RALLY2 RIDER MIKE DOCHERTY LEADS THE OVERALL RALLY FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE DAY

DAVID BRACERAS DELIVERS ANOTHER TOP 5 FINISH IN RALLY 2

Al Sila', UAE | 24th Nov 2026

Hero MotoSports Team Rally successfully navigated the longest and most demanding test of the 2026 Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge today, completing Stage 2 from Madinat Zayed to the coastal Marathon Camp at Al Sila'. Featuring a punishing 330-kilometre timed special within a 389-kilometre route across the Al Dhafra desert, the stage put both riders and machines to the ultimate test ahead of an overnight bivouac with no external mechanical assistance.

Tasked with opening the track after his back-to-back victories in the Prologue and Stage 1, Mike Docherty delivered a resilient and composed ride across the vast dunes and fast desert tracks securing a 5th place today in the overall rankings. Facing a formidable challenge of leading the field into untouched terrain, Mike maintained a blistering pace throughout the 330-kilometre special, staying locked in a down-to-the-wire battle for the overall lead with Rally GP frontrunners right up to the final kilometres. He, once again, demonstrated his mastery of the Emirates' sands and remains firmly in contention at the sharp end of both the Rally 2 and overall FIM classifications, being firmly perched on the top spot in both the overall and Rally 2 category at the end of the Stage 2.





Meanwhile, Spanish teammate David Braceras continued his impressive transition to rally-raid competition on his debut outing with the squad. Building on his strong top-four Rally 2 finish in Stage 1, David focused on clean navigation, consistency, and preserving his Hero 450 Rally machine over the gruelling marathon distance to bring the bike safely into the Al Sila' bivouac. He finished the stage in 5th place in Rally 2 category, enabling him to maintain a Top 10 position in the overall rankings at 8th place, and a Top 5 in Rally 2 category at 4th place at the conclusion of stage 2.

Stage 2 kicked off from the main bivouac in Madinat Zayed and headed toward the Saudi Arabian border, terminating on the shores of the Arabian Gulf at Al Sila'. As the first leg of the traditional Marathon stage, riders must now rely solely on themselves and their teammates to service and prepare their motorcycles overnight without support from the team's mechanics

After a well-earned rest by the coast, the riders will gear up tomorrow for Stage 3—the return leg of the marathon from Al Sila' back to Madinat Zayed—covering a total distance of 401 kilometres, including a 286-kilometre timed special.



Michael Docherty, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally, said:
"It was a fun day today as I got to open the stage. I was riding well, and maintained a good pace too. A small mistake had me looking for a waypoint so lost some time there but after that just charged through to the end and make up some time. Overall, it was a good stage and my Hero 450 Rally was amazing. I'll just try to do well tomorrow and keep going."

David Braceras, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally, said:
"Happy to have seen the back of the stage 2 to arrive at the Marathon bivouac safely, which the goal today. The beginning 160 odd kms were tough because I broke a switch in one of the broken dunes in the first km itself. I decided to follow the rider behind me until I could fix the switch. In the second part of the stage, I was feeling good with the roadbook and was able to avoid the dangers so I decided to push a little more. I made a small navigation mistake towards the end but overall it was a good stage. Now, we rest up, check everything for tomorrow, and be ready for stage 3."

Overall Provisional Rankings – Stage 2

01.	**Daniel Sanders**	**Redbull KTM Factory Team**	**+ 02h 49m 45s**
02.	Adrian Van Beveren	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+ 00m 28s
03.	Luciano Benavides	Redbull KTM Factory Team	+ 00m 43s
05.	**Mike Docherty**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 03m 47s**
09.	**David Braceras**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 13m 50s**

Provisional Rankings – Stage 2 – Rally 2

Mike Docherty	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	1st Place
David Braceras	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	5th Place

Overall Provisional Rankings at the end of Stage 2

01.	**Mike Docherty**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 05h 25m 32s**
02.	Daniel Sanders	Redbull KTM Factory Team	+ 01m 20s
03.	Adrian Van Beveren	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+ 01m 34s
08.	**David Braceras**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 26m 20s**

Provisional Rankings at the end of Stage 2 – Rally 2

Mike Docherty	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	1st Place
David Braceras	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	4th Place

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About Hero MotoCorp

Hero MotoCorp, headquartered in New Delhi, India, is the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters for 25 consecutive years with ~$5 billion revenue. The Company's global footprint spans 53 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and Latin America with a customer base of over 130 million. The Company operates eight manufacturing facilities - six in India and one each in Colombia and Bangladesh - along with two Research and Development centres: Hero Centre for Innovation and Technology (CIT) in India and Hero Tech Centre Germany (TCG). Hero MotoCorp is driving the transition to electric mobility through VIDA. Strategic alliances with Harley-Davidson and Zero Motorcycles support the design and development of premium and electric motorcycles, respectively. Further demonstrating its commitment to the EV future, the Company has made strategic investments in two- and three-wheeler EV manufacturers, Ather Energy and Euler Motors. Hero MotoCorp is the only Indian two-wheeler manufacturer listed on the prestigious Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI). Hero MotoCorp's Executive Chairman, Dr. Pawan Munjal, was named to the 2025 TIME100 Climate List of the 100 most influential leaders driving business climate action. Beyond mobility, Hero MotoCorp is a major global promoter of sports, including golf, football, field hockey, and cricket. Hero MotoSports Team Rally is India, a flag bearer in global rally racing.