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Copacetic Cadwell & A Resplendent Road Test

copacetic \koh-puh-SET-ik\ *adjective*: Very satisfactory; fine. **re-splend-ent** \ri-splen-duhnt\ *adjective* Shining brilliantly; gleaming; splendid

CRMC Cadwell Park May 2012 & Isle of Man Road Test & BHR Cadwell Park... again!

Where does the time go...? As I furiously pound the keyboard, watching the clock and wishing that I could clone myself in order to get everything done I marvel at the old adage that 'Time flies when you're having fun'. This should have been the first in three reports covering individual events but, as is the way of things, I have run out of time and with the Pre-TT Classic at the Billown Circuit (Southern 100 course) here on the Isle of Man just one day away and the 2012 TT beginning the following day I am having to condense this into one report.



CRMC Cadwell

Chris 'Toffa' Firmin once again onboard the Molnar Manx Norton's, this time at Cadwell Park in Lincolnshire. Toffa would be in action on the Sunday and Monday of the early Bank Holiday weekend here in the United Kingdom.

Toffa's journey began on Saturday with the long and somewhat arduous journey northward from his Buckinghamshire home in somewhat less than ideal weather (raining and cold once again). After an uneventful trip he arrived at the paddock and setup ready for the practice, qualification and 10 short circuit races over the next couple of days.



Overnight the temperature plummeted with a ground frost very evident as the kettle fired up and the coffee was brewing early on Sunday morning. Not deterred the bikes were prepared, scrutineered and ready for action.

Qualification went well with good lap times but the weather wasn't the best, as usual the sidecars were leaving oil all over the track, that coupled with bad weather meant that there were going to be



cancellations... shame

The weekend went without incident (thankfully and all due to Toffa's skill on/in anything with wheels) coming away with 4 wins and 3 second places.... And leading the championship, good work indeed.

Isle of Man Road Test

Whilst Toffa was braving the weather in Lincolnshire Les was back on the 'Rock' for another 5 day test. With thanks to Fly-maybe (as we know them) the test did not start as expected. The weather was fantastic on Friday afternoon, I made my way to the Airport to collect Les arrived in plenty of time at Luton Airport, made his way to check in desk only to discover that Flybe had moved his flight to an early time???



So they apologised profusely and changed his flight to Saturday evening, which means we had lost a complete day... GUTTED.

We had an early start on Sunday with a photo shoot on the TT course beginning at 06:00 at the Grandstand, as you can see from the photos we maximised on the open roads and little traffic; mind you it was very cold!

After the photo shoot Les returned to his schedule, completing lap after lap after lap. The progress Les is making is starting to plateau with the course now memorised we are starting to look at where we can make little changes to smooth-out the ride, what we now need is the 'Closed Roads' signs in order to take the right lines.



Next stop is the TT when Les will be back over to work on pit stops and to take advantage of the one-way traffic over the mountain (Hairpin to The Creg Ny Baa) to take the racing line and master that section.

The plan still remains to compete in a few Manx GP's getting the experience and obtaining a competitive lap time in order to step up to the TT, a long way off at this point but we are moving very positively towards making this a reality.



BHR Cadwell

Back again on the arduous journey to Cadwell Park, this was to be the next round of the British Historic Racing series with Toffa on board a Molnar Manx 500cc. Competing in the 500cc class and Open Class (any cc) but this was just for fun as any points would not count in the championship.

It was a VERY wet practice and qualification was just the same... déjà vu

Both race days would see two 500cc races and two Unlimited races



Saturday:

Toffa was in fine form leading from the front in both 500cc races and setting a new lap record in his two wins. This continued in the Unlimited Class races but being pushed hard by Tim Wooley he managed to win both races... and on a 500, very satisfying

Sunday:

All to play for over the last 4 races, the sessions proved to have both wet and dry sections and due to the low ambient temperatures he was suffering with a misting visor (we will be looking into what we can do with this).

Toffa once again dominated the 500cc races winning both comfortably. The Unlimited Class was again hard fought and he won both races (just) and this was from 39th on the grid and with another lap record.... WOW Toffa can really ride them there motorcycles!!!

Many thanks to everyone for making this possible, our Sponsors whom without their help we couldn't do this, Steve Babb for the photo shoot, our wives and partners for putting up with us and to all our followers and supporters.



Next up:

- The Pre-TT Classic and 2012 TT races – Les and I will be soaking up the atmosphere
- BMCRC – Outon Park 4th & 5th June – Rob will be flying solo in the next round of the Minitwin Championships
- BHR – Snetterton 16th & 17th June – Toffa back on the classic Nortons
- ACU/Sorrymate.com National Endurance Series – Oulton Park – Les back in the 600 SuperStock saddle for the next 3hr endurance race

Yours Sincerely,

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