

SUPERSTOCK SIXTY-SIX

Race Report

*Bridgestone Super Series
Victorian Road Racing Championship
Round One - Winton Raceway (VIC)
April 4 - 6, 2003*

7 April 2003

DEANO TAKES VIC TITLE PODIUM IN DEBUT RACE



Aside from a combined-capacity Interclub meeting in March, the first round of the Bridgestone Super series at Winton Raceway represented my first taste at road racing. Accordingly, I'm exceptionally pleased to not only come away without an incident, but with continual improvement that left me with an overall third placing in the Superstock Class.

QUALIFYING: Friday's practice gave me a chance to learn the 'long' Winton circuit, though with the bike's suspension not dialed to suit me, I was not feeling very comfortable. Some timely advice and adjustments from Izzy from Team Suspensions R Us transformed the GSX-R600 on Saturday, allowing a third-place qualifying time of 1:35.2 on the Dunlop D208 road tyres.

GRADE RACE: Saturday afternoon gave an opportunity to race without pressure of title points. I attained 8th position on the 500cc+ C-Grade grid that included 1000-class machines, and after the frantic 4-lap race, I had made up two places, finishing 6th overall and 2nd in the Superstock Class.

RACE ONE: Fine 23c skies greeted us on Sunday, as did a stomach full of butterflies on the combined Supersport/Superstock grid of over 30 riders. I got a great start, making up 4 places by turn one and battling with several A-grade Supersport riders until a red flag halted us on the third lap. After a frantic re-fuel and tyrewarmer reapplication, I was back on the grid. Another exiting dice for the first few laps made way to a comfortable pace as I settled for 3rd in class.

RACE TWO: Another good start kept me 1 foot ahead of a 4-bike crash at the first corner that again required a restart. Another good start and comfortable mid-race pace did not last after lap 6 of 8, with a rider closing on me fast. Reaching deep, I put my head down and pulled my fastest lap of the weekend on the last lap, holding my third place for the race and the weekend, a 1:34.4.

THANKYOU: Massive thanks to the entire Jay Normoyle Lightpaths team who took me under their wing and provided much needed advice and assistance all weekend, along with plenty of laughs. Izzy from Suspensions R Us, Mal from Raven Racing, Russell from AMCN and Jamie from Team Pig Bike all deserve huge thanks for making this weekend possible.

Now I look toward the first round of the Shell Advance Australian Superbike Championship at the difficult Mallala circuit in SA this weekend, which has no less than 48 Superstock bikes entered!!

Bridgestone Victorian Road Racing Championship points after Round 1:

SUPERSTOCK CLASS:

1st L.McKenzie (Suzuki) 50, 2nd T.Baas (Yam) 40, **3rd D.Bonhorne (Suzuki) 32**, 4th D.Broadford (Honda) 24, 5th J.Dowell (Yam) 24, 6th D.Jones (Suzuki) 19, 7th H.Jones (Kawa) 16, 8th B. Date (Yam) 16, 9th W. McDonald (Yam) 13, 10th D.Taborsky (Triumph)

SUPERSTOCK SIXTY SIX:

Qualifying:	3 rd	Qualifying time - 1:35.241	Race 1:	3 rd	Fastest time - 1:34.642
Grade Race:	2 nd	Fastest time - 1:35.091	Race 2:	3 rd	Fastest time - 1:34.430

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