



**Hartwell Motorcycle Club Championship  
Round Three – Phillip Island Circuit (VIC)  
20-21 September, 2003**

**PODIUM QUINELLA AT  
PHILLIP ISLAND!**



Image: Stephen Piper

With the national season complete for 2003, Dean Bonthorne looked toward remaining Victorian-based events for continued racing development. In his first race meeting with Victoria's premier club, Hartwell, Dean was delighted to secure podium finishes in all four races, especially as he was riding a lower-spec racebike than much of the competition.

**RACE ONE: 'Grade' Novice Over 500cc, 3rd.**

With no qualifying at this club meeting, grid positions are allocated based on previous race results. Accordingly, Dean was gridded 24<sup>th</sup> in 36-strong field of 600cc & 1000cc machines. Despite a slight bog-down on the line, Bonthorne surged forward from the grid, riding the white line all the way to Turn One, passing over a dozen competitors in the process. Carrying invaluable experience from the regular frenzy of national Superstock, he was exceptionally comfortable going wheel-to-wheel with other competitors and carved through the field to be fourth in less than three laps. He then engaged in a battle with a slick-shod 1000cc Superbike, his GSX-R600 having the cornering and braking advantage, only to be out-powered on the straights. Making a pass over Lukey Heights, Deano held third position over the line by just half a bike length.

**RACE TWO: 'Grade' Novice Over 500cc, 3rd.**

Promoted to a vacant 18<sup>th</sup> place on the grid, Dean again comfortably fought through the pack to third position. With the two front runners long gone by the time he had made up the 15 places, he crossed the line in third place with plenty of space around him. The weekend's change in tyre and setup in the perfect sunny conditions, resulted 1:47 lap times, some two seconds faster than his previous Island visit for Victorian Tiles, with 1:45s his new goal.

**RACE THREE: 'Championship' Novice 600cc, 2nd.**

The second day of racing saw winds pick up substantially, so morning practice was used to see where his Suzuki was being blown wide and the effect on gearing along the super-fast Gardner Straight. Based on his outstanding Saturday results, Dean was placed in second position on the grid – an adrenaline-pumping first for him! In the excitement, an over-eager clutch drop resulted in his front wheel soaring skyward twice as several places were lost. These were soon made up to secure second place, with the full-Supersport machine ahead on slick tyres out of reach in the 4-lap race.

**RACE FOUR: 'Championship' Novice Over 500cc, 3rd.**

Lunch break discussions with several A-grade riders on starting technique proved massively beneficial, with Bonthorne overcoming his usual mono situation and darting forward from his fourth position on the grid to be first into Turn One, leading some 35 riders! By the conclusion of the first lap, a 600 and 1000 machine (both on slicks) had manage to pass, but working hard in the wind, Dean finished a brilliant third again. Afterwards, he was informed of a promotion to the 'Non-expert' class (just behind the top-level 'Expert' class) for future Hartwell events - An honour gladly accepted!

**NEXT EVENT:** Stars Of Tomorrow" C-Grade Privateer Event, Phillip Island (VIC), Sept 15-16.



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