



Paul Holmes sets British Championship pace at Round 3

Tinker Hill, Ireland (2 July 2011)

HOLMES Racing's Paul Holmes travelled to Northern Ireland for Round 3 of the British Championship where he desperately wanted to make amends for Round 2 where he took a nasty crash resulting in an injured shoulder.

Paul showed immense speed adapting quickly to the newly revamped hardpacked based circuit. On his first flying lap of the Qualification he went straight to the top of the timing screens where he stayed for the duration.



Images by: Sean McIntyre.

Race 1: Holmes took maximum advantage of his 1st gate choice and pulled an incredible Holeshot in front of last year's Champion Winrow. Holmes pushed hard in the opening laps pulling away from the chasing pack. Setting lap times unmatched by anyone he set the fastest lap of the race on lap 2, which was almost a full second faster than any other rider. Holmes rode smooth and fast opening up a 10second gap from Watson and Mitchell but was struck with bad luck when he picked up a rear tire puncture 5 laps from the finish of the 25min + 2 lap race. As Paul collected the 2 laps to go board, he couldn't hold off Watson and Mitchell any longer and had to settle for 3rd.



Race 2: Whilst putting the unfortunate luck of race 1 behind him, Holmes took another great start, rounding the first corner behind series points leader Mitchell. Not leaving anything to chance, Holmes shot past Mitchell on the 4th corner of the opening lap and never looked back. Holmes dominated once again taking the fastest lap of the race, almost matching his race 1 lap time, and was the only rider to get within the 1.35's. Holmes took the chequered flag a comfortable 6.4secs ahead of Mitchell in 2nd.



With a 3 - 1 scorecard, Holmes claimed 2nd overall and despite the flat tire showed immense speed and determination putting all previous races behind him as he led from the front.

Round 3 Overall results

1st – John Mitchell	47 points
2nd – Paul Holmes	45
3rd – Mark Watson	42
4th – David Wray	34
5th – James Hellewell	30

Holmes commented after the day's action: *"I am really pleased with how I rode today and am really happy with the set-up I've got at the moment. It was a shame to get the flat tire in race 1 but these things happen and I was glad to get 3rd place despite it. As usual I'd like to say a huge thank you to the team who did a great job this weekend and my brilliantly supportive sponsors."*

