



### **King thwarted but remains on top**

15<sup>th</sup> August 2005, London England; -

Litlington, UK Top Fuel Bike rider Ian King was thwarted in his attempts to put a greater margin of points between him and the chasing pack on the final leg of the Nordic tour.

Following his back to back wins in the British and Finnish rounds of the European Championship, King travelled to Sweden and Norway for the traditional events held over consecutive weekends with hopes of clinching the title early, but bad weather at both tracks resulted in an early end to competition, and little change in the relative positions of the leading riders.

King had bittersweet memories on his return to Mantorp Park, Sweden. As current holder of two European records set at the picturesque track in 2001, but also recipient of painful first degree burns after his bike exploded in flames in 2003, his first qualifying run on the track with a notoriously short braking area saw King click off very early at a comfortable 6.93 seconds @ 156.8 mph. The second session saw him improve to a 6.675 @ 187.157 – good enough for second qualifying position, but the third (and what turned out to be the final) qualifying session saw King improve slightly to a 6.640 sec @ 197.90 but drop to 3<sup>rd</sup> qualifying position.

Finals day saw King paired with Sweden's Mikael Andersson in the first round. A 0.070 to 0.196 reaction time was in Mikael's favour off the start line but King quickly caught and passed him, feathering the throttle towards the finish line before backing off early with a 6.848 @ 188.45 mph. This put King into a plum semi final against Roel Koedam, and a chance to extend his points lead with a win over the Dutchman lying second in the points. However, it was not to be as the weather took a turn for the worse and persistent rain delays saw the meeting end before the next round could be run due to environmental time curfews.

The following weekend's round at Amcar Raceway, Norway suffered even worse weather and only one day of qualifying. King ran a comfortable 6.53 @ 213.8 mph for 3<sup>rd</sup> position before the heavens opened for a full three days and the event director had no option but to curtail the meeting.

However, despite the opportunity for King to clinch the championship early had been lost, the relative points positions of the leading riders remained the same and King travels to Hockenheim, Germany for the penultimate round of the prestigious European championship with a commanding points lead.

King Racing's next event is the NitrOlympx at Hockenheim, Germany on the 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2005.

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Any companies or individuals who wish to be involved in the King Racing 2005 race effort can contact us at [admin@kingracing.com](mailto:admin@kingracing.com), by telephone on +44 (0) 7785 341099 or by fax on +44 (0) 1763 852707. Visit King Racing at [www.kingracing.com](http://www.kingracing.com)