



Team Scotland ISDE 2009
Portugal
Team Report

Life in the paddock

07/10/09

Today we awoke to dark skies and strong winds. Derek, Ricky and Grant went out to walk some of the special tests in the morning returning just after lunch. In the afternoon Derek and Grant continued with the final preparation of their bikes while Ricky headed out towards the official training area with Kevin and Dougie for a shakedown of his bike. All the boys are commenting on how rough the sandy terrain is on the training track. Dougie Aitken and his girlfriend Cath arrived around mid afternoon after flying into Porto from his home in France. Dougie will need little introduction to most of you as he has supported and ridden in many previous Scottish ISDE teams and will be a valuable member of our support crew this year.

08/10/09

Ricky continued with the preparation and final set up of his bike this morning while Derek and Grant headed out to walk the special tests for days 3 and 4. Dougie took the opportunity to go out and locate the service checks of day 1 and 2 in the afternoon. Signing on for the whole of Team GB was due scheduled for 1730hrs. Myself and the riders headed to the office to find we were at the tail end of the queue meaning it was after 1830 before we were at the signing on desk. Signing on went well with no hiccups and riders received a welcoming pack which included a bronze medal of the official event logo. Our riders' numbers have been confirmed.

Derek Little # 530 125 2stk E1

Ricky Mair # 630 250 2stk E2

Grant Smith # 730 200 2stk E2

Live results can be followed on the official ISDE website or follow the link from the ISDE page at www.scottishenduros.co.uk

09/10/09

With scrutineering/ technical inspection scheduled for 0900 we had an early team breakfast and headed down to the paddock for some team photos. The boys all looked very smart in their team race shirts and pit caps. Ricky presented his bike first and passed the noise test and technical inspection without any issues, well except when the Chief FIM technical representative clipped Ricky on the back of the head 'naughty school boy style' for having a previously marked frame. Grant was next in line followed by Derek and again their bikes had no issues passing. The riders then headed out to walk the remainder of the special tests. Kevin Gauld did a sterling job of oiling 27 air filters in preparation for next week and now reckons he has served his apprenticeship as an air filter technician. Dougie and Cath checked out the remainder of the time checks with service in the afternoon Tonight saw the arrival of Neil Chatham, Jimmy and Linda Ballantyne and some time later after a 'small diversion' Johnny and Eileen Little and Gilbert Rae. Dougie and Johnny spent some time in the hotel bar reminiscing of past ISDE trips lubricated by as Johnny puts it 'a wee nippy sweetie'!





10/10/09

With all the bikes now in parc ferme there seems to be more relaxed atmosphere in our paddock/ work area. More special test walking by Ricky, Grant and Derek, before heading into town for an early dinner in preparation for the opening ceremony at 1730. Ricky, Grant, Derek, Dougie, Neil and I were all kilted and have got to say we must have been one of the smartest/ professional looking teams in the whole of the ceremony. The ceremony consisted of all the nations parading along the promenade lined with many local families and children. Team Scotland got a special mention from the commentator on how smart Scotland were in their traditional kilts. After the parade The World Famous Purple Helmets did a display with the usual havoc prevailing followed by a firework display which apparently is quite a local speciality and needs no excuse to take place. On return to the hotel Grant's wife Leigh arrived from Porto airport after a long day catching flights from Edinburgh to Stanstead then onto Porto.

