

Ireland opens the 2004 World Trial Championship

ADAM RAGA, GEARED UP FOR ANOTHER WORLD TITLE

Recently proclaimed World Indoor Trial Champion, the GAS GAS rider starts off as the favourite for the final victory

Bangor (Ireland), March 25th, 2004. Adam Raga, rider with the 'Jordi Tarrés-GAS GAS' team and currently twice world indoor trial champion, aims, at the tender age of 21, to add to his now extensive record with another world crown, although he now has another difficulty in that his objective is centred on the world outdoor speciality, which is to begin on the 3rd and 4th of April in Bangor (Ireland).

After his brilliant taking of his second title of World Indoor Trial Champion in the trial contested last March 13th in Granada, Adam Raga is now unanimously recognised in the trial world as being in topmost form. In the recently concluded indoor season, the GAS GAS rider achieved 7 victories out of a possible 11 and in the four other rounds he finished in second position.

This excellent situation, along with the victory he achieved nearly two months ago in the first round of the national trial, which brought together almost the same rivals as in the world series, has given him the reputation of being the rider to look out for on all types of terrain. *'I'm just fine, both physically and psychologically. I'm very keen to attain victory in Ireland, but I'm even more keen on being a regular rider and having my options to the title open right until the end of the championship. This really must be my year and I'll be going for them all'*, stated an enthusiastic Adam Raga, whose chief rivals will be the British rider Doug Lampkin, who currently reigns as World Champion after a spectacular winning streak of 7 consecutive crowns, and the Japanese rider Takahisa Fujinami, recently proclaimed runner-up of the world indoor series — as he is in the outdoor series — and one of main attractions, among many other talented youngsters, of the trial competition.



Adam Raga (GG TXT 300)

The Spanish rider is setting out an escalating line in his path, which has brought him to this opening round of the world series in top form in terms of performance and adaptation to his special, much honoured GAS GAS, although he is well aware that reaching the final triumph is going to be very complicated as *'if any race can be considered as belonging to Lampkin, then it's the Ireland one. With such a following, beating him is not so simple. I also like winning in front of Spanish followers and I also feel more comfortable at home'*, says Raga.

The GAS GAS TXT 300, crafted for success

In a season made up of 9 rounds — though two of them are scoring rounds only on a single day



(Andorra/Sant Julià de Lòria and Spain/Puerto Pajares) — Adam will be riding a GG TXT 300, the same bike he used in the world indoor series, completely adapted to his physical conditions: *'This is a light but very powerful bike. I've been riding one for years, it's made to my taste and it works perfectly'*, he added. The young rider from Ulldecona (though resident in Rellinars, near Tarrés' house) wants to keep up his excellent season on the handlebars of one of the best-regarded motorcycles in the trial world. It's not for nothing that GAS GAS is the only team that currently musters three world championships: Jordi Tarrés (7 times), Marc Colomer (once) and Adam Raga himself (twice in the world indoor series and once as junior), who have consolidated the brand as a true School of Champions, a flag that the three fly in their world tours. With this in mind, Tarrés and Raga plus Colomer and Jeroni Fajardo are launching promising young people into stardom, riders who will one day end up relieving these two great figures of the Spanish and international trial.

Adam Raga–Jordi Tarrés, a perfect combination

Raga *'is now quite mature'*—believes the seven-times world champion-, and perhaps this Spanish takeover from the multi-champion Jordi Tarrés is about to come about through Adam. For five years, the rider from Ulldecona has ridden together with Tarrés, his teacher and mentor. For Jordi: *'Adam has his own style. He's like a sponge that soaks up everything very quickly, but then he applies his style, his way of doing things and his riding. He's stubborn with some things but, usually, whatever he does, he does very well'*. There's no doubt that Jordi Tarrés knows his rider back to front, and so can give more details on Adam's nature: *'It's quite clear that he's got the ability to fight for victory in every round. He has gained in experience, he's stronger psychologically, he makes fewer mistakes and he can deal with pressure without any problems. This will be a hard nut to crack for Lampkin and Fujinami, and even for the other riders who are going to do battle this year - there's a whole troop of very strong young riders appearing on the scene'*.

The official 'Jordi Tarrés–GAS GAS' team faces the 2004 world outdoor series with a great cast of riders under its wings. Another three riders join the now well-known Adam Raga, with whom the brand from Girona aspires to the very top for the end of the year: the experienced Marc Colomer (who will only participate in some world meetings with the GG TXT 280) and another two young riders, Jeroni Fajardo (GG TXT 280) and Jordi Pascuet (GG TXT 300). Colomer will be keeping his eyes on Fajardo to make the very most of his good work, regardless of whether or not he participates in the trial in question. The final objective is to turn this youngster into another potential Raga. *'I'm very excited about the beginning of this world series'*, says Fajardo. *'I did a pretty hard pre-season and I feel ready to be almost always among the top ten. Marc is helping me a lot and between him and Tarrés I've been lucky enough to learn from the two great figures that the Spanish trial have produced in its history. This really is a luxury'*, he states.

Apart from these names, GAS GAS has a host of riders who compete and win their respective national championships, as well as well-known riders who are also present in the world series of the speciality, such as the British rider Steve Colley (GG TXT 300) and the French rider Bruno Camozzi (GG TXT 280). Two of the riders who last season took both the championship and runner-up in the world junior series now also move on to the senior section: Shaun Morris and Tadeusz Blazusiak (both with GG TXT 280). And in this section, the brand has an unbeatable squadron: last season all the podiums of the world junior series were capitalised by GAS GAS riders. This year, in this category there will also be two Spanish riders, assisted by the brand: Dani Oliveras and Isaac Pons, both on the handlebars of their GG TXT 280.

The Bangor trial will start on Saturday April 3rd and will decide the first winner of a season that promises to be fiery and very exciting.

Calendar of the 2004 World Trial Championship

April 3rd and 4th	Bangor (Ireland)
April 17th and 18th	Gouveia (Portugal)
May 22nd and 23rd	Twin Ring Motegi (Japan)
June 5th and 6th	Duluth (United States)
June 19th and 20th	Valdeblore (France)
June 27th	Sant Julià de Lòria (Andorra) *
July 3rd and 4th	Aprica (Italy)
July 25th	Puerto Pajares (Spain) *
September 4th and 5th	Moutier (Switzerland)

** The Andorran trial will only be considered a scoring round for the world series on the Sunday as the Saturday will be given over to the Spanish Trial Championship. The Spanish meeting at Puerto Pajares will also count as a scoring round for the world series only on the Sunday, as the rounds for the European series will take place on the Saturday.*

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