

Road Race  
WSBK, Imola, Italy

## Two Second Places Keep Sykes Near The Championship Lead

**Tom Sykes and his Kawasaki Racing Team Ninja ZX-10R once more made great progress in the SBK class, taking two second place finishes at Imola and staying within six points of the championship lead.**

Having started from pole after blitzing the previous track best in Superpole qualifying Sykes was to leave Imola with the new lap record on raceday as well, a 1'47.552 lap set while trying to keep eventual double race winner Carlos Checa behind him. Tom was not able to perform that feat as 2011 champion Checa turned up the heat but even in the cool conditions on raceday, Tom was able to defend his second place, particularly in race two.

Tom has won an SBK race on the Ninja before, last year in Germany, but this can be considered his best weekend so far in many ways, as he took not only two consistent second places in dry conditions, but the best results to date. His total of podiums on the Ninja ZX-10R now is four, three coming in 2012.

For Joan Lascorz incidents involving other riders affected his final results but he still finished a strong seventh in race one, gaining places right up until the last lap, and he was ninth in race two. He had to fight through from 22nd on lap one of race one, making his seventh place a remarkable result in many ways.

In the points standings, Sykes is third on 69 points, only six behind leader Checa.

Team Pedercini new SBK signing Leandro Mercado scored points for 14th in race one, but retired in race two with a gearbox glitch. David Salom continued to fight against his weakened wrist, hurt in a fall in Australian testing, and took 19th place in race one, 17th in race two.

More success came along in the Superstock 1000 FIM Cup class, as Loris Baz took his MRS Kawasaki Ninja ZX-10R to second in what was eventually a five-lap sprint after an interrupted first attempt. This was the best result for the Ninja ZX-10R in this class. Bryan Staring (Team Pedercini Kawasaki) was fifth in Superstock, another good result for the big Ninja in near streetbike spec.

Tom Sykes: "The plan was to get a good start in race one and we had a very clean launch in the Kawasaki. In the first nine laps or so it was just Carlos and I and saw there was a big gap behind us. Carlos rode a great race, hats off to him, and he knew exactly what he was doing. In race two I had a lot of pressure from Leon and Biaggi certainly in the last third of the race so I was forced to dig a little bit deep and it paid off. I heard Leon's engine there for a few laps but I found I had a little bit of a gap on the last lap so second position was good. Overall I think it has been a very good weekend for myself and Kawasaki. The Ninja ZX-10R has been great again - pole position, and two seconds in the races - so I do not think we could ask for much more."

Joan Lascorz: "In race one I got hit by Leon Camier in the first chicane, and was lucky not to fall off. I was well back but I worked hard to get nearer to the front. In race two we made a change to the rear shock but it made no big difference. I made one mistake and another rider hit me again and I lost five seconds. I raced with a guy who won the race here last year so that shows how difficult it is in this class. We have some good things to work on when we test tomorrow, and we will try another line of set-up to try to find even more."

High resolution images are free to download at [press.kawasaki.eu](http://press.kawasaki.eu).

## WSBK

### Race 1

1	Carlos Checa	Ducati 1098R
2	<b>Tom Sykes</b>	Kawasaki ZX 10R
3	Leon Haslam	BMW S1000 RR
4	Max Biaggi	Aprilia RSV4 Factory
5	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia RSV4 Factory
6	Marco Melandri	BMW S1000 RR
7	<b>Joan Lascorz</b>	Kawasaki ZX-10R
8	Lorenzo Zanetti	Ducati 1098R
9	Jonathan Rea	Honda CBR1000RR
10	Niccolò Canepa	Ducati 1098R
14	<b>Leandro Mercado</b>	Kawasaki ZX-10R
19	<b>David Salom</b>	Kawasaki ZX-10R

### Race 2

1	Carlos Checa	Ducati 1098R
2	<b>Tom Sykes</b>	Kawasaki ZX 10R
3	Leon Haslam	BMW S1000 RR
4	Max Biaggi	Aprilia RSV4 Factory
5	Jonathan Rea	Honda CBR1000RR
6	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia RSV4 Factory
7	Jakub Smrz	Ducati 1098R
8	Leon Camier	Suzuki GSX-R1000
9	<b>Joan Lascorz</b>	Kawasaki ZX-10R
10	Marco Melandri	BMW S1000 RR
17	<b>David Salom</b>	Kawasaki ZX-10R
DNF	<b>Leandro Mercado</b>	Kawasaki ZX-10R

### Standings

1	Carlos Checa	Ducati 1098R	75
2	Max Biaggi	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	71
3	<b>Tom Sykes</b>	Kawasaki ZX 10R	69
4	Leon Haslam	BMW S1000 RR	47
5	Marco Melandri	BMW S1000 RR	46
6	Jonathan Rea	Honda CBR1000RR	40
7	Jakub Smrz	Ducati 1098R	30
8	Eugene Laverty	Aprilia RSV4 Factory	29
9	Sylvain Guintoli	Ducati 1098R	21
10	Maxime Berger	Ducati 1098R	20
12	<b>Joan Lascorz</b>	Kawasaki ZX-10R	17
21	<b>Leandro Mercado</b>	Kawasaki ZX-10R	2
22	<b>David Salom</b>	Kawasaki ZX-10R	2