



Press release

DENIS BOUAN, WINNER OF DARK DOG TOUR FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE TIME, OFFERS BUELL ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY AND ITS FIRST FIM TITLE

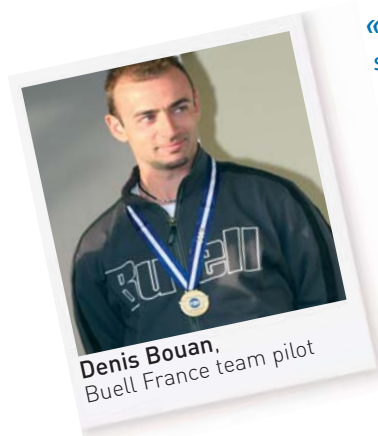
Créteil 14th October 2008 – Denis Bouan, official pilot of Buell France team, won Dark Dog Tour for the third consecutive year. After a great second position at Belgian Moto Tour last May, Denis offered himself the first title of IRC champion, formalized by the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM). The International Rally Championship, a still young competition, should soon get denser with the addition of Luxemburg and the ride round Corsica heats next year.

Dark Dog Tour : the race for the IRC / FIM title

The intensive eight day race from Reims to Toulon through Val de Reuil, Magny-Cours, Alès and Corsica, ended with the indisputable victory of Denis Bouan. It's almost one minute ahead of his direct competitors that Denis Bouan walked off with the victory of Dark Dog Tour for the third consecutive year on Sunday, 5th October.



This outstanding pilot was able to take advantage of his 1125R capabilities right from the beginning of the race and kept his advance all along the week without forgetting to enjoy himself.



Denis Bouan,
Buell France team pilot

*« I am so happy to have won »,
said Denis Bouan, Buell France team pilot.*

« We had no problem whatsoever with the 1125R. We succeeded in getting quickly ahead of our competitors which enabled us to manage the end of the race, with all the respect due to a special. I took it very seriously in spite of being the leader. I cannot help but remember my first victory. I was discovering everything then. Today, I am more experienced, calmer, everything gets simpler. »





Denis Bouan,
Buell France team pilot

« Everybody was expecting me and I had to be faultless from start to finish. DDT is a race which is respectful and which is bound to expand within an even denser IRC championship ! »

Recognized by FIM, Denis' IRC title bestowed an international status to his triumph and opened up new race perspectives for the American manufacturer.

« My IRC victory is mainly important for the team. This is one of the first victories at international level for Buell and this is very important for us and for what will happen next! » underlined Denis.

Dark Dog Moto Tour, regulated by Denis Bouan's supremacy on his Buell 1125R

As time goes by, Moto Tour has become a very professional race, accessible to amateurs, but which requires a very good physical preparation and equipment in perfect condition. From the 220 pilots who started, only 164 arrived. The week is very long, pilots sleep very little and there is permanent stress because falls must be avoided during special and road races as well as all sorts of penalties applied when late during liaison routes. Timing to go to clock heats is very tight. DDT demands involvement and courage to open maximum throttle and hope to be correctly positioned.



Denis Bouan was able to take advantage of his Buell 1125R full power and thus confirmed, day after day, his leadership of the race. His great regularity was not disrupted. His great experience allowed him to know when to moderate his ardour and let wisdom take over in order to avoid useless mistakes. DDT is a competition which is won over duration!



After pushing his 1125R to get into pole position right from the first two days, Denis played safety on Croix en Ternois race track which was inundated under torrential rain. The Buell pilot cleverly preferred an honourable third position to an ill-come fall in order to keep the leadership of the provisional general positioning. After that, still serene, he was able to keep his advantage, in spite of a problem due to the position of cones for the first special in Alès which meant that the jury asked him to run again.





Buell 1125R : reliability and pure power!

1125R, the great winner of 2008 DDT, thus confirmed its potential on roads but also on race tracks with an impeccable behaviour which combined power and handling. « The bike is easy to handle on a race track », admitted Denis Bouan, « but its torque on road, absolutely impressive, is to me its main asset ».

Thanks to Denis' victory, the American manufacturer was able to prove that they had a place within competition and that in future time, they should be counted upon. Improvements to the 1125R gave it not only steadiness and unfailing reliability but also the necessary power to face the strong competition present on the road rally championship.



*« This year, the bike had a very good behaviour on road but also on race track. » said Xavier Chachuat, Buell France team Manager.
« IRC championship allowed us to gain tremendous experience, at piloting level, of course, but also for preparing the bike. »*



Final ranking:



• 1	3 IRC Denis Bouan	Buell 1125R	Buell France	50:12.78
• 2	2 IRC Frédéric Lejeune	BMW R1200SHP2	Lejeune Motosport	51:03.54
• 3	22 IRC Philippe Pinchedez	Ducati Hypermotard	Ducati France	52:13.69
• 4	6 IRC Benjamin Coliaux	Kawasaki ZX10R	Xzeos team	52:20.12
• 5	100 Philippe Donischal	KTM	Team Xena KTM	52:28.16
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• 10	60 IRC Bruno Destoop	Buell 1125R	Buell France	53:26.27





Buell Racing France's Partners



About Buell

Buell Motorcycle Company, a subsidiary of Harley-Davidson, Inc., produces premium sport performance motorcycles, motorcycle parts, accessories and apparel. To learn more about Buell motorcycles, visit your local Buell dealer and experience the aggressive attitude, style and performance only found on board a Buell. For the Buell dealer nearest you, pull into www.buell.com

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