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Portable Shade Shine in Finland



Following their record breaking appearance at the UK's Summernationals, the Portable Shade Top Fuel Bike of King Racing took the four day boat trip to the first leg of the European Championship's Nordic swing with the team in an optimistic mood.

Alastaro in Finland was the venue for the second round of the European Championship and it is one of the teams favourite tracks with it's onsite A La Carte restaurant / Karaoke bar and it's two traditional saunas, with the luxury of cold Finnish beer delivered by local maidens direct to the naked bathers...



Final Qualifying

#	Nimi / Name	Koti./Homet.	Aika / Time (secs)	Nopeus/Speed (km/h)
1	TFB 1 Ian King	United Kingdom	6.538	333.35
2	TFB 3 Rikard Gustafsson	Falkenberg, Sweden	6.742	366.59
3	TFB 37 Peter Anderson-Ström	Norrköping, Sweden	7.249	267.38
4	TFB 56 Mikko Rajaniemi	Ylivieska, Finland	7.590	286.02
5	TFB 67 Kai Selkämaa	Ylöjärvi, Finland	8.257	223.20
6	TFB 78 Otto Knebl	Czech Republic	8.348	258.32
7	TFB 45 Asko Määttä	Jyväskylä, Finland	9.434	209.54

Fresh from resetting both ends of his PB (6.313/221 mph) at the UK Championship round at Santa Pod three weeks prior to Alastaro, Ian King came into the Finnish round with a few clutch tweaks and tuning directions to try out. The Portable Shade Puma produced a nice 6.538/207.13 to head the qualifying sheets and then dropped into the 6.4s in the first two rounds of eliminations (a best of 6.446 was good enough to reset the track record and account for Mikko Rajaniemi's Funnybike) before facing off with Rikard Gustafsson in the final round of eliminations. A big holeshot from King and a consistent 6.470/215.88 vaulted King to second place in the early season points and bounce back from the somewhat abortive start to his defence of his 2007 UEM title at the Main Event. The consistency of King shone through in eliminations with every pass made on raceday within a tenth of a second.

1 King	(.510) 6.486	353.96
BYE		

King	(0.431) 6.446	346.59
Rajaniemi	(0.262) 34.309	75.73

4 Rajaniemi	(.623) 22.052	
5 Selkämaa	DNS	

King	(0.431) 6.470	347.42
Gustafsson	(0.339) 7.678	202.54

2 Gustafsson	(.406) 8.521	239.96
7 Määttä	(.381) 10.369	239.76

Gustafsson	(0.120) 6.603	377.18
Anderson-St.	(0.169) 7.295	304.09

3 Anderson-St.	(.254) 7.515	258.96
6 Knebl	(.217) 8.768	246.57

One of the unique celebrations at the Finland events is the customary 'dunking' of event winners in an ice cold bucket of water. Despite explicit team orders from rider Ian King not to celebrate local custom they clearly did not extend to the Norwegian Olstad team who decided to ensure King enjoyed the fringe benefits of winning an event so close to the Arctic Circle....



The team rely on only the best parts and services from leading companies in their chosen markets :-

[Portable Shade](#) – The world's premier awning and modular exhibition product company

[JE Pistons](#) - The world's premier manufacturer of high performance forged pistons

[Kibblewhite Precision Machining, Inc.](#) - The highest quality valves and components for motorsport.

[Swecomposite](#) - The leading supplier of carbon fiber parts to the racing, performance and custom markets.

[Craft Safety Helmets](#) - The ultimate in safety and unique in design.

[Del West Engineering, Inc.](#) -Pioneers in valve train design.

[Torco Oils](#) – The only oil recommended by engine manufacturers Puma Engineering.

[Goedhals](#) – Precision specialist gear cutting and engineering.

[Mickey Thompson Tyres](#) – The best drag race tyres in the world bar none.

[Goodridge UK](#) – The original and the best in fluid transfer systems.

[Gates](#) – The world's most trusted name in drive belts, hoses and hydraulics.

[Vanson Leathers](#) - 30 years producing the best quality track tested motorcycle apparel.

[Performance Machine](#) – The leader in after market custom wheels, brakes and components.

[Kent Cams](#) - Specialists in motor sport camshaft manufacture, short runs and one -off's.

[Pro Alloy](#) – UK's leader in fabrication of alloy racing tanks, intercoolers and radiators.

[PsycheWorkz](#) – The UK's best custom and race fabricators and innovators.

[House of Kolor](#) – Manufacturers of the world's most stunning specialist paints.

[Cannon Engineering](#) - Gear cutting and precision engineering services.

[Zodiac](#) – Europe's largest supplier of performance and aftermarket HD parts.

[Pixeleye](#) – Innovative graphic and website design

[MRE](#) – Leaders in trackside support for drag race components and air shifting systems

[Customize](#) – Premier sign makers and vinyl sign and design services

[Turboville](#) – Your one stop dragracing resource

NitroShutter – The combined efforts of ace photojournalists Ivan Sansom and Rose Hughes

Wackylshack – Creators of stunning paintwork and murals.

Pictures courtesy of Ivan Sansom

The Portable Shade Top Fuel Bike will to compete at the following events in 2008: -

24th – 27th July, Mantorp Park, Sweden
1st – 3rd August, Gardermoen, Norway
14th – 17th August, Hockenheim, Germany
4th – 7th September, Santa Pod, England

Follow the team's progress on Eurodragster's live event coverage at www.eurodragster.com