



# SIDECAR MOTOCROSS ASSOCIATION

Of Great Britain



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## GP 2015 Preparation in Holland by British Sidecar Crews

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With the 2015 Grand Prix season heading off in Switzerland in a few weeks time, early April during Easter Day, it was time for the British sidecar crews to get some dirt under the wheels. In the UK weather and track conditions were not such that Brown and Co got bike time. Going to the sunny south, as amongst others Vice-World Champs Bax/Stupelis and Van Werven/Beunk did, is completely out of financial reach for our lads. The start of the 2015 season in Holland was a good reason for Brown/Chamberlain, Wilkinson/Kirwin and the Millard bros to enter for round one at the venue Lochem, home town of Daniël Willemsen.

### Stuart Brown/Josh Chamberlain

Stuart Brown/Josh Chamberlain though to sneak over the Channel early to get some extra practise time at various tracks in Holland. They were disappointed to find the Dutch tracks in the same condition as home. Dirty, wet and closed. Despite the early go over Brown/Chamberlain were waiting in the Lochem area for days with only some time on the bike on Saturday. Not really a good prep for race one 2015. Still the British champs, and World Championship 2014 3rd, rode impressive. In heat 1 Brown/Chamberlain opened 6th and was able to get into the pace of the leader group. In the early stage of the race Brown lost two places but was able to regain spots against Marcel Willemsen/Bart Sloot and the young Keuben crew. In the second half of the race the times spend in the gym paid out. Brown/Chamberlain came back to 4th at cost of Daniël Willemsen and other to finish on short after Andreas Clohse/Christiaan Verhagen and Gert van Werven/Peter Beunk who were fighting a huge battle for 2 and 3. The win was for the Dutch Champs and World Championship runners-up Etienne Bax/Kaspars Stupelis.

At the first straight with two jumps massive collisions took place after both jumps. Brown/Chamberlain were involved but could remount and came out of the wood as 17th after the first lap in heat 2. As from then Brown made judge steps to be 6th at half time. During the final stage Brown/Chamberlain went on impressively facing the track conditions that were rough with deep worn out lines. The heat win again was for the duo Bax/Stupelis with a huge lead over Gert van Werven/Peter Beunk. Koen Hermans/Kenny van Gaalen, that had a DNF in heat one, came in 3rd. Daniël Willemsen/Robbie Bax finish 4th miles after Hermans and well before Stuart Brown/Josh Chamberlain. The 4th and 5th finishes in the heats led to a 5th place overall which can be considered a good promising achievement.

### Daniël and Joe Millard

At Sunday morning the Millards had to change engine as the first AMS was erratic. After a moderate start, 12th, Daniël and Joe were able to gain four places to arrive at 8th in four laps. Any further improvement was blocked by the experienced Marcel Willemsen/Bart Sloot who always are hard to pass. At their home track Lochem Willemsen knew every tiny detail and closed all doors before the Millard could get a wheel between. In the second start Millard stayed out of trouble and was off as 6th. Now it was Daniël Willemsen/Robbie Bax who passed the brothers. Millard tried to go into the pace of the 10-times World Champion and made successful moves against Visscher and Keuben. Racing superb 6th the Millard saw their bike brake down. End of story for Daniël and Joe Millard that still need some time for bike preparation to sort everything out well in the next week weeks.

### Brett Wilkinson/Steve Kirwin

The 3rd British crew Brett Wilkinson/Steve Kirwin could look back to a successful weekend. Qualified as 12th the lads had a spot on the front row. In Lochem that is not always better as the turn is stiff left with plenty of meter to make extra compared to the starters at the inside. Wilkinson/Kirwin came out only 17th to make a jump to 13 in the second lap and improving further to 9th behind fellow country men Millards. The 2nd head the team took a more easier approach to start 8th to arrive in a firm battle with Estonians Tanel Reesna/Ivars Skultans throughout the heat. Wilkinson/Kirwin finished 7th and stayed for Marcel Willemsen/Bart Sloot and the Estonian crew that made racing for our Brits during this heat. With a 7th place overall Brett and Steve could look back positively.

### Round 2 Int. Dutch Open Oss

It is time consuming and costly but our British crews get another shot at next weekends race at the famous GP-track in Oss.



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