



BMCR CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVERSTONE

All weather Cobbold grabs four

John Cobbold, the Essex electrician, locked up four stylish victories in the latest round of the BMCR Rookie 600 Championship at Silverstone, writes Terry Howe.

Much of Saturday's squabbling in these Rookie races came about in the mid order of the 24-strong entry. Up front though, championship leader Cobbold powered the Seton Tuning Yamaha R6 to an untroubled double victory beating Max Hunt, who had previously moved to within seven points of him after scoring four victories in the last round at Cadwell Park. Terry Cope, the Colchester landscape gardener, kept his title aspirations alive by grabbing two thirds, but intense duelling occurred for top six positions with Chris Hamelin (no 74) eventually getting the better of Andrew Barrell for fourth on both occasions. In Sunday's opener Barrell, on a Suzuki GSX-R recently purchased with wets attached to the wheels, soon got to grips with the saturated track but Cobbold again took the initiative and sped clear for the win from Hunt and Cope. In a shortened final encounter Cobbold made the front position and the win his and has again established a decent advantage at the head of the BMCR Rookie 600 Championship standings.



Despite Michael Smith's (no 57) double victory during Saturday's Norfolk Line Yamaha Past Masters races, Mark Hardy continued to surge ahead in the group following two hard earned runner-up spots. Once Smith grabbed the lead on lap three of the opener the day looked to be going the way of Smith, the local ace from Daventry. Hardy, on board a refreshed Graham File prepared TZR, moved ahead of Tyler Bacon early on and secured 20 points for second, while Keith Roissetter, following another crisp departure, snatched the third spot.

Smith made the hole-shot in race two with Hardy and Roissetter in pursuit. Once he had dealt with Roissetter, Hardy, the Peterborough marine engineer, tried to haul in the runaway Smith, but on this occasion to no avail. A great battle for third

went the way of former champion Tyler Bacon. A cracked exhaust that hampered Hardy's performance on Saturday was repaired, but a bigger nuisance for him on Sunday was in the form of Roissetter.

The Aussie born Surbiton rider gave Hardy all sorts of problems, and in a photo finish to Sunday's opener Hardy got the verdict with a 0.1 of a second victory. In a drama packed final encounter Dexter Eyre clinched victory on his return season to racing. Hardy was second and retains a healthy cushion at the helm.

Roger Lovelock and Rick Lawrence made comfortable work of their victories in Saturday's two combined F1 and F2 Sidecar races. On both occasions they powered their LCR Suzuki ahead of Andy Peach and Charlie Richardson, LCR Suzuki, second and Mark Edwards and Jim Hibbard, Yamaha 600, third; all in the F1 division.

These three teams don't feature in the BMCR Sidecar Championship standings, so contenders for the title were mainly involved in top six battles. Norwich crew Ben Bygrave and Sam Ryder

continued to move ever closer to championship leaders John Holland and Tim Worsfold after picking up fifth overall, but just losing out to Tony Green and Colin Two in race one, and fourth following a race long duel with Ben Holland and Ricky Stevens (no 60) in race two.

Now equipped with the James Whiteman loaned Shellbourne Honda, Herne Bay HGV driver Bob Turner and Ben Ransley shared the points with championship leaders Marc and Rik Vannieuwenhuysse, Shellbourne Honda, in the F2 group; the Belgians continuing with a 45-point cushion going into Sunday's races.

It was status quo in Sunday's opener. Lovelock, Peach and former British sidecar grasstrack champion Mark Edwards the top three. The Belgian crew got away well in the F2 races, were fourth overall and clinched the class from Turner and Ransley. The Vannieuwenhuysse brothers made third overall and first in the F2 group in the final encounter, while F1 winners Lovelock and Lawrence made it four from four with Peach and Richardson second.



BCL supported Glynn Davies (no 26) increased his advantage at the head of the BCL Watches Minitwins Championship by coming home second to Bolton student Ben Grindrod and Russell Joyner, who gave the Inzane bio-fuelled Ducati its first podium of the season in race one. Davies' main rival Peter Molloy chipped a bone in his right ankle during practice, but even so Molloy, the local rider from Newport Pagnell, finished fourth ahead of Andy Ward.

In a 38-strong all-Suzuki SV field a loan Ducati very nearly stole the show in race two. Although Davies looked to have the race sewn up once Joyner had dealt with Grindrod midway, the experienced twin cylinder exponent powered the Ducati into

second and, eclipsing his first race result, ahead of Molloy and Grindrod.

Molloy grabbed Sunday's opener from Davies and Grindrod. Joyner's hope of a first victory for the rare air-cooled Ducati 800SS evaporated after a good start which saw him fourth in the early stages. Molloy, Davies, Grindrod were the top three in the final Minitwins race; Bob Docker took the fourth place from Joyner and Piers Hutchins, having one of his better races of the weekend, in sixth.

Dean Stimpson, the Cambridgeshire teenager, is beginning to place some pressure on the leading pairing in the MZ 250 Championship after grabbing a race win double during Saturday's races. Matt Baldwin (no 44), the son of Essex MZ guru Martin, made the hole-shot in the opener. Although losing out to Stimpson early on Baldwin, who is upholding the family honour while Martin awaits a hip replacement operation, nevertheless powered his MZ past Stimpson for a brief spell out front. Initially, championship leader Chris Rogers was buried but along with rival Phil Belenkin the pair stormed into contention midway, but by now Stimpson had established an advantage and the win was his.

Baldwin stormed into a race two lead which lap by lap was undone by Belenkin. Lap two brought about a neat move on the brakes from Stimpson which saw Belenkin into second at Copse, a position he wouldn't better. Baldwin took a start-to-finish win in Sunday's first race. But the podium results were always in doubt and it took a photo to sort it out as Stimpson got the runner-up spot from Andrew Saunders, whose third was his best result of the season. It took all weekend for Rogers to get back to winning ways and a win from Baldwin in the final race keeps him well ahead in the MZ standings.

