



2012 Tatts Finke Desert Race

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MEDIA RELEASE

3 February 2012

FINKE ENTRIES ALMOST FULL

As of 9.00am today, bike and quad entries for this year's Tatts Finke Desert Race are almost full. 534 entries have been received, leaving only 16 spots for riders wanting to race.

Race Secretary Kelsey Rodda is pleased with the online entries for this year's race, "the committee is very happy with how entries have progressed this year. They were online for the second year, with credit card the only form of payment. This has made the process a lot easier behind the scenes and the confirmation process much quicker."

The podium finishers from 2011 are all entered with Ben Grabham, Jarrod Bewely and Ryan Branford all confirmed competitors. Four time winner and reigning bike King of the Desert, Ben Grabham is going for win number five. The only other competitor to win as many was Randall Gregory, who won them consecutively from 1991 to 1995.

"I don't think about the record side of things when I race Finke, if I did that I probably wouldn't do that well", said Grabham. He's returning as part of the HSE Motorex KTM Offroad Team and says it's the race that brings him back. "I come back for the race and everything around it. I don't just think, I want to win so I'll go back – I keep coming back because it's such a great event."

2011 Yamaha Australian Off Road Champion, Chris Hollis will be trying his luck in his first ever Finke as another part of the HSE Motorex KTM Offroad Team. "Finke's a race I've definitely wanted to have a go at. As I'm now with the KTM team, I have the opportunity to compete on a good bike with a good team."

Hollis isn't too sure how he'll go with speed being his biggest hurdle, "the biggest thing for me is seeing how I go with the speed side of things. I haven't really raced events with speed like Finke before, so I'm excited to race something different. I look forward to checking out what it's all about."

Chad McKay won the quad class in 2011 and is also confirmed to try his luck for back to back victories in 2012.

With entries almost full, a 'waitlist' will be established once entries go over 550. "As competitors withdraw from the race, usually due to injury, the next entrant on the waiting list gets a spot in the race." said Rodda.

The field will officially close on Friday 1 June 2012. To enter, log onto www.finkedesertrace.com.au and follow the links to 'Bike and Quad Online Entry'.

Car and buggy entries are expected to open by the end of February.

The 2012 Tatts Finke Desert Race will be held from Friday 8 to Monday 11 June.

For more information visit www.finkedesertrace.com.au.

Media note:

Enquires about this media release or for images, please contact Kelsey Rodda on 0408 087 504.