Billy update 30.6.2018

So much has happened since my last update it’s hard to know where to start!

I returned from our trip to Spain for the second week of my GSCE exams. With the excitement of the weekend in Spain and the win it was a bit of a contrast to get home to revision and exams!

After a week of exams it was half term, so a week off school but no rest for me as I was off to Japan for rounds 2 and 3 of the World Championship.

Because Japan is so far away we obviously fly over and we pre-arrange the hire of bikes to ride there. It means arriving earlier than other events to set the bike up and practice. This also gives a days or two before the event to get used the different time zone! Japan is 8 hours ahead of the UK.

I enjoyed Japan last year taking the win on day one and 2nd on day two. I was hoping to better that this year. Unfortunately day 1 did not go well though. It was an easy event and I made a couple of mistakes on lap 1 that cost me the event (Ninja observers!!). I ended up in 5th so had it all to do on day two. I was determined to improve and I finished day two on the top of the podium!

There was then the long trip home ready for exams the next day!

The weekend after Japan was the next British Championship trial. Fortunately this was at Kelly Farm near Bovey Tracey only 30 minutes from home. The timing of having a BTC trial this close to home was perfect as I could still revise and be ready for my exams on Monday after the event.

Kelly farm is a great venue and has been used by West of England trials club for years for National events. It is a wooded area with massive granite rocks. I have been riding my 250 Beta for the other British rounds but as I haven’t had the chance to practice on it with being away for the Worlds on the 125 Beta, I decided to ride my 125. This was always going to be tough as the sections on the Championship route have big climbs and are better suited to a larger cc bike, but not having been on the 250 for a while I didn’t feel as comfortable on it.

The trial was tough but I pulled off some good rides. The first section was catching out a lot of the top riders but I managed to get through it for 1 mark, so that was a great start. The next couple of sections were just too tough on my 125 and I fived them each lap. But overall I felt pleased with my riding, got a couple more championship points and it was definitely good practice on my 125.

The next weekend was off to Andorra. Because I still had my exams to do the timing was all a bit tight. Dad drove the van and the bikes down to Andorra ready for the event, and a couple of days later Mum and I flew over.

I rode the World round in Andorrra last year and enjoyed it. I managed second in 2017. The sections were in a different area this year, not so high up the mountains, but still very steep and challenging! Andorra is a bit different to other events as the paddock and the start/ finish area are all in the town and main street. This year they closed the main street area and had the qualification section in the road! This was quite exciting and drew a good crowd!

The altitude in Andorra means we have to make alterations to the bike and this also makes the riding much tougher. The day of the event was so hot! So I knew this wasn’t going to be an easy day! I made a couple of mistakes on lap 1 so knew I had to work hard on the second lap. The scores were really close and I had to really concentrate to ride my best! I didn’t know it at the time but I was 5th after the first lap.

When I finished the FIM wanted to inspect my bike. They randomly check bikes to make sure the cc of the bike is what it should be! I know it’s right but it is always a bit tense until you get the ok! They gave me the all clear! A good second lap gave me the win though. My 3rd win in 4 events! Not bad!

The next World event was in Portugal the weekend after Andorra. There was no point coming home so we stayed in Spain and had some valuable practice on the bike. The weather continued to be so hot. Most of the week it was around 38 degrees! I am just not used to this so it was exhausting but good to acclimatise for European riding. We had a fab week on the bikes with friends and managed to find a couple of campsites with swimming pools to cool off in too!

Then it was Portugal. A venue that was new to me and most of the riders. A great venue with wooded areas and massive rocks. A venue that I thought would be good for me but the heat was so intense I really struggled on the first lap. After a lot of fluid intake between laps and something to eat, I was so determined to improve my performance for the second lap. We worked really hard and I grabbed 1st after being 6th after lap one! I was so pleased! 4 wins from 5 events! I’ll take that!

Back home and I can relax! No revision, exams done! A 10 week break until the final Trial 125 World round. I have a job for the Summer, a couple of British rounds and will get as much bike practice as possible. Here’s looking forward to WTC Italy in September!

Next report in a few weeks,

Billy