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Matterley MX GP back in business?

Report: ALEX HODGKINSON

MOTOCROSS is set to return to Matterley Basin – possibly as soon as September this year! The Hampshire venue, a vast natural bowl, has not been used for racing since the glorious 2006 Motocross des Nations, but planning permission has now been granted for two events per year. And that could mean a British GP there on September 11/12!

Steve Dixon, who organised a GP and the Nations at the track in 2006 together with Martin Mansbridge of Bike It, explained: "The landowner, Mr Peverell, is very keen to bring racing back to Matterley. An initial planning application was rejected but that has now been overturned on appeal and any further opposition would have to go to the High Court.

"There are restrictions – only two events per year will be allowed, which may only take place between August and October, between 9am and 5pm."

Dixon stressed that the ACU would act as organiser in the event of a GP being run at Matterley, but both he and Bike It would also be involved.

"To be quite honest, we would rather bring the GP back in 2011 so that we have more time to get everything in place again," admitted Dixon.

At present Youthstream are believed to favour a GP at Mallory Park, where everything is already in place, this year, though they have been told from many independent sources that they could expect double the attendance at Matterley, not only because of the appeal to hardcore fans but also local interest in the sport which was confirmed last week by the healthy numbers who attended the sidecar GP at nearby Langrish.

However, there remains a certain degree of uncertainty as to whether or

Former GP venue, Matterley Basin, near Winchester, is back in the frame to host events following a successful appeal against an initial refusal of planning permission...

not there will be a British GP at all in 2010.

When he announced that the May 29/30 GP would be at Glen Helen, Giuseppe Luongo insisted that he still wanted a British GP this year, but that it would not be an additional event, rather that it would "...replace a GP in a country which has two!"

This was initially taken to mean that it would be the final round of the series in place of Fermo, but local and regional government moves, both political and financial, have put that event back in the frame.

Don't forget US workers!

THE good news for most of you out there is that this weekend includes a Bank Holiday Monday.

The bad news for T+MX editorial is that we will be working as normal. Which means that we are calling on the good nature of all you hard-working club secretaries, press-officers and freelance reporters and photographers to PLEASE fire across all your

The highly-successful Lierop GP is the other candidate for the chop, but Dutch motocross is on 'cloud nine' after Jeff Herlings' victory at Valkenswaard and it is unlikely that Youthstream would want to interfere with that momentum.

Should racing return to Matterley as anticipated, either this year or next, it is almost certain that the second event would be for charity.

Envisaged is an event in aid of Leukemia Busters, a charity heavily supported by TV presenter, Jamie Sanderson, a local resident.

reports and images from the weekend's meetings as normal on Sunday night – or on Monday morning before you head off out into the sunshine!

If you can do this, we really do appreciate it. Everybody please enjoy your Bank Holiday break – but spare a thought for those of us working hard on next week's issue of T+MX.

Another first from
the T+MX team...



Come and ride OUR funtastic Funduro

TRAIL riders, trials types, enduro enthusiasts, minibike monkeys and motocross racers – if you fun-loving fun-lovers fancy a not-so-serious dirt bike blast that'll really tickle your throttles then we want you to come and spin your wheels at the Dirt Funduro. With the emphasis on fun, this hare and hound-style enduro promises to be an absolute cracker so keep Saturday May 22 free in your diary – because that's when it is.

The venue for the Dirt Funduro will be the excellent Saron Moto Parc which is situated high amongst the hills between Ruthin and Denbigh in North Wales where a not too technical course will be laid out utilising the existing motocross circuit and lush green fields that surround it. The course will be designed and built so

it's suitable for all riders of all abilities aged six years and upwards.

And because we're catering for such a spread of ages we'll be running three different races all on the same day – a 45-minute Youth race, a 90-minute Sportsman race and then the big daddy of them all, the 2.5-hour Main event.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers in every class (of which there are p-p-p-p-plenty) and also every rider who finishes the Funduro will be entered into a raffle where you can win some seriously sweet prizes. Good eh?

A race entry to the Dirt Funduro costs just £40 and can be obtained by calling the rather lovely Sarah Hodgkinson on 01524-834030 – so don't delay, do it today!

■ More details next week...