

MITAS MOTO NEWSLETTER

July - August 2017

Interview

Gordon Crockard, Honda Motor Europe Off-Road Manager

For the 2017 season, the Honda 150 European Championship is using Mitas motocross tires. The 11-14-year-old riders are competing on identical Honda CRF150R machinery with Mitas C-19 and C-20 kid cross tires. The Honda 150 European Championship, as the youth support series to MXGP, is present at five Grand Prix rounds in 2017: Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Sweden and the Netherlands. We had a chance to talk to Gordon Crockard during the MXGP of Sweden.

How and when did you enter the world of motorsport?

My Dad bought me a bike when I was 9 years old. That was in 1987. He was Irish champion in 1976 and still followed motocross as a hobby, just as a spectator. He also bought himself a bike to start riding again for fun in 1987, together with me at our local private practice track at home. He said I could go racing once I was faster than him, and that was back in 1990. He sold his bike and took me to a racing circuit.

Which of your achievements are you genuinely proud of?

I was Irish schoolboy champion in 1992. I left school in 1995 and worked in the local Honda MX dealership as a mechanic in the workshop. In 1998 I became a professional racer riding the British and World Championship for Honda. In 2000 I won the British Championship and won my 1st World Championship races.

Your best memory from the races.

Winning my 1st GP in Spain in 2000 was my best memory from racing. In 2001 I finished 3rd place in the overall World Championship. This was the highlight of my career.

When did you stop racing and why?

I stopped racing professionally 5 years ago in 2013 because I was offered a job by Honda to work on the Honda 150 European championship. I turned my focus to that work and continued to ride for fun only.

How do you see motocross racing nowadays?

MX today is different to the time when I started. Now it is 4-stroke bikes and a different range of track conditions. The margins between riders are much narrower and the races are of less duration, so the starts are much more important to the final results.

What do you like most while working with young talents competing in the Honda 150 European Championship?

The 150 Championship pleases me most when I see series riders taking the opportunity to learn and then seeing them develop from what Honda has given them from all of the advisors. Watching them improve is very satisfying. I like that the most. Also seeing the amazing emotion between the parents and riders is fantastic.

What are your plans for the future?

My plan for the future is to continue to work for Honda as their Off-Road Racing Manager. I will continue to ride my own CRF as often as my body allows me to.

Describe yourself in one word.

I would describe myself as Happy. I am a happy person!



Gordon Crockard,
Honda Motor Europe Off-Road Manager

Events

Red Bull Romaniacs

(25-29 July, Sibiu, Romania)



At the toughest hard enduro race Red Bull Romaniacs Mario Roman battled with the best riders in the world. From Tuesday's prologue in the city of Sibiu to 4 days of 6-7 hours of riding through the Transylvanian forests and mountains, overcoming extreme hill climbs and daredevil drops, he managed to keep his focus and stamina and gain 2nd place.



Mario Roman in 2nd place at Red Bull Romaniacs

Racing results

Podiums for Sherco factory rider Mario Roman

Great results from Sherco factory rider Mario Roman. Achieving podiums all over the world – from Romania to Dominican Republic, USA and Spain and proving Mitas tires are of the highest quality for the most Extreme Racing conditions.



1st place at Gordexola Xtreme 2017



2nd place at Machete Hard Enduro 2017



3rd place at Tennessee Knockout Extreme Enduro 2017

MXGP – FIM Motocross World Championship



Damon Graulus at MXGP of Belgium

- 🏍️ Damon Graulus (24MX Lucas Oil Honda):
20th place (MXGP of Czech Republic),
16th place (MXGP of Switzerland presented by XS)

- 🏍️ Ken de Dycker (24MX Lucas Oil Honda):
18th place (MXGP of Portugal),
17th place (MXGP of Czech Republic),
16th place (FIAT Professional MXGP of Belgium)



Ken de Dycker at MXGP of Switzerland



New OE partners

Mitas ET-01 fitted as Original Equipment on new GasGas trial motorcycles

The Mitas ET-01 trial tire was selected by Spanish off-road motorcycle manufacturer GasGas as original equipment for its new models Trial Contact ES with electric start and Trial School. These are the first GasGas motorcycles fitted with Mitas tires as original equipment. Ksenija Bitenc, Director of Mitas Motorcycle Tires and Tubes Product Area, says: "Mitas and GasGas have developed an excellent partnership and we are glad that Mitas ET-01 tires have been chosen as original equipment for two new models of GasGas trial motorcycles. Mitas is also strengthening cooperation with GasGas in North America where we are a partner of the 2017 GasGas Test Ride Tour."



ET-01

A full press release is available [here](#).



Events in September and October:

2-3 September, [Monster Energy MXGP of USA](#) (WW Motocross Park, Jacksonville, USA)

9 September, [Ipone German FIM Speedway Grand Prix](#) (Teterow, Germany)

9-10 September, [MXGP of The Netherlands](#) (Assen, Netherlands)

16-17 September, [MXGP of Pays de Montbéliard](#) (Villars sous Ecot, France)

21 - 24 September, [AIMExpo](#) (Columbus, Ohio, USA) - booth 1109

23 September, [Stockholm FIM Speedway Grand Prix](#) (Stockholm, Sweden)

30 September - 1 October, [Monster Energy FIM MXoN](#) (Matterley Basin, UK)

7 October, [Torun FIM Speedway Grand Prix of Poland](#) (Torun, Poland)

28 October, [QBE insurance Australian FIM Speedway Grand Prix](#) (Melbourne, Australia)

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