



Paul Holmes battles up to 3rd in European Championship

Round 2 of the Goldspeed European Quad Cross Championship was held at the spectacular hillside venue of Castlenau de Levis in the South of France this past weekend. Blessed by beautiful sunshine all weekend the track welcomed huge crowds to witness the nail biting racing action on the technical and difficult hard packed circuit. HOLMES Racing's Paul Holmes had been working continuously with his new set-up before journeying south in search of another strong finish to keep his Championship campaign on track.

Saturday's track action saw the usual timetable of 2 free practice sessions of 30 mins during which time the Holmes Racing team made the necessary adjustments to set-up before Paul Holmes headed into the 40mins qualifying session which followed. With a great final lap attempt Holmes made a time of 2.08.825 for 4th place just 1.323 seconds behind local Frenchman and American seasoned pro Jermie Warnia in 1st, highlighting the extreme competitiveness of this European Championship.



Images by: Tug Wilson

Race 1: Holmes didn't get the perfect start he'd hoped for, sandwiched in and unable to break free, he rounded the first corner mid pack. With a lot of work to do Holmes started slicing through the pack taking up 4 positions on the opening lap. On lap 3 whilst battling hard Holmes got caught up in the aftermath of another rider's mistake and lost valuable time on the lead pack. During the entire 30mins + 2 lap race, with extreme heat belting down on the hardpack track, Holmes rode hard and stayed out of trouble but the loss of so much valuable time meant he couldn't get further up the field than 8th place despite really closing in the reigning Champion Romain Couprie in the closing stages.

Race 2: With another unfortunate start again, being boxed in on the inside of turn one, Holmes was sitting again mid pack but having made some adjustments to the quad between races, Holmes was able to work hard and dice through the pack to take a well earned 4th place behind series points leader Jan Vlaeymans.

Despite the non idyllic day, Holmes stayed positive, knowing he had made good points towards the Championship and moving into 3rd place overall is great news. With the first British Championship event just around the corner, being the top British rider once again in the European Championship is extremely encouraging.



Holmes commented after the weekend's action: "This weekend has been another good weekend with some strong points in the bag and loads more knowledge of the quads which is really important at this stage. I'm really happy to have moved into 3rd place in the points and as me and the team keep on making improvements, we're feeling really confident with our set-up. Once again I would like to say a huge thank you to all my incredible generous sponsors along with my family and friends for their unfailing support.

Round 2 overall results;

1st – Stefan Schreiber	50 points
2nd – Jan Vlaeymans	40
3rd – Romain Couprie	36
4th – Davy De Cuyper	34
5th – Paul Holmes	31

2011 Championship Standings;

1st – Jan Vlaeymans	87 points
2nd – Romain Couprie	73
3rd – Paul Holmes	62
4th – Davy De Cuyper	62
5th – Stefan Schreiber	61



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