

Race Meeting Report

NG Road Racing – Pembrey – 19th and 20th May. Rounds 4 and 5 of the 14 round championship series

Russ Gardner

(NG Road Racing Press Officer – Commentator – Bike Sport News Contributor)

Tel : 01242 697907 | Mobile : 07799 047 996 | Mail : russelljohngardner@gmail.com | Web : www.ngroadracing.org

“Pembrey’s Perfect Conditions for Cracking Racing”

After the mixed wet-dry-wet condition we had at Brands Hatch for the season opener, followed by the total wash out and eventual abandonment of Mallory Park in was all eyes towards the sky for the third meeting on the NG Road Racing season. It was with great relief that we had near perfect weather conditions for racing. With 16 to 18 degrees.... Just a light breeze.... And a clean track.....Perfect, and the riders did not disappoint with new lap records for Phil Bevan in the Open, Peter Carr on the GP45, Tom Palmer and Phil Webber in 1300 and 700 Pre Injection classes and Dale Thomas and Will Jones in the two newcomers classes. You only get lap records when conditions are right !

The Phoenix Motorcycles Open

The NG Road Racing’s premier class the Open was this weekend the story of two men, Phil Bevan and Peter Baker. Bevan with 13 NG Road Racing titles to his name and Baker with 17 titles in race of series from 600’s through Aprilia Cup to Endurance and Superbikes. Bevan uses the 2006 ex Tommy Hill Virgin Yamaha R1 whilst Baker has ex-TAS and an ex-Crescent Suzuki’s in the garage at his disposal. Bevan, is the renowned master of Pembrey and is the outright bike lap record holder. Baker was up for a good scrap. Phil set pole on Saturday with a stunning 58-second lap. The pair went head to head early on in the final with Baker setting the pace but Bevan swept through with 3 laps to go. The multi-titled pair lapped in the 58’s and low 59’s race long but Phil threw in three mid 58’s in a row to cross the line 0.8 clear in front, and we saw a very un-Bevan like celebration.... He had enjoyed that.

Sunday saw Bevan in no mood to battle, he wanted to win, and win big, and in a dominating display he just ground out mid to low 58 second laps on every lap (even when he was dealing with back markers !). Bevan is still the unrivalled exponent of race win at Pembrey. Michael Blank has been in contact early on in both races but tumbled out on Saturday allowing AFB R1 Yamaha rider Chris Pope to take the final podium spot. A return to racing for former champion Tom Garness returned a 4th and 5th placings on his new BMW S1000 not bad seeing as that 4th place came even with a 10 second jump start penalty. The rest had better watch out once he gets back in the racing groove. But with two wins and a new lap record and now the championship lead it was another good day at the office for Phil Bevan.

The CSC Sidecars

Results, as we know never tell the whole story. And when you look at the Open Sidecar lists you see that Jim Hamilton and Mick Fairhurst had to relatively easy and comfortable wins. What they don’t show is that then had to fight very hard for those wins and points until the latter stages of both finals. Paul Corfield and Ritchie Bleakley along with Mark Groves/Gary Diemert and Pate Millington/Helen Deeley were all in with a shout in the early stages of both races and in particular the Ballard BIS Suzuki of Corfield and Bleakley. As both final were building to a grandstand finish all sorts of mayhem and misfortune befell the Ballard boys. The sad story goes like this.... Saturday... Hamilton leads with two laps to go Corfield tries an audacious outside line at hatches to momentarily take the lead.... But then the wheel nut comes off the chair wheel and the wheel bounces off down the track. Hamilton/Fairhurst 1st and 25 points – Corfield /Bleakley dnf and a big repair job. On Sunday again it was a similar story early on with the two top crews duking it out. Then the red flag came out as George Kennedy/Colin Smith retired their Art Suzuki in a dangerous spot. At the restart again battle resumed with Hamilton just the upper hand.... Then just as Corfield challenged the Suzuki’s clutch and gearbox exploded.... Hamilton/Fairhurst 1st and another 25 points – Corfield /Bleakley another dnf and a another big repair job..... As they say that’s racing !

Phil Jones and Marc Maier were top F2 on Saturday with the Equipage Dakota 600 on Saturday. Sunday saw the arrival of Dean Nicholls and Paul Skinner who were down to “..... just do a bit of testing” on the 600 Lumley Kawasaki, and despite only having the standard engine in place that too the class win by over 30 seconds. What ever they were testing obviously works !

Steve Lynham Formula 125

Joseph Thomas continued his unbeaten run in the F125 on his RS125 Aprilia. He took another pair of wins to grab another 50 points to his tally. His dominance was so great that on Sunday afternoon he lapped the whole of the field. The battle was for the minor placings and Mark Clayton and Jake Archer battled it out for the other podium places. Clayton and the Refined Recruitment team were overjoyed with a second and a third after the 80cc Metrakit had been fully rebuilt twice over the weekend after big engine failures, he now sits in second spot in the series.

125GP

Andrew Fisher was unbeaten all weekend taking both qualifiers and both Finals in the 125GP class. He hardly put a foot wrong. The only time he was headed was on Saturday afternoon when Jamie Ashby the reigning 125GP champ got a perfect start and headed the race for the first two laps until Fisher regained his composure and re-grouped. Ashby’s two runner up spots saw the teenager lap the 1.456 mile Pembrey track quicker than he has gone before on his Ducati Coventry RS125 and the team were very happy to get good points on the board after a no score at Brands Hatch first time out this year.

450cc Open

Chris Beverley racked up two more wins and another 50 points on his CS Racing CBR 400 Honda. A smiling Beverley said he is treating this year as fun, and a year out from the frantic 600 class that he has campaigned for the last few years. Chris is a 2-time F400 champion and loves riding the little CBR. He said "...I'll have some fun this year and come back next year with a new bike.... Possibly a 600, but who knows." Chris headed home Tom Snow on his RS250 on Saturday and Chris Harrison on Sunday.

A and R Racing Formula 400

Although both races were frantic affairs the results show that Tim Bradley had two strong wins in the F400 class. In the early stages of both races Bradley, Alan Russell, Aaron Ridewood, Max Alexandre, and reigning champion Shannon Hale, were all in the mix. As the races went on though Bradley exerted the pressure on his FZR to drag away to let the rest fight it out for the minor placings. Russell ended up with a pair of runner up spots with two thirds going to Hale. Shannon was pleased with the points but was a little concerned that her ZXR400 had developed a problem getting initial drive off the start line, historically one of her strong points. Max Alexandre was left thinking what if after his chain snapped whilst in a good third place on Saturday and challenging for second. Sunday saw him never able to match the pace of the leading group and although finishing fourth, frustratingly some 30+ seconds adrift on the leaders.

Simon Consulting Powerbikes

After qualifying it looked like Peter Baker on his Morello Services GSXR might have the measure of reigning champion Phil Bevan on his Bevan Track Days R1. But as soon as the lights went out in the finals Bevan set off like the proverbial scalded cat and Baker didn't get a turn at the front despite lapping consistently in the 58's and 59's. It's was just that Bevan was a 10th or two quicker every lap. Michael Blank took his developing ZX10 Kawasaki to two third placings ahead of Chris Pope. Baker is looking for revenge at Donington.

The Pro Bolt 600cc

After taking the second half of 2011 off, the 2010 Open Newcomers champion Darrel Jones returned to his local circuit and was immediately back on the pace on his GSXR 600 Suzuki. He took two wins ahead of Tom Russell on his R6 on Saturday and fellow Welshman Dean Richards on Sunday. Stephen Bridle grabbed a fine pair of podiums on his Suzuki, in fact he was the early race leader on Saturday before Jones stormed through.

Performance Red Sound of Thunder

Chris Richardson the 2007 Thunder champion has ditched the 675 he has campaigned for the last couple of seasons in favour of his beloved Ducati's. He won that 2007 title on a 999 but now he has a 1098 and is bang back on form and took two wins this weekend. He headed home Dave Manley and his 675 on Saturday with Darren Rumley frustrated in third with a fuel starvation problem due to a blocked fuel filter on his KTM. Sunday saw a straight head to head between Richardson and Rumley. Rumley did all he could but the extra stomp of Richardson's 1098 was just too much to overcome and Darren who is still searching for that elusive first 25 pointer will have to wait until Donington to have another go. It was some consolation though that the weekends tally takes him to the top of the championship table.

MPH Bikes Mini Twins

The Mini Twins consistently gave us some of the best racing all weekend. Saturday saw reigning champion Ben Marsden and class new-boy Dale Thomas hit the front but soon Jody Hayes took up the running. Thomas upped his pace to match the charging Hayes, but the pace proved too much for Marsden and his SV and he was dropped. With three laps to go Thomas tried to push to the front at Hatchets and made a mistake losing 2 seconds in the process. In the remaining laps Thomas chased.... Caught ... and passed the amazed Hayes. The pair swapped places 3 times on the last lap but despite Jody setting his fastest lap on the last lap, Thomas did the same and set the fastest of the race to take the win by just 0.3 of a second. Sunday saw no Ben Marsden come to the grid after his SV went off tune, but it was Thomas that took the lead from the start. Hayes made a poor start but after 8 laps he was right with the young Welshman. Again the race lead went on way then another, and again it was Thomas that took the flag first. Thomas is receiving help from two very quick racers in their own right. Phil Evans and Vance John, they are delighted with the way that young Dale has progressed when you consider he had never ridden a bike until the end of last year.

Pirelli UK GP45

2010 Streetstock Champion Peter Carr took a year out in 2011, but is back this year with a GP45 450 KX Kawasaki. Carr and current class champion Matthew Andrew were rarely more than a few bike lengths apart all weekend, but it was Isle of White resident Carr that came away with a pair of wins. Sunday's race got a little too close in the latter stages and Andrews parted company with his 450 Suzuki at Hatchets Hairpin with one lap to go..... this is one that's going to run all year !

Metzeler and DTR Streetstock

Starting with the 400 streetstocks and Saturday saw an easy first ever race win for Josh Jones on his Pit Stop Garage (Pengam) VFR 400. He repeated his winning ways on Sunday but not until he finally got the better of the experienced Mike Smith having a rare outing on his CBR 400. Luke Collins had a desperate weekend as he suffered water leaks and oils leaks all weekend and was actually dragged off the grid twice after the warm up laps as his ailing ZXR was spilling fluid.

Dean Richard was head and shoulders above the rest in the 700 Streetstocks as he grabbed a pair of wins on his ASR Racing/KT Motorsport R6 at his local Pembrey circuit. David Mitchell took a pair of runner-up spots and heads the series before we head to Donington.

Paul Dawson took an emphatic win in the 1300cc streetstock on Saturday but was unable to make it to the grid on Sunday after destroying his R1 in the Newcomers support race. That left the way open for Simon O'Donnell to take his first

Pre Injection

Reigning champion in the 1300cc Pre Injection class Adam Jeffery took his R1 to a slender win over class new boy Tom Palmer on Saturday, but tables were turned on Sunday as Palmer took the win on his R1 and set a new lap record in the process. The 700cc had Phil Webber on his steel framed CBR 600 take Saturday's win but despite setting a new class lap record on Sunday a poor start meant that he was always chasing Manxman Matt Mylchreest on his CBR and had to settle for second. A pair of third placing though was enough to see Mark Pask jump to the top of this year's championship table.

April UK Newcomers

In the Open Newcomers Dave Manley on his 675 Triumph and Paul Dawson on his Streetstock spec R1 fought every inch of the way until after three changes of lead on the penultimate lap Dawson lost the back of his R1 at Honda Curve leaving the way open for Manley. Dawsons bike was too badly damaged for him to race in the streetstock on Sunday. Dale Thomas the 18 year-old Welshman astonished everyone with his pace in the Mini Twins Newcomers on his SV. He was lapping over 5 seconds a lap quicker than anyone else to finish over 50 seconds clear of second place man Jason Chick. Not surprisingly Thomas set a new class lap record. Meanwhile Will Jones took the 500 class on his ZXR ahead of the very rapid Joseph Thomas on his RS125.

Wayside Garages Rider of the Meeting

For his wins in the Mini Twins and Newcomers in which he set a new class lap record Dale Thomas was awarded the Wayside Garages Performance of the meeting trophy along with £100 from Marcus Bridewell. The 18 year old newcomer has not even been on two wheels for a year yet, and has only done a handful of meetings. He really caught the eye on his all orange T & E Electrical / Fast Rads SV650 Suzuki.

Russ Gardner

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

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Nigel and Julie Eddleston-Dike

Mob : 07774 170235
Tel : 01249 782412
Mail : press@edpphoto.com
Web : www.edpphoto.com

www.ngroadracing.org