Billy Green Trials Update 2018

I last wrote in June, which is a little while ago but it’s been a crazy few months, with just one World Championship event, a trip to Germany as a training instructor, a British Championship event, the Super Trial, a South West Championship, a local trials academy and a lot of trials practice!

I also managed to squeeze a few day’s work in between all of this!

When we returned from the World round in Portugal at the end of June we had 3 weekends with no events. All a bit of an anti-climax! With my exams over I had some free time so I found a summer job.

A few months ago Motor Sport Club MSC, Werl in Germany invited me to be an instructor at their annual Trials training academy. This took place in July so my Dad, my friend Josh and I travelled to Werl for the week. I wasn’t too worried about the training part of this but I speak no German, and neither do my Dad or Josh! So how were we going to explain to the riders what we wanted them to do! I didn’t need to worry though because nearly all of the riders and other instructors spoke pretty good English.

The week was a really good laugh and we made some great new friends. We were made to feel really welcome and had a great time. We even managed to teach the riders a few new skills on their bikes!

We arrived back on the Friday of that week. That weekend was Moretonhampstead & DMC’s round of the SW ACU Trials Championship. This is the club I belong to, so on the Saturday Dad and I helped set out the event with the other committee members for the event the next day. A 5 cost me the trial and Joe Baker won. But it was still a good event.

The next event was in August and was a trip to Oxford for the Super Trial. This is a stand-alone event, so it is not part of the National series. I rode my 250 in the adult class. It is a stop trial, unlike all other events. This means you can stop in the section to steady yourself and prepare for the next obstacle. Stopping is not allowed in all other trials. It is a very different way of riding and takes a bit of adjusting to. This was always going to be a tough event for me as I am still getting use to riding the 250 and I am riding against the best adults in this country. My ride wasn’t my best but I took away some positives from it.

The following weekend we travelled to Guisborough, North Yorkshire for a British Championship trial. Another very long journey from Devon! Again I was riding my Beta 250. This year has been all about learning being the first year on my 250. I knew I wouldn’t be on the podium, my goal has been to improve my position each round. I did just that at Guisborough where I finished 9th. I had eventually broken onto the top 10.

A couple of weeks later was the SW Trials academy. These are held 4 or 5 times a year for a few under 21’s. Joe Baker organises theses event and I really enjoyed his training .

Then it was off to Italy! The event of the year for me as it was the last round of the World Trials Championship.

So far in the World Trials Championship (WTC) I have had 4 wins and a fifth position. This means I went into the final round with an 18 point lead. You get 20 points for a win, and with how the results stood I just needed to finish in the top 10 to take the title! No pressure then!

The journey from home to the Italian venue in Pietramurata is 1100 miles. We drove down over a couple of days and arrived in the stunning mountains to very warm weather.

Friday is about signing on and technical control on the bike. Saturday is practice and qualification. This time was the first night time, floodlit qualification. It was quite cool to ride the qualification in the floodlit arena but it meant there was a lot of hanging around in the day waiting for it.

I did ok in qualification. I cleaned the section and was 4th fastest which gave me a good start position for Sunday.

I have ridden once before at this venue. The sections are mainly man made large rock, loose slate and stone, and steep climbs. All very dramatic! The first lap was perfect I didn’t drop a single mark, so I was leading as we went into the second lap. Unfortunately I got a 5 on the first section of the second lap and things just got worse! I finished the second lap on 16. I was so frustrated and annoyed with myself as I really wanted to win the last round. But I was 3rd and this easily gave me enough points to take the overall title! I am FIM World Trial 125 Champion!