

Scotland's PDV Rookies do well Aug 2017

Several Scottish quad riders joined the annual pilgrimage to PDV last weekend to take part in this iconic event for the first time.



Among them was 12-year-old Robbie Wood from Melrose, who lifted the winner's trophy in the 150cc Minimes Class in the three-race Quad Kids Contest with three straight wins on his 4-stroke Honda EATV. He was 15th overall in a field of 36 youth racers from across Europe, mostly on bigger 250cc bikes and all this

despite two stalled starts and a somersault over a bale on the second moto.

Second place in the Minimes Class was won by fellow rookie, 11-year-old Rory Wood from Forres on his 85cc KTM Cobra. He was on a charge on his 2-stroke pocket rocket, finishing 19th overall in a hugely challenging set of races.

Young guns Robbie and Rory, who are currently lying second and third respectively in the ACU Komfort Services British Championship, also had their first taste of night riding at PDV. Although theirs was restricted to a Fast & Furious style procession with the adult riders through the town then out to the circuit, it was no less awesome.

Scotland's PDV rookies were out in force in the main 12hr endurance event too. Team ST Racing comprised Scotland's youngest adult PDV rider, 18-year-old Shaun Tipping who brought in fellow newcomer John Peters and PDV veteran Richie Cornett, both older lads regulars in the QRS and NETT O40 class. The trio got off to a bad start with two engine failures, the first during qualifying. But by the second session, they had combined the best of the two engines and showing true teamwork, they finished, bringing home their Honda 450 TRX in 66th place. At one point, they even tried to recruit Chad Wiene to their team (without success) and they ended up only one place behind him!



The highest placed Scottish team was that of first timers Gary Atkinson/James Murphy along with Spanish based Scot Alex Thompson who took an impressive 40th overall in the field of 82 teams from across the world. Apart from a holed exhaust which cost them about 20 minutes, they had a trouble-free run on their Suzuki CRF, prepared by Atkinson Motorsport.

There were high hopes too for PDV regular, reigning Scottish

Champion Murray Graham, who had joined forces with Englishman Ayrton Knowles and Welshman Dafydd Davies for PDV17. The teenagers qualified 14th on the grid but an incident during the first session left the bike in bits and Murray under observation in hospital. His team-mates went on to rebuilt the bike and finish 35th overall, while Murray focused on getting back to fitness in time to defend his Scottish title at the first two rounds of the SACU Championship at Wooley Grange this weekend, 2/3 September.

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Picture captions

#6 Robbie Wood in action, on route to winning the Minimes Class at PDV

#99 Rory Wood, in action on his pocket rocket

#58 Team ST Racing recruiting Chad Wiener (left to right, John Peters, Chad Wiener, Shaun Tipping, Richie Cornett)

#59 Team Atkinson Motorsport ready to race (standing left to right, David Thompson, James Murphy, Gary Atkinson, Colin Atkinson; kneeling left to right, Cameron Thompson, Alex Thompson)