



Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Event: Sandpit 2 Man Series Rnd 2

Result: 1st

## Race Report

With Chris Birch (Redbull KTM Extreme Enduro rider) teaming up for this event with fellow KTM rider Jason Davis I knew I would have push hard for the whole event to stay near this pairing let alone some of the other high calibre entrants.

The Solo class starts on the second row behind the Expert teams. I holeshot my row and pushed hard to catch the leaders from row one. I got up to second on lap one and wasn't far behind Birch who had started for their team. I couldn't quit see him but could hear his bike every now and then. Jason Davis tagged in and with one lap under my belt I soon caught him. I relaxed when I latched onto his tail and caught my breath for a second. Once in the lead I upped my intensity again and pulled away. With Birch tagging in on the third lap I rode hard to maintain my lead. Completing the lap without being caught I relaxed again. Feeling happy with my pace, if I just maintain that for the 3 hours I probably wouldn't be caught. I was comfortable that the intensity that I was running could be held to the end, with a little in reserve if needed.

A gas stop at the end of the fourth lap, thanks to Reuben and Sarah in the pits, and back into it. The rain was becoming steady now so I ended up coming into the pits for each of the remaining laps to grab fresh Smith goggles. I kept the pace up right to the end and won by a couple of minutes over the team of Birch and Davis with Jake Wightman coming home in third.

1<sup>st</sup>: Paul Whibley

2<sup>nd</sup>: Chris Birch/Jason Davis

3<sup>rd</sup>: Jake Wightman

Paul Whibley is supported by:

Sidi, Smith, G2, Asterisk, MotoSR, Vortex Ignitions, EC3D, Bush Riders MCC, Darbis, GHQ, Freedom Moto, Yamaha NZ, Rosscos 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 Rekluse Twin Air Wiseco Ride Eng Workshop graphics

