



2008 BMCRC CHAMPIONSHIPS OULTON PARK, 15th – 16th August



Havant teamsters Ben Holland and Ricky Stevens, LCR Suzuki GSX-R, have eased out a slender advantage over John Holland and Tim Worsfold in the chase for this year's BMCRC F1 Sidecar Championship crown following mixed fortunes for Holland senior in the latest round at Oulton Park, writes Terry Howe.

Ben Bygrave and Sam Ryder, the youngest crew on board the oldest outfit, secured a brace of thirds and are keeping the pressure on Bruce Munro and Carol MacBride, Windle Yamaha, who on this occasion had to give second best to the Norwich youngsters who are in their first full season of sidecar racing. Bygrave, 22, and 21-year-old roofing contractor Ryder, who have inserted a 2006 Suzuki GSX-R into the Webster Gold Tub chassis, look a good bet for the future, but for now their equally young counterparts Holland and Stevens are on course for the title, unless Holland senior and Worsfold believe otherwise.



For the first time this season Bob Turner and Ben Ransley got the better of Marc and Rik Vannieuwenhuys (pictured) in both outings in the F2 Championships. Turner, the Herne Bay HGV driver, and passenger Ransley powered their Shellbourne Honda CBR to overall positions of fourth and fifth, and first in class, but with two rounds remaining the Shellbourne Honda mounted Belgian crew take a 136-point lead into the next one at Snetterton, and remain on course for the F2 title.

Scottish teenager Adam Lyon (no 29) clinched both EDIasia Formula 400 races and with it this season's title. Until Matt Exton's accident at Brands Hatch last month Lyon's championship crown was never a certainty and he was made to fight for every point

during the early rounds. He hasn't had it easy lately either with Steve Palmer giving the talented student plenty to think about, and at Oulton Park it was Steve Palmer who made the long trip from Bournemouth count, as once again he gave Lyon a tough time taking seconds on both occasions.

With the unique prize fund structure that John Sanders from EDIasia has set up for this series it's likely Palmer's trip from the south coast may have been worth while. Former MRO SuperTeen racer Danny Buchan, who outgrew his Aprilia production machine, has quickly grown into his Kawasaki ZXR and grabbed two fine thirds setting himself up as a title challenger for next season's series. It was pleasing to note Richie Welsh back in action. Following his horrible accident in the Triumph Triple Challenge race at Mallory Park last year, he was back scoring top six results on his Kawasaki ZXR with the BMCRC.



In former series leader Simon Peyto's absence the race for the Thunderbike UK title went on at a pace at Oulton Park, and the head of the standings has a new look about it after two great battles between Phil Read, Ducati Vyrus, the CBR Honda mounted Garry Budgen and Simon Baggett, who has got his Yamaha FZ 750 working superbly well of late. It was Ryde racer Baggett who aided Peyto's cause the greatest by clinching the opener from Read and Budgen.

Baggett's victory, his first of the season, means that six different marques have been ridden to victory in this season's Thunderbike UK series so far. With Read winning the second from Budgen it means that Budgen takes a 34-point cushion into the next round at Snetterton, which will be relevant if Peyto recovers from injuries in time to contest the remaining eight races. Dan Wright, the former YPM contender, continued with some sound riding in his new chosen class powering his Honda CBR 'steelie' to a brace of fourths.