

Stunning win for StoneBaker Racing at Magny Cours

StoneBaker Racing's, Dan Linfoot rode the race of his life to take a stunning win in the penultimate round of the Superstock 600 European Championship at Magny Cours today.

Having qualified in seventh position the 20 year old made a strong start to move up to second position behind team-mate Gino Rea mid way through the opening lap. Showing impressive pace Linfoot made a move on Rea at the end of the lap to lead the race as they crossed the line.

Linfoot then proceeded to lead from Rea as the two StoneBaker riders looked like it could be possible to break away from the chasing pack of five riders. On lap three the two team-mates traded places before both running wide at the first gear Adelaide Hairpin on lap four allowing their rivals to get back in touch, dropping Linfoot to third and Rea to fourth.

By lap five Linfoot had recaptured second position before reclaiming the lead on lap six. With four laps to go Linfoot soaked up the pressure and looked set for the win before a slide on the way into the top hairpin saw him run wide allowing Loris Baz and Mathieu Gines to pass. Despite having only three corners to retaliate, Linfoot made a stunning move on the brakes to pass both riders in to the Lycee corner to secure his first win since the second round of the championship at Assen in April.

Team-mate Gino Rea ended the day bitterly disappointed after finishing in sixth place despite showing pace good enough to secure a place on the podium. Having qualified in pole position, Rea made his trademark fast start to get the hole shot into turn one. By the end of the lap he came under pressure from his team-mate Linfoot and was relegated to second.

After running wide on lap four Rea dropped to fourth, but immediately upped his pace and began closing down the leaders, moving into third on lap seven. On lap eight Rea had his chance of a podium taken away when an out of control Marco Bussolotti slammed into the side of him on the exit of the Adelaide Hairpin. Rea used all his skill to stay onboard but dropped to sixth following the impact and was unable to regain any position during the final two laps of the race.

Dan Linfoot, Race 1st, Championship position 4th

“The win has been a long time coming and it's also the first time I've been on the podium since Assen because I kept getting beaten by my team-mate Gino on the final lap. I made a really good start to the race and had the right level of aggression to get through to the front.

“On the final lap it occurred to me that I could actually win it but then I came into the top hairpin and backed the bike in too much, ran wide and two of the guys came past. I thought it was all over, but I knew I was good into the bottom right hander so I made a big move and it paid off. It's a mega feeling and I'm really happy to get another win.”

Gino Rea, Race 6th , Championship position 5th

“I’m absolutely gutted. Bussolotti smacked into the side of me and that wrecked my race. It was a stupid move and after the impact I couldn’t feel my leg at all. It picked up the front of the bike and I must have squashed my leg between my bike and his. If it wasn’t for that I’m confident I would have been battling up front with Dan and got another top three so I’m really disappointed especially after qualifying pole.”