

**GRAND PRIX ORIGINALS**

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**Gulf Oil Dragracing see red in Finland**

*Litlington, Cambridgeshire, UK, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

The Gulf Oil – Grand Prix Originals Top Fuel Bike team arrived at this year's FHRA Nitro Nationals to be confronted by something of a tropical heatwave at the northernmost outpost on the UEM Drag Racing tour. Hot and humid conditions turned the track into a slick and tricky prospect, when it wasn't drowning under the watery products of huge electrical storms that curtailed qualifying on the Friday and Saturday evenings. Mercifully the temperature and humidity dropped for eliminations, but these were considerably delayed whilst spares for the timing system were sourced after the Saturday evening lightning display had knocked out the power at the track and for some distance around.

Points leader Ian King qualified second behind Sverre Dahl's 6.573 secs. @ 206 mph with a 6.626 @ 212 mph pass that had the Gulf Oil/Grand Prix Originals backed rider rolling off and on the throttle in order to overcome a seriously tricky track surface

However, in a shock quarter final both Dahl and King went out, the Norwegian rider suffering a broken camshaft drive and King with an uncharacteristic red light that saw the owner of King's former machine Petri Paljakka through to the next round. To add to the team's woe Paljakka had a relatively easy route through subsequent rounds to take his second consecutive Nitro Nationals win and to assume second place in the overall points standings behind championship leader King.



## **2011 Calendar - FIM/UEM European Drag Bike Championship**

28th April-1st May: [Kunmadaras](#), Hungary

27th-30th May: [FIA Main Event](#), Santa Pod Raceway, England

10th-12th June: [Tierp Motorpark](#), Sweden

30th June-3rd July: [FHRA Nitro Nationals](#), Alastaro, Finland

5th-7th August: [Sunoco Drag Challenge](#), Gardermoen, Norway

12th-14th August: [NitrOlympX](#), Hockenheim, Germany

8th-11th September: [FIA European Finals](#), Santa Pod Raceway, England

*Picture courtesy of Ivan Sansom & Rose Hughes*

*The team is extremely proud to be supported by many leaders in their chosen markets in their quest for an unprecedented sixth European Championship title: -*

[APE](#) - The world's most innovative manufacturer of aftermarket parts for race bikes

[COMETIC GASKETS](#) - The Premier Manufacturer of racing gaskets

[BELL HELMETS](#) - The ultimate iconic helmet brand

[GATES](#) - The world's most trusted name in drive belts, hoses and hydraulics

[GOEDHALS](#) - The name in precision specialist gear cutting

[GOODRIDGE](#) - The most innovative and the best in fluid transfer systems

[GRAND PRIX ORIGINALS](#) - The brand for drive and lifestyle, past and present

[GULF OIL INTERNATIONAL](#) - The world's most iconic brand in automotive fuels and lubricants

[HYPERPRO](#) - The leading producer of progressive suspension products for motor bikes

[JE PISTONS](#) - The world's premier manufacturer of high performance forged pistons

[KENT CAMS](#) - Specialists in motor sport camshaft manufacture, short runs and one -off's

[KIBBLEWHITE PRECISION MACHINING](#) - The highest quality valve train components available

[KING RACING](#) - The most successful Top Fuel Bike team in European Dragracing history

[MICKEY THOMPSON](#) - Simply the best drag race tyres in the world

[MRE](#) - Leaders in trackside support for drag race components and air shifting systems

[MTC ENGINEERING](#) - Manufacturer of clutches for the fastest motorcycles in the world

[NITROSHUTTER](#) - Europe's leading dragracing photojournalists

[NCTENGINEERING](#) - Manufacturer of the world's leading non contact torque sensors for motorsport

[PORTABLE SHADE](#) - The best custom branded collapsible canopies available

[PRO ALLOY MOTORSPORT](#) - The UK's leading fabricator of alloy tanks, intercoolers and radiators

[PSYCLEWORKZ](#) - The UK's best custom and race fabricators and innovators

[PUMA ENGINEERING](#) - Manufacturer of the world's most powerful motorcycle engines

[RSG CUSTOMIZE](#) - The UK's most creative website designers and vinyl artists

[VANSON LEATHERS](#) - The most iconic brand in motorsport leather goods

[WORLDWIDE BEARINGS](#) - The world's leading supplier of ceramic bearings for racing

[ZODIAC](#) - Europe's largest supplier of performance and aftermarket HD parts

For more on information on King Racing, visit [www.kingracing.com](http://www.kingracing.com)