

## MotoGP facts & figures

■ Both **Honda** and **Yamaha** have won 3 races in the premier-class at **Valencia**, with **Suzuki** and **Ducati** each having had a single victory

■ Last year's MotoGP race at Valencia was the first ever 1-2 for **Ducati**.

■ **Casey Stoner** scored his first ever GP victory at Valencia, in the 125cc class in 2003 riding an Aprilia.



■ **Valentino Rossi** has had 2 victories at the Ricardo Tormo circuit, in 2003 on a Honda and in 2004 riding a Yamaha. If Rossi finishes in the top three in Valencia he will become the first rider to reach the milestone of 100 podium finishes in the premier-class.

■ **Dani Pedrosa** won the 125cc race in Valencia in 2002 and the 250cc race in both 2004 and 2005. A victory in Valencia for Pedrosa would make him the first rider to have won in all three classes at the Ricardo Tormo circuit.

■ **Marco Melandri** won the 250cc GP at Valencia in 2002 and the MotoGP race in 2005. Last year he finished 5th after qualifying down in 12th place on the grid.

■ **John Hopkins** has not had a top ten finish in his 5 visits to Valencia, his best result is 11th which he achieved in 2002 riding the 2-stroke Yamaha and again last year riding for Suzuki.

■ **Chris Vermeulen** did not finish last year in Valencia after running off the track due to gear selection problems. This is the only time in the last 30 MotoGP races that Vermeulen has failed to reach the chequered flag.

■ **Loris Capirossi** has twice finished on the podium here in the last 4 years riding for Ducati; 3rd place in 2003 and 2nd last year.

## History of Valencia Grand Prix

This is the ninth visit to the circuit of Valencia for a Grand Prix event. At the previous 8 visits there have been many close races and several unexpected winners. Below is a resume of the races that have taken place at the Ricardo Tormo circuit:

**1999** – French rider Regis Laconi took his first Grand Prix victory in a wet 500cc race on the first visit to the Ricardo Tormo circuit. Factory Honda rider Tohru Ukawa won the 250cc race, while in the 125s there was a first ever victory for Gianluigi Scalvini.

**2000** – Victory in the 500cc race went once again to the Red Bull Yamaha squad – this time the rider was Garry McCoy taking his third win of that year. The 250cc race was won by Shinya Nakano from his Yamaha team-mate Olivier Jacque while the 125s belonged to Roberto Locatelli on his way to the world title.

**2001** – Sete Gibernau riding a Suzuki scored his first ever Grand Prix victory in a damp 500cc race. Daijiro Kato won on his way to the 250cc world title and Manuel Poggiali triumphed in one of the closest 125cc races of all-time with just 2.078 seconds covering the top ten riders across the line.

**2002** – Alex Barros won the first race of the MotoGP era to be held at the Valencia circuit after a long battle with Valentino Rossi and with less than a quarter of a second separating them at the chequered flag. Marco Melandri continued his domination of the 250cc class with his ninth win of 2002 and 17 year old Dani Pedrosa took his first win on home soil in the 125cc class.

**2003** – Valentino Rossi gains his first win at the Ricardo Tormo circuit on his last ride on the factory Honda MotoGP bike. Randy de Puniet won the 250cc race by less than a tenth of a second from Toni Elias. Eighteen year old Casey Stoner scored his first ever race win in the 125cc class riding an Aprilia.

**2004** – Valentino Rossi repeated his victory of the previous year – but this time riding a Yamaha. The home crowd had lots to cheer in the smaller classes with Dani Pedrosa winning the 250cc race from fellow Spaniard Toni Elias and Hector Barbera taking the victory in the 125cc class.

**2005** – Marco Melandri won the MotoGP race by less than one tenth of a second from Nicky Hayden. Valentino Rossi provided lots of entertainment by coming through to finish third after qualifying down in fifteenth place on the grid. Dani Pedrosa repeated his victory of the previous year in his last race in the 250cc class. Mika Kallio won the 125cc race but lost out on the world title by just five points to Thomas Luthi.

**2006** – Troy Bayliss, standing in for the injured Sete Gibernau, won the MotoGP race in front of Ducati team-mate Loris Capirossi in a first ever one-two for the Ducati factory. Nicky Hayden filled the final podium place to become the last world champion of the 990cc era after Valentino Rossi had crashed and rejoined the race on lap five. Alex de Angelis took his first GP victory in the 250cc race and current 125cc title contender Hector Faubel won the 125cc sprint.

## 100 for MotoGP

Valencia will see the 100<sup>th</sup> race since the start of the MotoGP era. In the first year of the MotoGP formula in 2002 several teams still competed with two-stroke machines and in the first race of 2002 9 four-stroke machines were on the grid alongside 12 two-strokes. By the start of 2003 the grid comprised almost entirely of four-stroke machines.

MotoGP RACE N.	COUNTRY/YEAR/CIRCUIT	COMMENTS
1	Japan/2002/Suzuka	The first MotoGP race resulted in 3 different manufacturers having a four-stroke bike on the podium with Valentino Rossi (Honda) winning from Akira Ryo (Suzuki) and Carlos Checa (Yamaha). Ryo is the only rider in the MotoGP era so far to finish on the podium using Dunlop tyres.
5	Italy/2002/Mugello	In practice for the Italian Grand Prix, Regis Laconi riding an Aprilia became the first MotoGP rider to record a speed of more than 200 mph.
10	Czech/2002/Brno	Max Biaggi riding a Yamaha became the first non-Honda winner in the MotoGP era.
12	Rio/2002/Jacarepagua	Valentino Rossi wins in Brazil to take the first MotoGP title with 4 races of the season remaining
13	Pacific/2002/Motegi	Alex Barros wins the race on his first appearance on the Honda MotoGP machine. Loris Capirossi finishes 3rd and is the last rider to finish on the podium in MotoGP riding a two-stroke machine. Kawasaki debut their MotoGP machine ridden by Akira Yanagawa.
15	Australia/2002/Phillip Island	Jeremy McWilliams starts from pole on his Proton KR machine – the last ever pole for a two-stroke in the MotoGP class.

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Ricardo Tormo

■ **Colin Edwards** was 9th last year in Valencia after three successive 8th place finishes on his previous visits to the Ricardo Tormo circuit.

■ **Nicky Hayden** has finished on the podium for the last two years at Valencia having crashed on his previous two visits to the circuit.

■ **Alex Barros** has twice finished on the podium in Valencia including a victory in 2002 on only his fourth appearance on the four-stroke Honda RC211V.

■ **Randy de Puniet's** current points total of 101 is the highest ever achieved by a Kawasaki rider in the MotoGP class.

■ **Toni Elias** has had 3 podiums at Valencia in the smaller classes; in the 125cc class in 2001 and in the 250cc class in both 2003 and 2004.

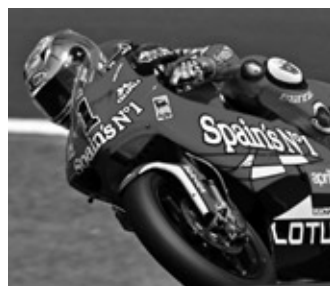
■ **Makoto Tamada** will be celebrating his 31<sup>st</sup> birthday on race day in Valencia.

■ If **Chaz Davies** does not finish in the top 15 in Valencia it will be the first time since the Grand Prix series started in 1949 that there has been a full season without a British rider scoring points in the premier-class.

### 250cc facts & figures

■ **Honda** have taken 4 victories in the 250cc class at the Valencia circuit, **Aprilia** 3 and **Yamaha** one.

■ If **Jorge Lorenzo** finishes either 1st or 2nd in Valencia he will set a new record for most points scored in a single season in the 250cc class. The current record is 322 points achieved by Daijiro Kato in 2001. Valencia is one of just 5 circuits currently in use for the two smaller championship classes where Lorenzo has not had a Grand Prix victory; the others being Istanbul Park, Sachsenring, Estoril and Motegi.



17	Japan/2003/Suzuka	Daijiro Kato suffers fatal injuries after crashing on the third lap. Ducati debut their MotoGP machine in the hands of Loris Capirossi and finish the race in 3rd.
19	Spain/2003/Jerez	Loris Capirossi gives Ducati their first ever pole in the premier-class, qualifying just 0.01 seconds in front of team-mate Troy Bayliss
22	Catalunya/2003/Barcelona	Ducati take their first ever victory in the premier-class in the hands of Loris Capirossi.
26	Czech/2003/Brno	Britain's Chris Burns becomes the last ever rider to race a two-stroke machine in the MotoGP class.
30	Malaysia/2003/Sepang	Valentino Rossi wins the race to take the title once again with races to spare.
32	Valencia/2003/Ricardo Tormo	Valentino Rossi wins for the first time in Valencia on his final appearance for Honda.
33	South Africa/2004/Welkom	Riding for Yamaha Rossi becomes the first rider to take back-to-back premier-class victories riding bikes from two different manufacturers. Also sets a new record of 23 successive podium finishes.
36	Italy/2004/Mugello	Rain reduces the race to 6 laps – the shortest ever Grand Prix race. Alex Barros riding a Honda clocks a speed of 343 km/h – the fastest speed ever recorded in a MotoGP race.
39	Rio/2004/Jacarepagua	Makoto Tamada becomes the first rider to win a MotoGP race using Bridgestone tyres.
44	Japan/2004/Motegi	Shinya Nakano gives Kawasaki their first ever MotoGP podium.
47	Australia/2004/Phillip Island	Valentino Rossi takes a narrow win in Australia from great rival Sete Gibernau, to become only the second rider (after Eddie Lawson) to take back-to-back premier-class titles on bikes from different manufacturers
50	Portugal/2005/Estoril	Alex Barros wins in Portugal after being fastest in every practice and qualifying session. This victory gives Barros the record for the longest winning career in the premier-class.
51	China/2005/Shanghai	The first Grand Prix to be held in China is won by Valentino Rossi in soaking wet conditions from Olivier Jacque on a Kawasaki.
56	USA/2005/Laguna Seca	Grand Prix racing returns to the US after a gap of ten years resulting in a first win for Nicky Hayden at his home GP.
61	Malaysia/2005/Sepang	Loris Capirossi wins the race with Carlos Checa 3rd – the first time that Ducati have two riders on a MotoGP podium. Valentino Rossi's second place was enough for him to clinch the MotoGP title once again.
66	Spain/2006/Jerez	Loris Capirossi takes the win at the opening race of 2006 to lead the championship for the first time. This is the first occasion in the MotoGP era that Rossi failed to win the opening race of the year. Dani Pedrosa becomes the first rider to finish on the podium on his debut in the premier-class since Biaggi and Haga at Suzuka in 1998.
67	Qatar/2006/Losail	Casey Stoner starts from pole in only his second appearance on a MotoGP machine
69	China/2006/Shanghai	Dani Pedrosa wins on only his fourth start in the MotoGP class to become the youngest rider to win in all three GP classes.
73	Dutch TT/2006/Assen	Nicky Hayden wins the Dutch TT to give Honda their 200th victory in the premier-class.
81	Portugal/2006/Estoril	Toni Elias wins in Portugal by just 0.002 seconds to equal the closest ever recorded finish.
82	Valencia/2006/Ricardo Tormo	In one of the most dramatic finales ever Nicky Hayden wins the title after Valentino Rossi crashes early in the race. Troy Bayliss becomes the first wild-card or replacement rider to win a MotoGP race.
83	Qatar/2007/Losail	Casey Stoner takes his first victory at the opening race of the year for the new 800cc machines. This gives Stoner the honour of being the first Australian to win in all three Grand Prix classes.
87	France/2007/Le Mans	Chris Vermeulen gives Suzuki their first victory in the MotoGP era.
95	San Marino/2007/Misano	Casey Stoner becomes the first rider of the MotoGP era to have had start-to-finish victories in 3 successive races.
97	Japan/2007/Motegi	Loris Capirossi wins the race to extend his winning career in Grand Prix racing to more than 17 years. Casey Stoner finishes 6th to become the first rider to win the MotoGP title riding a Ducati.
99	Malaysia/2007/Sepang	For the first time ever in the premier-class every rider who started the race finished on the same lap as the race winner.
100	Valencia/2007/Ricardo Tormo	??

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■ Valencia is one of just 3 circuits that **Andrea Dovizioso** has not finished on the podium during his three years in the 250cc class, the others being Sachsenring and Misano.

■ Last year's victory in the 250cc race by **Alex de Angelis** was his first Grand Prix win.

■ **Roberto Locatelli's** 2nd place last year in Valencia was his best result of 2006.

■ **Hector Barbera**, who won the 125cc race at Valencia in 2004, will be celebrating his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on the first day of qualifying in Valencia.

■ **Hiroshi Aoyama** qualified on pole last year in Valencia – the first ever in the 250cc class for the KTM. He failed to finish the race after crashing on lap 21 while battling for the lead.

## 125cc facts & figures

■ **Aprilia** is the most successful manufacturer in the 125cc class at Valencia with 5 victories. **Gilera**, **Honda** and **KTM** have had one victory each.

■ **Gabor Talmacsi** will be aiming to be the first ever Hungarian rider to win a world title since the Grand Prix series started back in 1949. Talmacsi finished 2nd to then-KTM team-mate **Mika Kallio** at Valencia in 2005.



■ **Hector Faubel** took one of his two victories of 2006 at Valencia. Faubel has reached the podium on each of the last 9 occasions he has finished.

■ **Sergio Gadea**, who was 3rd in Valencia last year, took his only pole in Grand Prix racing at the Valencia Grand Prix in 2005 and then crashed out while leading the race on lap 19.

■ If **Bradley Smith** maintains his current position in the final championship table he will be the first British rider since **Clive Horton** in 1978 to finish in the top ten of the 125cc world championship classification.

## Casey Stoner moves above Wayne Rainey

Having now had 10 MotoGP victories from his 33 starts, Casey Stoner has achieved a win rate that places him 5th in the following list of riders from the “modern era” of Grand Prix racing (since 1975), above three times world champion Wayne Rainey. A victory in Valencia would move him up another place in this list above Freddie Spencer. This list is still headed by Valentino Rossi, although this season his career win rate has fallen below 50%.

CAREER WINNING PERCENTAGE IN MotoGP/500cc CLASS			
Rider	starts	wins	winning %
1. Valentino Rossi	131	62	47.3
2. Mick Doohan	137	54	39.4
3. Kenny Roberts (Snr)	58	22	37.9
4. Freddie Spencer	62	20	32.3
5. Casey Stoner	33	10	30.3
6. Wayne Rainey	83	24	28.9
7. Eddie Lawson	127	31	24.4
8. Kevin Schwantz	104	25	24.0
9. Barry Sheene	98	19	19.4
10. Wayne Gardner	102	18	17.6

## Ducati set to equal record of MV Agusta

Casey Stoner's victory in Malaysia was the 11th win of the year for Ducati. As shown in the following list only 3 other manufacturers have had 11 wins or more in the premier-class in a single season; Honda, MV Agusta and Yamaha. Another triumph for Ducati in Valencia will match the best year of MV Agusta of 1972. Only Honda have had more than 12 premier-class wins in a single season.

### MOST VICTORIES IN THE PREMIER-CLASS IN ONE SEASON BY MANUFACTURER

15	Honda x 2 – 1997 & 2003
14	Honda – 2002
13	Honda x 2 – 1996 and 1998
12	Honda – 2001
	MV-Agusta – 1972
11	MV-Agusta – 1970
	Yamaha – 2005
	<b>Ducati – 2007</b>

## Showdown for 125cc title in Valencia

After 16 races the 125cc title battle goes to the final event of the year with just 10 points separating championship leader **Gabor Talmacsi** and second place rider **Hector Faubel**. Any of the following scenarios would give Talmacsi the title:

- If Faubel wins the race then Talmacsi needs to finish in 2nd or 3rd.
- If Faubel finishes 2nd then Talmacsi needs to finish no lower than 5th.
- If Faubel finishes 3rd then Talmacsi needs to finish no lower than 9th.
- If Faubel finishes 4th then Talmacsi needs to finish no lower than 12th.
- If Faubel finishes 5th then Talmacsi needs to finish no lower than 14th.
- If Faubel finishes 6th then Talmacsi needs to score just a single point.
- If Faubel finishes lower than 6th then Talmacsi will become the champion irrespective of where he finishes.

Since the scoring system was changed in 1977 (all races counted towards the championship) there have been 11 previous final race title-deciders. Only twice in this 30 year period has a rider, who trailing on points arriving at the final race of the year, gone on to take the title – in 1985 and 1990.

**1985** – Pierpaolo Bianchi (MBA) led fellow Italian Fausto Gresini (Garelli) by just 5 points going to the final race of the year at Misano. Gresini led from lap two leaving Bianchi to battle for the second place finish he needed to take the title. Bianchi's title hopes evaporated on lap 23 when his engine failed and Gresini went on to win the race and the crown.

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**1986** – Fausto Gresini went to Hockenheim for the final race for the second successive year with a chance of the title; this time he had 11 points to make up on fellow Italian and Garelli team mate Luca Cadalora. The race was a typical close 125cc battle with Gresini finally coming out on top but Cadalora won the championship by following him home in second place.

**1989** – Alex Criville (Cobas) had an 11 point advantage over Dutch rider Hans Spaan (Honda) when they arrived at Brno for the final race of the year. Even though he only needed to finish 6th to take the title Criville qualified on pole and won to become the youngest ever world champion at just 19 years old.

**1990** – Three Honda riders arrived at the final race of 1989 in Australia with a chance of taking the world title; Stefan Prein had a 7 point advantage over Loris Capirossi with Hans Spann a further 2 points adrift in third place. Prein retired with mechanical problems on lap seven leaving Capirossi and Spaan to battle out for the title. Capirossi finally came out on top to win the race with Spaan finishing in fourth place. In doing so Capirossi took the honour from Criville of being the youngest ever world champion – a record he still holds.

**1992** – Four riders went to the final race of the year in South Africa with a chance of winning the title; Alessandro Gramigni, Fausto Gresini, Ralf Waldmann and Ezio Gianola. Gramigni finished ahead of all of his rivals to become the first Aprilia rider to win a world championship.

**1993** – Dirk Raudies arrived at the final race with a 22 point lead over great rival and fellow Honda rider, Kazuto Sakata. Raudies rode a controlled race to finish in 8th place, after leading in the early stages, to become world champion.

**1996** – Haruchika Aoki riding a Honda won his second world title by finishing 2nd at the final race of the year at Eastern Creek, one place in front of his rival Masaki Tokudome.

**1999** – Emilio Alzamora had a 6 point advantage over Marco Melandri going to the final race of 1999 in Argentina. Melandri did all he could by winning the race but Alzamora finished 2nd, to become world champion by a single point without having won a race during the 1999 season.

**2001** – Manuel Poggiali (Gilera) had a 23 point lead over Youichi Ui (Derbi) arriving in Rio for the final race of the year. Ui won the race but Poggiali took the world title with a comfortable 5th place finish.

**2002** – Again Poggiali had a chance of the title at the final race of the year but this time he stared at an eight point deficit to Arnaud Vincent (Aprilia). Vincent finished 2nd to become the first French rider to win the 125cc world title.

**2005** – Arriving in Valencia for the final race of the year Mika Kallio (KTM) needed to win the race to take the title with Thomas Luthi finishing lower than 13<sup>th</sup>. Although Kallio did pass the chequered flag first, Honda rider Luthi claimed the title by cruising home for a 9th place finish.

## MotoGP racing numbers

**2889** – Loris Capirossi's total haul of Grand Prix points following the Malaysian race. Only 2 riders have scored more points in Grand Prix racing – Valentino Rossi with 3347 and Max Biaggi with 2892. If Capirossi finishes 12th or better in Valencia, he would move above Biaggi.

**395** – The record number of points achieved in the MotoGP class Constructors championship by Honda in 2003. A victory for any of the Ducati riders in Valencia will take Ducati's score in this year's championship up to a new record of 399.

**385** – Aprilia's current total points in the 125cc constructors title is a new record, surpassing the previous highest score of 373 they made last year.

**347** – Casey Stoner's current points total. Only Valentino Rossi has scored more points in a single season. A 2nd place finish in Valencia will see Stoner equal the record 367 points Rossi scored during the 2005 season.

**192** – Carlos Checa, who will be racing in World Superbikes next year, will be making his 192<sup>nd</sup> start in the premier-class at Valencia. Only Alex Barros has started more premier-class Grand Prix races.

**100** – 3 riders are scheduled to make their 100<sup>th</sup> appearance in the MotoGP class at the Grand Prix of Valencia, having competed in every race since the four-stroke MotoGP formula was introduced at the start of 2002; Carlos Checa, Valentino Rossi and Shinya Nakano.

**24** – Aprilia have had 24 Grand Prix victories so far in 2007 (11 x 250cc, 13 x 125cc) with 3 races still to contend. This is the highest number of wins ever achieved by Aprilia in a single season exceeding the previous best year of 23 wins in 2003.

**17** – Casey Stoner's victory in Malaysia was his 17<sup>th</sup> point-scoring finish of the year equalling the record for the number in a single season set by Colin Edwards in 2005.

**13** – With the Valencia race still to come, Aprilia have already equalled the record for the number of wins in the 125cc class in a single season set by Honda in 1993.

**10** – Casey Stoner's victory in Malaysia was his 10th of the year. A win in Valencia and he will equal the achievements of Valentino Rossi and Giacomo Agostini who have both taken 11 premier-class victories in a single season. The record of 12 wins in a season by Mick Doohan in 1997 is safe for at least one more year.

**9** – Jorge Lorenzo has taken 9 victories in 2007, the same number of wins achieved by Biaggi, Rossi and Melandri in their most successful years in the 250cc class. A victory at Valencia and Lorenzo will equal the achievements of Mike Hailwood and Anton Mang who have both taken 10 250cc victories in a single season. The record of 11 250cc wins in a season by Daijro Kato will remain at least for one more year.