

# Mike Browne Wins 2024 Manx GP – Ducati 916 & FT550 ECU

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Mike Browne, riding for Key Racing, delivered a remarkable performance at the 2024 Manx Grand Prix (Manx GP), storming to victory in the Classic Superbike class on his Ducati 916. With a 13.973 second lead, Browne's win was a masterclass in motorcycle racing, showcasing both his skills as a rider and the superior engineering of his Ducati 916, equipped with the FuelTech FT550 engine management system. This victory solidifies Browne's place in the annals of the Manx GP, a race known for its challenging course and fierce competition. Browne's triumph was not just a victory for him personally but also a



demonstration of the powerful role that advanced engine management systems play in modern racing.

### The History of the Manx GP and the 2024 Classic Superbike Race

The Manx Grand Prix, held on the Isle of Man, is one of the most prestigious motorcycle races in the world, featuring both amateur and professional riders. Established in 1923, the Manx GP has long been a proving ground for up-and-coming riders, as well as a place where seasoned racers can test their mettle against the iconic Mountain Course. The race takes place on the Isle of Man's public roads, converted for the event into a high-speed circuit that is both dangerous and thrilling. Riders must contend with tight turns, elevation changes, and variable weather conditions. Over the decades, the Manx GP has evolved into a beloved event in the racing calendar, serving as a companion to the famous Isle of Man TT.

In 2024, the Classic Superbike race of the 101st Manx GP proved to be one of the most exciting races of the event. Featureing motorcycles that, while iconic, are no longer the cutting-edge machines of modern racing. Instead, they are nostalgic pieces of racing history, lovingly restored and upgraded to compete in today's fast-paced environment. The 2024 Classic Superbike race saw an intense field of competitors, but none could match the sheer speed and precision of Mike Browne on his Ducati 916. This year's Manx GP was plagued with severe weather disruptions, further challenging riders with wet course conditions on the already perilous course. Shortly after the start of the highly anticipated Classic Superbike class, fog engulfed the mountain stretch of the course severely limiting visibility and leading race organizers to wave the checkered flag after the first lap of the 37.73 mile course. Despite the weather conditions, Browne's performance was nothing short of powerful, as he crossed the finish line with a comfortable 13.973-second lead, leaving his competitors in the dust.



#### Mike

#### **Browne's Racing Career: A Path to Victory**

Mike Browne's journey to the top of the Manx GP Classic Superbike podium has been one marked by determination and perseverance. Hailing from a small village outside of Cork, Ireland, Browne began his racing career at 26 after participating in a local hill climb. He was soon competing in the Irish road racing scene, quickly making a name for himself with his aggressive yet calculated riding style. Over the years, he has competed in a variety of road racing events, including the North West 200, Southern 100, Isle of Man TT, and the Ulster Grand Prix. However, it is at the Manx GP where Browne has truly found his stride with back-to-back wins in the Lightweight class race in 2022 and 2023.

Browne's ability to read the course and adapt to its unpredictable conditions has allowed him to consistently improve on the challenging Isle of Man course. In 2024, his years of experience culminated in his most significant victory to date—his commanding win in the Classic Superbike race. Browne's connection to his Ducati 916, combined with the advanced technology of the FuelTech FT550 engine management system, made him virtually unbeatable on race day. His victory at the 2024 Manx GP solidifies his status as one of the top road racers in the world.

#### The Iconic Ducati 916: A Superbike Legend

The Ducati 916, the motorcycle that Mike Browne piloted to victory in the 2024 Classic Superbike race, is a legend in its own right. Originally released in 1994, the 916 quickly became one of the most celebrated superbikes in history. Designed by Massimo Tamburini, the 916 is widely credited for revolutionizing sportbike design and is celebrated for its aggressive styling, innovative aerodynamic design, and high performance. The 916's powerful V-twin engine led Ducati to 4 World Superbike Championships during its production years, solidifying its place in motorcycle racing lore.

The 916's lightweight chassis, powerful 916cc L-twin engine (a variation of the V-twin), and exceptional handling quickly made it a favorite among racers and enthusiasts. Even today, nearly three decades after its debut, the Ducati 916 remains a highly sought-after superbike, cherished for its iconic design and performance. In Mike Browne's hands, the 916 once again demonstrated why it is regarded as one of the greatest motorcycles ever built, securing Ducati's first Isle of Man victory for a 916. Competing against more modern machines, Browne's 916, equipped with cutting-edge upgrades like FuelTech's FT550 engine management system, outpaced the field at the 2024 Manx GP, proving that the Ducati 916's legacy is as powerful as ever.

## FuelTech FT550 ECU: The Tech Behind the Triumph

Contributing to Mike Browne's success at the 2024 Manx GP Classic Superbike race was the advanced technology Key Racing integrated into his Ducati 916, particularly the FuelTech FT550 engine management system, addressing inconsistent fueling that is known to cause rough idling and stalling on the 916. FuelTech is known for its cutting-edge solutions in engine control and tuning, and the FT550 is no exception. This system allows riders to have complete control over their engine's performance, optimizing fuel delivery, ignition timing, and other critical factors that contribute to maximum speed and reliability on the track.