

MITAS MOTO NEWSLETTER

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Interview with Paul Bolton, the most successful privateer in Extreme Enduro

Paul Bolton is known as the most successful privateer in Extreme Enduro. 'Bolts' – as called in the paddock – has been passionate about bikes since the age of 6. He developed his mastery of trials skills at his young age and didn't try enduro until the age of 21, when his passion for extreme riding began to develop. At the age of 27 he took part in his first ever international Hard Enduro at Hell's Gate in Italy. One year later, in 2008, he recorded podium finish at the world-famous Erzbergrodeo and the rest is history. Paul is proud to have achieved world-class results year after year amongst fulltime professional factory riders. He has consistently ranked in the top 10 over the last decade. In 2018 Paul ranked 6th overall in the World Enduro Super Series. Unfortunately, in the 2019 season he has been recovering from an injury, but in 2020 he is back to racing.



🏍️ You have grown into extreme enduro rider through trial and enduro. What attracted you to Extreme Enduro so much that it has developed into your great passion?

For me, the attraction to Hard Enduro was easy. When I was competing in the British Championship Trials, I always enjoyed racing between the sections and loved the bigger and longer distance Trials like the Scottish Six Days and the Scott Trial. But then my passion for the Trials cooled and I realised some friends of mine bought the MX bikes, so I borrowed one and went for a ride. I loved it! And the next thing we knew, there we were riding them like trials bikes trying to climb the biggest hills we could find that trials bikes would not stand a chance of climbing up. Then we went for an Enduro competition, which I loved and also did it pretty well. Some time passed doing local Enduros, after which it was time to go against the UK's best in the British Enduro championship. This is when I actually realised what Enduro was all about, with really tight checks, varying special tests, and so much more. You need stamina, speed, control and patience to be good at this game. After laying good foundations and learning the trade, a few of my friends told me about Erzberg the Iron Giant. So the year after, I set off in a van with some friends to conquer the Iron Giant. I was on a stock Honda CF 250 – not the ideal bike for Erzberg!!! I did OK and finished 7th and this is where it all started back in 2007. Then in 2008 I was 3rd in Hellsgate and 3rd in Erzberg, and the addiction to this sport was born.

🏍️ Let's say a few words about these races. At this point we can't skip Erzbergrodeo. Which part of the Erzbergrodeo you find the toughest and most demanding?

For me, and I think everyone would agree, the toughest part is Carl's Diner. It's a few kilometres of massive rocks that can swallow a bike; this part requires a great deal of energy.

🏍️ What's your best memory from races?

My best memories from racing include my being invited to join the UKs ISDE team in 2008, then 3rd places at Hellsgate and Erzberg; however, after Erzberg I suffered from a severe knee injury which disabled me from competing in the ISDE for my country. I also like to remember my 2nd place in the European Extreme Championship, 3rd place in the Redbull Romaniacs, 6th in the World Super Enduro Championship, the rookie of the year title and 6th place in the WESS 2018. There are many more other highlights, meeting awesome people along the way also being one of them.

🏍️ What's your proudest achievement?

Above I've listed some of my proudest achievements that would not have been possible without the help and support from Mrs B.

🏍️ Do you have a prerace ritual?

A stupid pre-race ritual: always the left boot first.

🏍️ Who or what has influenced your career most?

Juha Salminen, a hero of the sport and someone I really looked up to, congratulated me after my 3rd place in Erzberg. I think he was 5th and I will never forget it. He was a true racer.

🏍️ What tips and advice can you give to young Extreme Enduro riders?

The best tips I could give would be patience / have fun / be prepared / be a good sportsman / woman. Hope you have enjoyed some moments in my career so far.



Product news

Mitas CUSTOM FORCE will be arriving in the UK soon



We are pleased to announce that all-new custom cruiser tyre Mitas CUSTOM FORCE will be available for sale in May. Mitas CUSTOM FORCE features all the important characteristics of a high-performance custom cruiser tyre: durability, stability, comfort and an attractive design.

The new range has been extensively tested under the most strenuous conditions possible in the U.S. as well as in different countries across Europe, to ensure the best performance.

Learn more about Mitas CUSTOM FORCE *here*.

