

## Jonny Walker Interview

Jonny "Wobbler" Walker the 19 year old Cumbrian Trials star has signed up with KTM Off-Road Racing for 2011, after only one season of competing in Enduro, so we recently asked Jonny some questions about his past and what he wants to achieve in Enduro.

### Q. Jonny when did you first start riding bike ?

**JW** - I started riding a PW50 at the age of 4. The first one my Dad bought was supposed to be red but looked more like pink in colour so I wouldn't ride it, so he got me a blue one. Both my Dad and older brothers rode in trials so it was only natural that I progressed into riding local trials with my Dad.

### Q. What has been your greatest achievements so far in bike sport or any other sport ?

**JW** - Being the youngest winner of the Pinhard Trophy in 2000.

### Q. Do you compete in any others sports besides motorcycle ?

**JW** - Up-to the age of about 14 I ran in the British Fell Running Championships, I now run as part of my training. I also do a lot of cycling entering in the odd cycling and triathlon events.

### Q. Why did you decide to change from Trials to Enduro ?

**JW** - After riding trials for such a long time I felt I needed to do something different, also all my friends ride either Enduro or MX bikes, there is no one in my local area who rides trial bikes to my level so had no one to practice with and I became bored, I like the speed and adrenalin of MX and Enduro.

### Q. What is your daily work ?

**JW** - I work for the best window business in the area - "Keswick Windows"- fitting windows, door and conservatories.

### Q. Who have been the biggest influences on your riding career and why?

**JW** - Firstly I guess my Dad is my biggest influence and the reason I started in Trials, my friend and fellow local trials rider Oliver Hart was the reason i started enduro as i went and watched him at an event and decided that is what i want to do. My friend Shaun 'Sheepy' Bland has helped me a lot and also Steven 'Sheriff' Brayton who is the father of two of my friends, Sheriff is an ex army fitness instructor and over the years has helped with training and encouraged me with my riding.



**Q. How was the 2010 season for you , describe highs and lows and what you have learnt ?**

**JW** – I have really enjoyed my first year riding Enduro. My high point was coming 1st the expert class at the Knighton on the Saturday. My low point was falling off at the Dyfi enduro and hurting my back which still bothers me now, the ironic thing is that Ollie and I crashed in the same place on the test on our first runs through and both ended the day in the local hospital !!! I have never been in so much pain which is a shame because I was really enjoying myself as I felt it was one of the best events I had been to, of course I have learned from that experience and will try not to be so wild in future, I crashed because I was simply going to quick.

**Q. Who helped you this season ?**

**JW** - I would like to thank my friend and local Builder Shaun Bland, Neil Crayston at D3 and Richard Thorpe at PJ1 Oils.

**Q. What are your future plans and ambitions in Enduro ?**

**JW** - I just want to be the best I can, knowing that I gave 100%, I really want to be competitive and consistent next season in BEC and BESC, and now I have support from KORR and D3 I am confident that I will step up a level or two. I also want to experience some of the international extreme races, I think with my Trials skills, fitness and with my improving speed I can make some good results. I make my first appearance for the team next week in Italy, I will compete in the first round of the World Indoor Enduro championship.

**Q. Who for you are the riders that you admire the most ?**

**JW** - From Enduro David Knight, Taddy Blazusiak and Paul Edmondson and they all came from Trials !!!

**Q. Away from the bike how do you rest, relax and have fun ?**

**JW** - I go to the gym most days , but to relax we go to big Ben Braytons house and have a pot of tea and double chocolate biscuits and watch anything that is on TV, usually the American MX series. We also go to Jamie Laws house to relax in his hot tub and go to the cinema. I also like cycling and Golf.

**Q. What events do you plan to compete in next year and which bike will you use ?**

**JW** - The World indoor events, British Enduro Sprint's, British Enduro series, Local MX's and any other events my team thinks I should be doing, I move up to the championship class on a KTM 300 EXC and its a big learning year, I just need to ride, ride and ride to get as much experience under my belt as possible. There is no pressure or big expectations from the team, they want me to just learn and find my feet, the year after in 2012 will be the year to really have a go, although I will be trying next year trust me!!

**Q. You have now started testing and training with KORR team and bikes, what are your impression's so far ?**

**JW** - I can't believe how good the bikes are, so much better than my old nail !! or that's how it feels compared to a KORR race bike, before I just rode what I had and that was just a stock bike, I did not understand how to change the bike and set it up, I adjusted my style to fit the bike, I am amazed at the possibility's to fine tune my KTM, just the difference in Suspension is amazing and then there is so many adjustments to change the power delivery and loads of other stuff you never think of, my bike now is awesome and we have only just started !!, I'd really like to thank Julian and KORR.

**Q. You will go to the first round of the World Indoor Enduro championships, what are your expectations and will such a big event make you nervous ?**

**JW** - I really don't know what to expect as I have never ridden against the Worlds best Enduro riders in a stadium before, although I did race the trials class at Sheffield's Indoor Enduro last year and won. I am usually calm and relaxed (too much some people say) I will just go and try my best. The most important thing for me now is experience I go to learn, any result will be a bonus.

**Q. Whats are your objectives for next season**

**JW** - Goals for 2011? train hard and make it happen

**Riding Achievements to date:**

2000: 1st British youth trials championship and Pinhard award winner

2001: 1st British youth trials championship

2002: 2nd British youth trials championship

2003: 3rd British youth trials championship

2004: 2nd British youth trials championship

2005: 2nd British youth trials championship

2006: 6th British youth trials championship

2007: 5th British youth trials championship

2008: 3rd British youth trials championship and 15th world and European championship

2009: 8th world and 4th European championship

2010: 5<sup>th</sup> E2 British expert championship