

NG Road Racing.... Castle Combe Preview



Rounds 8 and 9 | Castle Combe | 2nd and 3rd July 2016

Words : Russ Gardner - NG Road Racing Media Officer
Images : EDP Photo News - www.edpphotonews.co.uk
Web Info : www.ngroadracing.org

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Who will be crowned King of the Castle.....



Local man, Daniel Cooper is a two time King of Combe winner.... can he make it a hat-trick in 2016.

Yet another bumper weekend of bike racing is on the cards for this Castle Combe Grand National meeting. All the usual NG races which we will touch on in a minute plus so much more.

The feature race will undoubtedly be the Phoenix King of Combe, where all the fastest riders will gather on the grid to try and lift this trophy. Past two-time winner Dan Cooper hails from just a few miles up the road in Stroud and after suffering injury at this years NW200 and a difficult TT would love to make it a hat trick of wins here.

Such is the pull of The Combe we have three National championship rounds here too. As ever the 250GP ACU National runners are here with South African defending champ Phil Atkinson fending off two former champs in the shape of Ant Hodson and Dan Jackson, all ride TZ250's. Local Melksham man Darrell Higgins has 27 wins around Combe and

would love to add to that tally, but his fortunes have been a little up and down this year, so it a case of fingers crossed. Adding spice is Dan Cooper who has managed to get his hands on a 250 for the weekend !!. Joining the 250's NG have take over the running of the National 125GP series to after being dropped from the BSB calendar in favour of 250 single four-strokes. The two-stroke class still has a lot of support and Arnie Shelton is looking good so far on his RS125 Honda.

Its not just the modern stuff on track...the Lansdowne boys are back !!. The historic race series with immaculately prepared bikes from the 50's and 60's doing battle as they used to around Combe. Mike Russell, Chris Firmin and Alex Sinclair on a brace on 500 Manx Norton's have been the ones out front in the main Bonhams backed class. Dean Stimpson and Glen English will be aiming to close the gap down to Russell who is starting to eek out an small series lead.

The bulk of the weekend will see the regular NG runners vying for points in the 14 round year long series.

Max Symonds has closed the gap down to Josh day in the 600 Open after Josh no scored at the last round, can the former class champ grab his first 600 win of 2016 here ? It will be tough as that-man-Dan, Cooper that is has a Moto 2 bike for the 600's.

Tim Bradley and John Price will again be head to head in the F400, Price doubles up in the 500 class too on his ZXR and will be looking to hold Dave Hampton at bay on his Tigcraft Single.

With the whole range of classes from Formula 125, right through the GP45's, pre injections, Streetstock, mini and super twins, sound of thunder and Ducati Desmo Dues in both 600 and 620cc guise on two wheels..... and then there are the Sidecars with Scottish pairing Jim Hamilton and Mick Fairhurst going for their fourth championships.

The Circuit

Castle Combe as we know is one of the longest established short circuits in the UK with meetings dating back to the 1950's. All the greats on two and four wheels have raced here, from John Surtees, through Mike Hailwood to Carl Fogarty. Combe is fast... very fast... and very flat, and known to be bumpy in places, so a well-set-up bike is essential. Suspension and traction are key to a fast lap.... and that allied to a bit of bravery !!. On a map it looks straightforward but any racer will say "...it is far from it !".

The Fastest

BSB Superbike rider Joe Burns set the fastest NG Road Racing lap here on his JG Speedfit ZX10R Kawasaki. He hustled the ZX10 round in 1min 10.91 seconds.... That's an average speed of 93.92mph. That is the fastest lap of Combe with the current circuit layout, so believe me when I say... ".....that time will take some beating !!!!!"

.....and

As well as all the racing there are tribute parade laps to mark 65 years of bike racing at "The Combe" by a host of top stars including former six time World champion Jim Redman... GP winner Stuart Graham....multiple British champ Steve Spray and current BSB Honda works rider Jenny Tinmouth and now we can add Peter Williams the former Norton works rider and winner of the Avon Tyres Trophy here in 1966 to the list of guests. Add in Rex Butcher, David Hailwood and Freddie Sheene and there is a raft of racing history.

To top it all off there is a parade of Classic road bikes, race bikes and machines of interest out on track both days.

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Two grand days out at the Combe !!!.



Darrell Higgins will be looking to add to his astonishing tally of 25 wins here at Castle Combe on his DTR TZR250 Yamaha.

This 2-day meeting at Castle Combe is tagged as the Grand National meeting, and for very good reason.

Not only is there the full gamut of NG Championship races but the National championship races for 125cc and 250GP machinery, and the Lansdowne Historic Series.

As well as all the racing action there is a feast for the eyes and ears with parades of classics and bikes of interest.

Also celebrating 65 years of bike racing there will be a tribute parade including World Champions, British Champions and past GP and UK winners, including Jim Redman, Stuart Graham, Steve Spray, Rex Butcher, Peter Williams and Rod Scivyer. Plus Freddie Sheene and David Hailwood as well as current BSB Honda UK works rider Jenny Tinmouth.

Admission Prices.

Ticket Type	Saturday	Sunday	
Adults	£10	£15	(Weekend ticket £20check online for offers)
Concessions	£8	£12	
Children (U16)	Free	Free	(If accompanied by an adult)

For full conditions of admission and to take advantage of online bookings - www.castlecombecircuit.co.uk

Directions to the Circuit

Castle Combe is situated in Wiltshire near J17 and J18 of the M4 and approx. 5 miles West of Chippenham on the B4039. Look out for the brown chequered flag signs. **Sat Nav: SN14 7EY**

Race Day Timetable

Timetable	Sat	Sun	
Technical Inspection	7:00am	8:00am	See the bikes being checked by the Scrutineers, and wander round the pits
Free Practice	9:00am	9:00am	Watch the riders get familiar with the circuit in free practice
Qualifying Races	10:30am	10:00am	The competitors race for grid positions for the finals
Championship Races	14:00pm	13:30pm	Now it gets serious.....Championship points, trophies and glory at stake

NOTE : All timings are subject to change by the promoting organisation or the circuit management.

What's on track

20 NG Road Racing championship each day split into qualifiers and final for each of the classes. That means some 8 hours of on track action each day. I suggest you get in nice and early, take a wander around the paddock and soak up the atmosphere as the riders go through technical inspection and free practice before taking to the track in anger for the qualifiers in seeded championship order. The main finals kick off early afternoon when all the championship points and prizes are contested.

Feature races:

125/250GP ACU National Championship	The Ducati Sporting Club Desmo Due Series
The Phoenix Open King of Combe	The Lansdowne Historic Series
Tribute and Demo laps	Parade of classics and specials

NG Support classes: F125 | 125GP | Moto 3 | F400 | GP45 | 500cc | 600cc | Powerbike | Sound of Thunder
Super Twin | Mini Twin | Streetstock | Pre Injection | Formula Prostocks | Sidecars | Newcomers

The Season

Round 1	Brands Hatch	19th and 20th March	Round 5	Castle Combe	2nd and 3rd July
Round 2	Cadwell Park	16th and 17th April	Round 6	Anglesey	13th and 14th August
Round 3	Donington Park	7th and 8th May	Round 7	Pembrey	17th and 18th September
Round 4	Oulton Park	11th June	Round 8	Thruxton	8th October

NG Road Racing.... The Grand National



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2016 Castle Combe Grand National

~::~ Circuit Press Release ~::~



Experience a Castle Combe Race Meeting like no other, where the corners usually taken by cars at 100mph are done on two wheels at over 160mph!

It's the only event of its kind in the South West of England where you can watch 20 races each day from the NG Road Racing Club, a Classic & Special's Sunday Parade and..... **BREAKING NEWS** a demo from BSB

Jenny Tinmouth with her 2016 Honda Racing Fireblade.

There is a big display of JPS and works Norton's from the rare space frame and monocoque 1970's versions to an ex Robert Dunlop 588 Rotary

Racing Highlights

Phoenix Open King of Combe Trophy
Rounds 8 & 9 of the NG Road Racing Club Series
Lansdowne British Historic Championship
125 & 250 GP ACU National Championship
Sidecars

Tribute Parade Riders and Guests include.....

Jim Redman	Six Time World champion including four years running in the 350cc class.
Freddie Sheene	Son of Barry Sheene, and former BSB racer himself. Currently involved in the Sheene film project.
Stuart Graham	Grand Prix winner, and works Honda and Suzuki rider in the 1960's and '70's
David Hailwood	Son of Mike Hailwood and all round bike enthusiast, promoting the Hailwood brand and range of bikes.
Steve Spray	British Superbike, Supercup and ACU Star champ. Former works JPS Norton rider.
Peter Williams	Former works JPS Norton rider, and winner of the 1966 Castle Combe Avon Tyre Trophy
Rex Butcher	Dunstall works rider and multiple speed world record holder. Thruxton 500 winner.
Rod Scivyer	1979 British Honda 125 GP champion, and ex Grand Prix mechanic.
Jenny Tinmouth	BSB Honda Team rider and fastest racing female on two wheels in the UK....short circuit and TT.

Parade Riders

When the track is flooded with classic racers, road bikes and bikes of interest. They also are available to view in the Parade Paddock.

Join us as we celebrate 65 years of Castle Combe Motorcycle Racing for incredible value

Latest news available at..... www.castlecombemotorcycling.co.uk