

26th November 2011

SuperEnduro Round 1 Genoa, Italy

Formerly the Indoor World Enduro Cup the World Endurocross championship backed by the FIM has a new name and image for the 2012 championship - "SuperEnduro". The first round this last weekend being hosted in Genoa, Italy lived up to the new name, maybe one of the best designed circuits so far in Endurocross, which combined a fast supercross style circuit with technical off-road hazards all of which made for some great action.

Jonny made his debut this weekend as a factory supported KTM rider in a 3 man team with current World and USA champion Taddy Blazusiak and Spanish E2 EWC rider Cristobal Guerrero.

From the start in practice Jonny looked comfortable on the fast track and topped his group with a lap time 5 seconds quicker than his nearest rival, so qualifying for the main event should have been just a formality !!. But nothing is predictable in Endurocross and that's why its so popular with the spectators. Jonny made a bad start in his heat race and had to work his way to the front, with just one lap to go he made a move for the lead and crashed, unable to quickly remount and start his bike he lost places to end up in 3rd and failed to qualify, so again off to the Last Chance race. If Jonny felt the pressure of the situation in the qualifying race then it was only going to be multiplied for the LCQ – Only the winner goes to the main race !!

JW made no mistake in the LCQ, quickly taking the lead and opening up a safe distance on 2nd to go through to the final, qualifying by the LCQ is a real disadvantage, you get last gate pick for the finals and you are more tired for the main races which start very soon after the LCQ.

Once again in the first of the 3 final races Jonny did not make the best of starts, almost dead last in a group of the worlds best Endurocross riders, however Jonny really came to form, putting in consistent lap times only bettered by the champion Blazusiak, Jonny slowly worked his way to the front and on the last lap moved into 2nd position but with just 2 corners remaining, he caught a group of 3 slower backmarkers who halted his progress, JW made a pass to the right side of the group in the last rock section before the final jump but fellow KTM teammate Guerrero got a clearer line to the left and as the pair crossed the finish jump together it was Guerrero which would win by 0.05 of a second !!! this would eventually cost Jonny 3rd position overall for the night even though he beats his teammate in the next two finals.

The final two races of the evening where not quite so rewarding for JW, bad starts and some incidents would mean he would only achieve 5th and 6th positions, but this was enough to give him equal 4th in the championship and only 1 point from 3rd.



KTMOFFROADRACING UK

Jonny Walker KTM 300 EXC “ This track was so different from USA last week, some very fast sections and more opportunity to pass, I really enjoy the faster circuits, I was disappointed with my starts tonight, usually I am confident to be in the front and every time I was almost last which cost me a better result, but overall I am pleased to start the championship in a good way and confident about the next races “

Julian Stevens Team manager “Jonny showed great potential tonight, we hoped before the start for a top 5 result and actually we could have been top 3 so this is a very good start to the championship , I am very optimistic for the next rounds, we learn a little more each week and we hope to arrive in Poland in even better condition , many thanks to all sponsors and especially to KTM Factory team ”

Results:

| | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Taddy Blazusiak Red Bull Factory KTM 350 EXC | 20 – 20 - 20 | 60points |
| 2. | Joakim Ljunggren Husaberg TE 300 | 9 –14 – 17 | 40 |
| 3. | Cristobal Guerrero KTM Factory Racing 250EXC | 17 - 9- 8 | 34 |
| 4. | Xavier Galindo Team Husaberg TE 300 | 11 - 8 – 14 | 33 |
| 5. | Jonny Walker KORR KTM 300 EXC | 14 - 10 – 9 | 33 |
| 6. | Alex Salvini Husqvarna | 5 - 17 - 5 | 27 |
| 7. | Cody Webb Beta | 10 - 6 -11 | 27 |
| 8. | Alfredo Gomez Husaberg | 4 - 11 - 10 | 25 |
| 9. | Ivan Cervantes Gas Gas | 7 - 7 - 7 | 21 |
| 10. | Dani Gibert Husaberg | 6 - 5 - 6 | 17 |

Next Event:- 3rd December, Rd 1 Fast Eddy Extreme Championship, Derbyshire