Infront testing – Phillip Island.
20th to 21st February 2012.

Phillip Island, 21st February 2012. On Tuesday Team BMW Motorrad Motorsport finished the final day of pre-season testing at Phillip Island (AUS) with only Marco Melandri (ITA) riding the RR. Leon Haslam (GBR) left for Melbourne in the morning for further consultation with doctors specialised in professional sports injuries.

Marco Melandri:
Best overall lap time: 1:32.232 min (2nd session Monday)
Marco's crew evaluated a different set-up in the morning in order to improve Marco's confidence with the front of the bike. The set-up changes worked pretty well in cool conditions, but not as well as expected when the track temperature rose over the lunch time. The crew also worked on several front and rear damping settings. Marco also compared the new custom created tyre solutions Pirelli brought to Phillip Island in the final hour of the test. Overall, the Infront test was positive, as the team made a step forward in improving Marco's feeling for the front of the bike compared to the previous week's test. There is still a gap to the front runners on both race pace and a single quick lap.

Marco:
"Overall, I am not very happy with the result of the test. Up to now we have not really fixed the vibration at the front. We made a step up yesterday and we have an idea what way to go, but we could not make further improvements today. The changing track conditions didn't help in fixing this issue. Nevertheless, the people here and back home in the factory are very motivated, and they are all working very hard. Thanks to all of them. We knew already before the season that the start in Australia would be tough. I really hope Leon is fit very soon and able to jump back on his bike. All the best to him."

Leon Haslam:
Best overall lap time: 1:32.397 min (1st session Monday)
After an initial diagnosis on Monday showed a fracture in Leon's right tibia, further examinations on Tuesday in Melbourne confirmed that he had a fracture and two cracks in his tibia, a crack in his right heel and a small crack in his left little toe. Leon will undergo surgery on Thursday in Melbourne in a specialist clinic, which is well known for fixing sports injuries in the leg and ankle areas. The plan is to insert two screws to fix the tibia fragment in its original place.

The prognosis on what will happen after surgery is not yet known, so a decision as to whether he will compete in this weekend's races will be made later. The team wish Leon all the best for the surgery on Thursday and a quick recovery.

Leon:
"I am a bit frustrated looking at the times everyone was doing today. Last week we had similar conditions and my times would have been good for fighting for the top three places. But that's racing. I am very happy to have found a good surgeon in Melbourne in Dr. Blackney. He will operate on me on Thursday morning and insert two screws to fix my tibia bone. I've got a small crack in the right heel and a small crack in my left little toe. Hopefully I will be back at the track on Thursday afternoon and able to jump on the bike on Friday."

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