

### **MICHELIN HEADS TO NEW ASPHALT AS IT GOES OVER THE SEA TO SILVERSTONE**

Michelin is heading across the English Channel as MotoGP™ travels to Silverstone in England for the GoPro British Grand Prix and round 12 of this season's championship.

Michelin will head to the British round with another challenge to face, because this year will see a major change to the 5,900m circuit - the longest on the MotoGP calendar - due to a full resurfacing of the entire layout, the first time the whole track has had a completely new covering of asphalt in 22-years. With the new surface and the fact that Michelin has been unable to assess the material that has been laid, the allocation will be different to a usual MotoGP weekend. The MICHELIN Power Slick range will feature four front and four rear compounds as opposed to the customary three of each. This is to give all the riders, teams and manufacturers the maximum opportunity to match the tyres which will work the best for them. Available in soft, medium and two hard versions for both the front and rear, the range also has a split in the designs of the front specification of tyres, with the soft being asymmetric - with a harder right-hand-side - whilst the other three are all symmetric. The length of the track and its fast nature of its layout over the 10-right-hand and 8-left-hand turns gives a need for an asymmetric rear tyre, so all four choices will feature this design, with the harder compound on the right shoulder of the tyre, this is due to the demands being greater for that part of the surface area over the 20-lap race.

Situated in the heart of England, in the Northamptonshire countryside, Silverstone has a long history with MotoGP, it staged its first motorcycle Grand Prix in 1977 - which was also the first GP on the British mainland, prior to that it had been held on the Isle of Man - and has been the scene of many memorable races throughout the years. Michelin and the rest of the field will be hoping for a dry race and England has baked in hot summer conditions this year, but the threat of wet 'British weather' can never be far away and the MICHELIN Power Rain tyres will be available if such eventualities arise. In a soft and medium compound for the front and rear, the tyres designed for the back of the motorcycle will feature an asymmetrical finish, coupled with symmetric fronts.

Track action will commence on the new surface on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August with two Free Practice sessions. Saturday will feature the important Qualifying - preceded by two more practice sessions - which will see the riders battle it out to get the best grid positions for Sunday's 20-lap race. The British Grand Prix race-day has a different schedule to normal, as the main event will take place before the Moto2™ race and will get underway at 13.00hrs local time (14.00hrs CEST, 12.00 GMT) on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Prior to this Silverstone will witness the weekend's proceedings getting underway on the Thursday, with the now traditional 'Day of Champions' in aid of 'Two Wheels For Life'. This event raises much needed funds via an auction that is attended throughout the day by the riders, and Michelin will again be involved by donating a replica race tyre that will be signed by all the racers and then auctioned on stage for the Official Charity of MotoGP. For more details on the event visit [www.twowheelsforlife.org.uk](http://www.twowheelsforlife.org.uk)

#### **Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:**

"This is another big challenge for us as we are heading to the longest track of the year after it has a full resurface and we have not had the opportunity to test there. We have had full advice from Silverstone, the company that laid the asphalt and have also had lots of information from other relevant parties that have given us some valuable feedback about the track. We also have our own data and we are confident that we will have the correct compounds for the new surface. When this season's allocations were prepared at the start of the year, we were able to decide on four front and rear tyres for Silverstone and these will give all the riders different options to appraise before they make their race tyre decision."



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