



Donington – Free Practice & Qualifying Practice 1.
Friday, 24th May 2013.

Weather conditions: Rain showers and strong winds.

Temperature: Air: 8 – 9 °C, Track: 2 – 4 °C

Number of riders participating: 18 from 11 teams

Fastest lap Free Practice: Chaz Davies (BMW Motorrad GoldBet SBK Team) 1:53.943 min

Fastest lap Qualifying Practice 1: Tom Sykes (Kawasaki Racing Team) 1:30.278 min

Today's track action at British "Donington Park Circuit" was limited due to extremely difficult weather conditions. The fifth round of the 2013 FIM Superbike World Championship started with cold rainy weather as well as stormy winds which caused air and track temperatures of just a few degrees Celsius. Consequently, BMW Motorrad GoldBet SBK Team's factory riders Marco Melandri (ITA) and Chaz Davies (GBR) opted - like most of the riders - to just do as many laps as necessary and to spend the rest of the day in the garage. In this morning's wet and cold free practice, Chaz was one of only five riders who completed a timed lap, setting the fastest time while Marco stayed in the pits. For this afternoon's first qualifying practice, the weather improved slightly and the track dried. For 30 minutes, the action unfolded, before it started to rain again. Marco qualified for the provisional first row, finishing third on his BMW S 1000 RR. Chaz set the eighth fastest time.

Marco Melandri:

Fastest lap Free Practice: DNS /Fastest lap Qualifying Practice 1: 1:31.571 min (P3)

"I am quite happy with today, even if the weather conditions were really bad with the strong wind and many wet patches on the track, some of which you could hardly see in advance. I was quite fast without pushing hard. I hope that the weather will be better over the next few days as today the conditions were really at the limit. With such a strong wind it is very difficult to find the right point to start braking, this can vary by some metres. Overall I am confident that in the race we will be within the top group."

Chaz Davies:

Fastest lap Free Practice: 1:53.943 min (P1)/Fastest lap Qualifying Practice 1: 1:32.103 min (P8)

"Today the aim was just to ride around and to spend most of the time assessing the conditions. We did not do too many laps today, neither this morning when it was wet nor this afternoon when it was damp to dry. We just tried to get a basic feeling for what to expect from the bike for tomorrow. It seems not too bad; there are just a few things we need to work on regarding the power delivery. Now I am looking forward to ride in some stable and hopefully dry conditions in the next days. According to the forecast it will be dry tomorrow and on Sunday so that should give us a better chance to do some decent work on the bike tomorrow."

Serafino Foti (Sport Director BMW Motorrad GoldBet SBK Team):

"Nearly the whole day was wasted as apart from the rain, the temperatures were on the limit. All riders were affected by the low temperatures. They could not make use of the two sessions today as it was too risky. Only in the afternoon, in a short time when it stopped raining and the track started to dry, Marco and Chaz could go out to check if the bike worked properly. We hope that the weather conditions will be better over the next few days, as the forecast predicts. Or we hope that

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at least the temperatures will rise a little bit. Tomorrow we will continue the work which we could only start with today."

Andrea Dosoli (Technical Director BMW Motorrad GoldBet SBK Team):

"As we expected, we experienced very difficult weather conditions today. In the morning, the big issue was not the water but the low temperature. Chaz took the opportunity to shake down the bike after Monza, but it was difficult for him to get feedback from the tyres and the track. In the afternoon, the weather was still far from being perfect, but both riders made two runs to start working on a dry set up. As the track time was limited they just got the first impressions on the bike. Chaz started to work on the chassis and the electronics; he is looking for improvements regarding the power delivery. Marco had a good feeling with the bike and wants to improve the rear end of the bike. The lap times are far from where they should be. Now we hope for better weather conditions tomorrow to evaluate our potential on this track."

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