



MRO CHAMPIONSHIPS CADWELL PARK August 2nd-3rd



Hodge softens blow

Garry Budgen, the Crawley based BMCRC Thunderbike UK Championship contender, has closed up to within three points of championship leader Simon Peyto after this drama packed round at Cadwell Park, writes Terry Howe. Dave Carnell's Diablo 666 team, who Simon Peyto rides for, were left shell shocked during Friday's practice when the Bexley rider was high-sided from his Suzuki SV 650 at Mansfield. Peyto, hospitalised, broke bones in his leg, arm and hand, but it's thought that he can return to action in September. To soften the blow of lost points to the opposition Carnell drafted in satellite team member Lee Hodge, who did the team proud by preventing Budgen from scoring high and indeed took three wins himself on a HM prepared machine that he had never ridden before.

Phil Read got the weekend off to a flier with a win for the Vyrus Ducati team. Budgen was second and from a back row start Hodge came in third. Hodge, the MRO Superstock 1000 contender and reigning Suzuki GSX-R Cup champion, gave the stricken Peyto a boost in race two on Saturday by taking his first Thunderbike UK win from Read and Budgen in third.

Budgen, Honda CBR 'Steele', made the hole-shot in Sunday's opener but Hodge emerged from the woods as leader. Read made a move on Budgen stick at Park, but this was reversed soon after. Dan Wright, 'Steele', and Simon Baggett, Yamaha FZ 750, got into a top six quarrel, but neither could haul in the leaders as Hodge sped clear from Budgen and Read to take the win.

Baggett made the hole-shot in the second race, but on lap two Hodge made his move on the FZ pilot to take control. Just after Read retired the Vyrus, Wright and Budgen became involved in a brawl for the podium placings. Hodge was well away by mid distance and eventually took the win, but Budgen finally secured second but couldn't lock up the top spot in the standings due to a cunning plan by the Diablo 666 team.

Carnell's BCL MiniTwins rider Piers Hutchins boosted the team's morale by producing his best set of results of the year so far. Glynn Davies, the BCL sponsor's team rider, made up ground on championship leader Peter Molloy with a double victory in Saturday's races from Ben Grindrod and Daniel Brady race one and Molloy and Hutchins race two.

But it was downhill all the way for Davies on Sunday as Molloy made the top spot his own on both occasions. It was the usual duelling for the front between Molloy and Davies, but when Davies went down at the Gooseneck Molloy's task was made that much easier, despite Grindrod smashing the lap record in his quest to hit the front. But the Manchester rider later fell and was out of the results.



In the meantime Russell Joyner (no 5), Inzane Ducati SS800, was vying for the front but had Hutchins to deal with. The 21-year-old university student was finding the Cadwell Park circuit to his liking and gave Joyner a good run for his money, but just missed out on the runner up spot to him. Former MiniTwins champion Dave Lodge was fourth and Daniel Fuller, with another top performance, in fifth.

Race two saw Davies and Grindrod trying desperately to break clear of their mired positions, and a frustrating 12th and 13th place respectively won't have helped their title aspirations. In the meantime Molloy was clear with Joyner again getting the better of Hutchins, and as a result both move into the top four of the standings.

Fuller was fourth and Greg Madero fifth. Madero claimed three Rookie wins, while Richard Wilshire the fourth.

But for a poor result in the opening Powerbike race won by Jimmy Hill, Team EMCO Yamaha R6, Mark Lister could have joined Peter Baker (no 3) at the head of the group after round eight of the series. Including a Snetterton race Lister dealt with four from five but it was the ever consistent riding from Baker that sees the Norfolk ace still at the helm. Lister made the hole-shot on his Orwell Motorcycles Suzuki GSX-R in Sunday's opener, with Baker working hard to contain him, and the pain which he is still experiencing after his major off at Snetterton last month.

Stephen Thomson, Suzuki GSX-R, appeared very strong as he did the last time the class was at Cadwell, but on lap four the Salisbury rider crashed out at the Gooseneck after a great tussle with Michael Neeves, who finished third behind Baker and Lister.

Sunday's second race delivered cracking action right down the order. Although Lister was flying out front Baker had to graft to hold the second spot. Steve Jordan, Suzuki GSX-R, and Mike Chappell, Suzuki GSX-R, were well in the hunt and Jordan made an inside move on Baker stick at Park on lap three. Meanwhile, Lister was ten seconds clear, while Baker had lost another spot to Chappell. This was the top four result, Neeves and Stephen Thomson were fifth and sixth respectively, with Jay Dunn bringing his Honda CBR home in seventh, the top position for a 600cc rider.



MZ 250 Championship leader Chris Rogers had some respite from the relentless charging from Dean Stimpson (no 37) of late when the Cambridgeshire youngster failed to finish Saturday's opener, with Rogers taking the win from Matt Baldwin and Mark Jones. Stimpson got five points back in race two by snatching the win from Rogers and Baldwin.



Sunday's opener brought about the now familiar duelling between these two as Stimpson surged ahead and broke the lap record as a result. In the meantime Rogers appeared to be in trouble and Baldwin capitalised to take second on lap five. It may have been an injustice to Baldwin and he may have taken Rogers on merit, but either way Stimpson would have been happy with this result. Race two brought about victory for Baldwin, Nick Murton-Jones second, and Simon Snowden third. Both Stimpson and Rogers departed the scene on lap four.

Max Hunt, (no 37) the city property developer, has moved to within a few points of rival John Cobbold's lead at the head of the Rookie 600 series after winning all four races at a canter, as he did in a previous round at the Lincolnshire venue. A DNF in Saturday's opener never helped Cobbold's cause but he did recover afterwards at a track which he finds difficult to tame. Nevertheless, take nothing away from Hunt, who is a class act on the Race Lab prepared Yamaha R6. Terry Cope,



Richard Green and Andrew Barrell were the Rookie rostrum visitors with the fast improving Barrell taking his first podium result of the season.



It was another dazzling performance from Michael Smith in the latest rounds of the Norfolkline Yamaha Past Masters Championship. The Daventry ace powered Gerry Pell YPVS 350 to four out of four, but it's not likely to have a bearing on the championship outcome, which is being dealt with by Mark Hardy and his brother-in-law Tyler Bacon.

These two were at it hammer and tongs all weekend and couldn't be separated either in point's accumulation or on the track where they contested every bend like their lives depended on it. This was great stuff from the Peterborough pair but Hardy still remains the main man for the crown. Good performances from

Keith Roissetter (no 27), Pat Herron, Peter Branton and Pete Fishwick highlighted great top six action for the YPMs.

Words & pictures Terry Howe
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