



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE MOTOCYCLISME

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Death of Bill Nilsson

Former FIM Motocross World Champion Bill Nilsson passed away on Sunday 25 August at the age of 80.

Born on 17 December 1932 in Hallstavik, Sweden, he first appears in the 500cc European Motocross Championship standings in 1953. At the first Grand Prix in Geneva, Switzerland, he finished 4<sup>th</sup> riding an AJS. Bill achieved his first win in 1954 in his home race in Saxtorp. In 1955 he missed the title by one point in the last race after a duel with British rider John Draper. In 1956 he won two races on the BSA but failed to score points in other races. For 1957, first year of the World Championship, he came back to AJS and it was his year: 2<sup>nd</sup> in France, winner in Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Belgium and Denmark and 5<sup>th</sup> in Britain, he beat Belgian René Baeten and his fellow countryman Sten Lundin. In 1958 he finished 2<sup>nd</sup> to Baeten, and in 1959 2<sup>nd</sup> to Lundin before clinching his second World title in 1960, in front of Sten Lundin and Rolf Tibblin.

Bill Nilsson was also a member of the Swedish team which won the Motocross des Nations in 1955 (with Sten Lundin and Lars Gustavsson), 1958 (with Lars Gustavsson and Ove Lundell) and 1961 (with Rolf Tibblin and Ove Lundell). He was part the "Golden Era of Sweden" (fifties and sixties) when Swedish riders were frequently winning against British and Belgian riders at the top levels of Motocross (500cc and 250cc).

All the members of the FIM present their sincere condolences to his family and friends.

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### About the FIM ([www.fim-live.com](http://www.fim-live.com))

The FIM (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) founded in 1904, is the governing body for motorcycle sport and the global advocate for motorcycling. The FIM is an independent association formed by 108 National Federations throughout the world. It is recognised as the sole competent authority in motorcycle sport by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Among its 50 FIM World Championships the main events are MotoGP, Superbike, Endurance, Motocross, Supercross, Trial, Enduro, Cross-Country Rallies and Speedway. Furthermore, the FIM is also active and involved in the following areas: public affairs, road safety, touring and protection of the environment. The FIM was the first international sports federation to impose an Environmental Code in 1994.