



MRO CHAMPIONSHIPS

CADWELL PARK June 28-29th

Rowbottom Triumphs on home circuit



Scott Rowbottom, the 24-year-old motor technician from Brigg, brushed aside the opposition in the latest round of the Triumph Triple Challenge at Cadwell Park, and has hoisted himself into the top three of the Michelin Young Guns division as a result of his best score of the season so far, writes Terry Howe. Although the former Derby Phoenix champion had already picked up a victory at his local circuit in April, this time two wins and a third were impressive by any stretch of the imagination; but how he had to work for it.

Rowbottom came into Sunday's races with 25 points in the can following a Super-pole win over Lance Carey, Mark Cringle and Tom Fisher, all from the under 25s Young Guns group. Race one on Sunday for a decent grid of identical Triumph Daytona 675s brought about tense drama as five Young Gun contenders got it on for the race win. Manx rider Mark Cringle made the hole-shot with engineering student Reece Rothwell flying as well.

Lance Carey, having a great weekend also, headed a pack of five in the early stages and the 23-year-old from Eastbourne was keen to detach himself from this and get after Rothwell. Lap three teenager Rothwell got the better of Cringle at Park for the lead. In the meantime Josh Wainwright was now showing his hand and Carey was under pressure. A four-way battle for the win was now the scenario as Rowbottom joined the fray and a decisive result was on the cards. Cringle was under Rothwell at Mansfield for the lead but departed soon after on the penultimate lap. Then an incendiary went off in the woods as the race came to a conclusion. Out of Barn for the final time Carey was now in front with Wainwright, Rowbottom and Rothwell in the mix. But in the drag to the flag Wainwright, the former BMCRC Superbike 400 champion, just had it over Carey for a photo finish win, with Rowbottom snatching third from Rothwell.

Race two couldn't have been different as some of the more experienced over 25 TDG Cup riders relished the stormy surroundings. However, Young Gun Rowbottom marvelled in the soggy conditions and ran out a comfortable winner on the North Lincs Structures entry. Young Guns Rothwell, Cringle, Tim Venables and Tom Fisher all got away well but TDG Cup rivals Jack Sim and Mark Cheetham eventually wore them down and moved into the top spots. Neither could do anything about the runaway leader but a move on Sim at Park, which gave Cheetham second place, was significant if the Chorley rider wants to contain Sim at the helm. Brazilian Ralph Lo Turco was third in class in this race but the White Chapel Bike Shop proprietor scored two class victories in the previous two races giving him his best results of the season so far.



Up against some top British opposition Pat Sheridan put in a sound double performance which takes the Essex builder further clear in the standings in this season's Pirelli-Metzeler MRO Stocksport 600 Championship. Pole sitter Jess Trayler (no 12) powered his MSS Kawasaki ZXR to an early advantage over George Hogton-Rusling and Syd Smith, Yamaha R6, but both quickly came under pressure from Jack Groves who was smartly under Rusling at the Gooseneck to force his TK Racing Yamaha R6 into second.

Soon after Sheridan fired his Yamaha R6 into third and for a while a four-way scrap erupted with Trayler's front running spot now at risk. With eight laps gone Groves had taken charge, with Sheridan, Trayler and Rusling at it for second and third, but in the heat of the battle Rusling slid out of contention at the Gooseneck. Out front Sheridan appeared menacing and perfected a neat move under Groves at Mansfield for the lead with one lap to go. Sheridan held on for a 0.2 of a second winning margin over Groves with Trayler third. Ben Lightowler powered his K2 Racing Yamaha R6 to an untroubled fourth and comfortably retained the leadership of the Junior class.

Swindon racer Groves, having a fine weekend, made the hole-shot in race two with Trayler and Sheridan in close attendance. Lightowler, a Cadwell Park winner in April, occupied fourth again, but a top six encounter between Josh Caygill, VW Van Yamaha R6, Paul Hinchcliffe, SLH 24/7 Suzuki GSX-R, and Junior class riders Jonathan Railton and Ashley Chivers, both Yamaha R6, caught the eye as the top three began to spread. Nothing was to immediately change out front but the conflict for the top six positions did. Lightowler's fourth appeared to be safe but there was no complacency from the Harrogate rider as firstly Railton got the better of Caygill for fifth, while Hinchcliffe, the motorcycle parts manager from Peterborough, snatched seventh from Snetterton winner Chivers. As the leaders began their final lap Trayler made a telling pass on Groves stick at Coppice and the Junior class rider from Dunmow in Essex stayed cool for the win; Sheridan was third.

Liam Lyon powered his Seton Tuning Yamaha R6 to another superb set of results, but not for the first time this season the young Scot was made to work very hard for the points in the latest rounds of the Dyna Pro Supersport 600 Championship. In Saturday's two scratch races Lyon powered his Yamaha to double victory and eased further clear of Chase Collyer in this year's standings. In the re-run of an opening race, which saw James Wainwright and Chase Collyer fall in separate incidents, Lyon got the verdict after a race long duel with Jack Groves, TK Racing Yamaha R6, while Collyer, despite a little beaten up, fired his Mike Smith Tuning Yamaha R6 to third, which in Thomas Dean's absence makes the occupation of second position in the standings more comfortable for the Cheshunt rider.

In an all-Yamaha R6 race for the rostrum Lyon and Groves got it on again at the head while Collyer became involved with Rob Guinan, a former Michelin Young Guns contender, in race two. In the meantime the battle to become the top Clubman Cup rider was manifesting as Bemsee Rookie Max Hunt was looking to better an earlier fourth, but this time he became embroiled with series leader Paul King, Yamaha R6, and reigning Rookie Champion Sy Langford (no 2) on the Purkiss Brothers Suzuki GSX-R. Eventually Hunt got the verdict over King and Langford for fifth, sixth and seventh overall respectively, but this was a good result for King who eased further ahead of Langford in the standings.



Groves made the hole-shot in Sunday's nine lap opener getting the better of Collyer who received the Rod Harwin Racing 'Rider of the Day' award for his efforts on Saturday. Lyon, who was originally circulating in fourth, had made it to the front by lap five, but Groves, who Lyon had demoted to second at Coppice, was showing no signs of letting him go. Despite suffering with back injuries James Wainwright had forced his Triumph 675 into fourth and a podium result looked a possibility with four laps remaining. Soon after Wainwright, the former Supersport 400 Champion, got the better of Collyer at Park while simultaneously Hunt was ahead of Langford, but the speedy Rookie couldn't reel in Guinan who took the flag in fifth.

Liam Lyon completed another fine weekend with another victory in Sunday's second giving the teenager from Kilcreggan four from four and replicating his first round achievement at Donington Park at Easter.

Peter Baker further increased his advantage at the head of the Pirelli-Metzeler MRO Superstock Championship following contrasting races which the experienced rider from King's Lynn coped with best. Pole sitter Kieran Blair immediately showed his class with a crisp departure and getting his Suzuki GSX-R away from the pack in the opener. Lee Hodge (no 14) in the meantime was fending off a sustained attack from Carl Nelson, the Fakenham plasterer benefiting from taking his Suzuki GSX-R to the Darren Wnukoski Suffolk workshop mid week. Series leader Baker, Morello Roofing Suzuki GSX-R and Mark Lister, Orwell Motorcycles Suzuki GSX-R, were also in the fray during these early exchanges.



Lap five Lister got Nelson at Park for third and a lap later was into second at the expense of Hodge, Glynn Racing Suzuki GSX-R. By three-quarters distance Nelson was back to fourth but eventually succumbed to Baker who won't be unhappy about that final position of fourth behind Hodge, Lister and Blair. A good top six tussle between Barry Chapman, Yamaha R1, and Dave Hewson, Kawasaki ZX10, caught the attention with Chapman having to leave circuit overnight for some running chassis repairs and was delighted with fifth, while Hewson, who made very few adjustments to the machine on which he raced to 29th in last month's Superstock TT, was equally content with sixth on his return to short circuit racing.

Race two for Superstocks was a bizarre affair brought about by a race stoppage earlier due to a storm. The race minus several riders took place in very wet conditions and from the outset it was Peter Baker's race. The astute and very experience Baker made the challenge look effortless and powered his Morello Suzuki to an unchallenged victory from Hodge, Lister and Nelson.

Words & pictures Terry Howe
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