

Press release, June 7, 2015

The Di.Di. conquers Vallelunga!

An astonishing success for the 2nd edition of the Dream World Bridgestone Cup who took over not only the spectators who rushed in to watch the World's only race for disabled riders, but also the experts who were impressed by the determination and courage of these special guys: Daniel Barbero who wins in the 1000 category and Umberto Lisanti in the 600 category.

A warm weekend full of strong emotions at Vallelunga for the many pilots involved in the President's Trophy - IMF Cup: among all the categories, a long waiting (and curiosity) for the Dream World Bridgestone Cup, which is the 2th edition of the international race for drivers with disabilities created by the non-profit organization known as "Di.Di. differently disabled".

Twenty-two riders at the starting line, with attendance from France, England and New Zealand: many guys eager to compete on equal terms, to compare the technical solutions adopted to ride at its best their bikes, to live a special weekend: for some of them this race was the first approach to jostle for a place, for others it was the only opportunity to compete with other riders with similar physical problems. This is the case of the 4 paraplegics guys, therefore with non-sensibility to the lower limbs, who have conquered Vallelunga: Stephane Paulus from France, Paul Garrett of New Zealand, Talan Skeels - Piggins from England and Maximilian Sontacchi, Italian.

For these super heroes, the Marshalls and pit bosses have been so prodigal the entire weekend to first understand their needs, and then to study an ad hoc starting position, which would allow them to line up on the grid without the help of assistants to support them before the shutdown of the semaphore.

Talan, Max, Paul and Stephane amazed the audience because of their real pilots temper, after all, by looking them in action at the racing track, no one will ever think that they need help to stop in the pits, and that they are forced to stay always on two wheels, not a bike's, but a wheelchair. Four nationalities, four different languages, but all with the same goal: to give their best.

Every pilot, in his own way, has left its mark this Sunday: the Team "Pirates of MRH45" composed of the French Arnauld Guignebert on a Honda CB500, Benjamin Saglio riding a Ducati Hypermotard 1100 and Marc Bisancon with a Yamaha R6; Franco Ubaldini and Fabio Bitocchi, totally excited, who bought the bike in April expressly to participate in this competition; George and John Quintana Aranciofebo who have few opportunities to get on their bikes because a lack of adequate facilities.

And then, we have the "Di.Di. veterans", who for this event turned out in great shape despite of being first under the checkered flag, taking advantage of the favorable transfer to a circuit known to them: Barbero, Tagliabue, and Raj have addressed to the whole weekend not only with the stopwatch, but also with the calculation of the coefficients of disability (CdD) that are applied experimentally for this race.

Since the morning of this hot Sunday the paddock began to be tinged with blue: many supporters flocked to the event and have worn the Di.Di. Team t-shirts printed with their motto: "Never Give Up" written in several languages, and many curious people who came to the pits for a close look at all the adaptations that each of the pilots had to make to their bikes. At the opening track for the deployment of the pilots on the grid Alex De Angelis joined in riding an Aprilia RSV4 made available by the Che Moto! Concessionaire from Rome; and Chiara Valentini riding a Honda VFR200F, to make a lap of honor and officially open the competition.

A perfect getaway from all the pilots turned on the stands as well as the comments in the study specifically set up for the live streaming: Giorgio Bungaro, supported by Virginio Ferrari, Annalisa Minetti - godmother of the association, and always in the forefront when it comes to sport and disability - and Alex De Angelis, were the special guests of this live streaming broadcasting that not only has a record number of hits, but has created problems for the too many internet access from all over the world, especially from New Zealand where Paul Garrett is very popular.

Getting the best of the 1000 class, was precisely Daniele Barbero who made a race solo, followed by Tagliabue, who also signed the fastest lap of the race in 1.47.333 and Raj. A fantastic fourth place for Stephane Paulus, making his debut on the Capitoline track, who managed to turn in 1.57.739, a difficult time to catch even for an able-bodied rookie. Following Di Vincenzo, Mariani, Saglio, Serena and Folwer.

In the 600 class, the coefficients disabilities have had the greatest influence on the final standings, accomplices the minors detachments under the checkered flag between competitors: Umberto Lisanti replicates victory, after the last year at Mugello, riding his Kawasaki with a best of 1:54 .328 despite being without the left arm and with a battered right leg. Second place for English Talan - Skeels-Piggins in 1.59.622 surpassing because of the application of the CdD Emiliano Malagoli, wearing two hats both as a rider and organizer of the event. Follow Samantha Palmucci, the only girl in the race; Maximilian Sontacchi and Fabio Bitocchi, in their debut in the race; finishing the challenge we have Aranciofebo, Guignebert and Quintana.

Unfortunately two slips without no consequences, of Pitorri and Ubaldini. While Paul Garrett and Marc Bisancon pulled out of the race due to mechanical problems of their bikes.

"I am excited of how foreign pilots and our new "young blood " have welcomed the invitation to participate in the Dream World Bridgestone Cup. Immediately after the awards they were so anxious to know when would be the next appointment because obviously they want to participate and get ready on time ... a wonderful recognition of months of hard work! says Emiliano Malagoli, President of the Di.Di. association born only two years ago. "I am very happy and I will never stop to thank the many, many people that this weekend made them available to help us realize this dream world: the IMF, the Vallelunga motor racing circuit, the Gentlemen's Motor Club, the The Bike Vallelunga workshop who fielded all his staff and his professionalism to provide mechanical assistance to all. Fisiomet, Agel and Step; local entities such as the Bank of Credito Cooperativo di Trevignano and Formello, the restaurants Di Fronte and Marchione, the Principe Bar who organized refreshments for guests and friends all over the weekend. Vircos for the supply of technical clothing, Honda and Che Moto! for providing us with the bike for the victory lap, Maxidrft Team, the *Motoclub Scoordinati* and all the friends in these three days who have been readily available for the guys despite the unbearable weather. The heat has not deterred even our testimonial Annalisa Minetti and Alex De Angelis who accompanied us for these two days with their smile and availability that distinguish them. And of course thanks to Bridgestone, our main sponsor, without whom none of this would be possible! I have a secret dream for the next year, but I will not reveal it for good luck. Now we will dedicate our time to the issuing of the special AS driving licenses, but I only promise that we will soon work to give an even bigger dream "

We now only have to await for news, making for sure that Di.Di. will keep on surprising everybody for 2016!