



Great Britain – Silverstone. Preview.

3rd – 5th August 2012
10th of 14 race weekends

Munich/Stephanskirchen, 30th July 2012. Two weeks after the historic success in the Czech city of Brno, the next challenge awaits Team BMW Motorrad Motorsport. This weekend (3rd to 5th August) sees the riders travel to iconic Silverstone (GBR) for the tenth round of the 2012 FIM Superbike World Championship. In Brno, the team and factory rider Marco Melandri (ITA) claimed a clean sweep for the first time, winning both races at the ninth round of the World Championship and propelling BMW to the top of the Manufacturers' Championship for the first time. Marco and team-mate Leon Haslam (GBR) scored 68 points for BMW Motorrad Motorsport – a new team record. As such, the team arrives in Silverstone with the wind in its sails and is looking to kick on from this success.

BMW leads the Manufacturers' Championship with 292 points, two more than its closest rival Aprilia. In the Riders' Championship, Marco currently lies second with 250.5 points. The Italian has already won five times this season – more than any other rider. Marco's two wins in Brno saw him close the gap to leader Max Biaggi (ITA) to 21 points. Leon is sixth on 160 points. Nine race weekends into the season, Marco and Leon have scored five wins, 13 podiums and three fastest laps for Team BMW Motorrad Motorsport.

Leon has been promoting his home race at Silverstone with a rather unique campaign. He allowed two-time body painting world champion Carolyn Roper to paint his BMW Motorrad Motorsport racing leathers onto the top part of his body and arms. Star photographer Gary Prior then captured the fascinating work of art during a photo shoot in one of the Silverstone garages. A time-lapse film was also taken of Leon being painted, which Silverstone is using to advertise the coming race weekend online.

Silverstone from the rider's point of view:

Marco Melandri:

"I am really looking forward to Silverstone. I like the track very much. It is one of the fastest and longest circuits of the season. You have a lot of fast corners, so you can adopt a flowing riding style. Last year I was on the podium there twice. It will certainly be not easy, as the track is very bumpy, but I am confident. I cannot wait to ride there with my RR.

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I am just trying to keep consistent, to think from race to race and to have fun riding. I hope that we will challenge for the podium again at Silverstone and we will try to get some more wins. However, it will certainly not be easy because all the English riders want to win

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there. Carlos Checa will also be pushing for the victory and Max Biaggi will be strong too, so it will be very exciting races.”

Leon Haslam:

“I am very positive about the weekend. Silverstone is synonymous with racing back in England, but it also means that we have left the two bogey circuits behind us. The last couple of rounds have been tough but I feel that we took important steps and can now get back to normal and to winning ways. There is no better place to do that than at my home race. Silverstone is very flowing and one of the fastest circuits in the calendar. It is very technical and has some real high-speed corners. That makes for good racing.

The body painting took three hours and was great fun. Carolyn painted my leathers on my skin and did a fantastic job. The attention to detail was incredible. It was the first time I had done a body painting and I was really surprised by how real and how good it looked.”

Silverstone from a technical point of view:

Andrea Dosoli (Head of Race Operations):

“The whole team is looking forward to Silverstone, a race track where both riders have performed well in the past. The British circuit, with its unique layout and a surface that used to be bumpy, could be a tough challenge for our team. You also have to consider the unpredictable weather. However, we are confident that both our riders will be fighting for the top positions and put on a great show for all the passionate spectators.

Marco is in fantastic form and has won the last three races. He and his crew will work hard to be fast from the first practice on. We are thinking from race to race, knowing that the competitors are very strong and ready to take any opportunity. Silverstone will be Leon’s home race and he knows the track better than any other riders. After what he has shown at the last two races on circuits where he had struggled in the past, we are convinced that the British track will be the right place for him to get back to challenging for the podium, which is where he deserves to be.”

Silverstone from Pirelli’s point of view:

For the tenth round of the World Superbike Championship, which will be the second round held on English soil, in addition to the ever present intermediate and wet solutions, Pirelli has decided to bring three different solutions for the riders to choose from on the front and just as many for the rear. On the front, besides the SC1 and SC2 range of solutions, there will also be the choice of the P1280, which is an SC1 development already used this year at Donington, Misano, Aragón and Brno. The three alternatives for the rear, on the other hand, fall into the SC1 area as compound type and are the same ones which were already used for the first English round at Donington.

These are the P1060 solution range which is joined by two developments, the by now familiar R302 which has become increasingly popular with the riders for various races this season, and the R551, a solution designed to prevent cold tearing which is typical in low

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temperatures. This solution was introduced and made its sole appearance during the weekend at Donington and Pirelli decided to bring it to Silverstone in the spirit of the development of future 16.5 inch tyres that the British Superbike Championship will continue to use next season.

Background:

The heart of British motorsport beats in the county of Northamptonshire. Situated between Northampton to the north and Oxford to the south is the sleepy little village of Silverstone. However, despite having just 2,000 residents, it still plays a central role in the history of international motorsport and has earned its byname of the “Home of British Motor Racing”. The first ever race of the Formula One World Championship was held in Silverstone in 1950. Nowadays, many racing teams and their suppliers are located close to the circuit. Silverstone is one of two home races in Great Britain for BMW Motorrad Motorsport factory rider Leon Haslam (GBR). His father Ron runs a racing driver school at the circuit.

The iconic circuit was built on the site of an RAF airfield after the Second World War. The first car race was held there in 1948, and the track has been the site of motor racing history ever since. The FIM Superbike World Championship first visited Silverstone between 2002 and 2007. After a two-year break, during which the circuit was the subject of extensive modifications, the series returned in 2010. It was during the break that the new “Silverstone Arena”, which is combined with parts of the old track, was built. This includes a stadium-style section, approaching 800 metres in length, the layout of which is specially designed to meet the requirements of motorcycles. At the same time, famous corners like “Maggotts”, “Becketts”, “Copse” and “Stowe” were retained. In May 2011, the imposing new pit complex – the “Silverstone Wing” – was opened between the “Club” and “Abbey” corners.

Silverstone is a very flat circuit. The engine power of the BMW S 1000 RR is hugely important on the long straights and in ultra-quick corners. However, it is also important to have a sensitive throttle response. The tyres are put under great strain on one side in a number of long corners. The modifications have also seen the addition of “stop-and-go” corners, giving Silverstone an interesting combination of fast, slow and technical corners. An added peril are the bumps lurking in several spots on the circuit.

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Facts and figures:

Circuit/Date	Silverstone / 05th August 2012
Start time Race 1 (local/CET)	12.00 hrs / 13.00 hrs
Start time Race 2 (local/CET)	15.30 hrs / 16.30 hrs
Lap/Race distance	5.902 km / 106.236 km (18 laps)
Corners	7 left-hand and 11 right-hand corners
Winners 2011	Race 1: Carlos Checa, Althea Racing, 38.06,477 min. Race 2: Carlos Checa, Althea Racing, 38.03,361 min.
Fastest race lap 2011	Max Biaggi, Aprilia Alitalia Racing Team, 2.05,525 min.
Data 2011:	Top speed: 293.7 km/h (Max Biaggi, race 1) Longest section at full throttle: 8.3 sec / 570 m Fastest corner: Ireland, 3rd gear, 183 km/h Maximum deceleration: 303 km/h – 113 km/h

Riders	Marco Melandri	Leon Haslam
Date of birth	07.08.1982	31.05.1983
Place of birth	Ravenna / Italy	London / Great Britain
Nationality	Italian	British
Residence	Ravenna /Italy	Smalley / Great Britain
Marital status	Engaged	Married
Height	1.66 m	1.73 m
Weight	60 kg	67 kg
WSBK debut	2011, Phillip Island (AUS)	2003, Brands Hatch (GBR)
Race starts	43	129
Pole positions	1	1
Wins	9	3
Podium finishes	23	28
Fastest race laps	6	3
Best World Championship placing	2nd (2011)	2nd (2010)
WSBK points 2012	250.5	160

Team BMW Motorrad Motorsport	
Founded	01.01.2009
Locations	Munich and Stephanskirchen (GER)
WSBK debut	2009, Phillip Island (AUS)
Race starts	97
Pole positions	1
Wins	5
Podium places	18
Fastest laps	4
WSBK placings	4th (2011), 311 points 6th (2010), 201 points 6th (2009), 141 points
WSBK points 2012	292 (Manufacturer) / 410.5 (Team)

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