



Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: Freedom Moto Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Event: National Cross Country Rnd 2 Mosgiel

Result: 1st

Race Report

It had been a long time since I have raced down in the South Island. The ferry crossing and trip down through the Kaikora coast being some of the most scenic routes in NZ.

A good turnout of riders too showed the sport is in good shape down south.

Off the line I got a reasonable start and held third briefly before moving into the lead. I lead for maybe half a lap before I heard my teammate Adrian Smith behind me. On the fast track he had his 250 FX more tapped than usual (if that's possible!!!) and was soon looking for a way by. He took the lead as I searched for arrows on a faster section of track.

I was able to follow him pretty easy as the speed of the track had the leader constantly searching for the way on lap one. But as the race played out were close all race. I had the lead for a short period after Adrian washed the front out but generally he led and I followed. The only split came when we fuelled for the second time. There was some confusion when we should come in with Adrian pitting one lap before me. But the situation soon levelled back out with Adrian right behind me on the second to last lap. I entered what would be the last lap leading and thought Adrian was still there but after a few switch back gateways I realized I was all alone. Turned out Adrian had cartwheeled in a 5th gear swampy tussock section. I ended up taking the win comfortably.

The track was a little too fast with an average pace of 70kph but there were parts that held awesome "gated" gully's and a nice pine section. They were on the right track with the layout, just need to slow it down.

1st: Paul Whibley

2nd: Adrian Smith

3rd: Andrew Charleston

Paul Whibley is supported by:

Sidi, Smith, G2, Asterisk, MotoSR, Vortex Ignitions, EC3D, Bush Riders MCC, Darbis, GHQ, Freedom Moto, Yamaha NZ, Roscos Start Up Services, Works Connection, Pro Taper, Race Pace Services, Unabiker, Leatt Brace, Tire Balls, bikesportnz.com, CarbSport, KettleClamp, Alliance Offroad, Ride Eng MotoSeat, FMF, Kenda, Yamalube CV4, GYTR, IMS, MSR, Recluse, Twin Air, Wiseco, Ride Eng Workshop graphics

