



MRO CHAMPIONSHIPS SNETTERTON JULY 5-6th Bishop Closing in



Norfolk road racers tamed the changeable weather conditions and made all the headlines in a drama packed round of the BMCRC-MRO championships at Snetterton. Sam Bishop, the Norwich racer, wanted to give his sponsor East Anglian solicitors Kester Cunningham John a race win at their local circuit; and the 21-year-old duly obliged by firstly grabbing a thrilling opening Pirelli-Metzeler MRO Superstock 1000 race win from Mark Lister and local rival Carl Nelson, and then doubled up with another victory, taking race two from Nelson and Charles Hodgson, and now moves to within five points of championship leader Peter Baker.

Bishop, Yamaha R1, made the hole-shot in Sunday's opener and it wasn't until mid distance before Lister, Orwell Motorcycles Suzuki GSX-R, began applying pressure. In the meantime Chesham builder Lee Hodge ran into the Esses too hot and did well to save his Glynn Suzuki GSX-R, but rejoined the race in tenth and thereafter was unable to haul in a big top six battle ahead, which went down to the wire.



Peter Baker, Morello Roofing Suzuki GSX-R, had occupied fourth for the most part, but the King's Lynn rider could do nothing about Nelson's third spot which had become safe. With two laps to go Baker fell prey to Cambridgeshire racer Barry Chapman (no 47), who fired his SDC Performance Yamaha R1 into fourth with Alex Symon likely to do the same on his Yamaha R1. Lister in the meantime was persistently trying to take Bishop. It was textbook stuff from Enfield rider Lister but the young Norfolk ace defended his position with great determination, and in doing so smashed the longstanding Superstock lap record for

Snetterton to take a photo finish victory from Lister.

Fakenham plasterer Carl Nelson was keen to match, or even better, his first ever Superstock podium spot in race one and quickly got after Bishop in race two. Championship leader Baker, beaten up in a support race crash earlier, failed to make the grid and Bishop's main rival Lister began to struggle with tyre problems. On a drying track Bishop began to ease clear for the win from Nelson while Hodge, who managed to salvage eight points in race one, just missed out on a podium spot to Charles Hodgson, Umeco Suzuki GSX-R.

Pat Sheridan increased the advantage he has at the head of the Pirelli-Metzeler MRO Stockport Championship by firstly taking a perfect start to finish win in race one, then later in tricky damp conditions powered his Yamaha R6 to another convincing victory. The Stanford Le Hope building contractor duelled briefly with Ben Lightowler (no 5) in the opener but gradually eased clear of the Junior class championship leader, who maintained second spot on his K2 Racing Yamaha R6.



Soon Lightowler, the Harrogate builder, had Paul Hinchcliffe to deal with as the motorcycle parts manager from Peterborough began pressurising him for the second position. At long last Grant Whitaker appears to have got his race face on and his rapid progress through the pack into fourth was impressive. On lap seven of 11 Hinchcliffe was in second and a spat with Lightowler was under way.

During these final laps former Minitwins ace Daniel Watkins had powered his Suzuki GSX-R onto the chasing pack and a four-way battle for the rostrum was on. Lightowler, who had lost his second place to Hinchcliffe, was now defending third from Whitaker riding the HWW-Ferris Yamaha R6. As Sheridan was taking the chequered flag a four rider train was steaming into Russells and it was Hinchcliffe and Lightowler who held firm for the rostrum result.

Sheridan made the hole-shot in race two and bid farewell to his rivals for a neat victory. Ashley Chivers, a race winner at Snetterton in April, initially occupied second but later retired his Yamaha R6. Lap four Sheridan had long gone, but now Lightowler was second and Silverstone winner Dean Morrice had powered his Walker Transport Yamaha R6 into third. Mid distance Morrice messed up the Russells bend but Whitaker, circulating in fourth, was unable to capitalise and missed out on his first rostrum visit of the season.

Another classy weekend's racing from Liam Lyon sees the young Scot in a commanding situation at the head the Dyna Pro Supersport 600 Championship standings. Stuart Wickens, Big Tone Yamaha R6, certainly made life testing for Lyon in Saturday's opener, while at the same time Phil Seton, having his first outing since 2006, was in a similar situation with James Wainwright, Triumph 675, for third and fourth.

With a lap to go Wickens took the lead from Wainwright after Lyon ran into the Esses too hot. He quickly recovered and duelled with team boss Seton, and eventually secured third spot. Wickens made the hole shot in Saturday's second scratch race and the same four suspects contested the rostrum places.

Clubman Cup contenders Sy Langford, Purkiss Brothers Suzuki GSX-R, Paul King, Yamaha R6, and Rob Hollingsbee, Yamaha R6, were battling for top six overall and the class win. Lyon ran out the winner from Wickens but Seton snatched the third spot from Wainwright.

Lyon made the hole-shot in Sunday's opener and took a more comfortable victory in this longer race. Wainwright was into second on lap two while Thomas Dean became involved with Wickens for third. Lap seven Langford, the reigning Rookie 600 champion, eventually got the better of Dean after a race long duel with Dave Shelvey and Ben Cater, Triumph 675. Langford retained the third spot; one of the best overall results of the season for a Clubman.

In the final ten-lapper of the weekend Lyon, the 19-year-old from Kilcreggan, showed a clean pair of heels to the rest, but Wainwright nevertheless had him within sight throughout. Cater occupied second for a while but the Londoner fell at the Russell's bend on lap three. After a troublesome weekend Chase Collyer finally came good with a third, while Clubman Cup championship leader Paul King grabbed fourth overall and first in class,

Wayne Ryan and Andy Reid took the MRO Superteen regulars by surprise after taking two wins apiece in round six of the series. Neither has scored a point in this season's competition but it was a stylish double act that caught the leaders on the hop. The first of four races was rain affected but the clouds never opened until Reid had established a comfortable lead, and eventually take his first MRO victory. Alex Olsen and Ty Jones were second and third respectively.

For the leaders of the championship a dry second race suited them better. Although Ryan was the winner Steph Waddelow grabbed second from Olsen at the flag. Jack Blake, the championship leader prior to this event, has been suffering with a load of mechanical problems, and under the circumstances was grateful for a hard earned fifth. Ryan dominated Sunday's opener taking the win from Waddelow and Olsen. Initially Blake was well positioned to contain main rival Waddelow but the Ely schoolgirl snatched third with Blake again in fifth, and his advantage at the helm now beginning to look at risk. But in a final blast of the weekend Blake saved the advantage by taking third ahead of Waddelow with Reid the winner.