



## 2014 NEW ZEALAND MOTOCROSS NATIONALS RND 1

Hi All!

The Nationals are upon us. Timaru was the location of the first round and I was looking forward to it because it's a fun track but the reason its so fun is also the reason its pretty sketchy the jumps. (Big and lots of them) My trainer Niki and I went for a track walk as soon as we arrived to check out the good work the club had done on the track. We were disappointed to say the least. The track looked dry and crusty. After hearing the club had put over a weeks worth of water into the track I started to believe there would be some moisture underneath. There wasn't.

Practice got underway and the track was perfect. And everyone knows what that means. A long day of hot sun and more racing means the track is going to turn into a dust bowl. I had an average qualifying trying to come to grips with the amount of jumps and the share size and technicality of them. I came home in 16<sup>th</sup>. Not too worried because I generally race better than I qualify.

Moto 1 got underway; "a joke" and "Dangerous" are words I would use to describe the track condition. I had a mid-pack start which because of the dust meant I was lucky to be able to see 5ft in front of me. I was cautious the first couple of laps when I suddenly lost my clutch. The lever had gone completely floppy and there was nothing there. This made it difficult to get out of corners quite as fast but then began to make some passes. I got into 13<sup>th</sup> about 5 laps in and that's pretty much where I stayed. 12<sup>th</sup> too far in front of me and 14<sup>th</sup> a while back behind me.

Moto 2 was a good 4 hours after Moto 1 as the track crew decided 3 hours of water during the middle of the day was a good idea. I think it was a good idea but the execution of this idea was horrible. But in saying that there wasn't much else they could do because it had gotten that bad. About half way through my first lap running top 15 a riding went down in front of me. His rear wheel kicked up and my hand clipped his tyre and went straight into the spokes. Luckily his bike stalled or I doubt id be able to write this report. After picking myself up off the ground with my hand throbbing. Shear anger kicked in and I began a charge. Well over a 1/3 of a lap down on the next rider I had some work to do. I managed to get as high as 18<sup>th</sup> with 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> right there in front of me. Another lap I would of had them so that was very frustrating.

Moto 3 got underway at about 5:40pm which is ridiculous. I got a fantastic jump out of the gate but I backed off way too early and got swallowed up in the first 2 turns. I settled in to the 13<sup>th</sup> spot again with a rider that had beaten me all day hot on my heels. I raced hard and put in solid consistent laps and managed to hold him off. My best riding all day I felt.

I felt like I had a pretty good day. Despite the second Moto I rode good laps that were both fast and consistent which I haven't been able to do for a while. A big shout out to all my sponsors Bob McCleary Yamaha, VF Direct(NZ)ltd. Valley Fresh, Drainage Systems, Triple B Racing, Serco, 100% Goggles, Bell Helmets, One Industries, Alpinestars, Pro Circuit, Works Connection, Hinson, Nationwide Accessories, Tsubaki Chains and Pirelli. A very special thanks has to go out to my buddy Scott Henderson and my sponsor Bob McCleary who without them there Dad and I would have never been able to get my Practice bike ready to swap for the race bike between Motos 1 and 2. A massive thanks also has to go out to my Dad and my trainer Niki who both made the trip down for me (Dad drove so I could fly) it was a massive help to have Niki there and Dad was on point as always!

Cheers

Campbell Bailey

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