

## MRO CHAMPIONSHIPS SNETTERTON September 13-14<sup>th</sup>



## **Triumphant Treble for Sim**

Jack Sim produced a majestic clean sweep of results and dominated the penultimate round of the Triumph Triple Challenge at Snetterton. No one could tame the landscape supervisor from Tunbridge Wells and to add to his joy this was all achieved in front of his family and new born daughter. Sim powered the SS Racing Daytona 675 to three clinical victories and extends the advantage over Mark Cheetham at the head of the TDG Cup, over 25 years division. Round eight of the series was staged during the penultimate rounds of the MRO Championships at the Norfolk venue and Sim, 26, found the circuit very much to his liking in Saturday's Superpole race, clinching the six lap dash from former 250GP runner Tom Fisher and Lance Carey. Sunday's opening 10-lapper brought about a rapid departure from pole sitter Sim, and he quickly

put some daylight between himself and Tim Venables (no 60) and fellow Manxman Mark Cringle, both under 25 Michelin Young Gun riders. Amidst a nine bike train in pursuit of the leader Sim, lurked his main rival Cheetham, and amongst the jostling for positions Young Guns championship leader Cringle, on a borrowed Triumph, lost a couple of places. In the meantime



Cheetham, main challenger to Sim's TDG Cup title aspirations, moved into fourth on lap four, while Josh Wainwright and Scott Rowbottom, challengers to Cringle in the Young Guns group, were now amongst the front runners. Midway, Fisher squeezed out Venables for third but neither rider could prevent Cheetham from securing second spot. But Cheetham, the Chorley pie machine maker, was unable to haul in Sim and as a result fell another five points behind him in the TDG title race. Race two Sim again made the hole-shot but this time Cheetham was on his case. Young Guns Venables, Fisher and Cringle were scrapping for the leading positions, and Wainwright who had previously made up five points on Cringle after race one was about to repeat the feat as he camped menacingly on the back of this Young Guns trio. No sooner had Cheetham taken the lead on lap three the experienced north country pilot was down and out at Riches. This allowed Sim to power Steve Shepherd's 675 to another stylish victory, and a sizable points' advantage to take to the final round at Silverstone. In the dying moments Wainwright snatched second from Cringle to take the Young Guns spoils; now these two go head-to-head for Michelin Young Guns glory with the BSB later in the month.

City businessman Max Hunt powered his Race Lab Yamaha R6 to a classy set of four victories in the final round of the Dyna Pro Supersport 600 Championship. The 23-year-old Rookie, racing in the Clubman Cup class of this series, clinically dismantled all his opponents and put on a polished performance, displaying skills acquired very quickly in his first season of racing. Hunt's points gained made little difference to the final outcome although Sy Langford may beg to differ; he lost out on the Clubman title by just a point.

Over the weekend the consistent Chase Collyer, Yamaha R6, scored some top results; enough to secure him second in a championship previously won by Liam Lyon. Also notable was the efforts from Billy Mellor, the Barnsley teenager scoring four thirds in the Supersport 600 group. Despite Hunt's sensational results, the weekend was about the race for the Clubman Cup title which was there to be won or lost. Sy Langford had powered the Purkiss Brothers Suzuki GSX-R to two seconds and a third in class to arrive in the final race for a head-to-head with season-long series leader Paul King. Wickford electrician Langford could do no more than finish second in class, but fifth for King earned him the title by the slenderest of margins.



Although the MRO SuperTeen Championship had already been dealt with by Stephanie Waddelow it never prevented another stunning show by these youngsters in what was their final round of the season. And to cap the weekend three more new winners to add to the ever growing numbers of victors in this season's series, which bodes well for next season's campaign. Alex Olsen and Jack Blake went head-to-head for second and third in the title chase, and it was Blake who upped the anti after finishing second to Tom Dale in Saturday's opener.

Dale doubled up on wins in race two taking victory from Olsen and Blake. Blake fell in Sunday's opener and it was Luke Anderson (no 47) grabbing his first win from Olsen. Champion Waddelow grabbed second in Sunday's second race; her best score of the weekend. The local schoolgirl couldn't prevent Daniel Booth taking his first win of the season, with Olsen fourth and Blake sixth.

Words & pictures Terry Howe. September 2008