



**RACE REPORT  
ROUND SEVEN  
BRITISH SUPERMOTO CHAMPIONSHIP  
TEESSIDE AUTODROME  
AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2013**

The DCR team travelled to the fantastic Teesside Autodrome facility, situated in the center of Middlesbrough opposite the Middlesbrough Riverside football stadium. We had high expectations for the weekend, as this is Davey Todd's local track which he knows very well.

**450 Elite Qualifying**

Davey went out and as expected set pole time, beating European Championship leader Malachi Mitchell-Thomas who was taking part in a one off ride with his team mates from the SHR team. Lewis Cornish unusually was not on form and would only start from the third row of the grid.

**Race 1**

This was a good close race, Davey was in the mix and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> to Chris Hodgson and Malachi Mitchell-Thomas. Lewis, after crashing was struggled to make it into the top ten and still off his normal pace.

**Race 2**

Chris Hodgson took the holeshot but Davey bogged the bike on the line and was run into by another rider. He was lucky not to get hurt and re-started charging back through the field. At about half distance, Davey made the pass after pass and moved into 2<sup>nd</sup> place, this was how they stayed to the flag. Meanwhile Richard "Rude Boy" Blakeman was battling his way from a bad start through the pack and made it up to a well deserved 3<sup>rd</sup>. Concern was being shown for Lewis as it was clear he was struggling to demonstrate his normal front running pace.

**Race 3**

The rain started to fall heavily but it was again a titanic battle at the front between Chris and Davey. Both riders pulled well clear from the rest of the field and this is how they stayed to the finish. Davey came off very frustrated as he felt he had the pace to run faster, but couldn't find a way to pass the experienced Cumbrian. Lewis however asked just before the start if I could soften his suspension to cope better with the wet conditions. To my horror all the suspension was already in the softest positions, so Lewis went out and coped better with the wet conditions and managed to finish 5<sup>th</sup>. On returning to the pits and speaking to Lewis, he confirmed he had not altered the settings from his last ride in Latvia, where he had performed extremely well and had taken several wins. Therefore the reasoning behind his difficulties to keep with the front runners. This could only bring us to the conclusion that his bike had been tampered with before racing started... !

**Sunday Open Elite Qualifying**

The sun was shining and all riders were up for a good days racing. Just before qualifying we were given the news that the track was going to be run in the opposite direction, nullifying any home advantage Davey would have had. Mitchell Thomas took pole narrowly from Hodgson and Davey was 3<sup>rd</sup> with only half a second covering all three. Lewis on the other hand after I had set his suspension to the base setting went out and put in a much improved second row grid position.

**Race 1**

Even though the track was now running the other direction, Davey was determined to put on a good show for his home crowd. Unfortunately at the first corner he got hit by another rider and went onto the grass to avoid a rider who crashed in front of him. Lewis also got caught up in this but would re start in front of Davey. Both riders charged through the field, Lewis made a mistake while trying to pass Cumbrian rider Dale O'Connor and took them both down, allowing Davey through to continue his charge through the field to finish 4<sup>th</sup>. Lewis and Dale both re-mounted and finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> respectively. Lewis said he was much happier with the bike but that it had been his fault completely for both him and Dale going down.

## Race 2

Prior to race 2 Chris Cox did some more fine tuning on Lewis' suspension. At the start normal service was resumed with the top three in the Championship taking the lead, Hodgson followed by Todd then Cornish. At the halfway stage Lewis dropped off the pace a little and the lead changed a couple of times between Chris and Davey but Chris managed to hold it to the flag for a narrow win. Lewis finished 3rd followed by a hard charging Richard Blakeman.

## Race 3

Davey made a rare mistake and crashed whilst dicing with Hodgson and Mitchell-Thomas for the lead. He bent his gear lever in the process making it so he was unable to change gears. Lewis didn't get the best of starts but managed to charge through to 5<sup>th</sup> at the line but this was enough to give him 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall on the day.

## Summary

Personally it was a very strange weekend, having had somebody tamper with Lewis' bike and then with the track being changed to the other direction at short notice. It was a track we thought would be a banker for Davey, but as he had never rode it that way round before, this wasn't the case. As I always say in these situations though, it is the same for everybody.

With two rounds to go it is still all to play for in the Championship. On the flipside we came away from the weekend knowing that both our riders had been selected to represent Great Britain in the upcoming Supermoto of Nations to be held in Bulgaria.

Many thanks to all the team and especially to Chris Cox for his help with Lewis' suspension. Big thanks to Davey's Granddad Alan for all his hard work on Davey's bike and for keeping me supplied with tea!

As always our thanks to all the sponsors and supporters for their continued help this year.



Team DCR / NPS team mates Lewis Cornish and Davey Todd at Teeside

