



MRO CADWELL PARK 0408



The late arrival of his new Yamaha R6 was certainly worth waiting for. Although Harrogate racer Ben Lightowler (no 5) debuted the machine in the last rounds of the Pirelli-Metzeler MRO Stocksport 600 races at Snetterton this was only a shake down in comparison to a magnificent second and first positions in the latest rounds at Cadwell Park, which has taken the 22-year-old builder to the head of the standings after four rounds.

Jess Trayler got his MSS Discovery Kawasaki off the line a treat, but by the Gooseneck on the opening lap pole sitter Pat Sheridan was in charge, powering his Lancsville Construction Yamaha R6 into a comfortable race one advantage. In the meantime the pace was hotting up for the chasing pack as firstly Lightowler, K2 Racing Yamaha R6, got the better of Grant Whitaker, HWW/Ferris Yamaha R6, at Coppice, then on the same bend Snetterton winner Ashley Chivers, Yamaha R6, dived under championship leader Jonathan Railton, Yamaha R6, while contesting the top six positions.

Midway Sheridan was circulating faster than his qualifying times but nevertheless Lightowler was into second now and an attack on the leader seemed unlikely. Michael Booth, the former Triumph Triple Challenge contender, was up into third with Trayler in close attendance. Sheridan and Lightowler had got the 1-2 wrapped up in the closing stages but the scrap for the final podium place between Booth, Trayler and Whitaker went down to the wire with Booth taking the spot.

The race one victory for Essex builder Sheridan was a relief for a rider who suffered technical problems in the opening rounds at Brands Hatch, was shoved out of a race while leading at Donington Park and has even been a victim of equipment theft as well, but had the tide turned for Sheridan.

Well, it could have been worse, but seventh wasn't what he was looking for as Booth, Trayler and Whitaker got it on once more. Last round fliers Chivers and in particular Railton were not so dynamic at Cadwell Park but it wasn't the case for Lightowler who stormed to his first victory of the season.

Lightowler was over the moon with his success. 'I was working blind a bit, I was using the gearing from last season as a starting point,' he said. 'I could have done with a bit more practice. I had trouble turning the bike through Hall Bends and the Gooseneck but in the end I reverted to my original settings and it worked well.

In the second race I was really struggling with my tyres. I knew Pat was close so I concentrated on pushing hard, but trying to nurse the tyres at the same time. Pat passed me at the old Hairpin, and that was brave, because it's very fast there. But then I didn't realise Pat had crashed until the cooling down lap when I could see him behind. I would like to thank everyone involved with K2 Racing. I am now leading both championships and set the fastest lap of the weekend as well.'



In another record breaking day of MRO Superteen action Steph Waddelow (no 34), the Ely schoolgirl, grabbed three victories and established herself as a real handful as the boys struggled to tame her in this latest round. It wasn't as if there was no competition around. More than 30 teenagers entered this latest round with David Pearce, Jack Blake and Matthew Paulo her main rivals.

In Saturday's opener Manx rider Pearce did his best to contain Waddelow but she took command with two to go and win number one was in the can. Championship leader Blake embarked on a miserable departure but recovered from a lowly 18th to finish third. Waddelow got the hole-shot away in race two with Pearce and 15-year-old Glaswegian Matthew Paulo in pursuit. Out of the woods on lap three Pearce was in charge, but this was short lived as Waddelow snatched back the position soon after and sped clear for a double win; the first time a lady racer has won two races in one day.



Well, the double looked on again on Sunday as she showed real class amongst lapped traffic and undid the boys big time. Waddelow, Blake. Paulo and Pearce came across back markers at Coppice. Waddelow darted under the group while Paulo and Pearce were forced out onto the dirt at Charlies and crashed out. Waddelow claimed her third win.

Prior to race four Blake, the talented young mechanic, single-handedly swapped over engines hoping an older spare may perform better. Circulating for the most part in third place the success of the engine couldn't be gauged. But the end result could, because just at it looked odds on for a fourth Waddelow victory a back marker situation was reversed on the final lap with Blake and Paulo cashing in, with Waddelow coming off worst and taking third.

Liam Lyon's grip on the Dyna Pro Supersport 600 Championship loosened a little after the young Scot was high-sided from his Yamaha in Saturday's opener. Billy Mellor powered his Form-It Construction Suzuki GSX-R to victory ahead of Thomas Dean, Castrol Yamaha R6, and Mark Cringle on board the Cringle Racing Triumph. Lyon, the 19-year-old kitchen fitter, quickly powered his Seton Tuning Yamaha R6 into the lead of race two but was unable to prevent Mellor from taking the lead on lap four. Although Lyon's machine was repaired Lyon wasn't and the beaten up young Scot was, I guess, content with second on this occasion. Cringle was third, Dean fourth and Rob Hoyles, Yamaha R6, fifth. As a result of his double victory Mellor received the Rod Harwin Rider of the Day award,

Dean got the drop on his rivals in Sunday's opening race but Hoyles looked well up for it as he vied for the position. Lyon moved into contention and Mellor, appearing menacing, slotted into third. Reigning Rookie 600 champion Sy Langford appeared to have solved some electrical problems on his Purkiss Brothers Suzuki GSX-R and was occupying fourth in the early stages.

James Wainwright was also flying having one of his best races so far on the TDG Triumph, while Chas Collyer, the 24-year-old Locksmith, had recovered well from a practice spill which left him in a lowly starting position. Out front Lyon moved into the lead but Hoyles, who was having a good meeting on board the Stringer tuned Yamaha, looked as if he could record his first win of season, but Lyon stayed calm for the win. Hoyles, in vibrant form, made the hole-shot in the final ten-lapper but by lap four Lyon was in front. Mellor and Hoyles eventually dropped Cringle from the podium positions, but on the penultimate circuit Lyon was down again with Mellor claiming his third win of the weekend

Manxman Mark Cringle increased his lead at the head of the Triumph Triple Challenge title race with an early super-pole victory over Andrew Marriot. This was a good start for the Douglas joiner who hauled in the fast starting Scott Rowbottom (no 14) who looked strong on the North Lincs Structures entry. Cringle firstly had to deal with Reece Rothwell on the Ghostbikes.com 675 before tackling Rowbottom. Once this was achieved mid distance the win looked on. As the pack steamed into

Chris Curve for the final time Rowbottom and Rothwell crashed but Rowbottom rejoined and finished fifteenth. Andrew Marriot was second and Toby Glen third.



By lap five in Sunday's opening ten-lapper Toby Glenn had got his Tec II Racing Triumph into the lead, but it was a slender one as Tim Venables, Turner Triumph, hounded him and ultimately took control on lap seven. Rowbottom however, had been flying; he was now in the hunt and along with Cringle was heading a volcanic Young Gun battle all looking for a rostrum result. It had become a bit fraught now and Rothwell was down again, this time at the mountain, then a mistake from Cringle saw him back in 14th by the close. Rowbottom from Glenn and Manx rider Venables was the podium,

while Josh Wainwright grabbed another good result in fourth. The top four were all Michelin Young Guns riders while Jack Sim, the over 25 TDG Cup rider, was fifth overall and first in class. Mark Cringle got it all together in Sunday's second encounter, took a gilt edged victory and retained the leadership of the Young Guns series. Stuart Mitchell was second and Marriot third. Wainwright snatched another fourth while Mark Cheetham, the former MRO Powerbike rider, was fifth and winner of the TDG Cup class.

Words & pictures Terry Howe
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