

# Motorsport News

International Edition — N°3 June 2023



Photo by Natsume Kenji

## Japan

### Eisuke Samura secures ticket for victory in the Suzuka 8 Hours

Despite turbulent conditions on the track, FUCHS rider Eisuke Samura's exceptional performance earned him a spot in the Suzuka 8 Hours race. // Page 2.

## Austria

### A day of glory for FUCHS riders

Record-breaker Andreas Gangl celebrated his overall victory in the Superbike class, while FUCHS rider Manuel Schleindhuber secured a top-six position in both the Superstock 1000 and Superbike classes at the FUCHS Silkolene Berg EM Motorrad Bergrennen Landshaag. // Page 3.



## Italy

### Michael Dunlop triumphs in the 2023 TT Isle of Man Trophy

Having dominated both the qualifying sessions and the race, Michael Dunlop celebrated his 24th win in the Supertwin category, cementing his position as the second most successful rider in the history of this prestigious trophy. // Page 12.



## Japan

### Sensational overtaking at the Suzuka 8 Hours

The Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Road Race is recognized as one of the most prestigious events in the FIM World Endurance Championship, making it the pinnacle of worldwide motorsport.

In the fierce battle to secure a spot in round two of the JSB1000 final of the Suzuka Sunday Road Race, held in May, Private Team Tri Point & Factory HIRO FUCHS Silkolene and their talented rider Eisuke Samura emerged victorious, earning their coveted entry ticket to the highly anticipated Suzuka 8 Hours Race.

Despite being a regional race, the pre-selection qualifying event attracted national championship riders, elevating the competition to a remarkably high level. Samura faced a formidable challenge from the other teams, struggling to keep up with their pace and ultimately finishing in 29th place.

Samura races with a Suzuki GSX-R1000R and relies on the performance of FUCHS Silkolene PRO 4 PLUS 5W-40. "Using FUCHS Silkolene products gives me complete peace of mind. It's truly remarkable to see how clean the engine remains after a race, a testament to the oil's unparalleled engine protection. While low-viscosity oils are favored for their high power output, nothing beats the assurance of a trouble-free ride."

Confident in his meticulously set-up machine and backed by years of experience, Samura was determined to showcase his exceptional skills on race day. The race itself was tumultuous, marked by a shocking incident in the second lap when two riders collided. After a temporary halt, the race resumed with eight laps remaining, only to witness two more crashes.

Amidst the chaos, Samura maintained his composure and skillfully maneuvered through the corners. "I navigated the corners flawlessly. I'm grateful that I stayed focused until the end, securing a 15th place finish, and earning my ticket to the prestigious 8 Hours Race."

The Suzuka 8 Hours race, a thrilling event eagerly anticipated by motorsport enthusiasts, will take place in August.

Photos by Natsume Kenji



Eisuke Samura with the FUCHS Japan members





From left to right: Maurizio Bottalico (3rd), Andreas Gangl, (1st), and Stefano Bonetti (2nd) at the Flower Ceremony



From left to right: Markus Kollenz and Ducati Salzburg CEO Heribert Braunbart

## Austria

### FUCHS dominates in St. Martin

FUCHS Austria has been the primary sponsor of the thrilling FUCHS Silkolene Berg EM Motorrad Bergrennen Landshaag – St. Martin event since 2014. This year, the 42nd edition of the exhilarating European mountain race, hosted by MSC Rottenegg, attracted an impressive lineup of around 250 riders from various nations.

With an average speed of up to 186 km per hour on the main road and reaching over 300 km per hour on certain sections of the mountain road between Landshaag and St. Martin, the drivers captivated over 10,000 spectators during two thrilling runs.

The existing course record, set by Austrian rider Andreas Gangl in 2016 with a time of 1:10.932 and an average speed of 186.20 km per hour, remains unbroken. Gangl, competing in the overall Superbike class of 2023, emerged as the undisputed champion, while FUCHS rider Manuel Schleindlhuber achieved success in both the Superstock 1000 and Superbike classes. Additionally, Toni Rechberger, another talented FUCHS rider, celebrated his 100th hill climb in the Superstock 1000 class.

FUCHS Austria showcased an impressive booth in the paddock area, attracting notable guests such as Franky Zorn, the FIM Ice Speedway Gladiators World Vice-champion of 2023. The presence of important FUCHS Austria customers, including Ducati Salzburg with CEO Heribert Braunbart, added to the prestige of the event. At the Flower Ceremony, the top three winners of each class were awarded exclusive packages of FUCHS Silkolene products, graciously presented by Markus Kollenz, FUCHS Head of Application Engineering.



From left to right: Franky Zorn, Franz Ortner (FUCHS Sales Automotive), and Markus Kollenz (FUCHS Head of Application Engineering)





## Germany

### **BLACK FALCON** nears podium at the Hankook 12h Spa-Francorchamps

The BLACK FALCON Team showcased their racing prowess at the Hankook 12h Spa-Francorchamps in the 24H Series. Two Porsche 992 GT3 Cup cars took to the starting line in the 992-AM class, tackling the challenging 7,004 km-long mountain and valley racetrack in the scenic Belgian Ardennes.

In car #919, a formidable lineup of Matt Kehoe and Tom Roberts, both American newcomers, joined forces with Carrera Cup ProAm record champion Carlos Rivas. The race got off to a chaotic start, with the Porsche sliding into the gravel during a rainstorm, resulting in the loss of several laps. Undeterred, the team fought their way back to the front. After twelve grueling hours, final driver Kehoe crossed the finish line in an impressive fourth place in class.

Meanwhile, car #920 saw Alex Böhm, Axel König, Axel Saringen, and Norbert Schneider share the cockpit. Despite facing adversities, including a puncture caused by debris, the team remained in high spirits. All four drivers expressed their enthusiasm for the track and praised the well-organized event. They successfully crossed the finish line, securing a commendable seventh place in their class.

Reflecting on the team's performance, Team Principal at BLACK FALCON and driver of car #920, Alexander Böhm, commented: "Although we narrowly missed the podium, I am still highly satisfied. If not for the trip into the gravel bed, the #919 could have secured second place in its class. The #920 drivers displayed remarkable skill in such challenging conditions. Our new drivers integrated perfectly into the team, and we are already planning future races together. All the drivers are eager to compete again at the 12h Spa-Francorchamps in 2024."

BLACK FALCON's valiant efforts and strong team spirit exemplified their dedication to excellence, leaving a lasting impression at the demanding Spa-Francorchamps circuit.





## South Africa

### Dakota Grobbelaar's courageous performance in the SA Motocross Nationals

FUCHS rider Dakota Grobbelaar displayed incredible courage as she competed in the fourth round of the SA Motocross Nationals Championship at Thunder Valley, despite facing physical challenges. After suffering a fractured shoulder, torn ligaments, and nerve damage, Grobbelaar remained determined to give her best.

In both heats, she pushed through the pain and delivered a remarkable performance. At the end of the race, Grobbelaar secured a commendable fifth place overall and earned valuable points in the championship standings.

Upcoming race: July: Gqeberha

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene PRO 4 XP 10W-40, Silkolene FOAM FILTER OIL, Silkolene WASH OFF, Silkolene CARB AND INJECTOR CLEANER**



## South Africa

### FUCHS driver Marc Glead's close call at Thundercat Nationals

The Thundercat Nationals held its second round over two days at Bloubergstrand, famous for its massive surf conditions. Marc Glead, accompanied by co-driver, Herman Erasmus, competed in the Modified class. "Despite some initial jostling for pole position in heat one, we managed to secure a good start and settled into a comfortable third position, which we maintained until the end. Reading the surf accurately and taking calculated risks are the keys to success in surf events," commented Marc.

As the second heat began, both the surf and the shore break intensified. "With the flag dropping, we made a safe getaway, catching plenty of air as we powered through the surf. However, our efforts came to an abrupt halt when our team made contact with another while navigating the turn buoy, resulting in a violent barrel roll. Unfortunately, this incident ended our weekend."

"We are extremely grateful to FUCHS LUBRICANTS for their invaluable assistance. It's worth noting that our race engine remained undamaged despite being fully submerged in seawater, thanks to the exceptional protection provided by FUCHS Silkolene PRO 2 and FUCHS G70."

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene PRO 2, Silkolene PRO SRG 75, Silkolene PRO PREP, Silkolene WASH OFF, Silkolene ENGINE CLEANER, Silkolene CARB CLEANER**

## South Africa

### Ian Rall secures podium finish at the GXCC Championship

FUCHS rider Ian Rall showcased exceptional form in the second round of the GXCC Championship. “I had a strong start and successfully navigated the challenging maze, securing third position. I maintained a smooth ride, executed some impressive passes, and made my way to the front.”

In the end, Ian clinched second place in his class and an impressive second place overall.



## South Africa

### A promising season for Jamie Berry

After securing first place in the Junior 85 cc class at the Western Cape Off-Road Club in April, FUCHS rider Jamie Berry continued his success in the second round with another podium finish. “I started at the front and quickly established a gap on the first lap. I maintained a strong push until the gap was sufficient for a comfortable last lap without overexerting myself.”

A few days later, Jamie lined up for the WCOC race. “Right from the start, the pace was intense, with speeds reaching around 100 km per hour on the straights. It was a grueling race, requiring me to give it my all while also preserving the bike for the next day’s race. In the end, I clinched first place in the Junior 85 cc class”.

The second day presented greater challenges. “Right from the beginning, my bike couldn’t achieve top speed on the straights. Something was amiss. I was overtaken by fellow riders and struggled to catch up. I found myself in fourth position during the race. Determined, I focused and pushed myself to the limit to finish second overall. It was an incredibly demanding mental battle.”

## South Africa

### A highly anticipated comeback

After suffering injuries in 2022, Jayden Proctor made his return to the MSA MX National Championship in the third round of the 2023 season. The event took place at the Bloemfontein Motocross Track in May. Despite a six-month absence from racing, Jayden managed to secure sixth place overall in both the MX1 and MX2 classes. These races were crucial for regaining fitness, and Jayden is hopeful for better results in the upcoming race at the Teza Motocross Track in a few weeks.

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene MAINTAIN FOAM FILTER OIL, Silkolene PRO 4 10W-30, Silkolene PRO CHAIN, Silkolene TITANIUM CHAIN LUBE**





## South Africa

### Two first-places finished for Vogelesang

Round four of the SA MX National Championship took place at the Thunder Valley MX in Pietermaritzburg. The track posed extreme challenges with its hard and slippery surface, testing the skills of the riders. Johan Vogelesang utilized the practice sessions to familiarize himself with the new track. He started in third position in the first race and finished eighth.

In the second race, he made a gain in the championship standings, securing fifth place overall in points. "I am thrilled to have been selected for the SA MX1 Team in the Africa Nations Team event, which will be held in Cape Town later this year. It will be my first MXOAN on South African soil, and there is no better place to host it than Zone 7 MX in Cape Town. My goal for the remainder of the season is to continue improving and achieving more competitive race results, ultimately accumulating solid championship points."

Johan also lined up for round two of the Free State and Northern Cape Womza Regional Championship in Bloemfontein. These regional races are crucial for gate drops and preparations leading up to the MX National. With the presence of several national riders, Johan felt some pressure in the early laps. In the first race, he secured a narrow holeshot and led from start to finish. In the second race, he had a good start and finished first. "With two victories in the MX Experts class, I have extended my championship points lead heading into round three."

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene PRO 4 10W-60 XP, Silkolene TITANIUM DRY LUBE, Silkolene FOAM FILTER OIL, Silkolene FOAM FILTER CLEANER, Silkolene PRO BOOST, Silkolene WASH OFF**

## South Africa

### Louw family shines in top five

Nine-year-old Joe Louw and his father Michael raced in the third round of the SA Short Circuit Series (SASCS) at the Formula-K Raceway.

Joe finished fourth overall in the 50 cc Supermoto class. He also rode in the 65 cc Supermoto class, a new class for him, where he fought a real battle. For his third race with the new bike, he finished fourth overall and managed to win the Rider of the Day award. This is a big achievement as there was fierce competition.

Michael participated in the 450 SM1S class, joining the main race and finishing in second place for the day. "I suffered from severe arm pump and battled to finish the three heats as I had no feeling in my hands and couldn't control the bike very well."





## Australia

### Winterbottom finished eighth at the Tasmania SuperSprint

Team 18 driver Mark Winterbottom concluded a positive weekend at the Ned Whisky Tasmania SuperSprint with an eighth-place finish in the final race.

A challenging back-to-back qualifying session saw DEWALT Racing's Winterbottom qualify 15th and tenth for races eleven and twelve. Winterbottom progressively advanced in each race, finishing 13th and eighth, and executed impressive overtaking maneuvers towards the end of the final race to secure a higher position within the top ten.

"It was a tough weekend. The positive thing is that we finished in the top ten overall. We acknowledge that there is work to be done; there's no doubt about it. However, we are eagerly anticipating the upcoming round in Darwin. We know we need to do better, but we'll take a top ten result."

Team 18 will return to action in the Darwin Triple Crown at the Hidden Valley Raceway for Supercars' Indigenous round.

**FUCHS lubricants: TITAN RACE SYN 20, TITAN CYTRAC TD 75W-90**





## Portugal

### A double victory for the FUCHS Team

After starting the season with double third-place finishes at the amazing circuit of Portimão (Algarve), the drivers of Garagem Aurora Team, Mario Meireles and Vasco Nina, raced with the Porsche 911 2.8 RSR for the second round of the Iberian Historic Endurance. This event, called the Grand Prix Historique de Pau, took place in France.

Motivated by the good result in the Algarve race, the duo began the weekend on a high note by securing pole position in the qualifying session, setting the stage for what looked like a perfect weekend.

They went on to achieve two overall victories and set the fastest lap in both 45-minute races, delivering an impressive “winner takes all” performance by the drivers and the Porsche.

The Porsche 911 2.8 RSR prepared by Garagem Aurora was simply impeccable, allowing the team from Oporto to achieve this remarkable result in a competition filled with renowned cars and drivers.

The next race will be the Jarama Classic in July.



## Portugal

### **FUCHS Silkolene sponsors the Trophies Tuono Cup and S1000R Cup**

The Naked Bikes Championship (known as TNB) has been part of the Portuguese National Championship (CNV Moto) since 2020 and consists of different trophies based on motorbike brands. In 2022, the TNB races had the second highest participation among the eleven categories that make up the Portuguese championship.

For 2023, the S1000R Cup Trophy, based on BMW motorbikes, and the Tuono Cup Trophy, based on Aprilia motorbikes, will be joined by the new Triple Cup Trophy, based on Triumph motorbikes. These three trophies are sponsored by FUCHS Silkolene.

The BMW and Aprilia riders use FUCHS Silkolene PRO 4 5W-40 XP, while the Triumph riders use FUCHS Silkolene PRO 4 10W-40 XP. In addition to the engine oil, all the motorbikes will be maintained with FUCHS Silkolene 02 Synthetic, FUCHS Silkolene ALL-IN-ONE, FUCHS Silkolene PRO CHAIN, and FUCHS Silkolene BRAKE AND CHAIN CLEANER. "It has been a real showcase for FUCHS Silkolene, proving the quality of our products in extreme racing conditions," said Maria Moreira, FUCHS Marketing and Communication.

The season started at the Estoril Circuit, and the first victory went to a BMW rider. The second round took place at the Jerez-Ángel Nieto Track, a special circuit for all MotoGP lovers and the only race outside Portugal this year. Frederic Bottoglieri, a Triumph rookie, had an outstanding weekend, securing the pole position and winning both races.





## Tanzania

### First podium of 2023 for the FUCHS TITAN Rally Team

The FUCHS Team is delighted to welcome the talented driver Manveer Birdi this season. With vast rally experience in Tanzania and beyond, Manveer has earned a strong fan base with his brilliant driving skills.

FUCHS Tanzania Marketing Executive, Frank Ngobile, said: "Manveer is one of the best drivers out there and a rally legend. We have complete trust in his skills and can't wait to see him shine on our team. With Manveer on board, this year will be epic!"

The season began in the Iringa region, where Manveer Birdi and his co-driver, Ravi Chana, drove the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution 9. They effortlessly conquered challenges and clinched an impressive podium finish in just five rounds."

Team Manager, Tejinder Bala, stated: "We faced rough conditions and a minor car glitch, but we never gave up. We fought hard until the end to achieve this amazing result. It has energized us for the next race, and we are confident we can do even better."

Manveer Birdi said: "Competing was tough, but I give credit to FUCHS Tanzania for their incredible support and technology."

Rally competitions are immensely popular in Tanzania, attracting thousands of spectators to witness the remarkable performances of teams from across the country. It promises to be an exciting season!



## Italy

### Applause for Michael Dunlop

FUCHS Italy sponsored Moto Paton in the 2023 TT Isle of Man Trophy for the first time, with rider Michael Dunlop. Paton, an Italian factory that produces racing motorcycles, claimed victory in the Isle of Man TT in 2017, 2018, and 2019. As a reminder, 2018 marked Michael Dunlop's victory, followed by Rutter in third place, Bonetti in fourth, Thompson in fifth, and Lougher in sixth – five bikes in the top six!

This year, after dominating the qualifying sessions in the Superstock and Supertwin series, Michael secured his 24th win in the Supertwin race of this prestigious trophy. Riding the SC Project Paton, he led the race from start to finish, crossing the checkered flag with a comfortable lead of over twenty seconds ahead of Mike Browne (RK Racing Paton), one of his main rivals. With this accomplishment, he now stands as the second most successful rider in the history of the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy, just two wins short of the record total of 26 wins held by his uncle, Joey Dunlop.

The Supertwin class features 700 cc twin-cylinder machines derived from road bikes, transformed into true racing machines. The Supertwins are the latest addition to the TT and produce approximately 90 horsepower. This category, due to the reduced power and weight of the machines, undoubtedly demands the greatest finesse in handling.



## Italy

### Enhanced visibility

FUCHS Italy is proud to announce its partnership with Modena Volley (Valsa Group Modena), one of the world's top volleyball clubs. Established in 1966, the club has achieved an impressive 42 trophies.

"The FUCHS logo was prominently displayed at the Modena Sport hall during all the matches. We owe this sponsorship opportunity to our partner, F.lli Gibertini, a key distributor of FUCHS products in the automotive field. This highly popular sport attracted over 5,200 spectators per match," stated Luigi di Tollo, FUCHS Product and Marketing Manager.



## Great Britain

### Abundance of podiums for FUCHS riders

Once again, FUCHS Silkolene-supported riders celebrated triumph in the third round of the Bennetts British Superbike Championship held at Donington Park in May.

The FUCHS Silkolene riders achieved an impressive seven out of nine possible Superbike podiums throughout the weekend.

Ryan Vickers, representing OMG Racing, secured his first trophy of the season. The highlight of the event, however, was Superbike race three, culminating in a complete FUCHS Silkolene podium. Kyle Ryde claimed first place, while Tommy Bridewell and Glenn Irwin, both riders of BeerMonster Ducati, secured second and third places respectively.

FUCHS Silkolene riders also achieved podium finishes in the support championships. Tom Booth-Amos of Gearlink Kawasaki took the top spot in the second Supersport race with an impressive 6.6-second lead, while Aaron Silvester (A & J Racing) fought for yet another podium finish, further solidifying his championship lead in the Pirelli Junior Superstock.

The next round will be held at Scotland's Knockhill Racing Circuit.





## Great Britain

### 2023 first BTCC podium for FUCHS-sponsored Toyota Gazoo Racing

FUCHS-sponsored Toyota Gazoo Racing UK came away from the 2023 British Touring Car Championship curtain-raiser at Donington Park with a clutch of points-scoring finishes. Rory Butcher, Ricky Collard, and George Gamble showed off the speed of the Toyota Corolla, despite the wet conditions. Race one saw all three FUCHS drivers finish within the top eleven for good championship points. In race two, Gamble kept the lead until a battle for third saw him off the track and out of the race. The final race resulted in three more solid points finishes.

In the second round at Brands Hatch, the drivers enjoyed top-ten finishes in the first two races before Collard produced the performance of his BTCC career to date to pip three-time title-winner Ash Sutton to the checkered flag in the final race – and whilst a penalty cost him a famous breakthrough victory, the pace showed that the team will be a force to be reckoned with over the remainder of the campaign.

Round three at Snetterton saw drivers cut through the pack to great top-half finishes. The highlight was Rory Butcher's second place finish and the team's first podium of 2023 in the final race. A great tire choice allowed Rory to jump into second place before slipping to third in the later laps. Dan Cammish, who crossed the line in second, was later disqualified for a low ride height, elevating Rory to second.

In round four at Thruxton, Rory secured three seventh place finishes, then Ricky enjoyed fifth in the final race, securing the manufacturers trophy for the race.

The team now sits fourth in the overall Team Standings.



## Great Britain

### Tuthill tames the Plains with last-gasp BHRC victory

The Plains Rally, round three of the FUCHS LUBRICANTS British Historic Rally Championship, took crews to the spectacular Snowdonia National Park.

The Porsche 911 driver Richard Tuthill managed his first FUCHS LUBRICANTS BHRC victory since 2007, snatching a win on the very last stage of the event. With his co-driver, Dale Furniss, they had been locked in an intense battle for the lead with Marty McCormack and Barney Mitchell, heading into the short and final Llangower stage on identical times.

But it would be Tuthill who emerged with the closely fought win, setting a time two seconds faster to take his first BHRC victory since a similar battle had ensued in 2007 with McCormack on the Isle of Man lanes. History repeated, but this time on the grueling North Wales gravel.

The two dueling drivers were never more than five seconds apart all day long with the lead swapping three times over the eight stages. In the end, Tuthill took the win in the final stage.

Nick Elliott and Dave Price hustled the FIAT 131 Abarth through the demanding stages and ended up having their own battle for position with championship leaders Roger Chilman and Patrick Walsh. But the outcome was decided for them when Chilman left the road on the final stage, handing Elliott fourth and the first FIA Category car home. Moreover, his result means he is now leading the championship.

The Tour of Epynt, the fourth round of the championship, will take place in July.

