

## Gilles Dejong



Gilles Dejong is probably the most famous Motocross and Super moto rider in Belgium. In both disciplines he is riding the GP. Since 2005 he is doing Freestyle Motocross and joined the FMXever team of Jimmy Verburgh. In 2009 Gilles had his IFMXF track premier and collection points at the FIM Freestyle MX World Championship. At the 'Night of the jumps' Brazil he reached his first IFMXF final.

**Date of Birth:** October 23, 1984

**Bike:** KTM

**Hobbies:** BMX, Party

**FMX since:** 2005

# Daredevil riders in action tomorrow

CHINTHANA WASALA

## Once

again the Sri Lankan motor sports enthusiasts have got an opportunity to witness world class riders in action on the Lankan Soil. Earlier, it was the Stunt riding World Champion Chris Pfeiffer who captured eyes of thousands of spectators but this time, most of the action seems to be taken place in the air.

Four daredevil freestyle motocross (FMX) exponents from the world's number one freestyle motocross series, the Red Bull X-Fighters are all geared up to deliver a once in a life time show at the Galle Face Green tomorrow evening. South African Nick De Wit, Belgians Jimmy Verburgh and Gilles Dejong and Daniel Bodin, will bring a slice of the world class FMX action from the Red Bull X-Fighters World tour, which has been thrilling hundreds of thousands FMX enthusiasts around the globe since 2001.

Sri Lanka will be the seventh location this year for the Red Bull X-Fighters which is the biggest FMX series in the world. Followed by immense success at Mexico City, Giza - Egypt, Moscow, Madrid, London and Rome earlier this year, the riders are racing to go out with some promising action in the air on their 250 CC motor bikes tomorrow.

The organizers, Red Bull, are confident that there will be a huge frown of spectators at the Galle Face Green tomorrow for the show which will be held from 5 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

The foursome Gilles Dejong and Jimmy Verburgh of Belgium, Nick De Wit of South Africa and Daniel Bodin are well known and best in the world when it comes to this kind of event. According to the Red Bull Sri Lanka Business Manager Niranjala Rodrigo these world class riders will hold a training session for the riders of Sri Lanka Army and Military Police today, sharing their knowledge in this form of riding.

The riders thanked for the encouragement from the Sri Lanka government and the Defence Ministry and stated that they are really happy to perform in Sri Lanka.

To make this spectacular event even more tempting for sports lovers, admission to the event is free while around 50,000 spectators are expected to be present at the Galle Face Green tomorrow.

## Jimmy Verburgh



Jimmy is the party man of the IFMXF riders and still one of the most popular riders in the world. He is well known for his very clean style and his ability to make the crowd go crazy. Jimmy is a crowd pleaser on the bike and off the bike.

He has a long history in MX and SX and uses that experience to his advantage.

When it gets technical, he is at his best. Career highlights include the European MX championship and becoming the first rider ever to score points in MX GP, SX GP and FMX World Championship.

**Date of Birth:** February 02, 1974

**Born in:** Belgium

**Hobbies:** Partying, otherwise FMX only

**Sports History:**

Belgium Champion 125 cm

Number 1 European Championship 125 cm

Number 5 World Championship 125 cm

Gerstetten 1997

## Daniel Bodin



Daniel's main event was the FSX or the Freestyle Snowmobile Cross which is the witty equivalent to FMX prior to his shift to the FMX and Daniel is like a Travis Pastrana on skids. At the 2007 Noka Air and Style in Munich, Germany, he stole the show from the snowboarders when his unbelievable backflips left the 30,000 crowd open-mouthed in amazement and earned him the coveted first prize.

The following April, Daniel raised the bar even further by setting a world record for the longest backflip on a snowmobile. The Swede hooked his machine a massive 147 feet (44.8 metres) and with it earned himself instant legendary status. When Daniel isn't tearing up slopes around the world he can be found on his lake dishing up some equally impressive trickery on two wheels. A true ambassador of the sport, he has been one of the main players on the Red Bull X-Fighters Exhibition Tour which takes FMX to far-flung places like Russia, India and Kazakhstan, and continues to push the boundaries no matter what the terrain.

## Nick de Wit



Nick de Wit, who is regarded as Africa's best FMX-Rider, made his step to the field of FMX in 2001. The 24 year old South African participated at European contests two years later, 2004 was his international break through. He ended up on number five at the IFMXF World Cup in Dresden and was placed fourth at the IFMXF World Cup in Namibia. In 2005 Nick integrated Backflips in his runs and had good results at most of the 'Night of the jumps'.

Nick performs at a number of pre-Red Bull X-Fighters exhibitions around the world. He has his own FMX training park in Muldersdrift, Johannesburg and is part of the Ride Authority. In 2009, Nick won the Pro-X Games held at the Waterfront in Cape Town and performed at the Ertzberg Rodeo in Austria.

**Date of Birth:** August 22, 1981

**Born in:** Johannesburg, South Africa

**Hobbies:** Paint Ball, Mini Bikes