

Pfeiffer gearing up to defend World Championship

BMW Motorrad's Chris Pfeiffer is preparing for the defence of his crown at the forthcoming Streetbike Freestyle World Championship 2009, taking place on 19 February at the Swiss Motorcycle, Scooter and Tuning Exhibition in Zurich.

The German stunt legend returns to SWISS-MOTO with the enviable record of having won the World Championship on the two previous occasions it has been staged, in 2007 and 2008. The BMW F 800 rider dominated proceedings throughout the 2008 competition, beating 16 other stunt supremos in a display of superiority. His range of tricks, versatility and originality won over the panel of judges, who awarded Pfeiffer 167 points – seven more than the nearest challenger, Portuguese rider Humberto Ribeiro in second place. Pfeiffer is looking to strengthen his position at the pinnacle of the sport with a win in the first major stunt riding competition of 2009.



Despite being a pioneer of the increasingly popular discipline, the 38-year-old remains focussed on improving his freestyle technique by practicing at every opportunity. He reveals that even during a recent trip to a Turkish motorcycle exhibition – where he performed to an amazed audience – he scoured the city for a suitable venue to perfect his routine.

“I’ve been in Turkey for the past few days, practicing in glorious weather,” he says. “I’ve even practiced in the paddock of Istanbul Park where the Turkish F1 Grand Prix is held and also at the Olympic stadium! I was really happy to find some good places to try out a few new tricks and also try to perfect my routine ahead of the forthcoming World Championships.”

With the sport rapidly growing in stature, a new generation of stunt riders is emerging, intent on making their mark on the world stage. Pfeiffer acknowledges that the competition is closing the gap and the best way to maintain his reputation as the best stunt rider in the world is by continuing to innovate and entertain in equal measures.

“I think the level of competition at the World Championship will be really tough again,” he admits. “There are several young riders that are emerging at the moment that have the ability to go far in the sport. Angyal Zoltan, a young Hungarian rider, is extremely talented so it will be interesting to compete against him. I’ve not faced him in

competition regularly; however whenever we have come up against each other, it has been close. In the 2008 European Stunt Riding Championship, he finished second behind me so he certainly has what it takes to be a close challenger.”

In order to safeguard his status as the sport's most successful participant, Pfeiffer has been working hard on integrating some unprecedented moves into his routine ahead of the Streetbike Freestyle World Championship. Aboard his BMW F 800 R, he plans to make the judges sit up and take notice of his indisputable talent.



“I’ll definitely showcase some new tricks and variations on existing moves,” he reveals. “With the competition extremely close you have to take risks and try new things to be noticed by the judges. I’ve already tried a few of the new tricks at some of the shows I have performed this year and they went extremely well so I’m looking forward to performing them in the competition.”

The Stunt Riding World Championship 2009 signals the start of another hectic year for Pfeiffer, with his skills in demand throughout the motorcycling world. His diary this year consists of travelling to shows in Jamaica, Lithuania as well as his native Germany to name but a few. But regardless of how busy his schedule may seem and how successful he has become, being crowned World Champion is still a major honour for the man from Halblech.

“Of course, it will be special to win the World Championship for the third time,” he continues. “It’s a great arena to perform in and the crowd are always very supportive which creates a special atmosphere. I’m looking forward to it very much!”

The SWISS-MOTO show at the Exhibition Centre in Zurich focuses on the very latest in motorcycles, scooters and quads. Visitors who want to kit themselves out for the new motorcycle season are able to take their pick from the huge selection of accessories and clothing on offer before witnessing the very best stunt riders on the planet battle it out for the Streetbike Freestyle World Championship. In 2008, the four-

day show attracted 63,000 visitors, with similar numbers expected to descend on the Messezentrum this year. Visit www.swiss-moto.ch for more details.

