

GT29/03

1st day of the Trial of Italy**RAGA (GAS GAS), FOURTH AGAIN**

Sestriere (Italy), 12 July 2003.~ The works GAS GAS rider Adam Raga has managed to finish in the fourth place on the first day of the Trial of Italy, the seventh round of the World Trial Championship, which took place today at the Sestriere ski resort. One of the most remarkable aspects of this trial were the 15,000 people attending the event, which made it the most crowded World Trial Championship round so far this year. GAS GAS took the chance to organise a *hospitality* staging the presentation of the TXT Pro 280 Raga ,03 limited series ^ a replica of the motorbike that Raga used to win the World Indoor Trial Championship this year ^ and a new version of the Enducross models.

Adam Raga just missed the podium again, although he keeps adding valuable points which allow him to stay in the sixth provisional place in the championship standings, with no options to fight for the title due to the unusual start of the season. Raga,s team partner Marc Colomer came home in the seventh place.

In the Junior class the GAS GAS men continue to dominate. Today the winner was Jérôme Bethune, shouldered by Shaun Morris and Tadeusz Blazusiak. Another GAS GAS rider, Mika Vesterinen, was fourth. The championship lead stays in the hands of Morris, with Blazusiak second and today,s winner, Bethune, completing the provisional top three. The Catalan rider Isaac Pons, who already made his successful debut at the commands of a GAS GAS in the European Championship, started his participation in the World Trial Championship with a sixth place in the Junior class.

The second day of the Trial of Italy, the most important round of the high mountain events this year, will take place tomorrow. Like today, the sections will be located over 2,000 metres high, which will demand great performances both from the riders and the machines.

Trial of Italy 1st day standings

1 - Dougie Lampkin (Montesa)	6 (6+0)
2 - Takahisa Fujinami (Honda)	24 (10+14)
3 - Marc Freixa (Montesa)	28 (9+19)
4 - Adam Raga (GAS GAS)	37 (20+17)
7 - Marc Colomer (GAS GAS)	47 (20+26)

Provisional World Championship standings after the 1st day of the Trial of Italy

1 - Dougie Lampkin (Montesa)	222 points
2 - Takahisa Fujinami (Honda)	211 points
3 - Marc Freixa (Montesa)	189 points
4 - Graham Jarvis (Sherco)	155 points
5 - Kenichi Kuroyama (Beta)	124 points
6 - Adam Raga (GAS GAS)	123 points

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