

Triumph Triple Challenge Round 1



Lance Carey leads the pack into Clearways



Venue: Brands Hatch Indy Circuit in Kent.

From the cooling beginnings of a very wet Friday practise the temperature was set to rise for the remainder of the weekend; and rise it did in away not yet seen in the previous two seasons of this challenging series.

Young Welsh rider Jamie Devine opened the bidding on Saturday mornings qualifying by

hustling his brand new Daytona around this undulating 1.2 mile circuit in under 51.00 seconds, enough to take provisional pole for Saturday afternoons Superpole race and to give this very likable 19 year old youngster confidence in his choice of racing this year. Already the riders were a little under one second off last seasons lap record and many were still trying to find setup on the bike.

Friday saw TT rider Gary Johnson visit the riders on behalf of Nitron Performance Shocks to distribute some wisdom on bike set-up as well as overseeing Nitron's launch of their 3-way competition shock as used exclusively by T3 Racing and the series riders, his vast experience was a big help for many when trying to bring together Nitron's technology and the awesome new Michelin Power 1 Tyres.

With another chance to make a point last years Michelin Cup rider Lance Carey (23) made his mark on second qualifying by bringing the lap times down to the low 50's, this brought the lap record to within half a second of his reach and set the stage for Saturdays Superpole front row.



Superpole front row:

1. Lance Carey
 2. Alex Olsen
 3. Jamie Devine
 4. Reece Rothwell (Michelin Cup).
1. Rhalf Le Turco
 2. Allistair Haynes
 3. Ricky Chadwick (TDG Cup).

The time sheets went straight out of the window for Superpole as every molecule of talent and determination was mustered to ensure no rider was left in any doubt about who intended to make their mark in this feverishly contested series. Lance Carey took the whole shot and showed the new guys the way round, and show them he did as they learnt quickly and a five way battle commenced with little less than a few feet separating each rider. Fantastic racing ensued with the lead swapping no less than FIVE times over the eight lap race. A brilliant advert for what one make racing is all about.



TDG CUP Pole position
Rhalf Le Turco

The race finished with Lance losing his lead and experience advantage to Michelin Cup newcomer Alex Olson, who also took the series lap record on his first outing with a blistering 49.712 lap record! Not to be outdone Rhalf Le Turco stamped his mark for the TDG Cup boys with his first place finish closely pursued by Allistair Haynes and Duncan Knox.

Final Results:

1. Alex Olsen
 2. Lance Carey
 3. Tommy Dale (Michelin Cup).
1. Rhalf Le Turco
 2. Allistair Haynes
 3. Duncan Knox (TDG Cup).

A perfect Sunday morning was only surpassed by some perfect racing, suspension and tyres were playing a big part this weekend as the bikes being used were still 2008 models as per last year, any



performance gains had to be coming from those two areas. The lights changed to green for Race 1 and the hammer dropped with Lance Carey once again leading the way closely pursued by Reece Rothwell and Alex Olson. Reece quickly took the lead and commanded just long enough for 16 year old Alex to displace with Lance and start to snap at the heels of Reece. Lap times dropped yet again as Alex smashed the series lap record with a 49.52 followed by his team mate Tommy Dale with a 49.7. Whilst the action was on the track the result was to come from the tower when Alex picked up a 5 second penalty for passing under a yellow flag into paddock demoting him to third.

Final results:

1. Reece Rothwell
 2. Lance Carey
 3. Alex Olson (Michelin Cup).
1. Rhalf Le Turco
 2. Allistair Haynes
 3. Duncan Knox (TDG Cup).

Last race of the weekend and the final chance to score those vital Championship points was only going to encourage the hungry. Whilst cooler conditions prevailed the track action stayed hot with two riders staying under the previous lap record and Alex Olson crossing the line in a very commanding way. Michelin Cup riders Jamie Devine and Reece Rothwell continued the good fight with an excellent battle that resulted were left to battle it out in his wake.

Final results:

1. Alex Olsen
 2. Jamie Devine
 3. Reece Rothwell (Michelin Cup).
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 2. Duncan Knox
 3. Ricky Chadwick (TDG Cup).

A fantastic weekend for all the riders and a big thank you has to go out to them for their stunning performances. Those bruised and those inflated egos will now head off to Cadwell Park for May 16th-17th where no doubt it will be 'all change'.



A special mention has to go out to Jamie Devine AKA the flying Welshman after his amazing save at clearways. Enjoy!



