



Darvill Racing
 Parkgate House
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 Thursday 13th May 2010

Thundersprint 2010

The hardest part of writing a press release I find is the first paragraph; there is pressure of attempting to setup the framework for the subsequent information and to get you engaged in what is to come. However with the Thundersprint the reverse is true, this event is so unique and well loved that it tingles the spine thinking about it!

A bold statement I know, but here are some of the facts:

- Held over a weekend annually in May
- It regularly attracts over 130,000 attendees (yes that is correct)
- It is a sprint with only one bike on the track at any one time
- There are no noise regulations; therefore the Public have the opportunity to fully appreciate the sights, sounds and smells of racing as it ought to be!
- Its free for the public, giving unparalleled access to riders, machinery and Stars
- It attracts a very diverse demographic with many high net-worth individuals included within this.
- This is in its eleventh year (and we have been part of this for the last five)



This year we chose to enter the Darvill Endurance Spondon into the Classic Unlimited category, a bit risky as this course is better suited to nimble, light motorbikes with a low centre of gravity... but we thought it would be a giggle and a chance to 'show' the bike to a wider audience.

Saturday:

The weather wasn't the best, but this didn't dampen the spirits and the Bike show was its usual busy self with an amazing display of exotic machinery and trade stands. Small Red Gorilla Photography were the





official Team covering the event (good for us obviously) and they set about the laborious task of covering the brief laid-down by Frank (and the Thundersprint Team).

Saturday is always a good chance to relax and with Rob riding in this event for the first time it gave him the opportunity to absorb the atmosphere (even taking in a band later that evening).

Sunday:

The day begins at 04:45, you need to be up and ready and on site by 05:45 (Paddock opens at 06:00) as the queues are tremendous, in effect the racing aspect of this is all held on one day, and therefore cannot be setup in advance (it is on Council land, actually a big car park with specialist road surface).

You arrive, have a scrum for a position in the paddock, get setup and then have to sign-on, get your equipment checked and verified, get the bike scrutineered and walk the course before 08:30 (for riders briefing). It sounds awful and disorganised, far from it... after this many events it all runs smoothly.

Next is a photo call with the 'Stars' and 'Celebrities' this year the following people were part of the main event:

- Jim Redman MBE (6 times World Champion)
- Sammy Miller
- Chris Walker (British and World Superbike Star)
- Steve Parrish (ex GP star and BBC Sport commentator)
- Danny Webb (current GP Star)

But to name a few

Then we begin practice with 3 runs per motorbike to allow you to familiarise yourself with the course.

Rob duly began his first run; it was ok but showed that the bike was defiantly NOT meant to be sprinted..! However, once he realised what needed to be done and how to get the best from the bike we found ourselves in 2nd position after practice... impressive indeed...!





When everyone has completed their runs there is a break for lunch after which there is a flyby undertaken by an original Spitfire, a spectacle in itself.

Next the Thundersprint Cavalcade begins, this is open to all types of motorbikes (including race machines) and the streets of Northwich are closed and lined four-deep with spectators whilst hundreds of machines conduct two-laps of the town, it is VERY impressive.

So on to the racing...

This is split into race categories starting with the Master Class (for the Motorcycle Stars), then the Motorcycling Personalities (TV Stars etcetera) then the race bikes split into categories separated by engine size and year.

Rob performed miracles as the lap times were being steadily reduced, and in true racing fashion pulled out all the stops on the last lap to secure us a 2nd place in the class... WHAT an achievement...!!!

Then as quick as it all started it is all over and it is time to receive awards and trophies for those of us lucky enough to gain a podium.

It is difficult to describe the day, it happens at lightning speed, surrounded by people (and I mean thousands of people and includes an open pit which makes life interesting), its noisy and the 'vibe' of the event is amazing, the best thing to do is to actually experience it as there truly isn't anything like this in the Biking world.

We love the event; it has the right mix of racing and fun coupled with the opportunity to maximise on marketing opportunities for our sponsors and our Team, it is covered by Motors TV (that will be televised later in the year on Sky TV and for which we were interviewed), all the major Motorcycling Magazines and Publications are in attendance (Classic Racer, Fast Bikes, MCN etcetera) and there are over 130,000 people... it really is **THAT** good...!!!





What's next....

Well the season is progressing well, with a top-ten finish at the Bol d'Or Classic, mixed results in the Thunderbike Series (but we are still in the mix and finishing) and now a 2nd at the Thundersprint.

I have the report on Pembry to deliver and is the next round at Brands Hatch (weekend of 15th & 16th May) so I will amalgamate these two and update you shortly.

We have the regulations and entry form for the 6hr Classic event in Cartagena (Spain) in September, and are very busy on the hunt for additional support to make it to this event, we are nearly there and I hope to have some exciting news on this in the near future.

Yours Sincerely,

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Team Principal



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