



MRO CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVERSTONE

Double for rain master Baker

It's all change at the head of the Pirelli-Metzeler MRO Superstock 1000 Championship standings following another polished display by Peter Baker (no 3) during the latest round at Silverstone. From a lowly 13th place on the grid the experienced Baker from King's Lynn made the most of a wet circuit on race day, and powered the Morello Roofing Suzuki GSX-R to a brace of trade mark victories, writes Terry Howe.

An enterprising break from the fourth row saw Baker quickly in front of the opening race following early promise from Sam Bishop, Kester Cunningham John Yamaha R6, and Lee Hodge on the HM prepared Suzuki GSX-R. Soon Oli Henderson, Easy Grass Suzuki, and Francis Williamson, debuting the Bracken Motorcycles KTM 1000 RC8, moved into the podium places, while Bishop began losing ground. By lap ten Baker was well in charge and out of sight of Williamson, Mark Lister, Orwell Motorcycles Suzuki GSX-R, and Lee Hodge. Barry Chapman rallied late on forcing home his SDC Performance Yamaha R1 to fifth ahead of Bishop in sixth.

Although Lister, Bishop and Hodge were as one entering Luffield on the opening lap of race two, it was Baker who emerged out of the complex as leader, appearing much too strong for the rest to contend with. Williamson had fired his KTM into third on lap two and saved a scary moment out of the chicane, but the experienced Williamson recovered well and dealt with Lister next lap with Hodge and Bishop squabbling for fourth.

Chapman though, had been on a mission and moved into fifth in the closing laps. At the flag Baker clinched the win from Williamson while Lister, Hodge and Chapman scrapped out the final rostrum spot with Chapman taking the spot in a photo finish.



Josh Wainwright recorded his best set of Triumph Triple Challenge results so far collecting 58 points from his three races and moving within striking distance of Michelin Young Guns leader Mark Cringle, who also had good meeting. Wainwright recorded a third spot in Saturday's superpole race, and this set up the teenager perfectly for an unscripted race one victory on Sunday.

By lap five Wainwright had moved to within a shot of Jack Sim who initially had made the hole-shot, and this dice with the SS Racing's Sim, a TDG Cup contender, had become anxious. At the same time Aleksanders Bekers slotted his Bruno MOTO 675 into fourth, and Sim then became victim to the Latvian and Wainwright who were both now in the podium positions. Superpole winner Stuart Mitchell, with a 13-second advantage looked odds on to take race one but he fell at Brooklands midway. Manxman Cringle moved into the zone in the closing laps, but although he got the better of Sim he had no answers to Bekers and Wainwright who rushed to the flag in a thrilling conclusion to race one.

Mitchell quickly got the better of Sim and Cringle in race two and led a pack of Triumph Daytonas into Copse, which saw the Ghosbuster.com mounted Reece Rothwell duelling with Wainwright for fourth. Bekers in the meantime was finding Rhalf Lo Turco a real handful as a Latvia-v-Brazil battle erupted for the top six places.

Despite the best endeavours of the battling Wainwright and Cringle, former Superteen ace Mitchell stayed strong for the win while Wainwright eased out Young Guns rival Cringle for second. But it was a good day for Jack Sim; he was the successful over 25 TDG Cup rider and now leads the class ahead of Mark Cheetham.

Dean Morrice, the 32-year-old from Aberdeen, grabbed his first Pirelli-Metzeler MRO Stocksport 600 victory in a drama packed opener, which saw pole-sitter Pat Sheridan fall at Copse on the opening lap. Initially Ashley Chivers powered his Yamaha R6 to a first lap advantage, but the 18-year-old printer lost out to Paul Hinchcliffe, SLH 24/7 Suzuki GSX-R, soon after. Sheridan, now without sponsorship, rejoined in 17th place and what followed from the Essex builder was inspirational to all who witnessed it. Lap four Morrice completed a move on Robert Moon and fired his Walker Transport Yamaha R6 into the lead at Copse.

Sheridan in the meantime had been circulating four seconds faster than his rivals and was now in 12th ahead of championship leader Ben Lightowler, K2 Racing Yamaha R6, who was forced to miss qualifying for personal reasons.

Lap eight Sheridan was with Chivers and a spat for sixth developed. Then soon after James Ashby, once vying for control, was out and Sheridan was into second with a lap to go. Morrice remained calm and took his maiden victory.

Sheridan was in no doubt about the outcome of race two. Despite a first lap attack by Chivers, Sheridan soon loosened himself from this and sped clear for victory. Morrice was down and out early on, while by lap three Lightowler was fairing much better in seventh and retaining his Junior championship leadership was a certainty. In the meantime Jason Holland had powered his Yamaha R6 into second, a position he maintained to the end, with Ashley Chivers finishing fourth overall and first in the Junior class despite receiving a ten-second penalty.

Lyam Lyon powered his Seton Tuning Yamaha R6 to a race win double in Saturday's two Dyna-Pro Supersport 600 races and surged further ahead in the standings from rival Mark Cringle, who was forced to retire his Triumph in race two. Lyon got the verdict in the opener from Barnsley teenager Billy Mellor, Form-it-Construction Suzuki GSX-R, and Cringle with James Wainwright making his first front row departure of the season count coming home in fourth.

Chase Collyer, feeling unwell before the start of racing, made up for a poor result in race one by powering his Mike Smith Tuning Yamaha R6 to the front of race two after Cringle had made the hole-shot. Lap three Lyon had made an outside move on Collyer into the complex stick and the young Scot was away. Mellor and Cringle were duelling for third but shortly after Cringle was required to save a highside and was later forced to retire his Triumph with an electrical fault. Mellor was now into third but was unable to reel in Collyer and Lyon the winner.



James Wainwright (no 26) powered his T3 Supersport Triumph 675 to a maiden victory in Sunday's opener. Wainwright, the Thamesmead carpenter, duelled briefly with Thomas Dean, but eventually got clear of him in a soggy opener which Wainwright was relishing. Collyer maintained third throughout, with Lyon unable to better a frustrating fifth. Wainwright doubled up with wins in the second of these longer races, seemingly untouchable in the rainy conditions. The 21-year-old mastered Silverstone best, despite a brilliant race by Collyer in second, and a last lap dash to the flag from Lyon secured him third from

Cringle.

'It's all coming together now,' said Wainwright, 'I got some wheel spin going down the wet straightaways, but I short shifted through this and it worked well.'

Alex Olsen, the MRO Superteen rider from Rochester, mastered all racing conditions at Silverstone and hoisted himself up the standings for a title challenge after an unstoppable performance in round six of their series. This season Jack Blake has hardly been out of the top three but his position at the head of the standings looked to be in jeopardy following another classy display from Steph Waddelow.

However, even Waddelow was taken aback by the speed and style of Rochester youngster Olsen (no 56) who stopped the run of victories from the Ely schoolgirl by clinching Saturday's opener. Olsen almost doubled up with wins but Waddelow powered the SS Racing Aprilia to victory in race two and drew level at the helm with Blake, who posted two thirds from Matthew Paulo.

Ty Jones made the hole-shot in Sunday's opener but Olsen was soon in charge again. Jones had 15-year-old Glaswegian Paulo to deal with while Waddelow and Blake

were uncharacteristically fighting for sixth spot. Shortly after securing sixth place from Blake she fell and gifted Blake a ten-point advantage at the head of the group after he finished sixth. Daniel Booth and Danny Buchan got the better of Blake on this occasion. Olsen got the verdict over Jones for a race two victory from Buchan and Paulo. Blake eased clear of Waddelow for mid order placings, but on this occasion the weekend belonged to Olsen.



Words & pictures Terry Howe
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