

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **TEAM NAMEPLATE SERVICES / DCR RACING**



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**Press Officer: Neil Jay 07887 941412**

### **Cornish Defends His Country Against Some Hot Competition**

Teenage supermoto ace Lewis Cornish travelled to Portugal on the weekend of the 6-7<sup>th</sup> October to line up with the best riders from across the World to proudly represent his country in the Supermoto of Nations. The fabulous and demanding Portimao circuit (Portugal) was the chosen venue to hold this annual Olympics of supermoto and Lewis had no doubts he would face some challenging competition over the weekends racing. Six national riders from each country (three under-21 Junior riders and three Seniors) are selected from each country to fight it out on track for the supreme accolade of being the fastest supermoto team in the World.

In the searing heat of the Portuguese sun Lewis and his team-mates used the welcomed practice sessions to acclimatise themselves to the weather and prepare for the highly competitive races ahead. This also provided an ideal opportunity to get dialled into the circuit and test the limits of rider, bike and the compulsory control tyres used at World Championship events. Following a few technical adjustments to his NPS/DCR 450cc machine Lewis pushed hard to claim an impressive 10<sup>th</sup> place during timed qualifying.

As the lights went out for Lewis' first race the bikes fired off the line in a very tight pack into the turn one dirt section where Lewis passed the row of riders in front only to be hit by a rival's bike which caused him to fall. Remounting in almost last position Lewis showed was not deterred and with gritty determination he pushed his NPS/DCR 450 to its capacity eventually catching the pack. Within a couple of laps he was back in the thick of the action and making some impressive passes on his progression up the leader board. Working his way up to 18<sup>th</sup> place with only a few laps to go a small error on the table-top jump saw Lewis run off the circuit and get tangled up in the trackside safety netting. By the time he had sorted himself and the bike out and was back on track he'd lost several places but managed to pass a rival on the last lap to finish eventual 21<sup>st</sup> place as his junior team-mate Malachi Mitchell Thomas took a well deserved ninth place.

In Lewis' second race it was decided that his team-mate Ben Robb would take up Team GB's 10<sup>th</sup> place spot on the grid which meant Cornish would line up in 24<sup>th</sup> position once again. This time Lewis forced his way up through the first turn and came through the mayhem unscathed in a solid mid-pack position. In the heat of the race a slight mistake saw a couple of riders take advantage and pass but once again another determined effort and Lewis battled back and crossed the line in a hard fought 19<sup>th</sup> place which helped Team Great Britain Junior to a best ever Supermoto of Nations result of ninth overall.

Team GB manager David Dearden said "The Juniors had some problems but their determination and speed impressed me and as a result they have had their best overall finish ever. However with a little more experience in Europe under their belts they could be "challenging the major senior teams in the competition as at one stage they were running in 5<sup>th</sup> place"

Meanwhile back at home in Norfolk Lewis had time to reflect on his race with the world's best riders "I was nervous to be racing with the legends of supermoto but we had some great support from the Brits who travelled to Portimao. I wasn't used to the tyres and the track took some learning but David and the crew all helped with bike set up and advice. I'm a little disappointed in some of my mistakes but overall I'm really happy with my speed and how I rode in the heat, thanks to everyone who helped me get here and hopefully I'll be picked again in 2013"

After a short break and a date filming with a Bike World TV programme Lewis and his family are heading to the famous Mettet Superbiker in Belgium before winding out the season with the last rounds of the British Masters and British Championships in early November.



Lewis focused on representing his Country in the heat of the Portuguese sun

Thank you to António Fernandes for the above image

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