

DCR Dave Clarke Racing

HUSABERG 4 STROKE FORCE

LYDD – BRITISH SUPERMOTO CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 2

Preparation for Round 2 at the British Supermoto round at Lydd went well with all bikes prepped and ready by Wednesday, all loaded up ready to roll for 10 o'clock Friday morning. Lydd is situated between Dover and Hastings and is our longest journey to a race in the U.K. Joining me on the long trip down was team mechanic Andy Fawcett and team co-ordinator, Maria Garcia, who flew in from Dublin early Friday, checking in at the airport at 4a.m. it was going to be a long day!

After an hours delay, we got onto the lovely M6 at 11 o'clock and made our way down to Lydd stopping off to deliver an engine to Dave Lippet and a bike to Dominic Durkeen, finally arriving at Lydd at 5.30, and for the first time ever, arriving at the track before team rider Andy Mitchell, much to his surprise! Our other team rider, Greg Kinsella was having a nightmare! Sailing from Dublin, he arrived at Holyhead at 2 p.m., and then got caught in all the Bank Holiday traffic around Birmingham. Then, to top it all, had the front tyre blow out on the race truck taking the brake line with it. Blocking off the brake line and fitting the spare wheel made the rest of the trip with only one front brake working, arriving at the circuit at 2a.m.! Us on the other hand, after booking in our bed and breakfast, ventured out into the village of Lydd, where we came across the 'Dolphin Inn'. The sign outside warned us that Friday night was 'crazy night' and the 'crazy' bit was that it closed at 9.30! So it was off to the Indian where all the staff were 'Barnsley trained' so it was good food. Then off to the pub for a few drinks, being served by a bar man who resembled Shrek! Everybody has the right to be ugly, but some people just abuse the privilege! Whilst we were in there, a text from ex-team rider Carl Shields came in telling me not to come round the north side of the M25 as he had been stopped for over 2 hours. I sent him a reply saying that it wasn't that busy in the pub at Lydd! You can imagine his reaction!

Getting back to the serious stuff, we were up early to a fantastic breakfast then down to the track and made our preparations for qualifying. Lydd is an excellent circuit with great facilities and is a very tight technical track. Qualifying, Andy put in a quick time early in the session but could not improve on this because of all the other riders on the track at the same time, not allowing a clear track. The same fate



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impaired Greg following World Championship round winner, Christian Iddon, trying to improve his time then by himself, never got a clear run. Both riders finishing, Andy 5th and Greg 11th.

Sunday- 1st race

Andy still riding injured from the first round, made a great start, dropped back to 3rd, held his position till the half way stage, then, in the last few laps, faded and finished 8th due to the fact that he has not been able to ride since the first round. Greg on the other hand tore through the field up to 6th then crashed on the dirt section! If that wasn't enough, then got run over by the following rider Andy Smith and that was the end of his race!

2nd race

Andy made another great start and got the biggest cheer of the day when he took the lead and would hold this position for three laps. Greg came storming through into the top ten but then the race had to be stopped due to Aprilia rider Dave Jackson having crashed and needing medical attention. Greg would then have to do the restart from his original start position at the back of the grid and do it all again! Andy again made a good start but faded back to finish 7th with Greg 8th.



3rd race

Andy again started in the top three riding extremely well and managed to hang onto 5th place. Greg again tore through up to 6th place only to get a front wheel puncture, but managed to make it to the finish to gain some valuable points!

Summary

I can honestly say that I have never come away from a meeting so disappointed about the way things went after a weekend that promised so much and to come away with so little but that, as they say, is racing, but one thing is sure, it only strengthens the DCR team's resolve.

It was great to see Andy shake off his injuries and lead a race, showing that he has the pace to run at the front. Both riders showed great determination and speed and will be trying extra hard at the next round, where we are going to unleash the 700cc machine!

Thanks to all our sponsors, we couldn't do it without you! Thanks to the rest of the team who worked all weekend and never had a rest for a minute. Personally, I can't wait for the next round and have discussed changes with Maria and Andy that we think should be made. We have a few things up our sleeves and I think that Lydden Hill is just the place to try them. Also, thanks to Robin and Maggie at Coxell House B&B for feeding us so well and making us feel part of the family- 'DCR RECOMMENDED!'

