



FIM World Enduro Championship 2009

## Metzeler Conquers Northern Europe Enduro, Winning the E1, E2 and E3 Classes in Finnish GP

*With the three different manufacturers of Honda, Gas-Gas and KTM, Metzeler riders now lead the championship in all classes, setting the pace for all other teams to follow.*

*Riihimäki, Finland (June 13-14) - The **Grand Prix of Finland** is traditionally and incontestably one of the fastest races of the season. During the first day of competition run this Saturday, 99 starters discovered the easy special tests of Riihimäki, which favours strong riding abilities and generosity with the throttle.*

### Day 1

At the beginning of the first day, the rain came to refresh the course without deteriorating the conditions, the sandy ground quickly absorbing moisture. In **ENDURO 1**, Antoine Meo (FRA-HVA) started off with some difficulties, making mistakes in the Enduro Test and losing 20 seconds. He gained back some margin in the Cross Test, enough to reach the front and dispute the victory with the hero of this Finnish round **Mika Ahola (FIN-HM)**. The last Extreme Test decides between the two men, and in spite of recording a best time, the Frenchman submitted the first spot to the **Metzeler-rider** and **E1** championship leader, who was victorious by 0.83 hundredths of a second. The Finnish riders **Eero Remes (KTM)** and **Mika Ahola (HM)**, not wanting to disappoint their home crowd, also ran a very exciting chase in the **E1**. Even though **Remes** was faster in the Cross Tests, he systematically conceded time in the Extreme Test crossings. For the final result for the **E1**, **Remes** slid back to third place, just in front of **Simone Albergoni (ITA-KTM)**, who finished fourth.



French KTM pilot Aubert took his 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive race victory.  
— courtesy of J. Edmunds

For the **ENDURO 2**, the championship point's leader **Johnny Aubert (FRA-KTM)** did was untouched, having discovered Finland and asserting himself again with a comfortable advantage of 1 minute 26 seconds. His experience of finding sand performance from his **Metzeler 6 Days Extreme** tyres was useful in the corners and the jumps of the long Cross Test. The Finnish national champion Juha Salminen (BMW) looked a bit faster on his home turf, taking important points away from Husaberg rider Joakim Ljunggren in the overall standings, with a second place in the category over Ljunggren's 6th. Bartosz Oblucki (POL-HVA) finished in third followed by Matti Seistola (FIN-HVA) complete the classification of **E2**.

In the **ENDURO 3** class, despite the presence of locals **Samuli Aro (KTM)** and Marko Tarkkala (BMW), the two French riders pushed each to the front of the competition. Particularly at ease on this fast ground, **Christophe Nambotin (FRA-GAS)** managed to resist the constant pressure of his compatriot and adversary Sebastien Guillaume (FRA), who rides with Husqvarna. The second part of race saw Guillaume fall in the Enduro Test and Nambotin loose his chain, thus Guillaume finished in third whereas Nambotin held onto fourth. Both yielded their places to reigning champion **Samuli ARO (FIN-KTM)** in 2nd, and **Metzeler's E3** wizard this year, Spanish KTM pilot **Ivan Cervantes**. The teammates decided the race between themselves in the ultimate test, to the advantage of the Spaniard by 0.44 hundredths. David Knight (GB-BMW), lacking the proper confidence with his motorbike and setup, decided to give up.

## Day 2

This second day of the **FINLAND GP** in Riihimäki was a baptism, with an all-day drizzle which did not leave the survivors of the first day of race. On a terrain mixing sand and soil, much would rely on **Metzeler's 6 Days Extreme** to get the job done, with the conditions of adherence changing each corner of the special tests.



Despite the bad weather during the second day of **ENDURO 1**, Antoine Meo

(FRA-HVA) saw a bit of exhaustion from his adversary and promised to beat **Mika Ahola (FIN-HM)** in his homeland. Fighting one against the other, the two men quickly made the difference on the rest of the category. Meo with the maximum attack ends up cracking in the penultimate special test where he falls and loses 30 seconds, offering at the same time a comfortable victory to Ahola, with a 40 seconds advantage. Behind the **Metzeler** rider and season leader were the rest of **Metzeler's** hopefuls: Finnish technical test expert **Eero Remes (KTM)**, finding another third place, and the Italian connection with **Thomas Oldrati (KTM)** and **Simone Albergoni (KTM)**.

Ahola adds points to his standings with two first places, this time in front of his home crowd.

– Image courtesy of HM-Honda Zanardo

In **ENDURO 2**, **Johnny Aubert (FRA-KTM)** leads again the eighth round and eighth consecutive win the clear leader of this class. Just behind the leader, Juha Salminen (FIN-BMW) demonstrated another great performance in the second race of this class which was deprived of podium regular Cristobal Guerrero (ESP-YAM) who had an injured shoulder from the day before. Second place behind Aubert by 1 minute 19 seconds, Salminen represented Team BMW, preceding Bartosz Oblucki (POL) in third, now looking to reach the final podium of the World Championship.

**Metzeler** finished the 8<sup>th</sup> round of **ENDURO 3** competition with another podium sweep for the season. With the terrain now marked by many bikes, **Ivan Cervantes (ESP-KTM)** easily detached himself from his rivals. He mastered the end of the racing by keeping an eye behind him on **Christophe Nambotin (FRA-GAS)**, also amateur of used special tests. **Nambotin** finished nine seconds behind the Spaniard without being worried by **Samuli Aro (FIN-KTM)**, who was third and 39 seconds behind him. While fighting to keep up with **Aro** in third, Sebastien Guillaume (FRA-HVA) fell severely in the penultimate special test which help him back 1.5 minutes, ending up with a disappointing seventh and a bloodied face. This mistake benefitted **Fabio Mossini (ITA-HM)**, happy with a fourth in **ENDURO 3**.

Riders will contest these standings during the fifth weekend of the 2009 World Enduro Championship in Puchov, Slovakia.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Round Results – DAY 1 – Riihimäki, Finland

| Class     | Pos      | Rider                 | Nation     | Team               | Pts       | Tyre            |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>E1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Mika Ahola</b>     | <b>FIN</b> | <b>HM-HONDA</b>    | <b>25</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | 2        | Antoine Meo           | FRA        | HUSQVARNA          | 22        | Michelin        |
|           | <b>3</b> | <b>Eero Remes</b>     | <b>FIN</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
| <b>E2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Johnny Aubert</b>  | <b>FRA</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | 2        | Juha Salminen         | FIN        | BMW                | 22        | Michelin        |
|           | 3        | Bartosz Oblucki       | POL        | HUSQVARNA          | 20        | Michelin        |
| <b>E3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Ivan Cervantes</b> | <b>ESP</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | <b>2</b> | <b>Samuli Aro</b>     | <b>FIN</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | 3        | Sebastien Guillaume   | FRA        | CH HUSQVARNA       | 20        | Michelin        |

### 8<sup>th</sup> Round Results – DAY 2 – Riihimäki, Finland

| Class     | Pos      | Rider                      | Nation     | Team               | Pts       | Tyre            |
|-----------|----------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>E1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Mika Ahola</b>          | <b>FIN</b> | <b>HM-HONDA</b>    | <b>25</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | 2        | Antoine Meo                | FRA        | CH HUSQVARNA       | 20        | Michelin        |
|           | <b>3</b> | <b>Eero Remes</b>          | <b>FIN</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
| <b>E2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Johnny Aubert</b>       | <b>FRA</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | 2        | Juha Salminen              | FIN        | BMW                | 22        | Michelin        |
|           | 3        | Bartosz Oblucki            | POL        | HUSQVARNA          | 20        | Michelin        |
| <b>E3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Ivan Cervantes</b>      | <b>ESP</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | <b>2</b> | <b>Christophe Nambotin</b> | <b>FRA</b> | <b>GAS-GAS</b>     | <b>22</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | <b>3</b> | <b>Samuli Aro</b>          | <b>FIN</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |

### 2009 World Enduro Championship Standings (After 8 Rounds)

| Class     | Pos      | Rider                      | Nation     | Team               | Pts        | Tyre            |
|-----------|----------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
| <b>E1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Mika Ahola</b>          | <b>FIN</b> | <b>HM-HONDA</b>    | <b>197</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | <b>2</b> | <b>Simone Albergoni</b>    | <b>ITA</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>165</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | 3        | Antoine Meo                | FRA        | HUSQVARNA          | 164        | Michelin        |
| <b>E2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Johnny Aubert</b>       | <b>FRA</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>200</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | 2        | Bartosz Oblucki            | POL        | HUSQVARNA          | 144        | Michelin        |
|           | 3        | Juha Salminen              | FIN        | BMW                | 143        | Michelin        |
| <b>E3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Ivan Cervantes</b>      | <b>ESP</b> | <b>KTM FACTORY</b> | <b>195</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |
|           | 2        | Sebastien Guillaume        | FRA        | CH HUSQVARNA       | 161        | Michelin        |
|           | <b>3</b> | <b>Christophe Nambotin</b> | <b>FRA</b> | <b>GAS-GAS</b>     | <b>160</b> | <b>METZELER</b> |