Matt Roberts will be the new face of MotoGP on BBC television.

Roberts, who has been a member of the BBC team since 2006, will start his new role as presenter at the first race of the season in Qatar on 20 March."This is a sport I am very passionate about and the opportunity to share it with the TV audience is a very exciting prospect," said Roberts.

Every race in the 2011 season will be shown live on BBC Two with MotoGP Extra following the race on the red button.

Charlie Cox and Steve Parrish will continue in the commentary box with Azi Farni joining the team as pit-lane reporter.

"I'm absolutely delighted to have been asked to front the MotoGP coverage on the BBC this year," said Roberts.

"I'm really looking forward to working with Azi Farni, who is an established, enthusiastic and highly respected reporter, and it is always great fun to work with Charlie and Steve, who need no introduction!

"I'm convinced we will make a strong team and most importantly cover every aspect of what promises to be a truly memorable year in the most prestigious class of motorcycle racing."

Farni has worked in motorsport since 2007, starting with the World Rally Championship, before joining MotoGP in 2009.

For the last 15 months she has been working as a reporter and is already a well known face in the paddock.

"I'm really looking forward to joining the BBC team. I always used to watch MotoGP on the BBC, so it's a dream come true to be working with them. The last year working in the paddock has been an incredible experience," she said.

"With Rossi working his magic on the Ducati and Stoner clicking straight away with the Honda, I think we could see a really close title battle between four or five riders this time around, with a lot more riders finishing on the podium than last year. I can't wait for it all to start in March!"

Mark Wilkin, executive producer of BBC MotoGP, added: "I am delighted that Matt is taking on the role of main presenter for our MotoGP coverage.

"This is a natural progression for him as he's a very talented broadcaster and his knowledge of the sport is second to none, and we welcome to the team reporter Azi, who is a well-known face in the paddock and is very passionate about the sport."

Live MotoGP races will be available to watch on bbc.co.uk/iplayer for seven days after each race.

Source:BBC