



TEAM **JONRAILTON.COM**

NEWSLETTER – June 2009

Snetterton – Focused Events KTM RC8 Super Cup Rounds 7 & 8 – 19th – 21st June 2009

With my exams now over I can now fully concentrate on the remainder of the season and look forward to testing before the meetings after Snetterton.

I couldn't wait to get out on track having not ridden the Fowlers of Bristol KTM RC8 since the last round at Thruxton three weeks ago. I headed out for free practice on Friday afternoon and felt good straight away. Unfortunately Ed Smith had a nasty high-side out of the notorious left hander at the Russells chicane. This stopped the session for a few minutes which gave me the opportunity to discuss the settings. I was happy with how the bike felt initially so we left it. We had gone with settings from Donington Park which we expected to suit Snetterton. We all headed back out and I managed to go consistently quicker posting a time of 1:12.1 which was good enough for 4th.

Qualifying on Saturday morning would start under threatening skies but the track was dry so it was going to be important to get in a quick lap early on just in case the rain started to fall. I got out on track as soon as possible and headed the leader board for the early laps. On my fifth lap I came round Coram to find that somebody had been caught out on the exit of Russell's. This inevitably ruined my lap but it wasn't the only one. Every lap for the next four laps I found that somebody else had come a cropper at the same corner. It was only after the fifth rider had gone down that the red flags came out. The marshals were seen laying cement dust at the exit of Russell's on oil that was probably from one of the crashed bikes. With everything cleared up we were released back onto the track. Unfortunately as I accelerated out of Sears corner onto the back straight I noticed that the clutch was slipping which prevented any further improvement in my lap times. Towards the end of the session rain began to fall which made further practise a waste of time for the other riders. My time of 1:12.4 although slower than free practise was sufficient to put me 6th on the grid.



Photo courtesy
of Barry Clay

With new clutch springs and friction clutch plates the bike was ready for the first race on Saturday. Once again rain threatened as the afternoon wore on and just prior to the final superbike qualifying session rain began to fall. This brought an end to their qualifying which meant we would have to hurry to get the wets in for the start of the race. All the riders went for wets but on the sighting lap the track seemed dry apart from the first two corners, which were very greasy. I got good drive off the line and managed to hold my position into the first corner. With everyone feeling their way around the first lap my championship rival in the under 25 cup Sam Bishop shot off into the lead and built up a healthy lead. I was in the chasing group and felt comfortable and began to pick them off one by one. I moved through into second before having a number of moments! I couldn't break from the group and dropped back three places by the flag to finish 5th my best overall position to date. Sam did a great job to build up such a lead which he nearly gave away as he ran onto the grass coming out of the bomb hole to win by less than a second.

Warm-up for race 2 was early on Sunday morning and the conditions were looking better. I headed out hoping to get comfortable again in the dry conditions. Once again I set the fourth fastest time and was feeling confident for the race. The race would be held in dry conditions which I looked forward to as the times had been close all weekend. I again got off the line reasonably well but I just wasn't assertive enough on the opening lap. I dropped back to ninth but was determined to get up the front. I was pushing hard and started to make progress. I got into fifth pretty quickly but made a mistake and let Dave Heal slip back past



Photo courtesy of Barry Clay

but I immediately tried to make up the position once again. I succeeded a few corners later and set my sights on Kelvin Reilly and Sam Bishop who were a few seconds ahead. By this time I was setting consistently quicker times than I had done all weekend and by some margin. I was closing in on the two riders in front but just failed to get third place at the line by 1.5s to remain in 5th place. As consolation I was pleased with my pace setting the fastest lap of 1m 11s for the under 25 Cup class which was only a few tenths slower than the overall lap record.

I remain second in the Under 25 Cup standings and I am in eighth overall with very little in it. I now look forward to Knockhill, which is a circuit I like and have gone well at in the past.

Jon

Next Month Events

- **Knockhill – Focused Events KTM RC8 Super Cup Rounds 9 &10 – 3rd – 5th July**
- **Brands Hatch GP – MRO Powerbikes Round 6 – 25th – 26th July**

Our partners for the 2009 season include:

- Fowlers of Bristol – KTM RC8
- Own brand Weise leathers and gloves and HJC Helmets.
- Bohn Body Armor – Body protection.
- RS Workshop Equipment.
- TBA – Engine protection.
- Protective Industrial Coatings Ltd
- Cambridge Coring and Flooring Ltd
- Huntingdon Business Centre
- Splash Motorcycles for the paintwork.
- Ducks Cross Racing Team backed by Carrino Flooring Ltd
- TechSpec – Gripster grip pads - www.techspec-usa.com
- SES - Rearsets
- Grant L. Wagstaff Building Contractor
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