

MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE PROPPA.COM TEAM FOR 2011

It's no secret that team-leader James Noble has been planning to retire from pro racing at the end of the year which opens up a spot on the tight-knit squad and with a plethora of top riders throwing themselves at the Proppa.com team principal offering their services, Steve's had his hands full choosing Noble's replacement. But it's not just a new rider that the team have bagged.

After three successful years with Honda the Proppa.com team will be using KTM equipment in 2011 and they will become KTM UK's official MX1 team running the revolutionary 350cc four-stroke in the British Championship, Red Bull Pro Nationals and selected GPs.



"I feel quite flattered that KTM wanted us onboard," says Steve. "I'm really happy to be able to tie up a deal with them as I believe they're the most progressive and focussed motorcycle manufacturer in the off-road world. We will be receiving some factory support from Austria which is really important to us and I'm looking forward to forging a strong relationship with them. I'm also looking forward to working closely with their UK Managing Director Shaun Sisterson who's been instrumental in bringing this partnership together. He's very passionate about racing and of course the KTM brand."

But who'll be piloting the Proppa.com KTMs? Well, up n' coming star Nathan Parker will of course line up for another year with the Proppa.com outfit and he'll be joined by a rider who was on many team's shopping lists for 2011 but only one could bag – Martin Barr. Marty's had a cracking year in 2010 but Steve's was already a big fan of the young Irishman.

"I've always admired Martin as a rider," adds Steve. "As soon as James told me he was packing in I knew that Martin was the rider I wanted to replace him. He's had a very good year which has made him very popular in the paddock with lots of teams chasing him so it's taken me quite a bit

to get him but it's well worth it. It's also flattering for us that Martin wanted to come to us and hopefully we'll have a great year."



Martin Barr will be joining Nez Parker at the Proppa.com KTM team in 2011

Martin is equally excited by the move. "Steve's put a great package together and the KTM 350 is a really good bike – I'm excited to get on it and start testing stuff," says the 23-year-old Ulsterman. "I feel confident that with a good winter's training and plenty of bike time I can come out and run up front from the start of the year. A lot of people say my smooth and calculated riding style will suit the bigger bikes so I'm really looking forward to it – especially the GPs. We're not doing the whole series but we'll be doing between six and eight of them and I'm really excited about having the opportunity to show people what I'm capable of."



Proppa.com KTM team with Shaun Sisterson KTM UK M.D.

Shaun Sisterson was also upbeat, adding "We are delighted to join forces with Steve and his very professional Proppa.com Team. The 350 SX-F is such an important bike for us and we wanted to find the right partnership to race it in the UK. From our first meeting it was clear that we shared the same goals and passion for racing and the rest of our discussions were very smooth and easy to progress. Martin (Barr) and James (Noble) had a private test session on the bike (unfortunately Nathan (Parker) was injured at the time) and absolutely loved it which just left a couple of loose ends to tie up before our agreement was concluded last week. I am looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship between KTM UK and Steve's Proppa.com team.