

2012 Season Review

NG Road Racing

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“Bevan takes premier club class for fifth time.....”



Phil Bevan (13) R1 Yamaha and Peter Baker (4) GSXR 1000 Suzuki battle it out for Open honours

Photo – EDP Photo News

Welshman Phil Bevan made NG Road Racing history by racking up the Open title, backed by Phoenix Motorcycles of Trowbridge for the fourth consecutive year... and the fifth time in six years.

He certainly did not have an easy time of it as Peter Baker pushed Bevan on the Phil Bevan Track Days R1 all year, Baker on his Morello services GSXR Suzuki. The pair took three wins apiece from the fourteen rounds but we were unfortunately robbed of a head to head for the title at the last round after Baker fell at the Thundersport Anglesey meeting a broke his collarbone. For the second year running AFB Motorcycles R1 man Chris Pope took third in the series.

Top man Bevan certainly didn't have an easy run of things through after having his newly refreshed R1 go bang on his at Brands Hatch in testing. A hastily fitted standard motor saw Phil take points from the weekend... but only 16 from a possible 50. Not the start he wanted, but Phil has seen it all before and panic at this early stage of the year was not an option. As Phil and Peter traded wins mid season, it looked like the title race would be between the two of them. Bevan was absent from the first day of the two-dayer at Anglesey due to a family holiday, but Baker could not capitalise as his big Suzuki sprung an oil leak in the final, resulting in a black flag and no points. Both riders were back on the grid for the second day after Bevan had made the overnight dash from Spain... but both suffered tyre problems and points again were in very short supply. After Baker's absence from the last two rounds Phil just needed a handful of points from Combe and Thruxton, but after being taken out at Bobbies chicane at Combe by an over-enthusiastic newcomer in practice even that seemed a big ask. Bevan through duly delivered, and despite not riding to his normal limit, a nervy end to the year saw Phil take the title. Its worth saying again though... for the fourth year on the bounce. But this was his hardest title by far, thanks to Peter Baker. The same top three took the main positions in the www.SimonConsulting.info Powerbikes, although Bevan's win was by a greater margin this time. Pope once more rode with great consistency on his R1 grabbing podiums... but still agonisingly missing out on a win.

17-year old Andrew Fisher from Kettering riding his 16 year old (...yes that's right) RS125 GP Honda secured the **NG 125 GP** with a pair of wins to round the year off deposing Jamie Ashby. Fisher had to suffer a whole host of BSB Motostar riders trying to crash his party throughout the year as Kyle Ryde, Cat Green, Ryan Watson and Tarran Mackenzie used our rounds as testing for their National exploits. Fisher though took wins, but when needed rode sensibly for points to lift the title. He was also presented the Wayside Garages under 21 performance award for his season long efforts.

Sticking with the 125's but now the **Formula 125** production based series, once more backed by **Steve Lynham Motorcycles** was a display of dominance by young Welsh teenager Joseph Thomas who took 9 wins from the 14 rounds

heading the points table ahead of Mark Clayton. Thomas now eyes a move to BSB Motostar and made a tentative move onto the National grid at the season ending Brands meeting, finishing just outside the points. Thomas also took the **April UK 500cc Newcomers** title taking on a host of 400's on the little RS125 Aprilia..... and beating them.

Chris Beverley, decided to take a year off from racing in the 600 class to "..... have some fun on his old GS Racing CBR 400" in the **NG 450cc open** class. Beverley and the CBR took on TZ's and the like, and the former multiple NG champion came out on top.... and with a smile on his face. Next year he plans a return to the 600's.

A former Chris Beverley protege showed that she is now a real force to be reckoned with as Shannon Hale took her third class title in three years by once more lifting the **A and R Racing F400** crown on her Black Lion ZXR400. Shannon was getting a bit worried mid season as despite racking up good points and heading the table, she still hadn't taken a win !. There was no need to panic though, by the end of the year she racked up 5 podium-topping rides. Max Alexandre grabbed second overall, ruing a mechanical malady strewn season and David Matchett who had his best season ever after achieving one of his racing ambitions by competing in the NW200.

Former Streetstock champion Peter Carr returned to racing his year in the **Pirelli UK GP45** class on a 450 Kawasaki, and his high-corner-speed style was perfect for getting the best out of the little 450cc single, racking up 10 wins on the way to the title. As a thank you for all the support a mini bus with of 16 of his loyal sponsors made the trip to the final round of the year at Thruxton from Carr's Isle of White base

One of the hardest classes to win in any season is the **600cc**, this year, with a new title sponsor as **Pro-Bolt** we had eight different winners over the fourteen rounds. Darrel Jones took it on his Absolute Marquees GSXR 600 but he was pressured all the way by the other full season campaigners Scott Pitchers and Richard Connell. The series was given extra spice when Luke Stapleford, Dan Cooper Luke Jones and Jake Dixon in particular popped in a pre BSB round appearance, making the club boys work hard for the points.

Before the start of 2012 Darren Rumley has not taken a race win..... by the end of the year the BCT KTM RC8 rider had two wins... five podiums... a 100% finish record... and the **Performance Red Sound of Thunder** championship. He beat former champ Paul Willis on a similar KTM and Dave Manley on his 675. Manley was just 3 points adrift of Willis for second, but traded his Triumph for an R6 just before the final round in preparation for a full time move to the 600 open in 2013. Manley though was top of the pile in the **April UK Open Newcomers** as after a hectic final round for the novice jacketed rider at Anglesey the title outcome swung between Michael Hobbs, Tom Cook and the aforementioned Manley as the laps passed. Firstly Cook.... then Hobbs and finally Manley were leading mathematically. Despite Cook taking the win the points margins swung away from him when Michael Hobbs fell from his R1 and Manley kept his head for the April UK title.

One of the finds of the year was 18 year-old Welshman Dale Thomas. Dale who had barely swung a leg over a motorcycle in anger before the start of the year took to racing like the preverbal duck-to-water. Under the guidance for two former NG racing front runners Phil Evans and Vance John the young man with a mature head listened and learned. Dale on the T & E / Fast Rads SV650 had a season long battle with 2011 champ Ben Marsden in the **MPH Bikes Mini Twins**. Whatever Ben tried Dale seemed to have it covered and despite Ben throwing everything he could at the job at the final round Dale rode maturely to grab second place, and the points he needed to take the crown. With four wins from the five rounds (..... and one crash in the wet at Donington!!) in the **April UK Mini Twins Newcomers** Dale made sure that he will be one to watch in 2013 and he has already tested and raced a GSX-R 600 in preparation for an assault on the 600 National grids.

With a win at the opening round, followed by eight podium finishes on the bounce in may look as if Mark Pask on his R6 Yamaha had things under control in the **TPC Construction 700cc Pre Injection** class. In truth Alexander Jones or Tom Nethercott could have changed the outcome, Pask though just kept on racking up the podiums, and despite a slip up at Castle Combe he went to Thruxton knowing that a top ten finish would do..... he kept well out of trouble and came through 8th for the championship victory. Adam Jeffery was going for his third **TPC Construction 700cc Pre Injection** class title but after missing Donington Park Tom Palmer on his BS Racing R1 Yamaha grabbed the initiative and 50 points from the weekend. Jeffery did all he could to get back on terms as the pair traded wins to the end on the year. Palmer through held on and took the championship by five points.... and showed his relief as he crossed the final round Thruxton finish line.

After early season pace setter Josh Jones broke his collarbone in testing for the Pembrey round Martin Parkhouse and Mark Ireland took up the running in the **400cc Streetstock** title charge. But no points from the final two meetings spelled disaster for Parkhouse.... and championship glory for Ireland on his Black and Blue Racing ZXR 400. In the bigger **Metzeler / DTR 700cc Streetstocks** it was a straight fight between David Mitchell and Dean Richards. At Anglesey with four rounds to go they were neck-and-neck, but on Saturday Mictchell fell and broke his collarbone..... then on Sunday with just an easy ride round for points for the title on the menu for Richards, Mitchell left the circuit, not able to watch, but congratulating Richards on his win before he left. Now anyone who knows Dean Richards will testify.... Dean does not "ride round for points"... he is an out an out racer. Then the unthinkable happened.... Richards fell from his R6 whilst leading... but this saw no small crash, and the Welshman was left with a broken pelvis... back... wrist and internal injuries (...he is recovering well and should be back on the grids next year). News soon made it's way to Mitchell who made two tentative rides at Combe and Thruxton on his CIR Gold GSXR 600 Suzuki to take the championship. Rob Starkey kept the pressure on until the end of the year to take third behind the hospitalised Richards. Paul Dawson was in prime position to take the **Metzeler / DTR 1300cc Streetstocks** but a broken wrist as we went into the latter part of the year left it as a two man fight between Mark Skinner and Simon O'Donnell. O'Donnell did all he could on his big Suzuki, but a hat-trick of wins mid season allied to the fact that Skinner was never off the podium with his Cardiff Motorcycles Centre ZX10 Kawasaki made it a job too big. Skinner who regrets not having taken up racing sooner made it through to championship victory.

Jim Hamilton and Mick Fairhurst took four wins and nine podiums with their Jebbs Performance Engineering LCR Suzuki and with it the **CSC Racing Open Sidecar** championship. After being tipped as possible champions themselves pre-season Paul Corfield and Ritchie Bleakley has a bun of bad luck and mechanical issues that halted any hopes of title glory. The Devon pair still managed runner up but one win for their efforts seemed scant reward. Hamilton from Fife and Fairhurst from Sheffield though ran out convincing winners finishing over 100 points clear at the top of the points table. The **CSC Racing F2 Sidecar** term was a very different story with eight different winners and it was only as the season drew near to its close that two pairs pushed themselves to the fore. Rob Handcock/Basil Bevan and Tom/Thomas Quayle took their fight to the last round. Despite Thruxton Father and Son locals "the Quayes" taking a fine runner up spot behind outgoing champs Miles Bennet and Shelley Smithies it was not enough to stop Handcock and Bevan taking their first title by just 8 points on the RJ Racing/Maddock 600cc Shellbourne Honda.

So when all was said and done and the 14 round series drew to a close with the now traditional end of year bash..... more like an excuse for Thruxton to run their bar stock down for the winter !!! the riders can reflect on the years high's and low's.

From NG Road Racing's point of view the club's 43rd year showed that the bunch of twelve blokes that set up the club back at the dawn of the 1970's certainly have been proven that it was a good idea after all. When with over 1000 club riders this year we can also attract World Champions (Reeves/Hawes), British Champions (Lovell/Lawrence, Kyle Ryde, Luke Jones, Dan Cooper, Leon Morris) and the young stars of the future (Brad Jones, Joseph Thomas, Harry Coomber, Luke Stapleford, Jake Dixon, Dale Thomas..... and many more).

The appearance of the top flight National runners may irk some of the season long championship campaigners, but from my privileged commentary box position I can see that those top flight riders really do drag the up and coming club runners to better performances and faster lap times.....long may it continue.

2012 Class Champions and Award Winners

Steve Lynham Formula 125	Joseph Thomas
NG 125GP	Andrew Fisher
A and R Racing Formula 400	Shannon Hale
NG 450cc Open	Chris Beverley
Pirelli UK GP45	Peter Carr
Pro-Bolt 600cc	Darrel Jones
Simon Consulting Powerbike	Phil Bevan
Phoenix Motorcycles Open	Phil Bevan
Performance Red Sound of Thunder	Darren Rumley
MPH Bikes Mini Twins	Dale Thomas
NG 400cc Streetstocks	Mark Ireland
Metzeler / DTR Racing 700cc Streetstocks	David Mitchell
Metzeler / DTR Racing 1300cc Streetstocks	Mark Skinner
TPC Construction 700cc Pre Injection	Mark Pask
TPC Construction 1300cc Pre Injection	Tom Palmer
April UK 500cc Newcomers	Joseph Thomas
April UK Mini Twins Newcomers	Dale Thomas
April UK Open Newcomers	Dave Manley
CSC Racing Open Sidecars	Jim Hamilton and Mick Fairhurst
CSC Racing Formula 2 Sidecars	Rob Handcock and Basil Bevan
Hambro Life Flying Start (Most Promising) Trophy	Dale Thomas
Jason P Kasch (Achievement) Trophy	Darren Rumley
Wayside Garages (Under 21 Performance) Award	Andrew Fisher
Wayside Garages (Over 21 Performance) Award	Chris Pope
Anderson (Points Total) Award	Peter Carr
Gary Teague (600 Newcomers) Award	Dave Manley

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Images for NG Road Racing Meetings are available from NG official supplier :

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