

Race Meeting Report

NG Road Racing – Brands Hatch – 17th and 18th March Championship Rounds 1 and 2

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“Mixed conditions for Season Opener”

The weather really did play a major part in deciding the winners and losers of this open round of the NG Road Racing series at Brands Hatch. Saturday saw wet and slippery conditions that caught out several potential race winners, but on the flip side gave the likes of Adam Grosch on his 600 Suzuki.... Duncan Gibson on the JHP 1098 Ducati and Leon Leacock with his BMC R6 to name just three to show us just how good they are in the wet.

Sunday though saw us with a wet track in the morning after heavy overnight rain. A still breeze and clear skies soon had us racing on a dry track, and although the cold early season tarmac still failed to offer the solo's much grip it was very different for the sidecars. Ben Holland and Lee Watson set new sidecar lap record figures on their JH Racing LCR Suzuki, which gives them a great boost as they head into a British Championship, assault.

Top NG Rider of 2011 started his 2012 season off with a string of trouble starting on Friday's test day as he blew up his newly refreshed R1 motor. Phil and Kevin his crew chief managed to source a new R1 motor, but was not only standard but had none of the options for the electronics package that was on his machine. The bike saw finished at 3:30 am!. Phil qualified the bike well in the Open and Powerbikes, but in the Powerbike final launched in 10 feet in the air at Druids as it smashed into the catch fencing..... needless to say Kevin had another late night, although Phil repaid all the hard work with an amazing podium finish in the Open final.

The Phoenix Motorcycles Open

Cody Nally totally dominated the Phoenix Open final on Saturday in drying conditions on his ZX10 Kawasaki. The 21 year-old Irishman who is taking on a full year in the National 1000 Supersport series took the win from Leon Jeacock and Sam Coventry. Reigning open champ Phil Bevan, BSB Supersport runner Jonathan Howarth and 600 Supersport front runner Daniel Cooper all failed to finish as Nally lapped everyone up to 10th place.. Early race leader Roo Cotton had a series of big moments as the team is still searching for a base setting on a new front end on his R1. The fast starting Cotton slipped back to 13th at the flag, however he was still ahead of other top NG runners Mark Compton, and Shaun Hennessey as some tyre choices and setting proved to be off the mark for the quickly changing conditions. Sunday saw Nally, Daniel Cooper, Phil Bevan and Jody Lees break away from Peter Baker and set a strong pace early. Just as Nally and Cooper were shaping up for a race to the finish the heavens opened and the race was halted due to the climatic conditions..... all concerned agreed to let the race result stand, giving Nally the pair, although Cooper was now much happier with his Suzuki and set the fastest lap of the weekend

The Pro Bolt 600cc

Jody Lees has reverted back to R6 Yamaha power in Midland VW colours for 2012 after using both Triumph and Honda in 2012. The switch back to the R6 looked to be paying off as he led the way in qualifying, but after three blisteringly quick laps to break the opposition he launched the bike at the tyre wall between Clearways and Clark Curve. Although he said that it looked worse than it actually was. Saturday's final saw former British 125cc Champ Daniel Cooper take the win on his new GSXR 600 Suzuki in Hampshire Motorcycles colours, but after a very impressive win Cooper's bike was found to be just over the noise limit. The technical officials were forced to advise the Clerk of the Course who removed the disgruntled Cooper from the results. That handed the win to Leon Jeacock on his BMC R6 who was chased right to the line by 16 year old Max Symonds who is really getting to grips with his 675 after taking the NG F125 title for the last two years and the 2011 Superteen series win. Jody Lees bounced back on Sunday to take the win from Cooper (now with a standard end can). Lees had built up almost a 3-second lead but Cooper got a much better run through the backmarkers to close to within half a second on the final lap. Lees and Cooper no both embark on a full BSB Supersport season.

The CSC Sidecars

Ben Holland and Lee Watson totally dominated proceedings in the CSC Open Sidecar, whether it was wet or dry the Team JH Racing pair just got out front and pushed hard on every lap. It was the ideal preparation for the upcoming Eastern Airways F1 Sidecar series that will kick off at Brands Hatch in early April. Such was the pace of Holland and Watson that they managed to break their own NG Road Racing Brands indy lap record at an astonishing 49.96 seconds. Ricky Stevens and Ryan Charlwood managed to relatively distant runner up spots, but considering the way that many pairs failed to master the conditions it was no mean feat. Although not able to get to grips with things on Saturday Gary Smith and Carl Morgan looked in fine form on Sunday. At one point looked like they might give Holland some trouble, but after fighting through to second spot their LCR Suzuki cried enough and they coasted down pit lane to end a frustrating weekend. Despite leading both F2 races Andy King and Kenny Cole failed to hold on for either win, although this did podium in both. Simon Gilbert and Jed Pilmoor-Brady, and Rob Handcock and Basil Bevan took the wins on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

125cc GP / Steve Lynham Formula 125 / 400 Streetstocks

Reigning British 125 GP champion Kyle Ryde braved the early season conditions to get some testing miles under his belt but after a strong qualifying he had to wheel this bike off the grid after the warm up lap after what looked like a gearbox or clutch problem. That left the way open for Philip Wakefield who led right up until the final corner as Ryan Watson drafted past on his Appleyard Racing Seel to take the win by the

narrowest margin possible... 0.01 second. Normal service resumed on Sunday though as Ryde took the win on his Metmachex Engineering Aprilia.

Joseph Thomas took a double win in the Steve Lynham F125 class on his Llanellec Precision RS 125 Aprilia despite close attention from James Nagy and Mark Clayton.

Mark Ireland kicked off his 2012 in impressive style with a win over Luke Collins on Saturday by over three seconds.... But on Sunday the ZXR 400 rider lapped the whole field.

450cc / A and R Racing Formula 400

Joe Irving took his RS125 win in the 450 open and Saturday from Kyle Ryde. Ryde's 125 Aprilia bogged down on the line and plummeted from pole position to 20th at the end of lap one. Ryde set about a chase down and over the next 10 laps clawed his way through to second place... but for a better run through the back markers it could have been the win. A massively depleted grid turned out for Sunday's very wet final, which rolled out just after a down pour saw Chris Beverley take the win on his CS Racing CBR 400 from Arnie Shelton who had a podium on each of his outings. Colin Martin grabbed a pair of wins in the A and R F400 aboard his David Simon backed CBR 400 Honda.

Building Learning UK Powerbikes

Irishman Cody Nally took a convincing win on Saturday in the wet conditions as he and his ZX10 R Superstock Kawasaki headed home Peter Baker by over 8 seconds. Rob McNeally and Michael Blank were right on Bakers heels all race though and the trio severe covered by less than half a second at the line. The treacherous conditions claimed a few notable non-finishers though as Phil Bevan, Mark Compton, Roo Cotton and Jonathan Howarth failed to finish. Nally again headed home the field on Sunday, but a resurgent Phil Bevan took a fine runner up spot and the fastest lap of the race for his efforts.

Performance Red Sound of Thunder

Sam Coventry took his 848 Purbrook/Motorapido Ducati to Saturday's win after Duncan Gibson who had dominated practice went out with a miss fire and 2010 champion Paul Willis suffered a puncture. Impressive teenager Max Symonds took runner up spot less than half a second behind Coventry. Sunday saw the Thunder riders on a fully dry track, and a six way race long battle took everyone attention. Coventry, Mike Dawson, Willis, Gibson, Symonds and Mark Lister swapped places.... and paint !. Lister led early on but it was Symonds who fought through picking off the much more experienced riders one by one until he took the lead with two laps to go. Young Max will be a real season long threat.

MPH Bikes Mini Twins / Pirelli UK GP45

Go Racing Developments SV650 rider Sebastian Kelly took both wins in the MPH Bikes Mini Twins but reigning class champion Ben Marsden took a fine pair of seconds hot on the heels of Kelly. Marsden visibly enjoyed his rides particularly the tree way scrap on Sunday that also included Adam Jamison.

Matthew Andrew kicked off his GP45 title defence with a pair of wins on his ADP Group 450 Suzuki. Class new boy Peter Carr was over the moon with his new 450 Kawasaki as he chased Andrew all the way finishing just a couple of tenths adrift. A return to racing for Mark Carkeek had him grab runner up spot on Sunday.

Metzeler and DTR Streetstock / Pre Injection

Dan Millard took a fine maiden win in Saturday's 1300 streetstocks after coming through from a grid spot of 23 as he picked off Gary Johnson in the latter stages. He was unable to repeat his win a Sunday though as he was just one of many to succumb to the worst conditions of the weekend. It was Paul Dawson who kept his head... and his bike on two wheels to take the win. The 700cc class saw Robert Bowen and Adam Grosch share the wins, with Grosch really making himself out as a true wet weather rider on his GSXR Suzuki.

Adam Jeffery continued his third season of Pre Injection class domination as he took both finals although Michael Hobbs is much closer to Jeffery this year and really did ride well for his two runner up spots.

April UK Newcomers

Michael Hobbs managed the conditions very well on his Bin Club/ DCI R1 to take his first race win in the newcomers class, his pre 2000 R1 getting the better of much more modern equipment. Dale Thomas had his first win aboard the SWM / T&E SV in the newcomers Mini Twins and Simon Wilkins took top honours in the 500cc class with his Track club.com CBR 400

Wayside Garages Rider of the Meeting

For his stunning rides in the Pro Bolt 600 and Performance Red Sound of Thunder, including a fantastic fight through from 8th to take the win in Sunday's final was awarded the Wayside Garages Performance of the meeting trophy along with £100 from Marcus Bridewell.

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

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