



In association with
Dunlop, ACU and Willis Developments

2012 250GP ACU National Championship & NG Cup

Rounds 1 & 2 Brands Hatch

Double for Higgins

At long last the 5th running of the 250GP National Championship kicked off at Brands Hatch on 17th and 18th March. So far as pre race favorites were concerned it was impossible to call. Reigning Champion Ant Hodson's plans across the winter have yet to materialise, plus 2010 Champion Andy Sawford was still suffering the affects of a crash 2 years ago.

Melksham's Darrell Higgins was certainly one to watch with his wealth of knowledge on board the Dennis Trollope TZ Yamaha. Peterborough's Bruce Dunn has also pledged to stamp his mark on the series, on board his Yamaha and Daniel Jackson paired with his Team Sigie TZ also took the title fight to the wire last year with Hodson and Sawford, so looked odds on as a challenger.

Qualifying went the way of Darrell Higgins setting a pole time just 0.15 ahead of Dunn. Adrian Martin was enjoying his first qualifying of the year with 3rd on the grid, but his session ended prematurely with a heavy tumble at the formidable Paddock Hill / Hailwoods section, ruling him out for the rest of the day. Lee Goddard and his LLG Racing Honda completed the front row in 4th. Gary Vines headed the NG Cup challengers in 8th on the grid.

Steady rain set the tone for the Dunlop Motorsport and Willis Developments backed season opener which appealed to Lee Goddard as he took off from the lights opening up a 5 second gap in no time. Higgins, Jackson and Dunn posted consistent lap times and by mid race Higgins moved ahead of Goddard's LLG Honda.

At the flag Higgins posted the best possible start to the season with a win although Goddard pushed him hard all the way to collect a well deserved 2nd. Jackson recovered from a poor start to collect 3rd with Dunn in 4th., a good result considering the TZ suffered crank failure during Friday's testing, and suffered Powervalue issues during qualifying.

The DWH Racing Honda of Carl Hudson collected 5th despite a scare on lap 6 , just ahead of Tom Snow's RS Honda in 6th. Winner of the NG Cup was next up in 7th on the road for Charles Hardisty on board his REPS Motorcycles and Mum backed TZ Yamaha! Gary Vines was 8th on the road and 2nd in the Cup with Sian Brooks 9th on her Spyre Ltd backed Honda with Paul McCullagh rounding out the top 10.

Chris Harrison filling the final podium step for the Cup with 11th on the road.

Sunday's 18 lap round 2 set off in dry conditions, with Bruce Dunn setting the pace early on. Higgins challenged at the front from mid way around the 2nd lap but could not shake off Dunn who retook the lead on lap 5, and was able to set the pace throughout. Goddard was also mixing it, looking to go one better from his previous day's efforts plus, Adrian Martin was having a great ride in contention despite Saturday's qualifying tumble.

With just 2 laps remaining, Dunn's TZ decided it needed more attention as the luckless Peterborough based rider retired to pit lane. This left Higgins to collect a superb double win with Goddard in 2nd to repeat his previous days result. Adrian Martin had a great ride to 3rd on his File Tuning / J&RB Racing TZ with Carl Hudson getting quicker and quicker to collect 4th. Dan Jackson came home 5th, Guernsey's Phil Guillou 6th, and NG Cup winner Gary Vines in a very creditable 7th. Tom Snow was 8th , 2nd NG Cup runner Roy Keen was 9th with a big improvement on his Saturday result and Sian Brooks rounded out the top 10.



Chris Harrison was 11th on the road , strong enough to collect 3rd position in the NG Cup.

The Dunlop Performance of the Day is a very popular element of the series where the winner selected from anyone who "pulls it out of the bag" the winner receives a complimentary rear GP tyre courtesy of Dunlop Motorsport.

The winner of the complimentary rubber for round 1 was Lee Goddard on his LLG Racing Honda. Piped by Darrell Higgins for the win, Lee 's start was simply superb from 4th on the grid. Sundays Round 2 Performance of the Day went to Carl Hudson for his fight through the pack to collect 4th.

Special thanks to Brian Willis of Willis Developments who as 250 series sponsor also funded the trophies for the entire event.

Championship positions:

Darrell Higgins 50, Lee Goddard 40, Daniel Jackson 27, Carl Hudson 25, Tom Snow 19, Gary Vines 18, Adrian Martin 16, Charles Hardisty 14, Sian Brooks 14, Bruce Dunn 13

Future Championship dates: Next Round 29th April—Mallory Park

19th 20th May Pembrey

2nd 3rd June Donington Park

30th June Oulton Park

28th 29th July Cadwell Park

18th 19th August Anglesey

1st September Castle Combe

6th October Thruxton



Bruce Dunn heads Higgins early on



Higgins celebrates a double victory