The Astra Grass Track Clubs hosting of the 2016 FIME European Individual Grass Track Final was certainly a very competitive event that was staged on a very hot and sunny Autumn day at the ultra-fast Swingfield circuit near Folkestone in the South East of England. The 3,000 spectators witnessed some very exciting racing with riders not giving a centimetre during the 12 qualifying heats. Once all the points had been totalled, the field of the top 16 point scoring riders was allocated to the three (C, B and A) Finals.
With two ‘last chance’ places available for the winner and second place riders (in the B Final), to qualify through to the all-important A Final, racing was again extremely competitive with Josef Franc (ACCR) and 19 years old James Shanes (ACU) finally managing to gain these two important places. This enabled them to join defending champion Dirk Fabriek (KNMV), Andrew Appleton (ACU), Matt Tresarrieu (FFM) and Jannick de Jong (KNMV) for the ‘winner takes all’ A Final.

With all six riders keen to make a successful start and first corner, it was Jannick de Jong who fell in the first turn and was excluded from the re-run. At the second attempt, the home fans’ favourite - James Shanes - shot from the starting tapes and lead the race to the chequered flag, chased all the way by Frenchman Mathieu Tresarrieu.

Full results on FIM Europe website: [http://www.fim-europe.eu/events/271](http://www.fim-europe.eu/events/271)

Photos courtesy of Jesper Veldhuizen ([www.baansportfansite.nl](http://www.baansportfansite.nl))

The actual issue of FIM Europe MAG is online and can be downloaded [here](http://www.fim-europe.eu/events/271).