



2008 BMCRC CHAMPIONSHIPS BRANDS HATCH, 19TH-20TH JULY



LYON TAMES BRANDS



In what must be his most impressive performance of the season so far, Scottish teenager Adam Lyon clinched four more victories, which takes him within site of the BMCRC EDIasia Formula 400 title. None of the victories, including Saturday's race win double at Brands Hatch, would ever have happened but for the generosity of rival Steve Palmer who loaned Lyon his spare Kawasaki ZXR engine after his own expired in practice, writes Terry Howe.

Palmer (no 43) looked to have tamed Lyon in the opener and an upset was on the cards. But on the final lap Palmer lost the front end of his Kawasaki

ZXR at Druids and gifted the race to Lyon. Pat Mills, the lone Honda pilot in the front running pack, eventually mastered the Kawasaki pairing of Phil Polden and Dan Wilmot to clinch third behind Danny Buchan, the former SuperTeen ace, taking his best F400 result of the campaign.

Lyon made the hole-shot in race two and again Buchan was showing great promise occupying second in these early stages. Mid distance Palmer had muscled his way through to camp on the tail of Polden and eventually squeezed him out for fourth. In the meantime Mills had been flying on his Michelin Supermoto shod rubber and hooked up on what had become a four-way battle for the win. But for backmarker hassles at Clearways on the run in for the flag, Mills could have sealed the victory, but it was the coolest of teenagers Lyon who snatched the win.

Just 0.2 of a second split winner Lyon and Palmer in Sunday's first race. Polden was third while Jodie Duffill dealt with fourth spot. Lyon, Palmer and Polden raced as one for much of the second one but Lyon managed to ease out a small advantage to take his fourth win on the weekend.

Four more Rookie 600 races at Brands Hatch sees Suffolk racer Max Hunt inch ever closer to John Cobbold (no 88) at the head of this season's BMCRC championship. It's been close all season but Hunt looked a class act on Saturday powering the Race Lab prepared Yamaha R6 to a brace of wins over Cobbold and Terry Cope. In the opener Cobbold got away into paddock first. But Hunt, the former free-style motocross ace, got the better of him midway and pressed on for the win.

Following a few exchanges with Richard Green, Triumph 675, and Spencer Casely, Honda CBR, Cope eventually fired the TK Cope Racing Yamaha R6 to third. Cobbold quickly got his Seton tuned Yamaha R6 into a good second race advantage which was again lost to Hunt after four laps. Earlier Cope had split the pair but 23-year-old Hunt stormed ahead for the win from Cobbold and Cope

Cobbold, the Chelmsford electrician, snatched one back on Sunday, but Hunt, after making the hole-shot in Sunday's second encounter, defended the position well and resisted a mid-race lunge from Cobbold at Surtees and sped on to race win three for the weekend.



Daventry racer Michael Smith powered Gerry Pell's Yamaha to a weekend of top results and slowing down the YPM pacesetters in the bargain. Mark Hardy, the Norfolk Line Yamaha Past Masters championship leader, got his weekend off to a howler crunching his foot in a practice highside incident. Although in pain, Hardy managed to snatch a second spot in Saturday's opener, just getting the better of Smith. Both these riders were racing with Pell power, but on this occasion neither could contain former champion Tyler Bacon.

Michael Smith, the 24-year-old mechanic, fired his YPVS 350 to victory in race two with Bacon and Hardy left to squabble over the rostrum places. Initially Keith Roissetter and Dexter Eyre were in with a shout of the top three, but later faded. Smith-Bacon-Hardy was the podium three in the Sunday opener, with Nick Saunders and Pete Fishwick (no 7), two of this season's occasional entries, finishing in fourth and fifth respectively; and appearing to have retained plenty of competitiveness. Smith wrapped up the YPM weekend with another blistering victory from Bacon and Hardy, with Mark Legg taking the fourth spot.



Peter Molloy celebrated his 30th birthday with a MiniTwins double victory during Saturday's BCL supported races. Molloy, the championship leader, eased further clear of main rival Glynn Davies as a result but it could have been disaster for both when, during race one, they connected at Druids on lap two. Soon after this Danny Couzens, the Honda UK motorcycle mechanic from Farnborough took control. But Waltham Cross teenager Tony Coombs was hard on his case.

Coombs, the former MRO SuperTeen ace, was enjoying the benefits from some grippy Dunlop 209 rubber and commanding his best Bemsee MiniTwins position of the season. By lap six Davies had powered his BCL Watches Suzuki SV into the lead, but soon after Molloy fired his Franklin Solicitors SV past Davies and grabbed the win. Race two it was the same four finishing in the same positions with Russ Joyner, on the bio fuelled Ducati, and Daniel Fuller fifth and sixth respectively.

Sunday's races brought about plenty of jostling for places but incredibly the results were a mirror image of Saturday's races, bringing about a great weekend for Molloy in front of his family and sponsors. Greg Madero and Dan Hopkins scored two wins a piece in the Rookie MiniTwins Championship that was run separately due to the oversubscribed entry.



Dean Stimpson and Chris Rogers (no 95) shared the spoils in Saturday's two MZ 250 races. Stimpson, the 18-year-old lab technician, posted his fastest time on the final lap of the opener; a necessary act in order to beat Rogers by a 0.1 of a second margin. This was Stimpson's fifth win on the bounce and Rogers needed to stem the flow to ensure a comfortable cushion at the helm.

On the penultimate lap of race two Rogers managed to snatch the advantage and sped on to victory. Stimpson opened up Sunday's account with a classy victory and with it a new MZ

250 lap record. The Cambridgeshire youngster applied even more pressure on defending champion Rogers in race two with another win from him, Matt Baldwin, Andy Saunders, Andy Bettridge and Giles Spencer.

Words & pictures Terry Howe.
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