

## MITAS MOTO NEWSLETTER

September - October 2019

### Interview with MXGP rider Klemen Gerčar at the end of his racing career

Saying farewell to a racing career is never easy, especially when it's a way of life involving pure passion and dedication. Klemen Gerčar has decided to finish with professional racing, but this doesn't mean he is saying farewell to motocross. He has an ambitious plan for the upcoming season.



#### **🏍️ Was your decision to end your career a sudden one or have you been planning it for a long time?**

I was thinking about finishing my career towards the end of 2018. However, I took things into my own hands, showed a lot of promise at entering the 2019 season and ended it very successfully with the national champion title and ranking among the top 20 worldwide in the MXGP class.

#### **🏍️ What are the reasons for ending your career?**

I still like to train either on the motorcycle or physically. However, lately, I have had a hard time coordinating sports activities and team management. The latter has led to the decision to end my career and focus on managing a team that advanced to a higher level faster than I expected.

#### **🏍️ You probably treasure many memorable moments of your long career. Which one would you highlight?**

Undoubtedly, winning the MX3 world champion title in 2013. Ever since I was a kid, I dreamt of this moment, which I could relive later.

**🏍️ When and how did you actually get to know motocross and what attracted you most in this motorsport discipline?**

At four, we accidentally came across a motocross race and during the break the smallest motorcycles were ridden there. It appealed to me so much that I agreed with the owner for a test ride. The motorcycle got me so addicted that my dad had to promise to buy me a new one. When I took part in the first race, which was also by coincidence, I beat the competition and then it all began.

**🏍️ Did you have any role models in the MXGP caravan?**

Of course, my role model is Chad Reed from Australia, who first raced in the MXGP class and won the world champion title. He pursued his career in the US and won various prestigious titles. At 35 years of age, he is still an active rider at the highest Supercross level in the US.

**🏍️ Even though you are finishing your racing career, you haven't completely bid farewell to motocross. What are your plans for the future?**

Motocross is my way of life and I can hardly imagine giving it up completely. I will fully devote myself to a career as manager of the SIXTYTWO motorsport team, whose main goal is to recognize young talents and, based on our structure, knowledge and experience, be among the best in the world.

**🏍️ In your experience, what are the most important skills and knowledge that a team manager should have?**

A positive approach, determination, patience and dedication to the team. With each of these skills a team manager can tackle any challenge he or she faces along the way.

We are proud to have contributed to achieving Klemen's goals and we wish him all the best in his future role as a team owner and manager. We are confident he will help young riders realize their dreams in MX racing.



## Motosport news

### Mitas rider Simon Marčič is getting ready for Dakar 2020

The **42<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Dakar Rally** is just one month and a few days away, and our rider **Simon Marčič** is getting ready for the world's most famous rally. He has just picked up a **new rally bike** in Spain and **tested it in Viladoms Rally Station**. Click on the *link* to watch the video.

We will follow Simon during his preparations and the race. Stay tuned for more adrenaline!

**About Dakar 2020:** After 30 years in Africa and 10 years in South America, the 2020 edition of Dakar is moving to Saudi Arabia. The riders will be facing new challenges on a route of total 7,500 km, 75 % of which will be over different types of sand.



### Mitas sponsored rider Bartosz Zmarzlik is 2019 FIM Speedway Grand Prix World Champion

Polish speedway rider **Bartosz Zmarzlik** won the world title after a tough racing season and he is very proud to become third Polish **FIM Speedway Grand Prix World Champion**: *“This is unbelievable – I am the third Polish world champion. It is very nice and I don’t know what to say now. It has been a hard month for me. I have had all these people coming up to me, saying ‘you can win’ or ‘you’ve won’. It was a hard time. I am much happier now. I want to say a big thanks to the Polish fans, and all the fans. They created a good atmosphere in the stadium.”*, said Bartosz after the final race to speedwaygp.com website.



## Motosport news

### Valerio Lata is the 85cc Senior Italian champion



Valerio Lata is finishing the 2019 season as the **85cc Senior Italian motocross champion**. In 2019 season he delivered great results and became the **85cc Junior Motocross World Champion** and **EMX85 Vice Champion**. We are glad that he has won all three titles on Mitas tyres. We will continue our partnership with Valerio in the next season as we are keen to support this young rider on his way to the higher MX classes.

### iFly JK Racing Yamaha's Manuel Iacopi third at EMX2T race in Turkey



In the final round of the **EMX2T championship**, which was hosted by MXGP of Turkey, Manuel Iacopi recorded another **podium finish** in the EMX2T class. After his excellent performance and winning Race 1, he finished sixth in Race 2 and **ended up third overall**.

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