



# DIRTBIKE-Gym Eastwood Honda MX Team

## Race Report — British Championships Round 1

Fatcats Track near Doncaster UK ... 11th March 2012

Dear Sponsors and Fans of DBG Eastwood Honda MX Team



### The week leading up

The team woke up in Belgium on the Monday leading up to our first 2012 British Championship round knowing it was deep sand at Fatcats track this coming weekend. After Monday planning and rest day and a good clean up we were straight to Honda Park in Balen Tuesday and then to the Lierop GP track for practise on the Wednesday.

Both days proved very important with the likes of Jeffrey Herlings, Strijbos and Bobryshev and other world class GP riders on the same track. Hamish and George could watch and gauge why these guys were at the top of the world., Quite simply they were fitter , stronger and faster, and did things all around the track that our riders did not or could not. A great means of comparison that is for sure.

Herlings would make every table top, every double and unless passing do everything the same every lap; adjusting only as track conditions changed. His share corner speed gave him the momentum to reach these obstacles. His factory bike helped but our bikes are not slow so this was little excuse for our men. We clocked every lap and made positive comparisons.



**“Our boys only need to find about 6-8 seconds a 2 minute lap to be world class ... in fact this is not easy to gain and in MX a lot to be done. But it is possible if we think about needing 0.25 seconds each corner and 0.5 seconds on other obstacles such as jumps. Simple as that and why we are here !”**

We travelled back to the UK on Thursday and after a small mishap with Hamish and a passport being left in Lommel, costing an extra 6 hours driving, we where back in Sussex getting the trailers ready and bikes perfect for leaving Saturday 7.00 am. The drive to Doncaster is about 4 to 4.5 hours so both vans and trailer rigs stayed close throughout the journey.

Right: How our rigs go off to races. “One Mercedes Sprinter Van has 6 seats and a extra bed with room for 3 bikes and gear. The other Merc has 3 seats and a workshop on board with generator, air, work bench and all our spare parts ready for easy access. The same van can carry 6 bikes and is fully carpeted as a changing room for the riders. One race trailers has a living area, huge shower that mudded riders can change in. WC, TV, fully fitted kitchen and bar area. The other trailer has a bunk room and double berth to sleep up to 10 people” We carry 20 tyres and wheels. A 4 and 8 mtr pop up tent and all accessories to put on the show we need as a professional race team.





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### THE TEAM ...



Introductions from left to right:-

1) #511 Kieran Scheele; Running MX 2—points scorer in MX1 2011 British Champs guaranteed him a position on the start line in 2012.

2) #153 Hamish Harwood from NZ's South Island—2011 Aust and NZ jnr Champion. He is quick and in form.

3) #22 George Baldwin. The UK's George Baldwin who has ridden under Mark Eastwood for some years.

### Pilot results : SCHEELE

Kieran has had his ankle operation after waiting 7 hours in a waiting room. He is now on the mend and will be back to excite us all soon !

### Pilot results : HARWOOD

Incredibly Hamish has already gained points from his first round. This is the quickest achievement the team has had so far. An 18th place in his second race gives the all important points to be able to enter in coming seasons. Well done Hamish.

Hamish's first race proved to this young kiwi from the South Island that there is a lot of physical work to do to get anywhere close to the very competitive UK riding scene. The guys are super fit and even the best struggled in the very deep sand of Fatcats Race Track this day. Hamish battled through but like the others tailing in the last 10 he struggled. When back to the pits Hamish revealed using a thermal under so we suspect he overheated. It was a nice sunny spring day and the sun was out so an lesson for Hamish for sure.

His second race was a good start and good run. In 25th he fought through to 18th well. Later it was reported that a lot of teams had technical faults causing riders to pull out early.

The third race simply did not happen. His bike would not start and before we could change controls to the spare bike the start gate area was closed. Since we have found a faulty kill switch. Motocross has a rider and support team .. Both have to perform for success. We all understood this and took the day on the chin. Overall a successful experience and a lot learnt. "If we keep learning we keep progressing ..."

Right: Hamish and Jason prepare for moto 1. Off the waiting area. If you are not in the area 10 minutes before the sitting lap the gate is closed and access denied. ACU rules.

*PTO for George Baldwin's report*







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HONDA**

### Pilot results: George Baldwin

Riding the Honda CRF 450 George arrived on the Sunday to meet us at the tent with Mark Eastwood. UK and GP MX legend in support, father and brother along as well. George qualified in very well at 26th. His smooth style making the best of a then smooth track

George crashed out in the first moto with a completely caved in radiator. He had to retire. The second moto was better and took a 22nd place. This was his best and most consistent. The third moto was completed in style but he should be fitter Isaid Mark Eastwood. Afterwards he showed the signs of the day and admitted more training in the Belgium sand is needed. I am sure we will see more form the talented rider.



Left: Mark Eastwood working on Georges bike. George's banner hanging behind.



Above: George really getting in the dirt as he lays the bike horizontally around a sand turn







Season preparation and or first event on 4th March 2012  
in Belgium and Holland. (cont')







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**Left: European and GP Legend Marc Deriver comes and uses our spin bike to warm up and ends up ordering one !!**

