



New Zealand Enduro Champs Round 3 – Wellington.

We have crested the half way mark in this year's NZ Enduro Champs and with 3 of the 5 rounds in the record books, we enjoy a 2-month break before Round 4, Waimihi and Round 5, Tokoroa finish off the series back-to-back!

Just a quick re-cap from the first 2 rounds. I scored a 2nd followed by a 1st down in the South Island, to level the 450cc class point's lead with Angus Macdonald. So, coming into this 2-month break I wanted to make sure I had the edge, come the final double-header. The Wellington Enduro, I knew, wouldn't be my cup of tea as it were. I've never really done great down there and the rocky terrain is not easy to get used to.

The day was laid out with 5 terrain tests and just over 130km of trail. As it turns out, both tests would prove to be very fast, open style racing. And with the rocks, clay and rain recently it could have potentially gone ugly. Actually it did a few times!

In the first test of the day I made a complete mess of it. Numerous stalling the bike and a couple of offs really hurt my time. The terrain was so sketchy and fast, I was trying to ride quicker than I should have and needed to back it down in order to go faster. Plus I was overshooting corners, trying to make up time. Not ideal.

The final four tests were much better and with near on no mistakes, I was back into the top 4-5 outright in test times on the old Honda. The perils of riding second hand equipment came into play this weekend too, with the old girl pushing out a bit of water in the tight, slow and tricky trail sections that Wellington is known for. A quick top up every check seemed to do the trick and we will take a look at that later this week.

When the dust had cleared, I had managed to secure another 450cc class win and a 5th outright for the day. A big improvement from Rounds 1 & 2 with the bike and I really starting to gel. It's only been a month since I got the 09 Honda so I know there is still more improving to come. I have a few mid-season break races I'm keen to get out and do so look out for more updates as they happen.

And as always, many thanks to all those involved in this seasons racing. Chris

