

8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011

## ISDE Finland, Kotka

The 98<sup>th</sup> Edition of the International Six Days Enduro started from Kotka in Finland, just 130km's east of Helsinki and close to the Russian border. KORR fielded 3 riders in the event, Greg Evans Trophy team, Jonny Walker junior team and James Giddings club team, we also gave technical assistance to all Trophy and Junior riders.

The 6 days event would cover more than 1500 km's, over 30 special tests and one final MX race, the nature of the terrain is very tough at the best of times, grinding sand, large round boulders and many tree routes all served up with many rain showers to make riding off road in Finland very demanding on man and machine, even the road sections had their challenges with over enthusiastic Police officers handing out speeding fines and traffic violations as quickly as they could, it almost seemed like they were having their own private competition to collect the most penalty's !! Many riders were excluded on the road sections for speeding although none of the British Trophy and Juniors team members were caught.

**Greg Evans KTM 300 EXC** – Greg's 6 days ended very early and didn't even have time to get the bike dirty, just 1 minute into the first test and he crashed and broke his collarbone. So straight away the Trophy team was down to 5 riders. Greg had his shoulder plated in Finland and should be back on a bike in time for the next BEC in 2 weeks.

**Jame Giddings KTM 125 EXC** – This was his first attempt at a 6 days and with the exception of terrible hand blisters he finished the week without any drama's. James placed 20<sup>th</sup> overall in the E1 club class and earned a Silver medal.

**Jonny Walker KTM 300 EXC** – Riding a new 2012 model Jonny improved each day as he became familiar with the new bike and gained confidence amongst the World's best Enduro riders. By the end of the week he was setting top 15 overall test times and finished as Best British rider and 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the E3 class, an impressive result in his first season of full time Enduro and his first ever visit to a 6 days. In the final MX he gated inside the top 3 and matched the pace of the leading riders for several laps before fatiguing and dropping to 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jonny along with Alex Rockwell, Danny McCanny and Jack Rowlands formed the ACU's junior team and came home in an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the Junior Trophy competition.



**Jonny Walker** “ Its been a great week for me, the first time I rode the new 2012 bike was at this event so it took me a few days to get used to it and get going at the pace I was comfortable with, but from Wednesday on my times steadily improved, rain each day made the conditions tough on the bikes and many people had problems, luckily all I had to do was fit tyres, air filters and a couple of front sprockets, my KTM never missed a beat, I've learned a lot at this race and think my riding has improved too, I'm really looking forward to the next BEC”

**Julian Stevens KORR Team manager** – “ I was at the last 6 days in Finland so I remembered how demanding this country can be on bikes and rider , Leo and myself worked hard the week before the race with a lot of preventative measures and it paid off, our KTM's ran trouble free. Personally I consider the 6 days now a bit of a holiday race and not too difficult but this one proved me wrong and was definitely an old school tough event, all those who finished can be very proud of their efforts and achievements. The Junior team riders all rode superbly, despite some misfortune they came home with a solid third place and showed great potential for the future. Jonny has again performed better than expected and his final MX race showed what sort of potential he has, a big thanks to all the check British crews and anyone who helped and supported the British Team, also a special congratulations to Paul Edmondson who collected his 17<sup>th</sup> Trophy Gold medal on his KTM 250 EXCF, ”

For the full results visit: <http://www.fim-isde-live.info/>