

Jack Dance Wins his first ever Trial 2 World Championship Round in San Marino!

Following June's newsletter article detailing his success in Scotland, here is a report from the Dance family of his amazing win!

For rounds 7 and 8 of the World Championship we head to San Marino near the east coast of Italy!



Jack flew out to Spain on the Monday before the event to meet and train with the team and test his new bike! First impressions of the bike were that it is very precise and aggressive. It sounded absolutely awesome and on the Monday evening he went training at Albert Cabestany's hometown in Tarragona.



This training was all about setting the bike up to Jack's preference like Lever, bar, and clutch bite point positioning. For the suspension, he put the same settings from his other bike.

For 3 hours Jack trained some very 'Cabes' Style sections, practicing precision and Techniques. On the Tuesday it was arranged for the whole team to go for training at Castellolí. This is a venue of 2 halves, one side indoor style, the other, natural terrain! Looking at the terrain for the weekend it was going to be traditional and natural, so this was the perfect place. The GASGAS Factory team consists of 3 riders Jaime Busto, Sondre Haga and Jack Dance. All 3 riders trained very well as a team, building confidence, training non-stop sections and gathering valuable knowledge from the Team Manager Albert Cabestany.

After finishing the training session, it was back to the factory for the last preparations to the bikes and load ready for the 14 hour trip to San Marino.

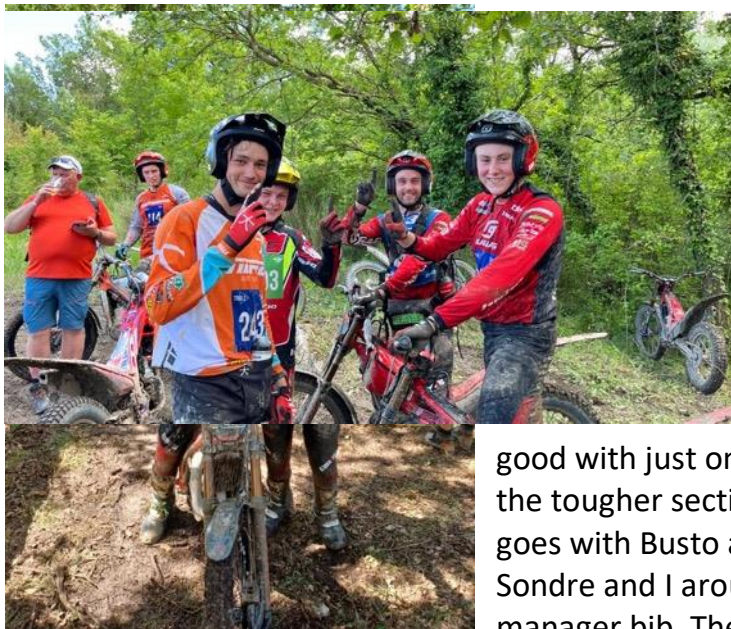
For the trip, Jack travelled with the GASGAS Factory truck along with Melcior, one of the mechanics. It was a very long drive!

After sign-on and technical verification it was time for practice. The area was not much like the Trial was going to be, however it was good to get back into some Southern style mud. Section walk was very interesting, the zones were all in the riverbed with some extremely slippery rocks and the odd muddy Bank.



Day 1 on Saturday started off steady with a mix of good rides and some unfortunate 5s. The terrain was very hard to trust as it was deep water and slippery rocks. Lap 1 was good - finishing P8, however I knew I could really push for more and that's exactly what I did. Lap 2 I rode a lot more confident knowing where I could and couldn't trust the grip. I ended up finishing my best ever position in Trial 2 of a P5. However, I knew that I had more to give so felt motivated for the next day!

After day 1 there was torrential rain for about an hour. This was enough to make the river a raging torrent and lots of the sections were destroyed. Therefore, the FIM had their work cut out in the morning rebuilding and replacing all of the markers and tape, together with making minor changes to the sections.



The amount of water that was coming down the river was enough to erode parts of the sections, so it made them harder already. Onto the Trial. All the sections were very similar, however I had to make sure each part of the section was good, so I had to get my feet wet! First lap went very

good with just one 5 and some confident rides on the tougher sections. During the lap, Cabes usually goes with Busto and Melcior usually follows Sondre and I around with him in the team manager bib. Their job is to help spot lines and

make sure everything is in order and to always back our corner! I could tell as soon as I got back to the Truck on the face of my Mum that I had obviously had a good lap. During the break between laps, we usually have 30 Mins to eat and prepare the bike ready for lap 2. Knowing that I was leading lap 1 I knew it was possible for me to repeat, however it wasn't going to be easy. The second lap, the pressure was on,

however I was able to manage this by staying calm and taking each section as it comes. At the start I had a few nervous dabs but soon got that out of the way and put in some outstanding rides.

As I got to section 11, I could see Cabes quietly talking to Sam about the point margin, not wanting me to hear, however Melcior said to me "if you make less than 5 on the last 2 sections, you win, if you don't you will be guaranteed 2nd. For me I don't mind but it is up to you to make it happen!" Albert burst out laughing and shook his head because Melcior couldn't contain his excitement. I cleaned section 11 so the last section was crucial as I had to get 3 or less. This section couldn't have been any more like a Bognor club trial however many was having 5s and taking marks. I knew exactly what to do, it was just a matter of putting the bike in 3rd gear and making sure. As I cleaned the first part of the section, the last part was doable, so I just rode it like I knew how to. I was greeted at the end cards by Oliver Smith and Jamie Galloway all shouting and screaming with Joy, and the odd smack on the head. I was over the moon; I had just won my first ever Trial 2 World Championship round! I finished on a total of 28 (2 laps of 14) which did eventually put me 6 marks clear of Sondre Haga. As I Rode back to the paddock, I could see my Mum anxiously waiting for me so I revved my bike and gave her a hug! What a day!

Time to go testing for Andorra!

I would like to thank the whole of the GASGAS Factory Racing team for their amazing support, Sam for minding, Mum back in the paddock and to each of my personal sponsors and supporters, because without you, none of this would be able to happen".

