



## OFFICIAL MOTOGP SEASON REVIEW 2015

By Julian Ryder

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**Hot off the press – published two weeks after the last race**

There has never been a MotoGP season quite like 2015 and all the drama is covered in the 12th edition of the **Official MotoGP Season Review**. It had everything: Valentino Rossi at 36 years of age coming within one race of his tenth world championship title and sealing his legacy as the greatest we've ever seen; Marc Marquez struggling with recalcitrant machinery; Dani Pedrosa coming back from what looked like career-ending arm problems. And it had Jorge Lorenzo.

Lorenzo won his third MotoGP crown by winning races from the front. When he won he did so decisively, leading each lap of each of his seven victories. He had speed and he had precision when it mattered. One mistake in Misano threatened to let Rossi escape but it all went down to the final race, gathering a good deal of acrimony along the way. By the end of the year Rossi and Marquez had fallen out so spectacularly that it's difficult to see how their relationship can ever be repaired. The arguments nearly overshadowed Lorenzo's remarkable rescue of his season after failing to get on the rostrum in the first three races – a stunning achievement.

Behind the four main players, there was much else to celebrate in this fantastic MotoGP season. Machinery from Ducati and Suzuki showed promise, Bradley Smith and Andrea Iannone emerged from the pack, and Maverick Viñales was a stellar rookie. The Moto2 title was tied up with races to spare by Johann Zarco of France, whose back-flip celebration alone is worth the price of admission. In Moto3 Danny Kent kept his fans hanging on to the very end to become the first British champion since Barry Sheene, way back in 1977.

This 12th edition of the **Official MotoGP Season Review** is edited, as ever, by BT Sport commentator Julian Ryder with contributions from some of the most respected journalists in the paddock. Mat Oxley, himself a TT winner, writes his compelling take on the season and technical guru Neil Spalding contributes analysis of bikes and tyres. The stunning photographs are, as usual, from the lens of Andrew Northcott. The stars of the future feature in our coverage of the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup and MotoGP's official charity, Riders for Health, explains what it has been doing this year.

Fast-track printing immediately after the last MotoGP race of the season means that this sought-after book of record becomes available fully four weeks before Christmas. The **Official MotoGP Season Review** is the essential record of the season for all fans.

#### **About the Authors/Contributors:**

**JULIAN RYDER** has been a motorcycle journalist since 1980 and editor of the **Official MotoGP Season Review** since its inception in 2004. In the late 1980s Julian was running *Road Racer* magazine when he was invited to Eurosport's studios to see a motorcycle Grand Prix being broadcast. The regular commentator was stranded at another event so the producer gave Julian the microphone. From then on commentating has been mixed with writing and nowadays Julian is on BT Sport's MotoGP commentary team.

From 1993 to 2000 Julian was a member of the Sky Sports team that brought the golden era of World Superbike and Carl Fogarty's championships to British bike fans. In 2001 he moved to Eurosport to commentate on the last year of 500cc Grand Prix racing and then 12 seasons of MotoGP. Julian transferred to the top class of racing at the same time as Valentino Rossi burst on to the scene and he has commentated on all of Rossi's races since then.

Julian's books include *Honda's V-Force* and an official biography of Carl Fogarty.

**NEIL SPALDING** writes about technical aspects of MotoGP for a selection of motorcycle magazines and newspapers throughout the world as well as for the **Official MotoGP Season Review**. He is also the author of the critically acclaimed book *MotoGP Technology*. When not at the circuits Neil runs Sigma Performance, which designs and sells slipper clutches for racing motorcycles.

**MAT OXLEY** is an Isle of Man TT winner and lap record holder. He has been writing about motorcycle racing for magazines and newspapers since the late 1980s, and his books include acclaimed biographies of Valentino Rossi and Mick Doohan, plus the Cold War motorsport spy story *Stealing Speed*. His contribution to the **Official MotoGP Season Review** is a typically insightful summary of the season as a whole.

**ANDREW NORTHCOTT** is one of the top MotoGP photographers working today. As well as providing images for the **Official MotoGP Season Review**, he is the official photographer for Monster and his photos are used by many news publications worldwide. He has been photographing MotoGP since it began in 2002 and his work in premier-class motorcycle racing goes back to 1990.

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**For more information regarding the book, or if you would like to interview Julian Ryder, please contact Rebecca Leppard at Eventageous PR on 01452 260063 or [rebecca@eventspr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@eventspr.co.uk)**

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