



Imola – Free Practice & Qualifying Practice 1. Friday, 23 September 2011.

Weather conditions: Sunny.

Temperature: Air: 27 – 28 °C, Track: 33 – 38 °C

Number of riders participating: 22 from 14 teams

Fastest lap Free Practice: Carlos Checa (Althea Racing) 1:49.294 min

Fastest lap Qualifying Practice 1: Jonathan Rea (Castrol Honda) 1:48.241 min

Team BMW Motorrad Motorsport had a very good start to the eleventh round of the 2011 FIM Superbike World Championship at Imola (ITA). The team provisionally qualified for the front row. Factory rider, Leon Haslam (GBR) finished the first Qualifying practice on his BMW S 1000 RR in third position. His team mate Troy Corser (AUS) provisionally qualified 19th. Ayrton Badovini (ITA) and Xavier Fores (ESP) of the BMW Motorrad Italia SBK Team finished in 14th and 22nd respectively.

Leon Haslam:

Fastest lap Free Practice: 1:49.531 min (P2)/Fastest lap Qualifying Practice 1: 1:48.701 min (P3)

“I am really happy with the lap times. We did not use the soft tyre in qualifying and basically worked on race simulation. Our consistency is probably one of the best out there. I would say that this was one of the best starts we have had to a race weekend, so we are going to keep on pushing for tomorrow. Then it will all be about qualifying and choosing the right race tyre for Sunday. Today we have got some really good information and we will go on pushing in the same direction.”

Troy Corser:

Fastest lap Free Practice: 1:50.713 min (P15)/Fastest lap Qualifying Practice 1: 1:50.011 min (P19)

“In the Qualifying session in the afternoon we used a different chassis setting than in the morning practice. It took us some time to set it up. We are a little bit behind, but Leon is right there. So we can compare and see what is different with the bike. So I am confident for tomorrow. I hope it will be dry in the morning, and then we are going to move up in the classification.”

Rainer Bäumel (Head of Race Operations):

“Leon did a great job. He was riding on used race tyres for the whole qualifying session – and those were not the faster softer ones. That makes me confident that we are going to have a successful weekend. With Troy, we still have to fine tune the set-up of his RR a little bit. To do so we will analyse the data tonight and I am convinced that we can improve tomorrow.”

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