can be found at the official homepage on **RGMMC Media** or join us on Facebook.

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