



Media Information
12 February 2020

BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy 2020 Oceania. Day 4. The (No) Rest Day.

Synopsis of Day 4.

Location: Pelorus Bridge, South Island, New Zealand

Weather: Sun, 29°C

Course: 204 km, Wainui, North Island to Pelorus Bridge, South Island

Terrain: Highway 204 km

Tests: SP9: '40 years of GS Quiz', SP10: 'GPS Challenge', SP11: 'Metzeler Challenge', SP12: 'Photo Contest 2'

Top three teams: 1. France 226, 2. South Africa 223, 3. Italy 211

Pelorus Bridge, New Zealand. Today's stage was something of a liaison as the 2020 BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy transitioned from the North Island to the South Island of New Zealand. The GS riders had interpreted this as a chance to rest and recharge their batteries, only with a 3:30 am call to breakfast – so as to catch the early inter-island ferry – they soon realised, like Int. GS Trophy riders before them, that there really is no rest in this competition until the finish.

Nonetheless, today was a great opportunity for the GS riders to share experiences, as with three hours on the ferry they had plenty of time for inter-team chats. Albeit that was after they had completed their first challenge of the day – the '40 years of GS Quiz' in which they were tested on their knowledge of this iconic motorcycle that has become so much more than just a brand. In fact it was a ferry ride in three parts: knowledge test, sleep and sight seeing, the latter coming as the ferry made its way down the spectacular Queen Charlotte Sound to the port of Picton.

In Picton the GS Trophy riders created a stir as all 140 F 850 GS motorcycles disembarked the ferry together, followed by the vast entourage of cars and trucks that support the event. Once out of Picton – which took all of two minutes, it's that small – the GS riders enjoyed a scenic ride through the Marlborough Sounds. Although this region is world famous for its wine production, the route followed the national park trail along the sounds and then up into the valleys before reaching the small town of Havelock (population: 486) where the GS riders gratefully stopped for a coffee break, or maybe for something cooler as the temperature was uncharacteristically hovering around a sweltering 30°C. From here it was a short ride to Pelorus Bridge where they found their campsite set deep in a forest, one which was again peppered with New Zealand natives such as totara, beech and rimu.



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Even the early afternoon finish was not an opportunity to rest as the GS riders found two more challenges waiting for them. First was the 'GPS Challenge' in which the teams took their BMW Motorrad Navigator VI GPS units and had to find their way – on foot – through the forest to find another Navigator VI unit from which they extracted data to be reported to the marshal at the end of the challenge. Warm work, running through the forest in the heat of the afternoon.

No sooner had they finished this, than the riders were shepherded to the 'Metzeler Challenge' where they needed to demonstrate their prowess with the tools, changing the rear wheel on their F 850 GS. Again, as this was against the clock the teams needed to have intimate knowledge of the wheel spacers, chain run and brake arrangement if they were to set a fast time.

So the event has reached its halfway point and while the competition is hotting up, particularly with the top three being so close on points, the going from here is set to get progressively more testing with big days ahead in the big country. It's going to be the strong and the skilled who'll prevail.

Finally, as if there could be any more to do, this evening the teams submitted their images for the second GS Trophy photo contest. Public voting for the photo competition will open at 00:00 (GMT+13 New Zealand time) on February 13 and remains open for 24 hours. Go to www.gstrophy.com for full details on how to vote.

Rider Quotes:

Jaap van Hoofwegen, Team Netherlands:

"We've had a great start to the competition. It's an amazing experience, meeting new people every day and riding through incredible scenery. This is the first Int. GS Trophy for the Netherlands and we were hoping to do well, so we're actually quite chuffed with how we are doing. Today we have had what's been described as something of a rest day, but we'd have to say setting your alarm for 3:30 am to pack your tent does not feel like resting! Anyway, we're looking forward to the second half of the competition where we expect the temperatures to get cooler – maybe! – the scenery to get bigger and the challenges tougher."



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Ronnie Lundberg, Team Nordic:

“This is our first Int. GS Trophy since 2010, so it’s great to be here. We are enjoying every second of it, it’s been great riding on the beaches and making friends from around the world. The scenery is amazing. On day one we said, ‘woah, this is the best scenery we’ve ever seen!’ but our marshal said ‘wait, it gets better’. And he was right, every day is more magnificent. And the bike, the F 850 GS, we love the bike – the suspension, the power, the way it’s so narrow, it’s great in the gravel, great on the road, across everything as GS stands for. It’s a sport bike, it’s an everything-you-want bike!”

Assada Porananond, Team Thailand

“I’m Team Thailand’s journalist. It’s been very exciting, my three guys are having a very unique experience. They’re also feeling exhausted, because of the change of temperature from day to night – they’re not used to the cold nights and mornings. Right now they are asleep on the top deck of the ferry, hopefully getting their energy back ready for what’s to come, which we understand will be more adventurous still! We love riding with the other teams, we are not the best with the English language but motorcycling – and the GS – is a common passion and that breaks down the barriers. And the SENA communications units have really helped us, we can talk all the time!”

BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy 2020 Oceania.

Day 4 overall standings:

- 1 France 226
- 2 South Africa 223
- 3 Italy 211
- 4 South Korea 199
- 5 Netherlands 189
- 6 Russia 188
- 7 Brazil 175
- 8 Middle East 170
- 9 USA 165
- 10 Australia 160
- 11 Latin America 158
- 12 Argentina 155
- 13 UK 139



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The event's excitement will also be relayed with much more information of a more informal kind via BMW Motorrad's social media sources:

BMW Motorrad Facebook www.facebook.com/bmwmotorrad

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YouTube www.youtube.com/bmwmotorrad

Instagram www.instagram.com/bmwmotorrad

“RIDE AND TALK – The BMW Motorrad Podcast”

Watch out for more information on the BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy 2020 – brought to you directly from New Zealand!

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The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 31 production and assembly facilities in 15 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2019, the BMW Group sold over 2,520,000 passenger vehicles and more than 175,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2018 was € 9.815 billion on revenues amounting to € 97.480 billion. As of 31 December 2018, the BMW Group had a workforce of 134,682 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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