

## MotoGP facts & figures

■ **Honda** have taken eight victories in the premier-class at Phillip Island. The only three non-Honda wins were by **Yamaha**; in 2000 with Max Biaggi and the last two years with Rossi. **Suzuki's** best ever finish at Phillip Island was fifth place by Niall Mackenzie back in 1990.

■ If **Valentino Rossi** wins in Australia, then Phillip Island will become the first circuit at which he will have scored six victories in the premier-class.

■ Phillip Island is one of only two circuits at which **Nicky Hayden** had finished on the podium twice before the start of this year. The Australian race last year was the last time that Hayden has started from pole position.

■ **Loris Capirossi**, who won the 125cc GP at Phillip Island back in 1990, has also had four podium finishes in the premier-class at the circuit. Capirossi did not compete in Australia last year after suffering from internal bleeding from a crash in the first free practice session. If Capirossi finishes in ninth place or higher he will have achieved the highest ever points total in a season by a Ducati rider, a record he currently holds from 2003.

■ **Dani Pedrosa's** victory last year in Australia was his first podium finish at the Phillip Island circuit. Pedrosa has been the top scoring rider in the premier-class over the last six races, having finished on the podium five times and scoring 106 points to Rossi's 98 points and Hayden's 95.



■ **Marco Melandri's** fourth place at the Australian GP last year was the first time he had finished a race at Phillip Island since moving to the premier-class, having retired from the race feeling unwell in 2004 and crashed out in 2003. Melandri has had two wins at Phillip Island in the smaller categories; in the 125cc class in 1999 and the 250cc class in 2002. If Melandri wins this year he will become the first rider to have won in all three classes at the Phillip Island circuit.

## Valentino Rossi levels with Giacomo Agostini

**V**alentino Rossi's victory in Malaysia was his 88th appearance on the podium in the premier-class from 110 starts. This is the same number of podiums that the legendary Giacomo Agostini achieved during his Grand Prix career, in which he made 119 starts in the premier-class and won eight world championship titles. As shown in the following table, only Mick Doohan has finished in the top three more times than Agostini and Rossi, with 95 appearances from 137 starts.

Loris Capirossi's second place finish in Malaysia was his 35th appearance on the podium in the premier-class, one more than double 500cc world champions Phil Read. Of the riders in the list who have not won the premier-class title, only Max Biaggi and Randy Mamola have finished on the podium more frequently than Capirossi.

PODIUM FINISHES IN THE PREMIER-CLASS OF GP RACING

RIDER	TOTAL PODIUM FINISHES	WINS	SECOND PLACE FINISHES	THIRD PLACE FINISHES
1 Mick Doohan	95	54	31	10
2 Giacomo Agostini	88	68	20	0
3 Valentino Rossi	88	58	20	10
4 Eddie Lawson	78	31	31	16
5 Wayne Rainey	64	24	22	18
6 Max Biaggi	58	13	26	19
7 Randy Mamola	54	13	22	19
8 Wayne Gardner	52	18	20	14
9 Kevin Schwantz	51	25	13	13
10 Alex Criville	51	15	16	20
11 Mike Hailwood	48	37	9	2
12 Barry Sheene	40	19	10	11
13 Kenny Roberts Snr.	39	22	12	5
14 Loris Capirossi	35	7	11	17
15 Phil Read	34	11	13	10
16 Geoff Duke	32	22	5	5
17 Freddie Spencer	31	20	9	2
18 Alex Barros	31	7	11	13
19 Sete Gibernau	30	9	14	7
20 Luca Cadalora	24	8	9	7
21 Jack Findlay	24	3	9	12
22 John Surtees	24	22	2	0
23 Carlos Checa	24	2	14	8



## Dani Pedrosa compared with Valentino Rossi and Max Biaggi

**D**ani Pedrosa continues to challenge at the top of the championship table in his debut year in the premier-class. The following table compares his results after the first thirteen races in the MotoGP class to those of Valentino Rossi and Max Biaggi, the two other riders who in recent years have challenged for the title during their debut season in MotoGP.

	STARTS	WINS	PODIUM FINISHES	POLE POSITIONS	POINTS
Dani Pedrosa (2006)	13	2	8	4	192
Max Biaggi (1998)	13	2	8	2	197
Valentino Rossi (2000)	13	1	7	0	148

■ **Casey Stoner** has not had the best of luck at his home Grand Prix having had just a single podium finish in 2004 in the 125cc race. Stoner crashed out on lap three while leading the 250cc race last year, after starting from pole position.



■ If either **Casey Stoner** or **Chris Vermeulen** finish in the top three it will be the first podium by a home rider at the Australian GP since Mick Doohan won at Phillip Island in 1998.

■ **Kenny Roberts'** best result at Phillip Island was seventh when riding a Suzuki in 2000. Roberts did not race in Australia last year after suffering a fracture to the left wrist in a crash during the first practice session.

■ **Colin Edwards** has finished on the podium in World Superbike races at Phillip Island on eight occasions, including a win in 2001 in atrocious weather conditions.

■ **John Hopkin's** best result from his four starts at Phillip Island is a tenth place in 2005. If Hopkins finishes in ninth place or higher he will become the highest scoring Suzuki rider since the introduction of the four-stroke machine at the start of 2002, taking the record from Kenny Roberts who scored 99 points during the 2002 season.



■ **Shinya Nakano's** seventh place finish last year is the best result by a Kawasaki rider at the Phillip Island circuit.

■ **Sete Gibernau** has had a single podium finish at Phillip Island, a second place finish in 2004 after qualifying on pole.

## Valentino Rossi's ten years of Grand Prix success

Valentino Rossi's victory in Malaysia was more than ten years after his first win in Grand Prix racing, in the 125cc class at Brno on the 18th August, 1996. This makes him the 21st rider to have a winning career in Grand Prix racing longer than ten years. Others who have achieved this are shown in the following list, which is topped by Loris Capirossi following his recent victory at the Czech GP.

RIDER	FIRST GP WIN	LAST GP WIN	LENGTH OF WINNING GP CAREER (YEARS)
1 Loris Capirossi	125cc/GB/1990	MotoGP/Czech/2006	16 years 15 days
2 Angel Nieto	50cc/E. Germany/1969	80cc/France/1985	16 years 8 days
3 Phil Read	350cc/GB/1961	500cc/Czech/1975	14 years 71 days
4 Loris Reggiani	125cc/GB/1980	250cc/Czech/1993	13 years 12 days
5 Max Biaggi	250cc/South Africa/1992	MotoGP/Germany/2004	11 years 315 days
6 Toni Mang	125cc/W. Germany/1976	250cc/Japan/1988	11 years 211 days
7 Alex Barros	500cc/FIM/1993	MotoGP/Portugal/2005	11 years 204 days
8 Luigi Taveri	125cc/Spain/1955	125cc/Italy/1966	11 years 133 days
9 Giacomo Agostini	350cc/W. Germany/1965	500cc/W. Germany/1976	11 years 126 days
10 Alex Criville	125cc/Australia/1989	500cc/France/2000	11 years 35 days
11 Barry Smith	50cc/IOM TT/1968	125cc/Belgium/1979	11 years 21 days
12 Tarquinio Provini	125cc/Spain/1954	250cc/Italy/1965	10 years 337 days
13 Bruno Kneubühler	350cc/Spain/1972	125cc/Sweden/1983	10 years 317 days
14 Tommy Robb	250cc/Ulster/1962	125cc/IOM TT/1973	10 years 301 days
15 Pierpaolo Bianchi	125cc/Austria/1976	80cc/San Marino/1986	10 years 114 days
16 Jorge Martinez	80cc/Dutch TT/1984	125cc/Argentina/1994	10 years 87 days
17 Noboru Ueda	125cc/Japan/1991	125cc/Italy/2001	10 year 71 days
18 Barry Sheene	125cc/Belgium/1971	500cc/Sweden/1981	10 years 43 days
19 Luca Cadalora	125cc/W. Germany/1986	500cc/W. Germany/1996	10 years 43 days
20 Carlo Ubbiali	125cc/Ulster/1950	250cc/Italy/1960	10 years 24 days
21 Valentino Rossi	125cc/Czech/1996	MotoGP/Malaysia/2006	10 years 23 days
22 Eugenio Lazzarini	125cc/Dutch TT/1973	125cc/Belgium/1983	10 years 10 days

## Loris Capirossi set for 200th point scoring finish

Loris Capirossi's second place in Malaysia was his 199th point scoring finish in Grand Prix racing. One more finish in the top fifteen and he will become the first rider to reach the milestone of 200 point scoring rides in GP racing. Two other current riders also appear in the following table showing the top ten in terms of point scoring finishes; Carlos Checa in sixth place and Valentino Rossi in seventh.

NUMBER OF POINT SCORING FINISHES IN ALL SOLO-CLASSES OF GP RACING						
FULL NAME	TOTAL	MotoGP/500cc	350cc	250cc	125cc	80/50cc
1 Loris Capirossi	199	109		65	25	
2 Alex Barros	193	181		7		5
3 Max Biaggi	173	106		67		
4 Giacomo Agostini	172	95	75	2		
5 Angel Nieto	163			1	96	66
6 Carlos Checa	154	135		18	1	
7 Valentino Rossi	147	99		24	24	
8 Luca Cadalora	145	61		69	15	
9 Alex Criville	143	111		15	10	7
10 Anton Mang	139	4	31	93	11	



■ **Chris Vermeulen** made his GP debut last year at Phillip Island standing in for the injured Troy Bayliss.

■ **Carlos Checa** scored one of his two podiums of 2005 at the Phillip Island circuit, taking third place and becoming the first Bridgestone rider to finish on the podium in the premier-class at the circuit. Checa has scored points at every race since the Czech GP last year, a run of 20 successive point scoring races.



## 250cc facts & figures

■ **Honda** riders have taken five victories at Phillip Island and **Aprilia** four victories.

■ **Jorge Lorenzo** has finished on the podium for the last two years at Phillip Island; in the 125cc class in 2004 and the 250cc class last year. Lorenzo has been in the top three at the last seven successive races.

■ **Andrea Dovizioso** won the 125cc race at Phillip Island on his way to claiming the world title in 2004. Dovizioso has only once failed to finish in the top ten in the 28 races he has started since moving to the 250cc class at the start of last year.



■ **Hector Barbera** finished fourth last year in Australia. His best result in his debut season in the 250cc class.

## Jorge Lorenzo takes seventh win of year

Jorge Lorenzo's victory in Malaysia was his seventh of the season. With four races left in 2006 he could equal Daijro Kato's record of 11 victories in a single campaign in the 250cc class by winning all the remaining rounds. One more victory before the end of the year and he will equal the number of wins achieved by Dani Pedrosa in 2005, which is currently the record for greatest number of 250cc victories in a single season by a Spanish rider.

### NUMBER OF WINS IN THE 250cc CLASS IN A SINGLE SEASON

11	Daijro Kato (Honda)	2001
10	Mike Hailwood (Honda)	1966
	Anton Mang (Kawasaki)	1981
9	Max Biaggi (Aprilia)	1996
	Marco Melandri (Aprilia)	2002
	Valentino Rossi (Aprilia)	1999
8	Max Biaggi (Aprilia)	1995
	Luca Cadalora (Honda)	1991
	Anton Mang (Honda)	1987
	Dani Pedrosa (Honda)	2005
7	Kork Ballington (Kawasaki)	1979
	Luca Cadalora (Honda)	1992
	John Kocinski (Yamaha)	1990
	<b>Jorge Lorenzo (Aprilia)</b>	<b>2006</b>
	Dani Pedrosa (Honda)	2004
	Sito Pons (Honda)	1989
	Phil Read (Yamaha)	1965
	Freddie Spencer (Honda)	1985
	Walter Villa (Harley Davidson)	1976



## Alvaro Bautista could claim the 125cc title in Australia

Following his victory in Malaysia, Alvaro Bautista could clinch the 125cc world title in Australia by finishing in front of his closest challenger Mika Kallio. Bautista's domination this year can be seen from the following statistics:

- At the first two races of the year Bautista became the first rider in the 125cc class to win back-to-back races since Arnaud Vincent in 2002.
- At the Czech GP Bautista became the first rider ever in the 125cc class to have finished in the top four at the first eleven races of the year.
- Bautista has finished on the podium eleven times in the first twelve races. The only round at which he did not finish on the podium was in France, when he finished fourth after suffering technical problems on the final lap. Just two more top three finishes from the last four races and he will equal the record for most podium finishes in a single season in the 125cc class which is currently jointly held by Kazuto Sakata (1993) and Valentino Rossi (1997).
- With his victory in Malaysia, Bautista is the first rider to win six races in the 125cc class in one season since Youichi Ui in 2001. Another victory before the end of the year and he would be the first in the 125cc class to take seven wins in one year since Haruchika Aoki in 1995.
- Bautista would be the sixth Spanish rider to win the 125cc world title, joining: Angel Nieto (1971/72/79/81/82/82/84), Jorge Martinez (1988), Alex Criville (1989), Emilio Alzamora (1999) and Dani Pedrosa (2003).
- With 255 points Bautista has already scored more than any other Spaniard has ever achieved in a single season of racing in the 125cc class. It is possible with four races still to go that Bautista could surpass the current record points total in the 125cc class of 321 set in 1997 by Valentino Rossi.
- Bautista has qualified on the front row of the grid eleven times already this year. The only race at which he failed to get onto the front row was at the Italian GP when he was fifth on the grid.

■ Two seventeen year old riders had their first top ten finishes in the 250cc class at the Malaysian GP, **Aleix Espargaro** from Spain finishing ninth and French rider **Jules Cluzel** who was 10th. Both riders become the youngest rider from their respective nation to finish in the top ten in the 250cc class of GP racing.

## 125cc facts & figures

■ **Honda** have had eight victories in the 125cc class at Phillip Island, **Gilera** and **Derbi** have each had a single victory. No **Aprilia** rider has ever won the 125cc GP at Phillip Island.

■ Last year's 125cc race at Phillip Island was one of the closest ever, with just 15 seconds covering the first fifteen riders across the line.

■ **Alvaro Bautista's** best result at Phillip Island was a fourth place in 2003 which was also his best result in his debut season as a full time GP rider.



■ **Mika Kallio's** fifth place in Australia last year was the first time that he had reached the finish in a race at Phillip Island, having crashed in both 2002 and 2003, and retiring with handling problems in 2004.

■ **Thomas Luthi** won the 125cc race last year at Phillip Island having qualified on pole position.

■ **Tomoyoshi Koyama** finished second last year in Australia riding a Honda; his best ever result in Grand Prix racing.

■ **Julian Simon's** fourth place finish in Malaysia was his best result since he won the 125cc race at the British GP at Donington Park last year.

■ At the Malaysian GP **Joan Olive** started from the front row for the first time in his Grand Prix career, in what was his 92nd GP start.

## Grand Prix racing numbers

**99** The number of point scoring finishes in the premier-class by Valentino Rossi from his 110 starts.

**34** Colin Edwards' tenth place finish in Malaysia was the 34th successive race at which he has scored points. The only rider with a longer sequence of successive point scoring finishes is Mick Doohan, with a run of 37.

**25** Valentino Rossi's win in Malaysia was his 25th victory since joining the Yamaha factory team. The only rider who has had more victories riding for Yamaha is Eddie Lawson with 26.

**18** This will be the 18th consecutive year that a Grand Prix has been held in Australia since 1989. The first two events were held at Phillip Island, followed by six at Eastern Creek, before returning to Phillip Island in 1997.

**13** Alex de Angelis' third place finish in Malaysia was the thirteenth time that he has stood on the podium in the 250cc class without having taken a victory. This takes him level with Heinz Rosner as the rider who has finished on the podium on most occasions in the 250cc class without having stood on the top step.

## This week in history

**7 years ago** – Community of Valencia GP/1999/Ricardo Tormo Circuit/500cc – The first visit to the newly built circuit was a wet race won by Regis Laconi riding for the Red Bull Yamaha team, with team-mate Garry McCoy finishing third. This was Laconi's single GP win and the last time that a French rider has stood on top of the podium in the premier-class.

**8 years ago** – Catalan GP/1998/Catalunya/500cc – Mick Doohan takes victory after crossing the line in second place behind Max Biaggi who was disqualified after first ignoring a stop-and-go penalty for passing under a yellow flag and then the black flag.

**10 years ago** – Catalan GP/1996/Catalunya/500cc – Carlos Checa took his first GP victory at his home circuit of Catalunya. This was also the 100th victory in the premier-class for Honda in a race which they dominated, with the first eight riders across the line all riding Honda machinery.

**16 years ago** – Australian GP/1990/Phillip Island/500cc – The home crowd are treated to a tremendous battle between the two Australian stars of the day, Wayne Gardner and Mick Doohan. Doohan led on 23 of the 30 laps but was beaten by less than one second by Gardner who had ridden for most of the race with his fairing dragging on the tarmac, after breaking a bracket with his knee fighting a near crash on lap two.

**37 years ago** – Yugoslavia GP/1969/Opatija – Godfrey Nash riding a Norton took his one and only GP victory in the 500cc class. This was the last time that a British built machine has won a Grand Prix and the last premier-class GP to be won by a single cylinder machine. Australian Kel Carruthers won the 250cc race riding a Benelli. This was the final victory in the 250cc class for a four-stroke machine.

**38 years ago** – Nations GP/1968/Monza/250cc – Phil Read beat his team-mate Bill Ivy in the final race of the year. The two riders ended the season equal on points and with the same number of victories and second place finishes. The title was decided in Read's favour by his superior cumulative time in the four races that both riders had finished.