



**Bridgestone Victorian Road Race Titles  
Round Two (final) – Phillip Island (VIC)  
16 – 17 August, 2003**

**FANTASTIC FOURTH  
IN VICTORIAN TITLES**



Image: Stephen Piper

Less than a week after racing at the bumpy, stop-start Queensland Raceway, Dean Bonthorne found himself at his 'home track', the ultra-fast, flowing Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit for the final round of the Victorian Road Race Titles – A familiar track, but one he'd never raced at before. Coming to the event with a third placing in the series, he overcame handling problems to score enough points for a brilliant fourth overall in the Superstock title.

**QUALIFYING: 9th SStk, Best Lap 1:49.171**

Swapping the 'regular' Dunlop D208 road tyres used in the national series for his first ride on the far grippier, more race-oriented D208GP tyres saw Dean struggle with violent head-shakes and weaving of his GSX-R600 under power. The result was a fastest lap almost 3 seconds slower than previously achieved on the stable D208s, and a scary exit from the bitumen at the fast off-camber Lukey Heights, Dean fortunate to remain upright in the mud.

**CLUBMAN SERIES RACE: 9th SStk, Best Lap 1:50.041 (L4 of 4)**

In the best start of any race to date, Bonthorne carved through no less than 13 competitors of the 30-strong C-grade field by the second turn of the first lap to be fifth overall and second Superstock. However, in the excitement he misjudged the earlier braking of other competitors at the second-gear Turn Four and ran off into the grass, rejoining 19 places down. Fuelled by annoyance, he worked his way back through the field to be ninth Superstock and was gaining on several more when the chequered flag came out after just four laps. The result, an admirable sixth place for the C-Grade Clubman Series, especially as he could only compete in two of the four rounds.

**VIC TITLE RACE ONE: 8th SStk, Best Lap 1:49.249 (L8 of 8)**

Despite exceptional cornering grip for new levels in lean angle, the race tyres' effect on stability continued to plague Dean's confidence, even after removal of a shock spacer, suggesting riding style could be a contributor. Even so, he made up four places overall, engaging in a great duel for 8<sup>th</sup> Superstock placing throughout the last laps. A battle in which prevailed on the final lap, passing under brakes in the exciting downhill "MG" corner.

**VIC TITLE RACE TWO: 9<sup>th</sup> SStk, Best Lap 1:49.793 (L4 of 8)**

Further untested suspension adjustment and a less aggressive riding style reduced the weave problem marginally, allowing Dean to defended his placing and pull a five second gap from those riders originally at his heels. A lonely ride ensued, with the nearest rider ahead being several seconds out of reach. However, enough points were earned to secure a fantastic fourth position in his first Victorian Title season, just three points off a podium placing.

**NEXT EVENT:** Shell Advance Australian Superbike Championship, Rd 5 (final), Eastern Ck (NSW), Aug 29-31.



**DUNLOP - NGK - DAINESE - PTR - YOSHIMURA - OHLINS - JAG SIGNS - SPIDI**