



BMCRC CHAMPIONSHIPS SNETTERTON JULY 5-6th MZ Trophy for Stimpson



Following four striking MZ 250 victories teenager Dean Stimpson became the proud owner of the John Welfare Trophy, a special award created by the British MZ Racing Club to celebrate the life of their friend John Welfare, who was taken ill and later died during the BMCRC meeting at Donington Park at Easter. The club dedicated this event to a special competition and needless to say one of the best MZ entries of the season lined up for their four races on John's favourite circuit at Snetterton.

Chris Rogers (no 95) may have dropped a few points but his defence of the MZ title remains on course after two hard fought encounters on Saturday, but Dean Stimpson grabbed both of them, the second one being the more difficult. In the opener, Fenland teenager Stimpson was able to ease out a ten second lead over Rogers and Nick Murton-Jones, these two duelling for positions in the early laps. By mid distance Mark Jones was on their case and a three-way battle erupted for the second spot. Earlier an eight rider skirmish at Sears delayed one or two riders including title contender Phil Belenkin, but the Sussex rider recovered well to circulate in eighth in the later stages. Rogers, despite faulty exhaust hassles, eventually contained Murton-Jones to take the second spot after a move on him into Coram on the penultimate lap. Again Stimpson made the hole-shot in race two, but this time Rogers kept the Cambridgeshire student in check. After succumbing to the Sears affair in the opener Matt Baldwin made a decent start and challenged Belenkin for the third place during the early exchanges. Mark Jones was also in the picture as a big battle for positions began. Rogers in the meantime appeared to be psyching himself up for a strike on Stimpson, but the youngster defended the position well and stayed cool for the win and a Saturday double. Belenkin was third. Stimpson wrapped up Sunday's races with a great race win double and with it the John Welfare Cup.



Ben Holland and Ricky Stevens (no 60), LCR Suzuki, moved to within striking distance of F1 leaders John Holland and Tim Worsfold after two very productive sidecar races on Saturday. Trevor Stafford and Ryan Charlwood powered their LCR Suzuki to a brace of victories in the combined BMCRC F1 and F2 sidecar championship races, but a pair of runner up spots for the Holland/Stevens partnership has set the F1 series alight at the head. Holland and Stevens made the hole-shot in the opener and decided not to defend the position as series visitors Stafford and Charlwood sped through for the lead on lap two.



In the meantime F2 championship leaders Marc and Rik Vannieuwenhuysse, Shellbourne Honda, completed a telling move on Kevin Cable/John Allum, LCR Yamaha, and Lee Eastell/Steve Wereham, RCN Yamaha, into Russells on lap two and controlled the F2 class thereafter. Holland and Worsfold were now into third taking the spot from Bruce Munro and Shelley Smithies, the painter and decorator from Basingstoke, but couldn't overhaul the junior team, and lost four points to them as a result.

It was even worse for the Holland/Worsfold duo in race two when they retired their outfit on the opening lap. Holland and Stevens were unable to prevent a Stafford victory but 20 for second for the Havant youngsters set up Sunday's F1 races perfectly. Bob Turner and Ben Ransley powered their Shellbourne into a F2 class lead but by mid distance the Belgians were in charge again and seemingly unstoppable this season. Holland/Worsfold and Holland/Stevens shared a win apiece on Sunday while the Belgian crew took both F2 class wins.

Max Hunt doubled up on Rookie 600 wins giving the London rider a very good chance of reeling in championship leader John Cobbold, who tumbled out of contention in Saturday's first race. Although Cobbold had the lead in the opener he felt the pressure from Hunt, enough to run into Russells too hot on lap two. He briefly recovered only to fall foul of the rumble strips and his race was over. Hunt sped clear and took victory from Terry Cope and Stefan Cappella. Cobbold recovered to an extent in race two taking second to Hunt, who is fast becoming a force both in Rookie and Clubman classes. However Cobbold came good on Sunday with another two wins from Hunt.

Peter Molloy powered his Franklins Solicitors Suzuki SV to victory in both of Saturday's BCL Watches Minitwins races; but by the merest of margins on both occasions. Glynn Davies, BCL Suzuki SV, began the weekend 13 points adrift of Molloy and initially it looked as if he could reduce this total. Davies got the drop on his rivals in the opener but on lap two Molloy was ahead of Davies, and a six rider train followed.



Piers Hutchins, Diablo 666 Suzuki SV, got into third fast but came under pressure from Keith Clarke from the outset. Hutchins, brother to the World endurance rider James, was having one of his best meetings so far and did well to hold off the experienced Clarke and take the podium place. In his first ever race James Hignett (no 41), the latest recruit to the BCL camp, was the fastest Rookie in qualifying and the quickest in the race beating Rookie championship leader Greg Madero for 14th position from 33 finishers.

It wasn't until lap four before Molloy could pass the fast starting Davies in race two. Hutchins looked good for third again but Daniel Brady, BCL Suzuki SV, had other ideas getting amongst the Hutchins-Clark

battle. Davies swept past Molloy to lead the final lap but in another photofinish it was Molloy who got the verdict, while Brady edged out Hutchins for third. Molloy doubled up with wins on Sunday, one from Davies the other a narrow victory from Russ Joyner on the bio fuelled Ducati.

Simon Peyto's winning sequence continued in Saturday's Thunderbike UK Championship races, matching up his HM developed Suzuki SV against the Honda CBR mounted pairing of Garry Budgen and Dan Wright in the opener, then having to deal with Gyles Fairclough on the mighty Moto Guzzi in race two. Peyto made the hole-shot in the opener with Mike Baxter, seemingly rid of his gearbox

hassles, on the Ducati748 in with the Honda mounted pairing. However, Baxter was soon sidelined again with Fairclough now occupying fourth.

Late arrival Phil Read powered his Vyrus Ducati from the back row into fifth but time ran out for him and the 'Steelie' mounted pair with Peyto taking the win. Race two and Fairclough, a Snetterton double winner in April, was searching for another winning performance, but Peyto was defending his lead with plenty of determination, just failing to contain the Guzzi mounted Scot who ran out the winner.

Although de-tuned and carrying ballast the Moto Guzzi MGS in the hands of Fairclough is a formidable weapon. He took race one on Sunday but crashed in race two with Peyto going down as well, but championship leader Peyto remounted to finish eighth. For Garry Budgen, who still harbours thoughts of a Thunderbike title, ended up with a good weekend but falling short of making a big impact on Peyto's advantage.

Peter Baker overcame a rare off road excursion during practice to take his place on the Powerbike grid, clinch the opener and begin to get out of sight of the rest in the standings. Baker powered his Morello Roofing Suzuki into an immediate advantage from Mark Lister, Orwell Motorcycles Suzuki GSX-R. Against tough opposition Steve Jordan, now rid of a chest infection, was having one of his best outings of the season comfortably occupying third. Directly behind these three the Suzuki GSX-R pairing of Luke De La Cour and Scott Halliday were in combat for fourth.

Halliday, the former Supersport 400 contender, has moved into the big class with some urgency and De La Cour was doing well to contain the 31-year-old from Eastbourne. In the meantime John Butler had eased his ex-Danny Fowler Suzuki GSX-R onto Jordan's tail and moved into third on lap five. De La Cour got the better of Halliday for fifth and sixth respectively. Mark Lister grabbed a first and a second on Sunday. Steve Jordan snatched two more podium thirds having his best Powerbike meeting of the year while Peter Baker was having his worst, crashing out of the final encounter,

Max Exton reduced the points' advantage that Adam Lyon had over him by scoring big at Snetterton while Lyon floundered with mechanical problems and crashes. Exton grabbed a great victory in the opening EDIasia Formula 400 race, just getting the better of Cadwell Park winner Steve Palmer in an all-Kawasaki ZXR battle for honours. Mark Parbury intervened for a while on his Yamaha YPVS but it was the dash from the back by championship leader Liam Lyon that grabbed the attention.

After a lap teenager Lyon was into sixth and made progress to third by lap four, but this time the victory was Exton's which temporally halted Lyon's dominance of the class. Max Exton had a decent day on Sunday as well getting a win from Simon Bradby and Danny Buchan, and in doing so making headway on Lyon in the championship standings.

Words & pictures Terry Howe
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