

# VIVA TONI



Toni Bou  
(Montesa-ESP)

In an action-packed day in Germany the 2011 SPEA FIM Trial World Championship got under way with a well organised opening round filled with excitement and drama over the two laps. Fifteen sections had been set out around the town of Gefrees, giving the competition a good mixture of terrain to find an eventual winner. Heavy overnight rain affected the conditions although on the day it was sunny with a cool breeze, and enthusiastic spectators added to the excitement. In a high-scoring event it was once again Toni Bou the victor, making his intentions clear that he wants another title to add to his growing collection.

Words and Pictures: Jonny

**I**t was a nervous looking four-time outdoor champion Toni Bou who would open the proceedings with the riders' starting positions decided from last year's series – Bou had won and so would attempt the hazards first. He would take a two in section one followed by two five-mark penalties on sections two and three. On three he had a really 'hairy' moment when he looped the machine from the top of the section after a brave attempt, before regaining his composure to complete the lap for a total of 21 which included another

five on section twelve. On his second tour it would be his Japanese team-mate Takahisa Fujinami who would steal the show with a stunning lap of eight compared to Bou's eleven. Albert Cabestany would finish in a brilliant runner-up spot spoiling a Montesa team one-two to open the 2011 series for them. Bou's fellow countryman, Albert Cabestany, had a difficult start to the day when he suffered a machine problem with the Sherco that would cost him an hour of his allocated allowance, which certainly fired him into life as he came home in a strong



Takahisa Fujinami  
(Montesa-JPN)



Albert Cabestany (Sherco-ESP)



Jeroni Fajardo (Ossa-ESP)



Adam Raga (Gas Gas-ESP)



James Dabill (Beta-GBR)

second place after some very determined riding. The award for the rider of the day though must go to the 2004 World Champion "Fuji". Always on the attack and giving every hazard one hundred and ten per cent, his opening score of thirty-five left him well out of contention for a win but he came back on the second lap with a stunning score of eight, three better than Bou! Behind this leading trio it was the determined Adam Raga on the new replica Gas Gas. Despite looking very strong on the machine, four 'fives' on the opening lap told its own story but you can bet he will up his game to challenge for the top spot on the podium soon. He had become engaged in a fight with the pairing of Jeroni Fajardo and the Ossa. Making its outdoor world championship debut Fajardo stunned the hundreds of spectators at section three with a fantastic clean ride up the daunting steep climb between the trees in the heavily wooded hazard. Great Britain's James Dabill has moved firmly into the position as the country's number one trials rider after his dominance of the domestic series and went to Germany on the back of the Scottish Six Days Trial win. Despite looking confident the results tell a different story, but he knows that top five is very much where he wants to be and it's down to the "Dibsta" to deliver. Italian Matteo took a shock seventh place as the scores over the next few positions were very close. Michael Brown took a massive machine-wrecking five on section two, but after some good work with the tools he was back on course to take eighth place in front of Dougie Lampkin. Lampkin was still suffering the effects of his accident at the SSDT and it was a brave ride from him to gain as many points as possible despite riding in some discomfort. Jack Challoner was making his debut with the big boys and took a big crash on section fourteen with the machine bouncing off him on its way down the section; he recovered though to finish just in front of Britain's other rider in this class, Alexz Wigg.





Michael Brown (Gas Gas-GBR)



Alfredo Gomez (Montesa-ESP)



Jack Challoner (Beta-GBR)



Alexz Wigg (Sherco-GBR)



Jonathan Richardson (Sherco-GBR)

### Go Gomez

Young Spanish rider Alfredo Gomez on the Montesa finished last year's Junior series as runner-up, and it's something he does not want to repeat this year. Jack Challoner has moved up a class but it still remains very competitive with fellow Spaniards Frances Moret, Pere Borrellas and class newcomer Pol Tarres, who are all after the scalp of Gomez. He gains more experience every year of his young career and the ten point winning margin tells its own story. The bulk of the 63 rider entry is made up in the Junior and Youth categories, and for Britain's lone competitors Jonathan Richardson (Junior) and Jack Sheppard (Youth) they are very competitive classes to win. It was a frustrating day for Richardson as he so much wants to do well, but all the damage was done on the opening lap where a total of 44 was way off the pace.





Loris Gubian  
(Gas Gas-FRA)



Jack Sheppard  
(Beta-GBR)

On the second lap he parted with 28 to show he has the potential to progress further towards the front as the series progresses. For the Youth series 2010 vice World Champion Jack Sheppard it's a similar scenario to Gomez and he does not want to finish the same in 2011, but he came out of the blocks fighting, to take the win in the opening round convincingly from France's Cedric Tempier and Italian Giacomo Saleri. Young 'Shep' continues to learn at every round as he continues on the world championship trail chasing the ultimate goal, World Trials Champion, a crown held at the moment by Toni Bou. Who would like to bet on it going anywhere this season other than to the Montesa mounted man? I certainly wouldn't. ■

*All three class winners had convincing wins and it will take some spirited riding from their fellow competitors to attack them, but once again the SPEA FIM Trial World Championship has delivered with a superb opening round of the 2011 series.*

#### **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND 1, GERMANY**

**(World Pro)** 1: Toni Bou (Montesa-ESP) 32; 2: Albert Cabestany (Sherco-ESP) 42; 3: Takahisa Fujinami (Montesa-JPN) 43; 4: Adam Raga (Gas Gas-ESP) 50; 5: Jeroni Fajardo (Ossa-ESP) 58; 6: James Dabill (Beta-GBR) 85; 7: Matteo Grattarola (Gas Gas-ITA) 93; 8: Michael Brown (Gas Gas-GBR) 96; 9: Dougie Lampkin (Gas Gas-GBR) 97; 10: Loris Gubian (Gas Gas-FRA) 101; 11: Jack Challoner (Beta-GBR) 109; 13: Alexz Wigg (Sherco-GBR) 120.

**(Junior)** 1: Alfredo Gomez (Montesa-ESP) 37; 2: Francesc Moret (Montesa-ESP) 47; 3: Pere Borrellas (Gas Gas-ESP) 55; 4: Pol Tarres (Gas Gas-ESP) 56; 5: Benoit Dagnicourt (Beta-FRA) 70; 7: Jonathan Richardson (Sherco-GBR) 72.

**(Youth)** 1: Jack Sheppard (Beta-GBR) 31; 2: Cedric Tempier (Sherco-FRA) 45; 3: Giacomo Saleri (Beta-ITA) 51; 4: Eddie Karlsson (Gas Gas-SWE) 64; 5: Steven Coquelin (Gas Gas-FRA) 66.

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