



**Rider:** Paul Whibley

**Team:** Yamaha

**Bike:** Yamaha YZ450 FX

**Event:** NZXC Rnd 6 (Central Cross Country Series)

**Result:** 1st

## Race Report

The final round of the MotoSR NZXC series was held at CastleHill near Pahiatua in conjunction with the Central Cross Country Series.

I grabbed a good start and was top three around turn one. Moving into second behind Bradley Lauder, I made a move up the inside on one off the creek crossing. The track was pretty slick with short green grass on the farmland sections. We raced our way around the first lap through some pine sections, up the rocky gorge and dropped down through a new gorge. I had a small lead over Liam Draper on lap one and over the next few laps we stayed pretty close. Liam closed in after the fuel stop after I made a couple small mistakes. Liam briefly took the lead as we worked our way through the farmland side of the loop. But I was able to move back into the lead when he stalled his bike.

A light sprinkle of rain came through the area and it made the track incredibly slippery on the grass farm tracks. One hill was so hard, green and slick that any more than an idle resulted in wheel spin and no forward motion at all. I was thankful for the fresh set of Michelins that I had fitted. The bush and pine sections remained in perfect condition and made for a cool mix of riding terrain.

Late in the race Liam dropped off my tail, with what I later heard was a flat tire.

With a safe lead I was able to bring it home to win the final NZXC round for the season.

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

2<sup>nd</sup>: Allan Gannon

3<sup>rd</sup>: Josh Hunger

Paul Whibley is supported by:

YamahaNZ, Arai, TCX, Oakley, G2, Asterisk, MotoSR, Vortex Ignitions, EC3D, Bush Riders MCC, Rosscos Start Up Services, Works Connection, Unabiker, Leatt Brace, Tire Balls, ,Renthal bikesportnz.com, CarbSport, KettleClamp, Alliance Offroad, Ride Eng MotoSeat, FMF, Michelin, Yamalube CV4 GYTR, IMS ONeal, Rekluse, Workshop graphics

