

# EUROPEAN BIKETRIAL UNION

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## **Report on the 2007 European Cup in Ugale, Latvia.**

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2007 the town of Ugale in Latvia hosted the 2007 European Cup. This was the first international BikeTrial event organised by the Triala klubs Karters and it had the full support of the Latvian Motorcycle Federation.

Riders from Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany and England took part in the extremely well organised event. The sections combined the natural terrain with man-made obstacles and they proved to be well thought out and suitable for the standard of the riders. Most of the sections were close together in a wood which allowed for a good atmosphere. The organisers also arranged for entertainment next to the sections whilst the competition took place and this included music from a heavy metal band, traditional Latvian folk music, a brass band and a choir.

### **Competition Report**

The Poussin, Benjamin, and Minime categories had their competition in the morning.

The host nation showed that they have some excellent young riders and Arvis Dermaks won the Poussin class without losing any marks.

The Benjamin class also included the only girl rider Juliane Treue who lost only 15 marks to easily win.

The Minime class was dominated by the Czech rider Jan Musil who had an amazing ride to finish on 'zero' and beat the Slovak rider Ladislav Janoska by 10 marks. Martins Elsts from Latvia was very close in third position losing just 14 points.

A short opening ceremony took place before the older categories started their event in the afternoon. Section 1 was the man-made log section near to the road and this allowed many passers-by to see the action. The rain on the second lap made this section impossible for the Elite riders who struggled to find any grip on the bare logs.

The Elite category was a fight between the local rider Pavels Grivstovs and Joe Seddon from England. Both rode really well in the sections with Grivstovs being the only 20" rider to find enough speed to get up the large concrete slab on Section 8. This made all the difference and he won by 8 marks.

Local favourite Kristaps Skudra won the Master category finishing well clear of his compatriot Eriks Skorodjonoks.

Oli Sinivaara from Finland had a very good ride to win the Senior class on only 6 points. James Sheridan from England went even better and lost only 2 marks to easily win the Junior

category. Jan Musil and Ladislav Janoska also rode in the afternoon and they finished a very respectable third and fourth in this category.

The Expert route turned out to be difficult for all the riders. The Latvian pair of Mikelis Luksa and Janis Lapsa finished first and second respectively in front of the three Lithuanian riders.

The awards ceremony had a great atmosphere with a brass band accompanying the presentation of the prizes. Sponsorship from Nokia meant that mobile phones were given to the winners as well as a trophy and Champagne. The ceremony was immediately followed by a buffet and slide presentation which included the photos taken of the competition that day. A disco continued until the early hours of the morning as the town of Ugale celebrated their hosting of the 2007 European Cup.

### **Event Organisation**

The event was extremely well organised with everything running on time as per the time schedule. The observers had all attended an observers seminar a week before the competition and although they were strict they were fair.

The organisers and people from Ugale made all of the competitors very welcome and they had clearly spent a lot of time in planning and preparing for the competition. The opening and closing ceremonies were excellent. Transport had also been arranged to collect the foreign riders from Riga airport and bring them to the competition venue.

The difficulty of the sections was right and clearly at a lower level than the European Championship in Slovakia. This gave a perfect opportunity for both local and foreign riders to ride in an international BikeTrial competition.

The support of the Latvian Motorcycle Federation was clear and greatly assisted in the organisation of the event.

### **Meeting with organisers**

On Sunday morning myself and Brian Matthews held a meeting with Nina Birjukova, General Secretary of the Latvian Motorcycle Federation, and we discussed the event. She was congratulated on the success of the competition and the high level of organisation. The following points were made if Latvia was considering holding a European Championship event:-

- i) An inspection of the sections would have to be made by the jury.
- ii) The bikes would have to be examined before the competition.
- iii) No travelling in cars would be allowed by the competitors (as what happened during the European Cup).
- iv) A different venue would be needed because the Elite sections would need to be a lot harder.

Stuart Matthews  
EBU General Secretary  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2007