

21/22 May 2011

BEC Rd2 Harwood Enduro - Northumberland

Round 2 of the British Enduro Championship started from Harwood Forest in Northumberland. The Dirtbike Action crew promised an old school hard enduro and that's exactly what they delivered in the notoriously challenging Harwood forest, which provided one of the toughest BEC rounds for a few years.

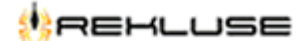
Fortunately the first day rain stayed away and Harwood was unusually dry, the day went without drama for KORR's riders. Greg Evans set the early pace and won the first of 3 cross-country tests. The test very "interesting" for the riders with many difficult sections such as bogs, exposed tree roots and long ruts – a real enduro test !!!, Gregs next two runs through did not go quite as smoothly and he dropped to 2nd position. the 35 mile course would test the riders on day 1 but did not take any course time penalties as expected.

Surprise of the day was KORR junior rider Jonny Walker who battled at the front setting top 3 times to finish the day in 3rd overall, using all his trials experience on the physically tough and technical 10 minute cross-country test to avoid trouble from bogs and ditches. Being an unseeded rider Jonny starts from the back of the Championship class, in the first two tests he quickly caught several riders and despite efforts to pass them in the tight forest it was not always possible, generally its good sportsmanship to move over and let the faster rider through – some of these riders would not – they should know better !!! This cost Jonny valuable time and possibly much better test times.

E1 team rider Daryl Bolter lead his class on his KTM 250 XCF to take 4th overall and was only a handful of seconds behind an overall podium position, Daryl rarely gets chance to race in such conditions so his result on the little 4 stroke was very good. James Gidings had a good solid ride in the Expert class to take his little KTM 125 EXC to 4th overall, again James coming from the South of England has limited experience of such tough forests.

Day 2 would be a very different affair, heavy overnight rain and tighter check times would mean all riders would have to dig deep, for some this was literally, Daryl lost 3 minutes on the tight check when he totally buried his KTM in one of the many bog's, this meant that he would drop to 10th overall on Sunday and 3rd in class, very disappointing as he had made good special test times again which would have won the E1 class.

Jonny Walker was caught out on the first check when he simply did not push hard enough and was penalised 1 minute, a lapse in concentration and lack of experience, but fortunately his 2 combined test times even with 60 seconds added were enough to hold onto 3rd again. Later in the day he was one of only 5 riders to clean the tight check..



Greg had mixed fortunes on the 2nd day, on the tight check which he was more than capable of cleaning he lost 1 minute, in the end it did not effect the results as he was still trailing Tom Sagars KTM 450 by a few seconds from the first test, but he had 2 test times that were over 30 seconds faster than others riders, who had cleaned the check so he had won his minute back, Greg won the last test and just managed to beat Jonny by a handful of seconds to place 2nd overall.

Julian Stevens Team Manager "I'm sure this event was a shock to some, a proper Enduro in my opinion and the club should be congratulated for being brave enough to put on such a great event. Its a welcome change to compete up North and I hope more events like this will follow in the future. This type of Enduro makes the championship so much more interesting and sorts the men form the boys, a good Enduro rider must master all conditions, not only dry Motocross style tests. We have enjoyed a great weekend with KORR riders placing 2nd, 3rd and 4th on Saturday and 2nd, 3rd and 10th on Sunday. Biggest praise must go to Jonny, in only his second season of Enduro he is starting to show his real potential, this Harwood forest I would say is only for the very experienced, Jonny has little experience yet he still was mixing it up front for the win and made very few mistakes, his first day being spoilt by other championship riders who would not move over on the test – its a basic unwritten law of Enduro, if a faster rider catches then GET OUT OF THE WAY !!.

Results

Day 1

1 Tom Sagar KTM 450EXC	23.37.80secs
2 Greg Evans KORR KTM	23.47.10
3 Jonny Walker KORR KTM	24.10.30
4 Daryl Bolter KORR KTM	24.24.30
5 Paul Edmondson KTM	24.31.90

Day 2

1 Tom Sagar KTM 450EXC	17.36.00
2 Greg Evans KORR KTM	18.49.50*
3 Jonny Walker KORR KTM	18.54.10*
4 Euan McConell D3 KTM	18.56.40
5 Graham Jarvis Husaberg	18.57.80

- Included 60 time check penalty points

Next Event: BSEC May 28/29, Near Banbury, Northamptonshire