



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LEWIS' TOUGH ALPINE CHALLENGE**

Norfolk supermoto racer Lewis Cornish competed at the amazing setting of Alpe D'huez in the shadows of Pic Blanc in the French Alps last weekend in round seven of the French Supermotard Championships. This is the largest event in France and attracts large crowds and many world class competitors from around the world. Early on, during free practice Lewis found that the high altitude wasn't affecting his Raw Motorsports TM450-SMX too much but the bike wasn't handling the rough ice damaged tarmac turns well. The thinner air meant the suspension required plenty of adjustment which greatly improved matters but it was only following some rather extreme adjustments to the rear shock that he was happy with the bike's handling. Luckily the French S1 Championship is run along World Championship lines so there is plenty of time for practice and set up before qualifying.

Qualifying for Lewis was a frantic affair with him in a best of fifth place only to be dropped down to ninth on the very last lap. This being by far his worse place on the French grid but the five riders in front of him were split by mere tenths of a second. A good place on the grid is clearly important but another reason it's so important is that qualifying also scores points toward the championship standings. The hot and sunny weather had brought a large crowd of spectators up the mountain to cheer on their favourite riders and Lewis has gained a French following this season and is popular with the fans during autograph sessions.

Race one started well as Lewis moved up a row into turn one but drama was to come because his 'launch-control' device refused to release. After frantically trying to get the locking mechanism to release he pulled into the pits on the first lap. With Lewis still sat on his bike the crew lifted the front end of the bike to head height and dropped it and thankfully the device released. Re-joining the track more than 3/4 of a lap down, Lewis literally had a mountain to climb but by half way of the 20 minute race he had caught and started to pass the back markers. Working his way up through the field with riders of this calibre isn't an easy task but one by one he made the move up past his rivals. On the last lap he pulled over to allow four times World Champion Thomas Chareye pass and he took advantage of the situation by following through and passing another rider to finish in 12th place at the flag.

Following a typical French lunch break and another autograph session, it was time for race two. The Raw Motorsports crew had been busy fitting a new 'launch-control' device to Lewis' bike and thankfully this time it released as he headed into turn one. Once the initial start mayhem had subsided Lewis found himself in 11th place but made some impressive moves past Chareye's team mate Llados (currently fourth in the European Championships) and perhaps the best move of the day going up the inside of Lucas Berthoux on the pit lane turn. Inside the top ten and another pass saw Lewis following in the wheel tracks of another legend of the sport, Stephane Blot. Wasting little time Lewis made a decisive move to pass Blot but the extremely experienced French racer wasn't giving up as he pushed hard trying to retake the position. Lewis caught his ankle on the circuit grass bank which slowed him for a while but as Blot reapplied the pressure Lewis dug deep and pulled a short gap to take him over the line in a hard fought eighth place.

This was Lewis' lowest scoring round of the year and it certainly wasn't for the lack of effort. A trademark crowd pleasing rolling burn out was a fitting way to finish off the race weekend and set him up for his next race at Latina racing for the Technoteka team in the Italian championships in two weeks time.



**Lewis in determined mood at Alpe D'huez**

Despite missing round one of the French Championships due to an emergency appendix operation Lewis is currently holding seventh in the French S1 Prestige standings and with the speed he has been showing all season a fourth place had would be a more realistic showing of his form.



**Frantic action in the pit as the team release the 'launch-control' device**

Lewis explained his thoughts on his Alpe D'huez weekend. *"That was probably one of the hardest races I've done, this is the only circuit I've ridden before (10 years ago in the S4 85cc class) in this championships but it didn't really help much. The grip here isn't great, the altitude doesn't help with the bike but thanks to my training I'm feeling fitter than ever. Once I'd caught my ankle on the bank I slowed up which allowed Blot and Llados to catch me up, but I knew that I can easily run at the this pace for 20+ minutes. The adrenaline kicked in and I pulled out a small gap on the last lap. I'm disappointed with my result here but not with my riding and how my bike is performing. It was a tough meeting but racing with some of the sport's greats and having a drink with them after the race I feel as though I'm really part of the French supermoto scene. I'd like to thank my family and sponsors for making it all happen and hopefully we can find some sponsorship for the 2017 season so I can continue to race at the highest level."*





Lewis and mum Julia shortly before qualifying

Keep up to date with Lewis and CRT Supermoto by clicking onto [www.lewiscornish.co.uk](http://www.lewiscornish.co.uk) and the CRT Supermoto page on Facebook.

