



Parkgate House  
Victoria Road  
Castletown  
Isle of Man  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014

Season ramps up, new rubber and wins in the bag.....

With our season moving into full swing our next event would be the ARA 'Double-Header' weekend encapsulating rounds two and three of the championship.

With Chris 'Fozzy' Foster still recovering we would be focusing on Keith 'Keef' Mackay's endeavours on our developing 1978 Darvill Kawasaki Z1R. It was cold, very, very cold..... I will leave it to Keef to tell you in his own words:

*"The Darvill Racing team had a great weekend at the Andreas Racing Association's 2 day meeting at Jurby, 11th and 12th April. We're competing in the 1300cc Classics with a Kawasaki Z1-R and had 2 races each day. Conditions Saturday were damp but drying, and bitterly cold. We had a few suspension problems in practice, and qualified well back alas but we were still quickest of our class. The Classics are gridded with the Supertwins, so we had some fast competitors to play with!"*



*Race 1 resulted in a class win but somewhat disappointing lap times. We made a few changes to the suspension for race 2, and scored another win with improved times. Sunday was dry and not quite so cold... the rider was capable of bending over the bike after only a couple of coffees!! All our work on the suspension paid off with a much improved qualification time, alas the improved handling showed a new problem... we were able to brake so hard that the forks were now*



*bottoming out and the mudguard was fouling on the oil cooler!! A little more air in the forks cured that, and in race 1 we scored another class win with again improved lap times.*

*Race 2 started even better; with the bike now handling really well we were really making progress up the field when unfortunately, the battery ran flat and lack of sparks forced us to pull me in.*

*So that's currently 5 wins from 6 starts... and as by the end of Sunday we were the only classic left running to make the start we can still say we're unbeaten!! It would be nice to have a little more competition in the Classics but we have the Pre-TT Classic on the Southern 100 course to look forward to when we have to run against the best in the world!*

*We continue to be hugely impressed with the performance of the Conti RoadAttack CR tyres... a full test day and 6 races in and they're still gripping amazingly well and definitely have another meeting left in them! On a personal note I was also thankful for the Forcefield base layer clothing which probably prevented a severe dose of frostbite!! Our sponsors The Donut Factory were also essential in keeping the team thawed out with a steady flow of lovely hot coffee. Thanks also to all the Andreas club officials and marshals."*

#### **Continental Photo shoot.**

We are honoured to have formed a partnership with Conti Tyres, I know we keep 'banging on' about how good they really are, but they are THAT good, so good in fact that all our bikes will be using Conti rubber for the 2014 season. As part of our partnership with Conti we arranged a photo shoot down by the sea on what turned out to be the best day of the year, using our Darvill Kawasaki we spent the afternoon on the beach, it's a dog's life isn't it!

Keep your eyes peeled for these pictures popping up all over the place (there is a clue there ;o)



## Summary

The development of our Darvill Kawasaki is going well, we have commissioned a set of forks complete with RaceTech internals replacing the rebuilt Marzocchi's , these along with a new custom steering dampener will allow us to make the next leap forward in our development plan. Since the last round we have fitted a new AP Racing master cylinder, this will significantly improve the braking capability however we have new bespoke front discs and rotors to fit and new AP Callipers which (when the right brackets have been fabricated) will deliver first class stopping power. After this we are looking at options for retro fitting a generator for the mountain circuit.

Our next meeting will be May 11th at the Jurby Motordrome on the Isle of Man.

Thanks to all our sponsors whom without we wouldn't be able to do this.

Photos by Andrea Hawley and Pistonlife.



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Best Regards,

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