



Darvill Racing
Parkgate House
Victoria Road
Castletown
Isle of Man
IM9 1EN
30th April 2012

Factors.....

(fac•tor/'faktər/ Noun: A circumstance, fact, or influence that contributes to a result or outcome)

When you see a bike and rider whizzing round a circuit this is the accumulation of hours of preparation and some brain-draining analysis on a million-and-one factors.

In order to race we have to strip and rebuild the bikes making sure we set them up for the circuit that they will be competing at next. Then we need to test that everything is 100% ready for the race, now this can take in excess of 50hrs per bike (depending on what is required).

Next up is the fractious monitoring of the weather, now this is a personal 'nightmare' for me and it becomes somewhat of an obsession on the lead-up to the race meeting. We have some sophisticated 'feeds' that give us Doppler short and long term radar information coupled with some very accurate wind forecasts to hopefully give us a clear picture of the impending conditions.



So why mention all of this? Well the second round of the ACU/Sorrymate.com National Endurance Series saw us return to Snetterton for the 300 circuit and, no matter how much we reviewed the data this was going to be a REALLY wet meeting!

Friday:

Free practice on Friday morning was a total washout; the track was half wet and half dry and with the number of incidents and the risk of wasting rain tires for no reason meant we opted to sit this out. For the afternoon we posted some laps in drying conditions to ensure that the bikes were setup correctly and then proceeded to hide from the increasingly worrying weather.

Saturday:

Snetterton circuit was dry but cloudy and windy as we polished-off breakfast; Saturday was going to be busy with Qualifying for the 3hr Endurance race (plus the race) and qualification for the two MotoGrande 600cc races (plus the races).





Les has now getting settled into the bikes and with the increased track time of competing in the Parkitt MotoGrande races and the ACU/Sorrymate.com National Endurance Series we have been getting lots of data to enable us to optimally setup the bike to match Les's riding style.



Qualification for the MotoGrande races was rather fraught with a large field (34 bikes) and this caused disruptions to each of Les's 'hot laps', thats racing and we remained out of trouble qualifying in 19th with a best lap of 2:15.627

Race 1:

Not the best start with a lot of traffic for Les to navigate, the conditions were not great but Les fought hard and was able to bring her home in P17.

It was really bunched with a second separating P14 - P17!

Race 2:

Les was boxed in from the start, but amazingly Les has was able to progress from 33rd to 14th within two laps, he made steady progress up to 11th place but with a big gap to the next rider. Les continued this good form with only 4 hundredths from 10th position and he (and the 10th place rider) were closing in on 9th place having taken 3 seconds out on the previous lap. On lap 6th he ran wide, and went back to 13th, this was going to be a close finish and unfortunately he was pipped at the line, finishing 14th with another really close race with 2 seconds between 14th and 10th, great riding Les!

ACU/Sorrymate.com National Endurance:

This mixed class series sees the likes of Keith Flint (from the band Prodigy) and his Team on board Factory Tyco Suzuki machinery taking this series VERY seriously!

We qualified mid pack but didn't get the best start however in an endurance race its all about consistency and teamwork! I have taken extracts of our live Facebook and Twitter feeds to give you an idea of how the race panned-out:





00:30:00

Thirty minutes into the 3hr race and after a shaky start we have gone from 32nd to 15th. Getting into a groove following our good friend Grant Wagstaff, just going to tail him and let him drag us along saving the tyres.
#enduranceracingisthebest



00:45:00

45mins done, sitting in 16th

01:00:00

1hr completed, currently in 14th

01:15:00

1hr 15mins into the race and we are in 9th!

01:30:00

Half race distance, in P16, Come on Les

02:00:00

That's it, 1hr to go and up to P10!!!

02:15:00

45 minutes remaining and we are in P11

02:30:00

30mins remaining and we are in the Top Ten!

02:40:00

20 mins remaining and we are still in P10 with a 1-lap buffer...

Come-on Les....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

1 Min penalty for speeding in the pit lane.....

02:51:00

Still in P10 with 9mins to go

No idea where we are within our class???

#nonailsleft!

Up to 9th.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

YOU BEAUTY

Think Les is angry about the penalty, just posted his fastest lap!!!

Think we have 9th..?





03:00:00

Chequered Flag

3hrs, 62 laps, 9th place (subject to clarification) 100% happy

Cant wait to find out where we finished in our class???

As we found out we had actually finished in 3rd place (in class) and given the atrocious conditions (3 sets of leathers changed and everyone sporting sniffles) we could not have been happier.



However no rest for the wicked Les still had 2 600cc races to run on Sunday and had used up a whole season's allocation of rain tyres!

Sunday

Qualifying in the morning was held for the 2x 10 lap Parkitt MotoGrande 600 races.

Qualifying went well, boosted after yesterday's podium seeing Les qualify in 10th posting a fastest lap of 02:09.851 which was 7 seconds quicker than the previous day.

Race 3

With only two opportunities for people to gain podium places remaining, the grid was set for a thrilling race. From the start Les held his position remaining in 10th until he was passed on the last lap having to settle for 11th. A really solid race and he is now getting used to the 600 and this can only be positive for the remainder of the season.

Race4

We were all ready for the final race of the day, bikes prepped and rider pumped.

We were all longing for another podium; however the main aim is to bring her home with some points and no mishaps. Lap 1 and Les is gets boxed in having to defend 13th but with less than a second to 8th its REALLY close racing.

Lap after lap the positions from 8th to 17th were swapping continually causing havoc for the pit board team. At half race distance Les was in P16 with the 'Hurry Up' message being displayed.

Les got his head down and pushed as hard finally claiming 14th at the line - Well done Les!





Summary:



A really good weekend given the horrendous conditions with progress at each race. The plan to use the ACU/Sorrymate.com National Endurance Series as a training platform for the 2012 Manx Grand Prix appears to be the correct one with Les getting familiar with riding the 600cc SuperStock Honda for extended periods.

Les will be back on the Isle of Man for 3 more test sessions before it's the real thing in August, we are all excited about returning to the Mountain Course and have also been invited to participate in the Parade Lap so there will be

plenty of opportunities to showcase the Team, riders and our machinery!

Next meetings:

- May 6th – 7th Cadwell Park - CRMC – Chris ‘Toffa’ Firmin
- May 26th – June 10th – TT 2012 – Isle of Man – Les Liney & Alex Aitchison (Fact Finding)
- June 4th – 5th Oulton Park – BMCRC – Rob Wittey - Minitwins
- June 4th – 5th Oulton Park – BMCRC – Chris ‘Toffa’ Firmin – Classic

Thank you to all our sponsors for your continued support and to Barry Clay for braving the Snetterton weather for us to take these photos!

I would like to thank all our sponsors for making this possible without whom we would be sat at home wishing we weren't!

Yours Sincerely,

Alex Aitchison
Team Principal



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