



BMCRC CHAMPIONSHIPS SNETTERTON September 13-14th



Hunt's 4x4

Max Hunt, the impressive Suffolk based Rookie, powered his Race Lab Yamaha R6 to four more victories over John Cobbold, ensuring the Rookie 600 series goes down to the last round at Brands Hatch later this month. Round nine of the BMCRC Championships at Snetterton goes down as the best weekend of the season for Hunt. With four Clubman Cup wins also in the locker the stylish Hunt dazzled the meeting with some very fast laps, and now surges ahead of Cobbold at the helm, and taking a 17-point advantage to the final round.

Cobbold, who has had considerable success on board the Seton Tuning Yamaha R6, remains unruffled about Hunt's rate of progress and looks forward to the final four races. Colchester based Yamaha dealer Terry Cope continued with a season-long run of thirds, 20 in total, but this time he had plenty of company for the podium spot from Chris Hamlin. It was tense stuff from these two and Hamlin couldn't have tried any harder to deprive Cope of the positions, and as a consequence Cope has secured the third championship spot for the season.

It had been on the cards all weekend but Russ Joyner left it to the final race of the weekend to give the Inzane team their first victory of the season. It is thought that the Peterborough based team have scored a world first motorcycle race win for a machine fuelled by renewable clean bio fuel. The BCL MiniTwins series winner Peter Molloy and Glynn Davies, both Suzuki SV 650, had been at it all weekend and just a fraction of a second was the margin between first and second. However, Joyner had already qualified the rare air-cooled Ducati 800 SS on pole, a first for the team, but was unable to convert the position into a win despite occupying the front running spot on a number of occasions. But in the final race of the weekend the experienced Joyner powered the only air-cooled machine in the class to a significant victory.

Mark Lister (no 29), now equipped with the latest Yamaha R1, ensured the BMCRC Powerbike Championship goes down to the final round by taking three wins over the weekend on the LCS/Orwell Motorcycles machine, and coming in second to Peter Baker, Morello Suzuki GSX-R in the other. Local ace Baker began the weekend with a 52-point cushion, which remained in place after Saturday's two races.

Lister, making his debut on slick rubber, became more comfortable on the tyres as the weekend progressed and grabbed the win double on Sunday. Steve Jordon kept his excellent run going by taking three thirds on his Suzuki GSX-R over the weekend.



Dean Stimpson (no 37), the main challenger for the MZ 250 title, began the weekend with a DNF and the uphill fight to haul in series leader Chris Rogers became even steeper thereafter. Despite a fight back from the March teenager defending champion Rogers takes a 59-point advantage into the final round later this month.



Rogers clinched Saturday's opener but Stimpson hit back in race two powering Tony Holmshaw's ETZ to victory. To thirds on the day from Giles Spencer was a notable achievement amongst the title chasing escapades. Good top spots were gained by Rogers and Stimpson on day two to keep the series on the boil, but it still remains advantage to Rogers with one to go.

Despite four more F1 Sidecar victories Ben Holland and Ricky Stevens, the young Havant crew, still can't claim this year's title until the final round at Brands Hatch. All four races were contested at the head by three of the four championship protagonists with Norwich crew Ben Bygrave and Sam Ryder taking four second spots, which propelled the local crew into third place in the standings ahead of Bruce Munro and Carol MacBride.



Despite some nervous time spent at the head of the fire ravaged Euro Tunnel Belgian crew Marc and Rik Vannieuwenhuysse (no 88) made it to Snetterton in time to take their place on the grid and quickly wrapped up the F2 Championship in style from Bob Turner and Ben Ransley (no 51).



Michael Smith powered Gerry Pell's YPVS to another neat set of top results in the Norfolkline Yamaha Past Masters Championship. Stopping hassles saw the Daventry mechanic slither out of contention in race two on Saturday with Pat Herron cashing in, taking the win from former champion Tyler Bacon. Despite Smith's dominance it was a good weekend for Watford mechanic Herron.

The best set of results of the season for the former champion was thought to be down to a new generator recently fitted to his 350 YPVS. Championship leader Mark Hardy (no 77) picked up good scores keeping him 45 points clear of rival Bacon. It could have been worse for the Peterborough boat builder when he almost succumbed to a backmarker situation at Russells on the final lap of the last race.



In the mixed Thunderbike and EDIAsia F400 races there were significant developments in both classes. As expected Scottish teenager Adam Lyon quickly clinched the EDIAsia series with another dominant performance on his Seton Tuning Kawasaki ZXR. Steve Palmer (no 43) was second best on the weekend and in the championship standings as well.

Garry Budgen's (no 7) quest for the Thunderbike title, which narrowly eluded him last season, took a turn for the better after the Snetterton round.

Three wins and a third for the Honda 'Steelie' mounted pilot now sees him 84 points ahead of rival Simon Peyto. It was a brave effort from Peyto though. The Bexley rider was badly beaten up in a crash at Cadwell Park in July and has since lost the leadership in the title race. Fourth in class was the best place for a suffering Peyto. Ahead of him were Dan Wright, Honda, and Phil Read, Vyrus; they were two of the group's consistent scorers.



Words & pictures Terry Howe.
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