

Eddy Extreme Enduro, January 23rd

For the first time an ACU British Championship Extreme Enduro event was organised in the UK, this weekend at Tong Hall near Leeds.

Tong proved to be a perfect natural venue for extreme enduro, mostly steep woodland with many streams and gulleys, a favourite place of 4 x 4 enthusiasts who love to winch them themselves through all the obstacles, no such luxury for the off-road bikers though, if you make a mistake its simply get off and push and even the best where doing that at times on Sunday.

With several days of rain and frost prior to the event and mild weather finally arriving for the race day the ground was extremely slippy itself and once all that wet mud was dragged onto the rock sections they became almost impossible for all but the elite. A cleverly designed course had several "Chicken runs" next to the difficult sections to allow riders the option of a slower but easier passage or risk the hazard for possibly a quick direct route.

About 100 riders entered the race and the day kicked off at 9.30am with an hour of free practice , also in this session each rider had to put in a quick lap to organise the starting order, there was no surprise that Factory KTM rider David Knight set the standard time, KORR rider Jonny Walker on his KTM 300 qualified in 4th amongst a group with far more experience, this was Jonny's first extreme enduro and first time either KORR rider had been to this venue!!!, Greg also mixed it with the Trials and Extreme specialists and qualified with a very creditable 6th on his 250 EXC.

The first 1 hour race started at 11.30am and riders departed in rows of 5 in 5 second intervals, Knighter took the hole-shot and simply left the field behind with young Jonny trying to follow in 2nd, but a few mistakes on the first lap dropped him down to 4th, he jumped out of a river and did not see a low branch which took his helmet peak straight off and damaged his goggles making things even tougher for him. However he started to find his rhythm and settled down into a good pace and held 3rd for much of the race, being easily the quickest of the rookie extreme riders. Greg however was further down the pack but slowly through consistent riding picked off riders to move up the order and eventually passed Jonny in the final laps.

Contd:-



KTMOFFROADRACING UK

After the first race there was only 1 hour work time to prepare for the final session with the time spent mostly repairing damage, the course had been tough on our bikes and many plastic parts had been broken, Jonny modified his seat with rope to get better grip, although it was suggested we tie him to the bike !!.

The final race would once again see Knighter up front with Husabergs Graham Jarvis in close company, both Jonny and Greg came around in 4th and 5th respectively and held these positions to the end without much drama until the very end when Greg again closed in on Jonny and almost passed him on the final hill. At the end it was a tie break between Greg and Jonny for 3rd overall and the final result was calculated on aggregate race times, Greg had beaten Jonny by just 5 seconds over the 2 hours of racing !!

Results

1. David Knight KTM 250
2. Dougie Lampkin Gas Gas 300
3. **Greg Evans Azego KORR KTM UK 250 EXC**
4. **Jonny Walker Azego KORR KTM UK 300 EXC**

Team Manager Julian Stevens; “ It has been a very good team result for us, the event has attracted an excellent quality line up that any extreme race in the world would be proud of, with the exception of Taddy Blazusiak the Worlds best extreme riders where there, so for us to get two top 5 positions is very positive, all the team worked very hard to help so thanks to them and a big well done to Greg and Jonny”.

Greg Evans 3rd overall; “Well i'm quite surprised with my result, I do not come from a trials background so this type of race is quite difficult for me, I have had more than my fair share of crashes today !!! and sorry to Smooth for wrecking his brand new 250 EXC , i've really enjoyed today and it has been a good test to prove my fitness and set me up for the season, can't wait for the BEC now”.

Jonny Walker 4th overall; “This was my first extreme Enduro and qualifying on the front row with the likes of Knighter and Lampkin was awesome, I had a great time, it was much slippier than I expected and like Greg I made many mistakes, but I learn't a lot from this race, now I know what I must do to improve and really look forward to my next extreme which will be Hells Gate in a few weeks”

Next Event: Barcelona Indoor World Cup, February 6th