

## MITAS MOTO NEWSLETTER

January - February 2018

### Interview

#### Chris Birch

Chris Birch is a life-long motorcycle addict who has competed successfully in the world's biggest enduro races. Now he runs his own school and offers trainings all over the world.

#### 🏍️ **What age did your passion for motorbikes begin and what was your first motorbike?**

I think I started riding when I was about five. I am lucky to be born into a motorcycling family. My first bike was a Yamaha PW50.

#### 🏍️ **How and when did you enter the world of motorsport?**

I started competing in Trials with my father when I was about ten. I started doing enduro and XC when I was 16 on a Kawasaki KDX200.

#### 🏍️ **Adventure or enduro motorcycle? Which one do you prefer?**

This is hard for me to answer. I enjoy all motorcycling, trials, enduro, motocross and adventure. I also love mountain biking. If it's got two wheels, I'm in!

#### 🏍️ **What are the most frequent questions from riders attending your courses?**

There are a lot of questions about a bike set-up. Many adventure bike guys ask about tires regularly. The thing I focus on most at my school is body positioning.



Chris Birch, check out a video [here](#)

#### 🏍️ **What's your main motivation?**

Just a love for motorcycling.

#### 🏍️ **What would be your choice of work, if you weren't racing motorcycles?**

I'm not sure what my choice would be, but I'd probably be working as an engineer as that is my profession.

#### 🏍️ **Favourite race or place for riding?**

Canada, Romania and the valley I live in.

#### 🏍️ **Your advice for young riders?**

My advice for young riders is to focus on perfecting the basics. That and play with your bike! Do wheelies, do stoppies – do whatever you like to have fun with your bike!

#### 🏍️ **Do you have a pre-race or pre-training class ritual?**

I do have a pre-race ritual. It's nothing exciting – just a little routine and sort of meditation to make sure I'm focused and fast as soon as the race starts.

#### 🏍️ **What's your proudest achievement?**

Either winning the Roof of Africa for the first time or winning Red Bull Romaniacs.

#### 🏍️ **Describe yourself in one word.**

Satisfied!

## Exhibitions

### Motorrad Messe Leipzig

2-4 February,  
Leipzig, Germany

### Berliner Motorrad Tage

9-11 February,  
Berlin, Germany

### Hamburger Motorrad Tage

23-25 February,  
Hamburg, Germany





## Motorsport

### Alestrem

20-21 January, Ales, France

Opening the season in Hard Enduro, Alestrem is a race that is eagerly awaited. This very well attended race in France was the 4<sup>th</sup> edition in 2018 and the first real test for professional riders of Hard Enduro to prove their skills. Wade Young won in the special Mitas Xtrem test with Travis Teasdale coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In the main race Mitas riders took top positions – Mario Roman in 1<sup>st</sup> place, Wade Young 3<sup>rd</sup> and Travis Teasdale 4<sup>th</sup>.

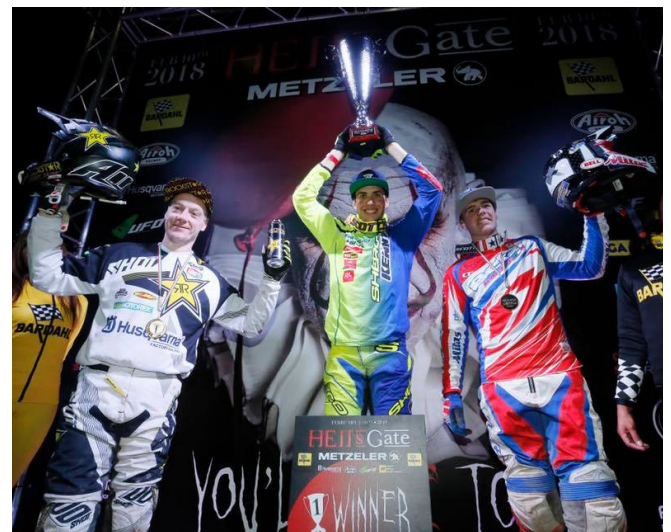


Mario Roman & Wade Young, Alestrem 2018

### Hell's Gate

10 February, Castelvechio Pascoli, Italy

Mario Roman won one of the hardest extreme enduro races in the world. Cold weather in Italy and an all-day long event that ended in the dark hasn't stopped Mario from taking the podium once again and bringing Mitas on top. Not far behind, our factory-sponsored rider Travis Teasdale gained 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



Mario Roman & Travis Teasdale, Hell's Gate 2018

### Other results:

Wade Young – winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the WFO Hard Enduro series in South Africa

Mario Roman – winner of the Valongo Extreme race in Portugal

### Events in March and April:

1-4 March, **Motorrader Dortmund** (Dortmund, Germany)

8-11 March, **Motosalon Brno** (Brno, Czech Republic)

18 March, **MXGP of Europe** (Valkenswaard, Netherlands)

25 March, **MXGP of La Comunitat Valenciana** (Redsand, Spain)

8 April, **MXGP of Trentino** (Pietramurata, Italy)

15 April, **MXGP of Portugal** (Agueda, Portugal)

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