



bikeradar.com
THE WORLD IS FOR RIDING

National Downhill Series - Round 1 Dumfries, Scotland

The UK mountain bike season kicked off for Team Bike Radar at the weekend with round one of the National Points Series, in Scotland. Heavy rain made the going tough for the riders on the short, technical hillside of Ae Forest. With deep ruts and steep off camber sections which became almost impossible to ride feet up for all except the best. It was great to see Marc and Neil shine through, taking podium places in fine style.

Despite a weekend of bad weather, by Sunday afternoon the sun got the upper hand and parts of the track became much drier, however this turned the deep mud in other sections into glue, a wrong line choice here sapped vital seconds for sure.

I took the early lead going sub 2.40 but knew I was a good ten seconds off the pace having gear problems due to a broken cassette. So back to the van to grab my camera I headed for the finish line in time to see Neil jump into the Monster Energy hot seat, having taken the lead.

"It's great to be back racing, even in these pretty tough conditions. Normally I take a bit to warm up, so a podium at round one is great for the season ahead" (Read Neil's race weekend blog on bikeradar.com)

Marc was a few riders after Neil and by now Dan Atherton had slipped into the top spot, with Marc coming across the line only 7 tenths behind him, it was all eyes back on the hill to see Gee Atherton in action off the last drop in to the line, taking the win.

Marc was encouraged by his result...

"It's been a tough weekend for everyone, the track changing all the time with the weather made it hard to build on your speed, you had to be open to the changes and take it as you found it each run, when it's like this anything can happen so to come away with a solid 3rd position is a good place to build on for the following races"

(More inside info on Marc's race weekend on BikeRadar.com)

Next on the schedule for our riders is round one of the World Cup Series in Maribor, Slovenia before Marc and Neil head to Lisbon for the infamous DownTown race, held on the steps and cobbled streets of the old town after starting high up on the castle walls. I will be rushing back home to fight it out for the National 4X Championships in Bridgenorth, Shropshire. So lots more news to follow in a few weeks.

Keep an eye out on bikeradar.com as the team page goes live any time now. Also regular team blogs and head cam footage can be seen on the home page now.

Cheers... Will Longden



- 1 Gee ATHERTON Animal/Commencal 02:23.6
- 2 Dan ATHERTON Animal/Commencal 02:26.6
- 3 Marc BEAUMONT Bike Radar 02:27.4
- 4 Tom BRAITHWAITE Orange 02:31.7
- 5 Neil DONOGHUE Bike Radar 02:33.1
- 6 Brendan FAIRCLOUGH Monster 02:34.4
- 7 Dan STANBRIDGE Mojo/Orange 02:35.4
- 8 Joe BARNES MTBcut.Tv/Orange 02:36.4
- 9 Ben CATHRO Mojo Orange 02:36.6
- 10 Robert SMITH Santa Cruz/Reverse 02:36.9
- 14 Will LONGDEN Bike Radar 02:38.9