



Race Report for the 4th round of the British Supermoto Championship at the Teesside Autodrome, Middleborough on Sunday 15th July 2007

The fourth round of the British Supermoto Championship took place in the North East at the great Teesside facility in Middleborough. It is a really good little circuit with good viewing for spectators and a great little café to boot. Preparations and the journey there had been uneventful by DCR standards. On Saturday, team mechanic Andy Fawcett met wheel builder Mark Willis and they traveled to the circuit to look after team riders Andy Mitchell and Greg Kinsella. Due to work commitments I did not join them until Saturday evening. Practice went well, both riders coming to terms with the track, which kept being changed by the organisers.

Qualifying

With so many riders on this tight track, getting a clear fast lap was virtually impossible. As a result, there were a few surprise results in qualifying. The DCR team managed 5th with Greg and Andy, who never got a clear run was 10th and would have to start from the third row.

Sunday

On Sunday, it was out of bed at 8am to switch on the TV for the weather forecast, which gave a bright morning and rain later and for once they were on the button. Arriving at the track, the sun was out and it was T-shirt weather, everybody said full slicks would be the order of the day. I replied that the big hipped girl off the BBC said it would rain later, and I have never known those hips to be wrong! Free practice went without any drama and both riders looked good.

Race 1

Greg started ok and was running in 5th, but dropped back to 6th. Andy on the other hand charged through to 7th then passed Greg, then KTM rider Ady Smith. He was making ground and third place when he made a mistake on the off road section, which allowed Ady Smith back past and then a great race between these two riders followed, the best one of this race.



Andy finished 4th and was very pleased with his performance. Greg on the other hand was struggling more so on the off road section and he finally dropped back to 8th place at the flag. He couldn't put his finger on what was going wrong as he felt to be trying hard but going backwards. Time for DCR to put his team managers point of view forward, I told him he looked good on the tarmac but absolutely s**t on the dirt section. He was standing up when he should be sitting down and vice versa, more so on the second dirt section. Greg took on board my advice and was willing to try anything to improve his results.

Race 2

While in the waiting zone for the start of the second race it started to rain (the big hipped girl from the BBC was true to her word), so there would be a ten minute delay to the start to allow the riders and mechanics to change wheels for full wet tyres at the start. Andy started well but this time it was his turn to struggle and was passed by a couple of riders. Greg on the other hand was reveling in the wet conditions and after our team talk was looking good on the off road section and instead of losing time here was actually making up time. This allowed him to get into positions to make passes stick, he was challenging for a podium place and after a great battle with Ady Smith he finished 4th. Andy, to make matters worse tweaked his knee on the off road section and dropped back to 6th.

Race 3

Andy decided not to take part in the third race, not wanting to damage his knee more and save himself for the next round at Three Sisters in two weeks time. Greg would start from the front row but did not get the best start, dropping back to 8th. Again, as he was doing better on the off road section he started to pass rider after rider and make his way up to 4th. At this point 3rd place rider Ady Smith was along way in front but somehow Greg managed to pull that lead back, just a bit too late to mount a serious challenge and would again finish 4th.

Summary

It was a nice trip up the North East and a nice track also. It was nice also to see Carl Shield up and about after his big crash at Three Sisters, all the team are looking forward to working with Carl when he is fully fit and we all wish him a speedy recovery. Thanks to mechanics Andy Fawcett and Chris Hartley and wheel builder Mark Willis for all their help at the weekend. Once again thanks to all our sponsors, their support is really appreciated. We all can't wait for the next round at the UK's Supermoto ancestral home, the Three Sisters circuit in Wigan on July 28th and 29th, come down and join us there for a cup of Lancashire tea!

