

## CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Media Information

BMW Motorrad Motorsport

19th April 2022

### **BMW Motorrad Motorsport in WorldSBK: Heading to the 'Cathedral of Speed' at Assen.**

- **Round two of the 2022 FIM Superbike World Championship.**
- **BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team rider Michael van der Mark plans his comeback at his home round.**
- **Loris Baz and Eugene Laverty from the Bonovo action BMW Racing Team aim to build on the good basis from the season opener.**

**Assen. The next stop of the 2022 FIM Superbike World Championship (WorldSBK) will lead BMW Motorrad Motorsport to the famous 'Cathedral of Speed'. The TT Circuit at Assen (NED) will host round two of the season this coming weekend (22nd to 24th April). Michael van der Mark (NED) from the BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team, who had to sit out the season opener at MotorLand Aragón (ESP), plans his comeback at his home round. The final decision will be made at a medical test on Thursday.**

Van der Mark suffered a fractured leg in a training accident with his mountain bike in early March. After surgery, he fully focused on his healing process that went very well. If he gets green light from the WorldSBK medical team, van der Mark will race at the weekend in the BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team next to his new team-mate Scott Redding (GBR).

In the Bonovo action BMW Racing Team, riders Loris Baz (FRA) and Eugene Laverty (FRA) head to Assen with great confidence. They want to build on the strong results the team achieved at the Aragón season opener.

#### **Quotes ahead of the Assen round.**

**Marc Bongers, BMW Motorrad Motorsport Director:** "Assen is always something special and I don't say that just because I am Dutch. It is great that Michael recovered so well and we hope that he gets green light to ride his BMW M 1000 RR at the Assen races. Of course it won't be an easy weekend for him as he has not been on the World Superbike for a long time but it would be a first step into the season for him. In addition, his feedback can be valuable for our work with all our M 1000 RRs, particularly with Scott's bike. After the difficult season opener we have analysed the data and Scott and the entire team are

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working very hard to improve the situation for Assen. The Bonovo action BMW Racing Team demonstrated at the season opener that they have a very good base and I am confident that they can make the next step forward at Assen."

**Michael van der Mark, BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team:** "After the forced break of several weeks I feel ready to return at my home round in Assen. Of course it depends on the final medical check on Thursday but I am confident I can get back on my BMW M 1000 RR at the weekend. The healing process after the surgery went very well. I also had several treatments that additionally seem to have helped to speed up my recovery. I regularly trained in the gym, with an adjusted programme, and that enabled me to keep my fitness at a high level. Of course, I am not expecting to ride at the top at Assen. I know that it will be a challenge, as I haven't ridden my WorldSBK BMW M 1000 RR since the end of last year and I missed all the pre-season tests in spring time so I also don't know all the developments made over winter and I first need to understand them before I can benefit from them. In addition, I am feeling very well but am not back to 100 per cent fitness yet, so for me, the most important thing would be to be back in action without focusing on any results. Then we move forward step by step."

**Scott Redding, BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team:** "Assen is a good track for me, a track that I had a lot of good results on in the past. It's a track I really enjoy to ride. I love going to Holland, the atmosphere is always amazing with the fans there. I also lived there for a while, so I have some friends there and it feels very good for me to go to Assen. I think it is maybe a circuit a little bit better for our bike, so I hope to work on better results than in Aragón and work from there. So I look forward to the weekend."

**Loris Baz, Bonovo action BMW Racing Team:** "I'm looking forward to Assen. It's one of my favourite tracks in the world and I love racing there! It's a long time since I have raced there, although I was there testing in 2019 and 2020. I'm looking forward to it! It's always full of fans and definitely one of the best circuits in the calendar. I think also it suits the BMW M 1000 RR a little bit better than Aragón, so I will try to keep the same direction, making some improvements on the bike and continue the good job we are doing with the Bonovo action BMW Racing Team together with BMW. So, let's go rock one of the most amazing tracks of the world!"

**Eugene Laverty, Bonovo action BMW Racing Team:** "We had a reasonable start to the season at Aragón. I've gelled fantastically well with the Bonovo action BMW Team and we will build from here on. Next up is the flowing circuit of Assen and while I've yet to ride the BMW M 1000 RR there I believe that the circuit is better suited to the strengths of our bike."

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Our aim will be to qualify better to give a better track position during the early laps of the race. The fight at the front is currently out of reach but I'm confident that we can fight to finish between 6th and 8th position. That is our target right now."

<b>Track Facts Assen.</b>	
Circuit length	4.542 km – clockwise
Corners	18 – 12 right-handers, 6 left-handers
Pole position	Left
Longest straight	300 metres (start-finish straight)
Grip level	High (new asphalt)
Track layout	Mainly flowing, partly very fast sections; partly slow corners
Strain on brakes	Comparably low
Amount at full throttle	26 % resp. 25 seconds
Top speed / lowest speed	299 km/h / 55 km/h
Best overtaking opportunity	T16
Key factors	Much confidence in the front in maximum lean angle and on the brake; good stability

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