

Bountiful Brands....

With only three rounds of the Bonham's sponsored Lansdowne Classic series left to contend we found ourselves returning to Brands Hatch, this time we were to race the Indy circuit. The weather has been amazingly kind to us this year and this weekend was no exception. Andy Molnar kindly allowed us to try the 'No1' bike for this meeting. Now the Indy circuit isn't a power circuit and therefore the outright speed the #1 bike has couldn't be fully utilised, that said it would be interesting to see what difference we could make with different equipment.

Saturday:

Toffa instantly gelled with the bike and qualifying saw us achieve 2nd on the grid just 0.145 seconds of Steve Tomes. Toffa was in 'the groove' and eager to prove what can be done with the right machinery!

Race 1:

As the flag dropped Toffa was off, leading into the first corner followed by Steve Tomes, instantly the pair left the rest of the other riders to get on with their own race as the disappeared off into the distance. The next nine laps saw Toffa and Steve swapping places at every corner, a proper battle ensued right up to the finish line with Steve grabbing the first win of the meeting by 0.003 second!



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Race (10 Laps) started at 12:02:09

Pos	No.	Name	C	Bike	Laps	Total Tm	Diff	Avg. Speed	Best Tm	Lap	Lap Speed
1	4	Steve Tomes		Norton Manx 499	10	9:15.582		77.666	54.673	4	78.923
2	42	Chris Firmin		Norton Manx 499	10	9:15.585	0.003	77.665	54.593	5	79.039
3	5	Chris Palmer		Matchless 500	10	9:20.918	5.336	76.927	54.799	4	78.742
4	29	Luke Nolton		Norton Manx 499	10	9:21.186	5.604	76.890	54.919	4	78.570
5	7	Duncan Fitchett		Norton Manx 500	10	9:25.962	10.380	76.241	55.307	4	78.018

The scene was set for a cracking weekend's racing...



Race 2

The second race of the day was a repeat of the morning's activities with Toffa and Steve leaving the training pack to fight out their own race. Toffa over shot a corner leaving Steve to gap him by 2.175 seconds to the flag. However the following three riders were bunched together 3 seconds back, behind them there was a gap of 11 seconds to the next rider with the pack behind him a further 12 seconds back. I hope this conveys just how fast Toffa and Steve were compared to the competition.

Saturday evening was perfect, little in the way of any wind with almost Mediterranean weather. The smell of BBQ's and the dulcet tones of generators, lovely food and great company. Racing is truly an amazing experience.

Sunday

We awoke to another perfect day; with little preparation to do we kicked our heels back and awaited the first race

Race 1

I think that Toffa had a couple of Red Bull's before the race as off the line he left everyone standing. Steve Tomes kept within touching distance of him but was getting pressure from #29 Luke Notton and #68 Mike Russell. With the pair hot on his heels Steve got his head down passed Toffa on lap 3, this was short lived as Toffa regained the lead and held this until lap 7 where Steve was able to take the lead again. Toffa, closely followed by Luke and Mike then remained in these positions until the finish to secure Toffa's third 2nd place of the meeting.

Race 2

The final race of the meeting and Toffa was fully pumped-up for this one. Armed with a new rear tyre and the scent of a victory he came up to the front row. As the flag dropped Steve Tomes took the lead. Chris Palmer was able to take the lead into lap 2 however Toffa had the 'bit between his teeth' and came hurtling past both Chris and Steve to take the lead.

Toffa planted his head on the large Manx GP tank and kept it there
THE FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON.... Finally....!



500cc BONHAMS BRITISH HISTORIC GP CHAMPIONSHIP

2011 Brands Hatch

NEXT

Position	Riding number	Rider	Points
1st	29	Luke Notton	235
2nd	4	Steve Tomes	213
3rd	68	Mike Russell	184
4th	7	Duncan Fitchett	183
5th	42	Chris Firmin	159
6th	5	Chris Palmer	158
7th	1	Glen English	135.5
8th	17	Stuart Tonge	126
9th	21	Andy Reynolds	80
10th	27	Derek Bunning	60
11th	67	Gordon Russell	57
12th	16	Roger Munsey	38
13th=	19	Vanni Jenson	32

The points scoring system for the Lansdowne is a complicated affair, bikes with 18" wheels score fewer points than those with 19" wheels (along with other 'handicaps) so even with 3x 2nd places and a 1st we only move back into 5th.

We fitted Toffa with a bullet HD Cam (from DogCam) and the footage of this is currently being edited



to remove the CMOS wobble that the Manx Norton induces, I will let you know when these will be available via YouTube on the Small Red Gorilla page.

The penultimate round of the Championship is at Cadwell Park on the weekend of the 13th & 14th August, followed by the last round at Castle Combe on the 3rd September closely followed by the Bol d'Or Classic at Magny Cours on the 8th/9th & 10th September.

Many Thanks to:

- Andy Molnar and Molnar Manx
- Race Line Photography
- Small Red Gorilla
- DogCam



Yours Sincerely,

Alex Aitchison
Team Principal

Darvill Racing

Phone: +44(0)7624 433 594

Email: alex@darvillracing.co.uk

Web: <http://www.darvillracing.co.uk>

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