



MRO CHAMPIONSHIPS CADWELL PARK August 2nd-3rd



Bishop conquers the mountain



At a circuit on which he was determined to come to terms with, Sam Bishop at long last put in his best performance ever at Cadwell Park and eased further ahead in the Pirelli-Metzeler MRO Superstock 1000 Championship, writes Terry Howe. Bishop's two hard earned runner up spots were deserved and so were wins from Mark Lister and top points scorer Lee Hodge, which has ensured the series goes down to the proverbial wire despite Bishop's comfy advantage at the head of the group. Bishop, on board the Kester, Cunningham, John Yamaha R1 made the hole-shot in the opener with Hodge (no 14) on his case on his Glynn Racing Suzuki GSX-R. Pole sitter Carl Nelson, Suzuki GSX-R, blotted his copybook by running into Mansfield too hot, and he was out on the opening lap. A good scrap for third developed with Mark Lister, Orwell Motorcycles Suzuki GSX-R, locking horns with Peter Baker who needed good results on his Morello Roofing Suzuki GSX-R to keep him in the hunt for the crown.

Lap four Lister ran a little wide at Charlies allowing Gavin Hunt, Martin Bullock Suzuki GSX-R, to gain ground on him. But Lister, having to continue with his Orwell Motorcycles Suzuki GSX-R, his new Yamaha R1 not prepped in time, eased ahead and was looking to launch an attack on the leading bunch. Mid distance Baker had to defend fifth spot from Mike Chappell, Suzuki GSX-R, while Bishop, out front, was protecting his position with great responsibility as Lister, now in third, menacingly camped on the back of Hodge.

It was becoming very tight up front and Hodge looked as if he could pinch his second win of the season. But Lister began testing both Hodge and Lister's nerves, then with two laps to go he took Hodge at Park, then Bishop became his prey at Charlies on the last lap, and he grabbed his first MRO Superstock victory of the season. Bishop was second and Lodge third.

Bishop got the drop on his rivals in race two and the Norfolk ace clearly liked Cadwell Park at last. But on lap four Hodge was up the inside of him at Park Corner and into a lead that the Chesham builder built on lap by lap. Carl Nelson was fairing better this time, occupying third throughout the early stages, and later was made to defend the spot from Lister.

Three two-way battles were on the go, one of which was a fifth and sixth duel between Baker and Hunt, and on lap six Hunt got the better of Baker at Park; but on the final circuit Manxman Hunt retired from the race as he did in race one. In the meantime Bishop needed to put as many places as possible between himself and rival Baker. Hunt's non-points' scoring gesture was a bonus for Baker but the King's Lynn rider had no answers to Lister and Nelson ahead, nor Bishop who stayed resolute for another runner-up spot behind the runaway victor Hodge.

Jack Blake's opportunity to make up ground on the advantage that Stephanie Waddelow had at the head of the MRO SuperTeen Championship never materialised, despite Waddelow's dull showing during Saturday's two encounters. To make matters worse for Blake was the performance of Alex Olsen who, as a result of a win and a second place, moved ever closer to Blake and Waddelow at the top of the standings.

Sunday's two races produced serious battles and Olsen's performances gave the Rochester youngster the top points' score over the weekend. Newcomer Luke Helm made the hole-shot in Sunday's opener, heading a seven-rider train of which Waddelow was stationed in third, this from a back row start. Saturday, third placed rider Ty Jones got into Charlies too hot and lost the front end of his Aprilia, and his race was done.



Midway Olsen had taken control and this frequent rostrum visitor was searching for his second win of the weekend. Three-quarters distance Blake had made it into sixth behind Helm, Nick Anderson and Andy Reid. Waddelow had seized the lead in the final run in and the Ely schoolgirl was back on winning form again.

Waddelow was buried initially in race two but recovered to complete lap one in fifth position.

County Antrim's Andy Reid led the pack in the early stages from Bruce Winfield and Olsen. Lap four and Winfield was down at Charlies and a lap later Waddelow was in charge once more. But on lap seven she found herself in second again as Olsen dived up the inside at Park to regain the lead. Waddelow assumed control on the final run in and took a second victory from Olsen, Reid, Helm, Anderson and Daniel Booth.

Words & pictures Terry Howe
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