



YAMAHA



Race Report: National Enduro Rnd 1, Riverhead, Auckland

Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: Freedom Moto Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F

Result: 2nd



It had been a long time since I raced a National Enduro in NZ and even longer since I had raced in Riverhead. While I didn't recognise any trail, memories quickly came flooding back of slick clay and the pine tree roots once into the first section.

Trail time was supposed to be loose so there was no rush in the first section. The drizzly morning had dampened down the expected dust nicely but in return the hard pack clay was pretty slick. Completing the first section with enough time to grab a quick splash of gas and then into the first special test. The next section seemed to hold a lot of slower trails and when we came into check two there was a real scramble to get gas and into the check without losing time. A lot were caught out by how tight it was on time and lost minutes. The trail pace was fast enough to prohibit slacking and keep you pushing. I kind of liked it because it kept my focus, but I'm not sure many of the Intermediate riders appreciated the pace they had to ride. The last loop was abandoned with a horse on the loose in the forest posing a danger to riders. My times felt ok but I suspect I need to work on my special test speed. I felt I rode pretty safely and could do with hanging it out a little. I think I my test pace was basically my 3 hour cross country speed. Overall I had a lot of fun. The bike worked great and with some more test specific training we will be right in the hunt.

1st: Chris Birch

2nd: Paul Whibley

3rd: Liam Draper

Photo courtesy Andy McGechan, BikesportNZ.com

Paul Whibley is supported by:

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