

DCR Dave Clarke Racing

HUSABERG 4 STROKE FORCE

Race Report for the final round of the British Supermoto Championship At Silverstone on 23rd September 2007

The last round of the British Championship at the famous Silverstone circuit would prove to be harder work than any of the other British Championship rounds due to the fact that all the riders and teams would only be allowed access to the circuit on Saturday, the day of qualifying. This would mean having to leave the DCR workshops at 5.30am on Saturday, to get there in time for technical control. I myself would have to leave a little earlier than this, as I had to pick team rider Greg Kinsella up from the Birkenhead ferry from Dublin at 6am. We then traveled down to meet the team who had traveled separately.

This weekend was one of mixed emotions, on a happy note we would be joined by new team rider Carl Shield who had just recovered from his injuries sustained at the Three Sisters in June and wanted to join the team for the last round. On a sad note, it was an end of an era as long serving team rider Andy Mitchell would be leaving the team and this would be his last ride for the DCR team.



Qualifying

Greg was 8th in qualifying, Carl was 11th and Andy 12th with all riders finding it hard to cope with the varying track surfaces.

Race 1

Andy made the best start running in 9th place, Greg dropped back several places, and Carl made a bad start and would have to claw his way back through the pack. Greg was finding it hard work as we had both decided that the medium compound tyres would be the better choice for the race, but this did not prove to be correct. As the skies clouded over, the temperature dropped and the tyres just did not work in these conditions. Greg finished in 10th, Andy 14th and Carl 15th.

Race 2

Carl made the best start and was running in 8th place and looked really good, gaining place after place. Greg after changing to soft compound tyres, had a bad start but was also coming through the field well, Andy was running two places behind Carl and all three looked to be going well.

Then Carl at the end of the start and finish straight made a clean pass on KTM rider David Hartley, who then in the next corner rammed into Carl, taking Carl and himself into the concrete wall. Andy was quick to take evasive action, but Greg caught his teammates back wheel and he also went down. Andy carried on to finish 11th, having lost a couple of places in the melee. Carl retired as he hurt his foot and was struggling to stand. Greg also retired, as he was unable to start his bike.

Race 3

Due to the fact that Greg and Carl did not finish the second race, they would both have to start this race from the back of the grid. Carl really shouldn't have started this race as he was in a great deal of discomfort from his injury in race 2. Carl didn't get where he is today by giving up and was determined to complete the day! Andy made a good start and was running about 8th place but dropped back to 13th at the finish. Carl managed to work his way through to finish just behind Andy in 14th. Greg on the other hand was tearing through the field and would make his way up to 8th and was lapping in 1min 8secs, the same as the leaders. Unfortunately he clipped his handlebars on one of the many wagon tyres marking the track and crashed. He remounted and had it all to do again; he worked his way back up to 11th at the flag.



Summary

Greg managed to gain 6th overall in the final championship standings, to add to his Irish championship victory that he had taken convincingly two weeks previously.

It was nice to see Carl rejoin the team and we really look forward to working together next year, as he will remain a DCR team rider for the 2008 season.

At the end of the day as Andy and I posed for pictures with the press both of us had a lump in our throats as we reflected on the time we have spent racing together. Six years is a long time in racing terms and no other team and rider have been together for this length of time in British Supermoto. All the things we have achieved and the fun we have had doing this will always be remembered with fondness, but all good things must come to an end and I can honestly say that the time we have spent together has been a pleasure. We will remain the best of friends and all of us at DCR wish Andy all the best for the future.

I personally feel that the DCR team this year did not achieve what they were capable of in the British Championship, although they had some good individual race results. Greg did win the Irish Championship very convincingly and became the rider to win back-to-back Irish Championships, another first for DCR and another national title to add to the DCR list.

Thanks to all our sponsors this year, we really appreciate your help, as to race and compete at top level is impossible without good sponsors. Thanks to Maria Garcia for all her help throughout the year, also to mechanic Andy Fawcett, to Alex Wignall, to Mark Jackson and to the Jackson brothers for bringing their Millard race truck to the last two rounds for us to use. We will be at Cadwell Park on 4th November for the last round of the Norasport Championship.

