



Paul Holmes flies to 2nd place In European Championship

HOLMES Racing's Paul Holmes took a 12 day round trip to attend Rounds 4 and 5 of the European Championship where he stood on the podium for both overalls and moved himself up to 2nd place in the overall GOLDSPEED European Quad Championship.

18-19th June - Round 4, Rander, Denmark.

Held at the challenging sand based Randers circuit, a new venue for this year's Goldspeed Championship, this round proved to be an enjoyable track for both riders and spectators.

Holmes sat out the first 30min free practice session, as heavy rain had left the track extremely wet, but he headed out onto the new circuit for the 2nd free practice where he made some final adjustments to his quad before starting the qualification session which followed. Holmes immediately showed his speed by posting the 2nd fastest time of the session just 0.031 seconds off 1st, giving him an important early gate choice for Sundays racing action.

Race 1: With a very tight first corner where riders and machines quickly ended up in a multi quad pile up, Holmes unfortunately got stacked up on the inside and was forced to take avoiding action to stay clear of the carnage. Holmes found himself mid pack as the first lap got underway and although not perfectly happy with his set-up rode strong and battled up to a top 5 finish.



Images by: Francesca Cesari

Race 2: Not content with the result in race 1, Holmes shot out of the gate but was once again caught up in a quad tangle at the first corner. Holmes exited the first corner to start his 30min + 2 lap race way down in 16th place. With valuable Championship points up for grabs, Holmes rode hard and fast to fight through the pack to claim a 2nd place finish, less than 9 seconds from the race winner, Couprie.

With a 5th and a 2nd Holmes took his first overall Podium of the season with 3rd and moved into 2nd place in the overall Championship.

25-26th June 2011 - Round 5, Gdansk, Poland.

Some mid week bike set-up changes were needed to prepare the quad for the hard packed circuit of Gdansk. Holmes was happy to move into 2nd in the overall standing but wanted to close in the Championship lead. Held at the Gdansk circuit where Holmes took 3 race wins on his last visit just 2 years ago, whilst leading the Championship, the stage was set for a fantastic weekend. With hot dusty conditions at the fast and flowing circuit, Qualification was going to be key to a good gate choice and race start, Holmes once again claimed the 2nd fastest time.

Race 1: Not getting as good a jump out of the gate as he'd hoped he found himself once again in a tightening pack heading up the start straight and before he found himself upside down, like 2 fellow riders, Holmes chose to ease off the gas and avoided the carnage. With a lot of work ahead as he rounded the first corner dead last, Holmes battled very hard and found some great passing points which he took advantage off as he raced to a 3rd place finish and proved his speed as he set the fastest lap of the race.

Race 2: Hoping for redemption on the starts, Holmes got a great start and rounded the first corner in 2nd place. Whilst battling to keep hold of his position he was tucked up behind Couprie on the 2nd corner when Couprie came to an abrupt halt. More bad luck followed as three riders shot past on the inside and with extremely dusty conditions hindering his progress he had to settle for the 4th place despite applying immense pressure on the riders ahead.

With another overall 3rd place finish, Holmes closes in on the Championship lead and extends the gap between himself and 3rd place.

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2011 Championship Standings after 5 of 8 rounds;

1st – Romain Couprie (F)	188 points
2nd – Paul Holmes (GB).....	167
3rd – Stefan Schreiber (D)	160
4th – Nicola Montalbini (I)	151
5th – Mattia Torracco (I)	110

Holmes commented after the weekend's action: *“These two weekends have been really exciting and full of drama and I'm really enjoying my riding at the moment and really pleased with how the Championship is going. I hope to continue this momentum into this coming weekend's British Championship Rd 3 in Ireland. I would really like to give a huge shout out to all my sponsors, family and friends because without them none of this would be possible.”*

