



BMW Motorrad Motorsport

BMW win twin-cylinder race at Erzberg XIII

Erzberg Rodeo 2007, 7th to 10th June 2007, KingsClass

BMW Motorrad Motorsport factory rider Simo Kirssi claimed his second twin-cylinder class victory in three years at the Erzbergrodeo event staged in Eisenerz, Austria, where the Finn posted the fastest time of this year's event on his second run up the 'Iron Mountain'. Competing for the BMW Motorrad Motorsport team along with US racers, and Erzberg first timers, Micky Dymond, Gary Trachy and Greg Tracy and experienced Erzberg racer Chris Pfeiffer from Germany, Simo saved his best for the second of his two runs and posted a time four second faster than that of his closest competitor, defending twin-cylinder class champion David Knight.

ched the top of the mountain in a time of 9:02.93. In doing so he claimed victory in the Erzberg twin-cylinder class for the second time in three years, much to his and the BMW Motorrad Motorsport team's delight.



Simo Kirssi: King of Erzberg 2007



Chris Pfeiffer: Flying to the summit

With the 13.5 kilometre course not quite as fast and flowing as in previous years, a result of the organising team adding several chicanes in order to make the high-speed race a little safer, Simo's first run didn't go exactly as planned. Mysteriously Simo was unable to change gear at high rpm soon after leaving the start ramp and although the problem sorted itself out soon after he then proceeded to ride a little 'too hard'. Running too deep into a number of corners, Simo struggled to find his rhythm and as a result finished eight seconds behind David Knight, yet still in second place, at the end his first run.

Of the remaining members of the BMW Motorrad Motorsport team it was former AMA motocross and supermoto champion Micky Dymond that performed best finishing in a highly creditable sixth position. Having never competed at Erzberg before Micky, like the majority of riders, posted his best time on his second run up the mountain. Finishing just over one second behind '06 Dakar Rally winner Marc Coma from Spain who placed fifth, Micky performed extremely well despite being an Erzberg 'first timer'. Recording a time of 9:31.71 Dymond got to spend valuable time aboard BMW's HP2 ahead of the Pike's Peak race, which will be held in Colorado, USA in July.

For his second run Simo opted to use a different engine set-up and chose to compete with the motor he has previously used for cross-country racing. Giving the Finn a little more bottom-end power, as well as a closer ratio gearbox, Simo was able to get better traction on the dry, dusty and slippery course and set about posting the fastest time of the event. Well aware that he could ill afford any mistakes on his final run Simo rode much more consistently than he had on his first assault on the mountain and making no mistakes rea-

Behind Dymond stunt riding world champion Chris Pfeiffer claimed seventh, eight seconds behind his US teammate. With Greg Tracy placing eighth, Gary Trachy finished in 15th. Running into troubles on his first timed run Gary's only recorded time was his second run, which would have been good enough to place him in ninth. Disappointingly, the fact that Gary failed to finish his first run resulted in the organisers adding 30 seconds to his time.

Simo Kirssi: "It's great to have won the twin-cylinder class again. The course rode very different to last year, because some changes had been made and because the weather was different. The track was a little slower this year because of the areas where they'd made the course a bit safer. "The first run didn't go so well for me. I had a problem shif-

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ting gears soon after the start, and then I was riding a little bit too stiff and made some stupid mistakes like running too deep into some of the corners. I always find the first run difficult.

“My second run was really good though. I was using a different bike, which had a slightly different engine. I used the bike I use when I race the HP2 in cross-country races – it doesn’t have quite as much top-end power but it has really strong and smooth bottom-end power. It worked really well for me. I was more consistent and didn’t really make any mistakes. I guess you could say I rode with my head a little more than on the first run.”

Mickey Dymond: “It was definitely a great experience. I wish I could go back and do a couple more runs up the mountain now because I learned a lot in my two runs. It’s hard turning up at Erzberg for the first time and being timed up the mountain straight away. But I had a great time.

“The first section of the track was a little more like enduro than I’m used to with some narrow sections, rocks and even some water on the course. It seems a pretty cool event though.

“The whole course was really slippery and I was looking for traction, but there wasn’t any. For me the most important thing was just getting more time on the BMW HP2. I’ve not had a whole lot of time on it and it is different to what I had been used to racing. It’s a really valuable test for me on the bike ahead of this year’s Pike’s Peak race.”



Mickey Dymond: fastest US-Boy on BMW HP2



Gery Tracy: hard training for the Pikes Peak Race

Erzbergrodeo 2007

KingsClass

1. Simo Kirssi 09:02,93, BMW Motorrad Motorsport
2. David Knight 09:06,8, KTM
4. Giovanni Sala 09:21,27, KTM
5. Marc Coma 09:29,5, KTM
6. Mickey Dymond 09:31,71, BMW Motorrad Motorsport
7. Chris Pfeiffer 09:39,05, BMW Motorrad Motorsport
8. Greg Tracy 09:42,09, BMW Motorrad Motorsport
9. Klaus Martinjak 09:49,96, Aprilia
10. Peter Bachler 09:57,72, Aprilia
15. Gery Tracy 10:19,27, BMW Motorrad Motorsport

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