

Paul Holmes takes more Podiums in Latvia

Round 6 of the Goldspeed European Quad Cross Championship was held at the 'Zelta Zirgs' circuit in Kegums, Latvia last weekend. With blistering temperatures reaching as high as 37°C the circuit was opened to another large crowd of spectators. The sand based large format circuit was packed with large jumps and technical corners. HOLMES Racing's Paul Holmes, eager to repeat his 3 wins here last year was looking for another successful weekend to continue his Championship campaign.

The track action for Saturday consisted of the usual two free practice sessions with a 30 minute qualifying session in which Holmes prepared and set up his HOLMES Racing KTM ready for Sundays races. Holmes was satisfied to have 3rd fastest time at the end of the qualifying session just 0.997 secs from 1st placed Jan Vlaeymans and used Saturday evening to make all the final alterations before Sundays three 25min + 2 lap races.



Image:Karina Kompus

Holmes flying high in race 3 before taking the win



Image:Karina Kompus

Holmes claimed 2nd place in race 1

Race 1: With an almost perfect start Holmes rounded the 1st corner in a close 2nd place behind Couprie and before getting to the 2nd corner Holmes had taken the lead of the race. As Holmes felt comfortable with the track conditions and his form he started to pull away from the field. On Lap 3 whilst Holmes pushed hard to make a gap behind himself and Couprie, he set the fastest lap of the race with a 1:53.292 which was also the fastest lap out of all the competitors over the whole weekend showing the incredible speed Holmes has. At just over the half way marker Holmes made a few mistakes whilst still trying to push hard for the quick lap times and series leader Couprie closed in and started battling for the win. Holmes crossed the chequered flag in 2nd place just 3.443 secs behind 1st placed Couprie.

Race 2: Holmes made another good start and came round the 1st corner in 2nd place behind Couprie. As Holmes pushed hard and started to battle for the win, he came short on a large table top jump resulting in a broken rear axel. With this unfortunate blow to Holmes's race, it was an unfortunate non finish.

Race 3: Putting race 2's misfortune behind him, Holmes took charge of the race from the beginning with a great Holeshot. After an almost race long battle with Couprie it was during the last 5 laps that Holmes started to forge a greater gap on Couprie. At the chequered flag it was Holmes taking the race win and 25 valuable points.

With the race 3 win, a 2nd place and the unfortunate race 2 result Holmes still claimed 3rd place on the overall podium.



Image:Jonathon Pannell

Holmes commented after the days racing: *"I've really enjoyed myself this weekend despite the race 2 result. I've already put that behind me and it showed as I was able to bounce back to win the last race. I am pleased with my speed at this moment and am really pleased to have had the fastest lap of the weekend. My team has been working extremely hard and that is paying off. I'd like to say a big thanks again to all my awesome sponsors, team and family for all their fantastic support."*

Championship standings (after 5 of 7 rounds)

- 1 – Romain Couprie.....405 points
- 2 – Jan Vlaeymans 286
- 3 – Paul Holmes 285**
- 4 – Jason MacBeth 232
- 4 – Nicola Montalbini 214
- 6 – Joe Maessen 213



Image:Karina Kompus

