

SUPERSTOCK SIXTY-SIX

Race Report

Shell Advance Australian Superbike Championship
Round Two – Phillip Island (VIC)
May 16 - 18, 2003

19 May 2003

DEANO MISSES POTENTIAL
TOP 5 DUE TO INJURY



Holding 6th position in the championship, Dean Bonthorne was greatly looking forward to the second round of the Australian Superstock Cup to be held at his home Phillip Island Circuit, though testing injury prevented his participation.

A ride day on 21st May was undertaken to fine-tune the GSX-R600. The goal was to match a previous personal best time of 1.49 attained on his slick-shod GSX-R750 roadbike, beating the 1.53 from his only visit on the Superstock 600.

Gearing changes and previous round's racing experience on the machine allowed new limits to be reached, with consistent 1.47s early in the day. A fresh set of Dunlop D208s were fitted and regular 1.46s were being achieved to his great delight, as it was over a second faster than Superstock pole position in the 2002 round.

The last session of the day saw both light and temperatures dwindling. Dean found additional speed exiting Siberia and into the 200km/h Hayshed right-hander (Turn 8) when, the front end of the bike lost traction and slid out from under him.

Sliding some 90metres on the bitumen there was overwhelming urge to protect his brand new AGV X-Vent helmet from the road, which survived unscathed, even after another 70 metres tumbling through the grass to the far gravel trap! For such a high speed corner with a treacherous history, Dean was pleased to find that pain only came from only 2 isolated points - The left ankle and right wrist. The GSX-R600 had not flipped and miraculously only incurred cosmetic damage.

Hospital visits confirmed multiple impact fractures to the talus dome in the left ankle along with ligament damage, also found in the badly sprained right wrist. The nature of the injury is common to landing from height feet-first, so even the exceptionally protective Alpinestar GP Plus boots could do nothing to prevent it. With plaster no required, a 'cam-walker' boot was provided along with instructions that no riding may take place for at least 5 weeks, including Round 2.

On the race weekend, a new pole record was set with a blistering 1.45.086 by Cudlin. Bonthorne's best testing lap time of 1.46.30 would have placed him fifth on the Superstock grid. The second row had a slowest time of 1.48.435 (8th).

The points from Round 1 in Mallala sees Bonthorne still in 13th position in the series, and a Top 10 the goal as he heads to Victoria's Winton Raceway for Round 3 June 20-22 following medical approval.

Shell Advance Australian Road Racing Championship Points (Superstock Class) After Rd 2:

1st L.McKenzie (Suzuki) 119, 2nd A.Cudlin (Yamaha) 72, 3rd A.Tomasetti (Kawasaki) 65, 4th P.Martinello (Yamaha) 62, 5th T.Culvenor (Suzuki) 55, 6th Heath Brinsley (Yamaha) 48, 7th C.Browne (Suzuki) 48, 8th D. Martinello (Suzuki) 46, 9th B.McConnell (Suzuki) 37, 10th C.Taylor (Honda) 32 , 13th **D.Bonhorne (Suzuki) 27**

