

27/03/2011

ACU British Cross-Country Championship Rd1 Harwood Dale, North Yorkshire

Great weather and a true cross-country course at Low North Camp made for a great day out for all who traveled near to Scarborough for Round 1 of the ACU British cross-country championship. Harwood Dale is an ex military camp with a woodland circuit of around 10km combined with a MX track which is probably one of the best venues in the UK for multi lap events.

Defending champion of the series Daryl Bolter could not make the trip due to other commitments so it was up to KORR's rookie rider Jonny Walker to represent KTM and the team. Jonny has ridden many times before at Harwood Dale but only in Trials, this weekend he returned to make his first Cross-Country race on his KORR Azego KTM 300 EXC.

This being Jonny's first true cross country race the strategy was just to make the best start possibly and follow the more experienced riders. He made a good start and within a few turns was quickly up to second and then just followed KTM's Ashley Woods, the 2 riders quickly pulled a big gap on the rest of the field and Jonny shadowed Ashley following him in his wheel tracks for a few laps.

On lap 3 Jonny moved to the front and started to make a safe gap of around 1 minute on Ashley, we only used a stock EXC tank so it would be touch and go if we could make just one fuel stop, fortunately with the clear tank we could see the level and kept him out until the last moment on reserve and just managed to pass the halfway point which would mean we only needed to stop once for fuel.

The second half of the race Jonny just managed his lead and rode effortlessly to finish 1st overall, meanwhile veteran Ady Smith on his 250XCF and 4 stroke debut after riding 2 strokes for almost 30 years had worked his way up to third to make a KTM 1-2-3 on the podium.

Jonny " I really enjoyed that, I know this place well from trials and my 300 KTM is just mega in on these types of tracks, I just made one small crash on the opening lap and then I just rode steady the whole race trying to conserve fuel so I only needed to make one stop, thanks to the organising club and to my team"



Team Manager Julian Stevens “ Jonny rode very smart today, just pacing himself and doing enough to get the job done, events like this are perfect for him to gain confidence and get valuable racing time, also good rides from Ash Woods who normally rides a 125 and Ady Smith who made is debut on the 4 Stroke XCF”

Overall Results

1. Azego KTM UK 300 EXC Jonny Walker
2. ET James KTM 250 XC Ashley Woods
3. KTM UK Off Road Schools Ady Smith