



Rider: Paul Whibley
Team: Yamaha Freedom Moto
Bike: Yamaha YZ450 F
Event: Rnd 4 NZ Cross Country Nationals
Result: 1st

Race Report

The final round of the National Cross Country Championship where the title would go down to the wire between Adrian Smith and myself. We had raced side by side for the whole series but it would all hinge on the final result as to who would take the Championship.

I got off to a good start, taking the holeshot and leading the way around the 23 km loop. It was hard to pull away on the fresh track and at one point we all bunched up as we had to push through a mob of sheep. Mid lap while leading I missed some arrows and went the wrong way, dropping back to about 15th in the scramble to get back on track. I could see Adrian up ahead in the lead group so I knew I had to make quick work of the guys between me and him. I pushed hard and took plenty of chances in the mostly open farmland. Somehow I clawed my way forward and retook the lead around 5km before the end of the lap. Through scoring and into the second lap I continued to push and started to open up a gap. A small crash on a slick grassy downhill ended my clean vision through my Smiths but still no one else was in sight as I remounted. I shock off the crash and got back up to speed and came into the pits at the end of the 3rd lap for gas and goggles. That was when I was informed Adrian was having some problems and was a fair way back. From then on I put it on cruise to make sure I made no further mistakes. Taking the win and the Championship. Last time my name was on this trophy was 2002. Long time between NZ titles but it's good to be back.

- 1st: Paul Whibley
- 2nd: Andrew Charleston
- 3rd: Scott Birch

Paul Whibley is supported by:

Sidi, Smith, G2, Asterisk, MotoSR, Vortex Ignitions, EC3D, Bush Riders MCC, Darbis, Freedom Moto, Yamaha NZ, Rosscos Start Up Services, Works Connection, Pro Taper, Race Pace Services, Unabiker, Leatt Brace, Tire Balls, bikesportnz.com, CarbSport, KettleClamp, Alliance Offroad, Ride Eng MotoSeat FMF Kenda Yamalube CV4 GYTR IMS MSR Recluse Twin Air Wiseco Ride Eng Workshop graphics

