



Holmes Takes 5 Podiums at Final Rounds of British Championship

The last two rounds of the 2010 GOLDSPEED British Quad Championship were held last weekend at Culham Park, Oxfordshire. The fast flowing hard-pack circuit, situated next to the river Thames, hosted rounds 6 and 7 of the Championship. Paul Holmes, carrying plenty of momentum after his spectacular win at the final round of the European Championship in Germany was ready to take as many points as possible for the title chase.



Image: Mark Lovelock

Saturday 18th September:

Race 1: Making a perfect start, Paul Holmes grabbed the holeshot on board his HOLMES Racing KTM and pulled away from the chasing pack of Windrow, Bunce and Watson. Holmes continued setting fast lap times and kept a consistent pace until he took the chequered flag and the win, finishing over 14 seconds ahead of Watson in 2nd place. Holmes and Watson were the only riders in the 1min 55's, a huge 3 seconds quicker in fastest lap comparison than the closest rider.

Race 2: Trying to repeat his race 1 performance Holmes's plan went awry when he came together up the start straight with another rider and had to ease off the throttle and got boxed out on the first turn. Holmes completed the first lap in 14th place so had a lot of work to do. By the end of lap 4, Holmes had made amazing progress, picking his way through the pack up to 3rd place. With the early leaders getting away it was tough for Holmes to reel them in before the race finished so, despite his admirable effort, he settled for 3rd place.

Race 3: Holmes rounded the first corner in 3rd place making a great start and by the 2nd corner he was already battling for the lead. As Holmes chose an outside line round the next corner, race leader Lindsay Duke moved towards Holmes; wheels collided and Holmes' quad took flight in spectacular style, subsequently rolling and throwing Holmes dramatically through the air before he hit the ground painfully hard. Incredibly, despite the damage done to man and machine he remounted and rode the best he could ignoring the pain from his wrist and arm which had taken most of the impact. He managed to chop his way through the pack and by lap 9 he was already inside the top ten running in 8th place. As if he hadn't suffered enough, more disaster struck as the damaged quad's nerf bar jammed the rear wheel. Holmes battled on as fast as his damaged quad would allow and he managed to do a few more laps but the very unlucky Holmes finished outside of the points putting an end to his 7 podium finish streak. Holmes took joint 4th place overall for the day.



Image: Mark Lovelock

Sunday 19th September

Race 1: Despite his badly injured wrist Holmes got the important start he wanted, taking the holeshot ahead of the ensuing pack. The track was rough from the previous day and although Holmes wanted to get a strong finish he knew he must ride cautiously to protect his wrist from further damage. He had to give up the lead at the half way point allowing Watson through but as adrenalin helped numb his pain Holmes was able to use his fitness and strength to reel Watson in. In the closing stages of the race and with 2 laps to go Holmes was right in Watson's wheel tracks but sadly clipped a hay bale and lost valuable time. Holmes had to settle for 2nd place, still over 25 seconds ahead of Winrow in 3rd.



Image: Mark Lovelock

Race 2: Another rider came across Holmes' line up the start straight. Avoiding another collision and trying to protect his wrist, Holmes rounded the first corner in 13th place. Holmes set to work on the pack ahead and riding smart took the passes when he needed to. Knowing the race distance, Holmes paced himself accordingly and used his extreme fitness to gradually pick riders off, finding himself battling for 4th place at the half way stage. Holmes continued pushing towards the front of the pack and passed Bunce and Windrow in the closing laps of the race, finishing in a very strong 2nd place.

Race 3: Trying to blank out the now unbearable pain of his wrist injury Holmes rode strong all race and despite making passes and battling in the top 3, Holmes settled for 3rd, just over half a second behind 2nd.

Holmes exhibited extreme grit and determination this weekend. The way he blanked out Saturday's crash just shows how committed he is to perform and get the results he wants. After taking 3 strong podium finishes on Sunday, Holmes claimed 2nd place overall.

Holmes commented after the weekends racing: *"I will admit that this weekend hasn't gone quite to plan but taking 5 podium finishes from 6, I have to be pleased with that. It was impossible for me to ride as aggressively as I needed to on Sunday's rough track with my wrist injury from Saturday. I have had a really up and down weekend which reflects my up and down season but I have had excellent results and want to say another huge thanks to all my great Sponsors, Team and Family for their support and the great faith they have in me".*



Holmes being interviewed by the Extreme Sports Channel for SKY TV

Round 6 Results

- 1 – Mark Watson
- 2 – Paul Windrow
- 3 – Carl Bunce
- 4 – **Paul Holmes** (scored points in race 1 & 2 only)
- 4 – James Hellewell

Round 7 Results

- 1 – Mark Watson
- 2 – **Paul Holmes**
- 3 – Paul Windrow
- 4 – Carl Bunce
- 5 – John Mitchell

Finishing 3rd place in the overall 2010 Championship, Holmes has showed incredible consistency as this is the 3rd time in the last 3 years he's finished in the top 3! It must be remembered that Holmes is only 22 years of age and every year he has closed the gap on the number 1 position. In his first year racing independently under the Holmes Racing banner this young man has set himself up very nicely for the title chase in the 2011 season!

