



DIRTBIKE-Gym Eastwood Honda MX Team

PRESS RELEASE—A RED TEAM for 2012

Season preparation and or first event on 4th March 2012 in Belgium and Holland.

Dear Sponsors and Fans of DBG Eastwood Honda MX Team

Welcome to 2012.

After an amazing 2011 season packed with many exciting times, learning loads and plenty of laughs, we are expecting even more from the 2012 yr.



Above: 16 year old 2011 NZ and Aust multi-class Jnr Champion, Hamish Harwood after his first International Level Belgium race event. *“Far out !!” ... said Hamish ... that’s the roughest track I have ever ridden, as he push his bike back to the pits, sat and poured water over himself ... this day Hamish gained a 3rd overall in MX2 Inters, a excellent first result*

HAVE WE CHANGED OUR OBJECTIVE ?

“No ... OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING YOUNG NEW ZEALAND RIDERS THE CHANCE TO COMPETE AND BE SEEN ON THE WORLD STAGE HAS NOT CHANGED. THE WAY WE ARE PROVIDING THIS CHANCE HAS CHANGED. WE GAINED A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE IN 2011 AND NOW WE ARE GOING TO ADAPT FOR THE GOOD OF THE RIDERS ... OUR FIRST CHANGE IS TO GIVE TIME FOR RIDERS TO SETTLE BEFORE EXPECTING OF THEM PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY ... THEN WE WILL AGREE WITH THE RIDERS DIETS AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES ... IT IS AS IMPORTANT TO BE FRESH AS IT IS FIT WE FEEL ...”

Team Management Jason Morris and Rex Michau “

IN 2012 WE ARE PROUD TO BE WORKING WITH EASTWOOD HONDA and Mark Eastwood, a champion and world class rider himself. Thank you also to Dave Thorpe (many times world champion) for his support through his work with Honda. Further special thanks go to ROCKOIL, BODYWORKS vehicle repair centre, RNR GOGGLES and DUCKSMART cleaning products for their full sponsorship this season. We also thank CI Sports, RaceFX, Dunlop, Evotech, ERS suspension (Eastwood Racing Suspension), Vanhill (Magura), Motoshack Graphics, Ralawise clothing, Dirtbike-Gym and Mud-no-stick.

HOW THE TEAM WORKS FINANCIALLY :-

For those interested in how we run this team. DBG MX Youth Development Ltd is a non profit company (legally termed “by guarantee”) and is registered in the UK. First we have the above sponsors bringing gear, bikes and a revenue stream. Then we have the riders paying for accommodation and subsistence as well as entry fees. Dirtbike-Gym sells and promotes the Gyms, Spin Bikes, Arm pump machines and mud-no-stick products. The sales of these help fund the staff and other running costs. We, in this year have found many ways to save money which we are putting into action; one of them being to base the team in Belgium. The result is that we can provide the chance to NZ youngsters to experience and be seen on the world stage that otherwise quite simply could not afford it.

“We understand that it is not easy for a NZ rider to find 3 lots of NZ\$ 12k over a season but if one was to privateer it or pay into a team you could be in for 3-4 times that. It is very good value for money if a rider wishes to enter the world stage ... the calibre of people they ride with, meet and be trained by is very good ... **BTW, we need rider applicants for 2013 early so think about it ... the Visa takes time. We must prepare for 2013 early .. We also welcome visitors to come and see what we are doing ... Please spread the word. We have written each year to all clubs but few have replied which is sad ...**



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



OUR NEW LOOK TEAM ... "with some new and old faces"



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. **We have just heard that Hamish will get his chance to prove this weekend on the 11th March in the opening round of the British Championships.**

3) #22 George Baldwin wide super smooth and quick. In 2012 the team received no MX1 applicants so decided to compliment the team with the UK's George Baldwin who has ridden under Mark Eastwood for some years. **George rides MX1 in the Britz this weekend.**

THE BIKES ...

In 2012 we ride Honda. The Honda's seem better built than the Suzuki we think and Honda seem to be investing in the next years and Eastwood Honda are a leading company in MX ... hence our decision to switch to RED.



Left: Hamish on the 2012 race bike. Highly tested and tuned Eastwood ERS suspension and Evotech race engine and DEP pipe delivering 10HP more makes a powerful smooth combination.

Below: Kieran, Jason and Hamish display the machine.





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The mechanics

This year Jason will be supported by Max Sansom and Oscar Smitz as mechanics. Max is a qualified architect but has decided to take a year out to follow the sport he loves and rides in socially. Oscar will arrive soon as he is in recuperation after being hit in the knee by a car.

Below: Max having a ride after main testing is done for the day at the Lommel Track and at his work bench in Lommel Belgium



.... Oscar will be with us soon !!

February 2012—the build up and move to Belgium ...

Heavy UK snowfalls in Feb. meant riders arrived to delays in getting testing. The lads rode Essex and Mepal tracks to test with guru's Jason Morris and Mark Eastwood. First in testing was Kieran and then later Hamish who arrive 10 days later.

We packed the vans and moved to Belgium on the 27th Feb. Rode 3 days in a row and then headed for the races on Sunday. George to Oss for the Dutch Champs and Hamish to a local VLM Belgium national event at Balen.

Kieran broke an ankle just before we came to Belgium so is out for 8 weeks and will join the team again when his doctor allows.

Jason and Rex this year will share duty in Belgium and the whole team will return to the UK for the British Champs. We wait for news on our entries to the FIM world rounds of which we have entered into 6 of them.

What is Belgium life like for a MX rider ...

Belgium life is different and the language barrier often makes it hard to get things done fast nut we are set-up and have rented a good house for all to live and breath MX in. The tracks available every day except Monday and numerous are exciting and tough, and the best in the world they say.

We aim this year to continuously update readers with what it is like to live and ride here and get the riders to right informative reports for other readers to enjoy.

Below: George and his Green Love Machine



Below Right: HH getting the race bike cleaned on Monday morning—it will be completely stripped and rebuilt for the Brits on the 11th March.





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



Our first races— Hamish Harwood competes in the VLM MX at Balen Belgium 4th March 2012

With Kieran Scheele injured with a broken ankle in training last week, it left Hamish and George to prove themselves ready for the season. For Hamish it was a warm up race but man did he do well. After riding the sand at Honda park twice and then the Lommel track in the week this all Hamish had to prepare him for some crazy rough racing.



We arrived at 7.30 am to the track and learnt some lessons on getting there early; everyone must have been there at 5 am !! This track was literally 15 minutes from our Lommel house and the place was packed out with 9 classes to run 2 races in the day. Hamish's first practice was 9 am but we started late as we thought a radiator had gone. Hamish got a lap in practice but not enough to get a qualifying time. So he had to start 40th onto the gate. Problem was that they only had 30 gates ... incredible. And from reports the Dutch do the same .. Because George experienced the same that day.

Anyway the first race was at 1 pm and then last for the International Class at 5 pm. The inters, as they call them where 19 min plus 1 lap .. The other races that day were 12 minutes.

Race 1 ... Hamish got filled in then snuck up the inside to run 15th into the 3rd corner. He then progressed well as the track took many other riders out ... Hamish dropped it a few times but was clever with his controls, always keeping the bike running. This class had MX1 and MX2 international class riders in it. In the MX2 class Hamish finished 2nd. A great effort. His words explained it all as he came back to the pits. "Man that is rough !!"

Race 2 ... Hamish again needed to start behind all the others with 10 others due to only 30 gates. This time he could not sneak the inside line. Dead last into turn 2 ... up to 30th by the end of lap one. Goggles off lap 4 ...



3 second stop for new goggles .. And then fort back with incredible grit to 25th overall against some impressive 450 sand experts. Finished 3rd in MX 2 class ... overall for the day .. AN ADMIRAL 3RD PLACE.FOR THE DAY !!



Hamish has receiving his award of 3rd position MX2 international class (inters)



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



Our first races— George Baldwin competes at OSS in HOLLAND in the Dutch National Championships



George arrived with the team on last Wednesday and rode with us a couple days to prepare after spending a lot of time in Spain this pre-season.

MX1 riders from NZ this year were hard to find so we have bought George on to fill the spot. The Oss track is about 1 hour from our Lommel base. George was supported this week by Hamish's Mechanic Max as Mark Eastwood was held up in the UK with his Honda shop and pre season customers to support.

The track was flat with large ski jumps and massive puddles explained George. "It was a flat out track but heavy grit sand like Hawkstone .."

George qualified in at 39th out of 80 entrants all out tearing it up with 30 minutes to prove their worth. Evidently 40 riders had to put their bikes back in the vans so well done George for qualifying in.

George learnt a big lesson this day. That is to be patient and find clear air in qualifying so he can get on a gate. Also perfect goggle preparation and having spares ready at track side could have helped.



As for Hamish that day some 100 miles away, the gates where only 30 so George had to start second row. His first race came with an admirable 29th position and having to finish without goggles ...

Georges second race left him without vision so had to pull in. This weekend George will be in the Maxxis British Championships so this was all good preparation although we know he can offer so much more.

Good luck for the 11th Boys !!

Right and Above : Some pics of George in action.

