2026 ATPI FIM SPEEDWAY GP OF GREAT BRITAIN – MANCHESTER R3 – BURB'S BRIEFING

Hello and welcome to Burb's Briefing! Here is some information and a few talking points which may assist your coverage of the ATPI FIM Speedway GP of Great Britain – Manchester R3 this Friday ...

WHERE?

- Manchester's National Speedway Stadium opened in 2016 – offering a new home for the famous Belle Vue Aces – the world's oldest continually-operating speedway club, which was founded in 1928.
- The Aces raced at two other nearby venues – spending their first season at the Belle Vue Greyhound Stadium, which was also on Kirkmanshulme Lane until it was recently demolished. They had a second spell there from 1988-2015.
- The Aces famously competed at Hyde Road Stadium – part of Belle Vue Zoological Gardens – from 1929-1987. It was one of Britain's most storied racetracks until it was sold to British Car Auctions and demolished.
- After leaving the Greyhound Stadium, the Aces opened what became Britain's new National Speedway Stadium and it has staged the British Championship Final every season since 2016.
- It was also constructed to attract global events to Manchester, and it hosted the 2016 FIM Speedway World Cup Race Off and Final, with Poland lifting the Ove Fundin Trophy and Great Britain placed second.
- Manchester staged Semi-Finals of the FIM SON in 2018 and 2019, before hosting the FIM SON Final in October 2021. At the end of a two-day event, Great Britain defeated red-hot favourites Poland 5-4 in the Grand Final to claim their first world team title since England's 1989 FIM Speedway World Team Cup win at Bradford.
- The National Speedway Stadium became the first venue to stage the FIM SON Final for a second time in 2024, and this time it hosted all four days of the tournament – Semi-Finals 1 and 2, SON2 and the FIM SON Final.
- GB triumphed once again, with Robert Lambert and Dan Bewley winning an epic Grand Final 7-2 over Aussie duo Jack Holder and Brady Kurtz.
- Manchester staged its first-ever Speedway GP events in 2025, taking on a double-header of rounds after then global promoter Warner Bros. Discovery

Sports cancelled the other British round, which was due to be staged at Cardiff's Principality Stadium.

- The Friday event was another famous night for the Brits as Belle Vue Aces hero Dan Bewley won Manchester's first-ever Speedway GP, beating Bartosz Zmarzlik, Brady Kurtz and Fredrik Lindgren in the final of R4.
- Polish icon Bartosz Zmarzlik won R5, beating Kurtz, Fredrik Lindgren and Jack Holder in the final for what was his third and final SGP win of 2025.
- The racetrack in Manchester is widely regarded as one of the best in the world and is modelled on modern Polish tracks like Torun.
- Additional grandstands have been installed for this week's event once again on bends three and four to ensure demand for tickets can be met at a compact stadium, and tickets have been selling fast.

WHEN?

Friday, June 5

- Speedway GP Qualifying - 14:00 UK time
- ATPI FIM Speedway GP of Great Britain – Manchester R3 - 19:00 UK time

Saturday, June 6

- ATPI FIM Speedway GP of Great Britain – Manchester R4 - 19:00 UK time

FIM JURY

REFEREE: Aleksandr Latosinski (Ukraine)

JURY PRESIDENT: Armando Castagna (Italy)

FMNR REPRESENTATIVE: Neil Vatcher (Great Britain)

RACE DIRECTOR: Phil Morris (Great Britain)

TREATMENT TABLE

- Three riders miss the ATPI FIM Speedway GP of Great Britain – Manchester due to injury as home hero Dan Bewley, Poland's Dominik Kubera and Sweden's Fredrik Lindgren all sit out. Bewley and Lindgren also missed the FIM Speedway GP of Czech Republic – Prague on May 23.
- Their places are taken by Speedway GP substitute riders Anders Thomsen (Denmark), Jan Kvech (Czech Republic) and Kai Huckenbeck (Germany).
- Bewley sits out on his British home track after suffering a broken femur and a compressed vertebra in his back when he crashed in the opening race of

Danish club Region Varde's meeting in Outrup on May 20. He took to Facebook on Tuesday to confirm his recovery is progressing well.

- His absence is a huge blow for an event, where he topped the podium at R4 on Friday last year, with his last-to-first charge in LCQ2 one of the Speedway GP highlights of 2025.
- Bewley has been part of the Belle Vue club since he joined their National League team, the Colts, in 2016. He has raced for their senior side, the Aces, most years since 2017 – missing only 2020 and 2022.
- Kubera is sidelined after undergoing surgery on a broken collarbone, suffered in Swedish club Lejonen's trip to Motala club Piraterna on May 26.
- Meanwhile, Lindgren suffered a fall in heat three of Polish club Lublin's 46-44 loss away to Leszno on May 17 and underwent surgery on his ankle. He only withdrew from the event on Tuesday after admitting defeat in his battle to be ready for Manchester.
- We wish all three riders a speedy recovery.

HOME HEROES

- With Bewley sidelined, Britain's home hopes fall on Robert Lambert and this year's wild card Tom Brennan.
- Lambert has a storied history in Manchester, having led Great Britain to FIM Speedway of Nations World Championship gold at the National Speedway Stadium in 2021 and 2024 alongside Bewley and Brennan.
- Lambert has also won two British Championships at the National Speedway Stadium – in 2018 and again in 2025, which saw him win one of the all-time great Grand Finals – a must-watch on YouTube.
- The former world No.2 scored 11 championship points as he reached the last-chance qualifier in 2025 R4 on Friday in Manchester, before exiting after 20 heats with only five points in R5 on Saturday.
- Lambert is currently sixth in the 2026 Speedway GP World Championship on 20 points after a mixed start to the series. He reached the final, finishing fourth, at the opening round in Landshut, but managed only six points – falling short of the LCQs – in Prague at R2.
- He comes into the Manchester event on a high after winning his Speedway GP qualifier in Zarnovica, Slovakia last Saturday, scoring 14 points.
- Meanwhile, Brennan was nominated as Manchester wild card – normally a role claimed by the winner of the British Championship Final. But with that taking place on August 15 here in Manchester, he was selected for this event.
- Brennan endured a tough off-season after suffering a fractured left tibia and fibula during practice for an event in California last October.
- He fought his way back to fitness for the start of the European season in March and has been racing for British Rowe Motor Oil Premiership champions

Ipswich, who he helped to their first league title since 1998 last year. He also rides for Swedish Bauhaus Elitserien team Vastervik and Polish Metalkas 2. Ekstraliga club Bydgoszcz.
- Brennan makes his first Speedway GP appearance since 2024, when he scored four points as FIM Speedway GP of Great Britain – Cardiff wild card.

BEST OF RIVALS

- It's a Polish one-two at the top of the Speedway GP standings as Bartosz Zmarzlik and Kacper Woryna lead the way.
- Reigning world champion Zmarzlik – who is chasing a record-breaking seventh title this year – holds a one-point lead over Woryna after finishing third at the opening two rounds in Landshut and Prague.
- Woryna stormed to victory at the Landshut event in Germany on his full-time Speedway GP debut (only his third SGP appearance in all). He followed that up with 11 championship points as he battled his way to second place in LCQ2 in Prague, passing Kubera on the run to the line.
- Zmarzlik and Woryna are teammates at Polish club Lublin and Swedish team Lejonen, and it's clear making the winter move from Czestochowa to Lublin has made a real difference for Woryna.
- Woryna has booked his place at the FIM SGP Challenge in Terenzano on July 25, where the top four riders qualify for the 2027 Speedway GP series.
- But Woryna may not need to qualify there on current form as the top seven riders in 2026 Speedway GP World Championship gain automatic qualification for 2027. He's also in the 2026 Speedway European Championship – the winner of which earns 2027 SGP qualification.
- Zmarzlik starred in Manchester last year – collecting a fantastic 40 championship points from a possible 44 over two days. He finished second in R4 on the Friday, having collected two points for finishing third in the afternoon's sprint race. He then won R5 on the Saturday.
- Prior to 2025, Zmarzlik had not always had the best of fortunes in Manchester. While he won the 2016 FIM Speedway World Cup Final there with Poland, he lost out on 2021 FIM Speedway of Nations gold when teammate Maciej Janowski crashed as he attempted to join Zmarzlik at the front in the Grand Final, handing the title to GB. The Poles then finished fifth in the 2024 FIM SON Final in Manchester, with Zmarzlik crashing in their Semi-Final.

COMEBACK KINGS

- Danish duo Leon Madsen and Michael Jepsen Jensen endured nightmare starts to their Speedway GP season in Landshut, scoring one and two championship points respectively on May 2.

- But they recovered spectacularly in Prague, with Madsen winning the FIM Speedway GP of Czech Republic – Prague to surge up to fourth place in the Speedway GP World Championship on 21 points.
- Madsen gained automatic final qualification by the narrowest of margins, he tied on 11 race points - two wins, two seconds and a third – with Aussie star Jack Holder. With the riders unable to be split on countback, Madsen qualified after clocking the fastest race time, despite the fact Holder defeated the Dane when they met in heat 19.
- It was Madsen's first SGP win since he topped the 2023 FIM Speedway GP of Denmark – Vojens podium.
- Jepsen Jensen, meanwhile, reached his first final of the season, winning LCQ2 to make it through on what was only his second SGP appearance in Prague and his first there since 2015.
- Both Danes make their first appearances at a Manchester Speedway GP round, but Madsen raced to FIM SON bronze at the National Speedway Stadium with his country in 2021, scoring 38 points over the two-day final – a total matched only by Polish star Zmarzlik.

TAKING THE CHALLENGE

- Seven members of this weekend's ATPI FIM Speedway GP of Great Britain – Manchester line-up booked their place at the FIM SGP Challenge in Terenzano, Italy on July 25, where the top four riders will secure their spots in the 2027 Speedway GP series.
- Lambert won the qualifier in Zarnovica, Slovakia on 14 points last Saturday, progressing alongside Aussie star Jaimon Lidsey (13). Andzejs Lebedevs beat Kacper Woryna in a run-off for third place after they tied on 12, while Michael Jepsen Jensen won a run-off for the last qualifying spot after tying on 10 points with Czech youngster Adam Bubba Bednar.
- German racer Kai Huckenbeck took victory at last Saturday's Glasgow qualifier with a 15-point maximum. Jack Holder took second spot on 12 after winning a run-off with this weekend's first track reserve Anders Rowe. The last two qualification places were claimed by Denmark's Frederik Jakobsen and British legend Chris Harris. They came through a run-off after tying on 11 points with former world No.3 Maciej Janowski.
- The first qualifying round took place in Abensberg, Germany on May 25 and was won by American international Luke Becker with a 15-point maximum. Swedish star Kim Nilsson and Aussie racer Rohan Tungate progressed on 13 apiece, while FIM Oceania champion Keynan Rew and Polish racer Dominik Kubera won a run-off with Latvia's Francis Gusts for the final two spots after the trio tied on 11 points.

- **FIM SGP CHALLENGE LINE-UP (not in draw order):** Luke Becker (USA), Kim Nilsson (Sweden), Rohan Tungate (Australia), Keynan Rew (Australia), Dominik Kubera (Poland), Robert Lambert (Great Britain), Jaimon Lidsey (Australia), Andzejs Lebedevs (Latvia), Kacper Woryna (Poland), Michael Jepsen Jensen (Denmark), Kai Huckenbeck (Germany), Jack Holder (Australia), Anders Rowe (Great Britain), Frederik Jakobsen (Denmark), Chris Harris (Great Britain), plus one wild card.

SPRINT START

- In 2026, riders will have five chances to earn extra Speedway GP World Championship points in the sprint races.
- The Qualifying format is similar to what was witnessed in Landshut and Prague, with riders kicking off with one two-minute free practice run.
- The Speedway GP riders are then drawn into pairs for a 60-second head-to-head showdown in Q1. The rider with the fastest lap time advances to Q2, where they face another head-to-head.
- The winner of each Q2 battle in Manchester R3, Wroclaw, Lodz, Vojens and Torun will then enter a four-rider sprint race, with the winner earning four Speedway GP World Championship points, with three for the rider in second, two for third and one for fourth place.
- The sprint race winner will also earn first choice of starting positions for the evening's SGP event, with the second, third and fourth-placed riders next to select. The four defeated Q2 riders receive next choice – with the riders selecting in an order determined by their fastest Q2 lap times. The defeated Q1 riders then select last in an order determined by their fastest Q1 lap times.
- There will be no Qualifying session at all ahead of Manchester R5 on Saturday. Starting positions will be allocated via a random FIM draw.

WHERE TO WATCH

Fans can catch every moment of 2026 Speedway GP and SWC action live on global broadcaster Warner Bros. Discovery's streaming platforms HBO Max or discovery+. Coverage of every Speedway GP Qualifying session is also available on these platforms.

HBO Max is available across Europe, with FIM-MOTO TV providing coverage around the world.

ACROSS EUROPE: Live on HBO Max and discovery+

BRITAIN: Live on HBO Max and TNT Sports

POLAND: Live on Eurosport 3, HBO Max and Player

SWEDEN: Live on Kanal 9 and HBO Max

DENMARK: Live on 6’eren and HBO Max

AUSTRALIA: Live on Fox Sports

GERMANY: Live on HBO Max and discovery+

ACROSS THE BALTICS: Live on Go3, TV3 Sport and HBO Max

CZECHIA: Live on HBO Max

SLOVAKIA: Live on STVR Sport and HBO Max

USA/Canada: Live on Racer

REST OF THE WORLD: Live on FIM-MOTO TV