



**Shell Advance Australian Superbike Championship  
Round Five (FINAL) – Eastern Creek Raceway (NSW)  
29-31 August, 2003**

**1st September 2003**

**DEANO TOP 10 IN  
FINAL NATIONAL RACE**



In a weekend that provided a rollercoaster of emotions for the Australian motorcycle racing community, Dean Bonthorne delivered a fantastic top-10 result in his first race at Eastern Creek Raceway. It was his only finish on the weekend, after falling victim to an opening lap melee in the Race One, and the third race being cancelled.

**QUALIFYING: 17<sup>th</sup>, Best Lap 1:46.26**

With no experience at this particularly challenging track, Dean achieved his realistic top-20 grid objective, set factoring in the high number of competitors with vast experience at Eastern Creek. With every session, he made excellent progress, quickly dropping from 1.50s to 1:46s, and just two seconds off the 2002 pole position time.

**RACE ONE: DNF, First Lap**

The derangement of 35 Superstock bikes entering Turn One was an incredible experience, with everyone jostling hard for position whilst five abreast through the sweeping turn. It came undone at the Turn 2 hairpin with one over-anxious rider out-braking himself, causing a domino effect. Whilst avoiding the riders and bikes, Dean was clipped from behind, going down at low speed. As the remaining field was long gone, He pulled in to save tyres.

**RACE TWO: 10th, Best Lap 1:46.38**

A good, if not somewhat frantic start to Race Two only lasted half of the first lap, with seven leading riders involved in a very nasty pile-up at the tight Turn Seven, resulting in a red flag from oil and grass on the track. Whilst awaiting a re-start, Dean donated his spares and manpower to get a fellow competitor's damaged bike back on the circuit with seconds to spare. The restart saw Deano pass several riders through the first series of corners and work his way into 12<sup>th</sup> position. With two riders ahead losing their front end at the off-camber Turn Nine, Dean maintained defensive lines to hold off three riders on his back wheel, crossing the line for a great top 10 place.

**RACE THREE: Cancelled**

Shortly after the second Superbike race in which Craig Coxhell gave Team Suzuki their fourth consecutive Championship, a tragic accident in the Supersport class brought a halt to the weekend's racing program.

**NATIONAL SEASON SUMMARY:**

Of the 15 races in the five-round Shell Advance Australian Superbike season, Dean completed seven. Two were cancelled, three missed due to injury, two DNFs after other riders collided and one DNF resulting from horrendous rain. Accordingly he was satisfied with his overall 16<sup>th</sup> national place in his first year of racing, just one point off the original top-15 goal (ironically awarded to the rider who's bike he repaired in race 2) with a top-5 the 2004 target.

**TV COVERAGE: 1) Ch 9: Sat 6 Sept @12pm 2) SBS: Sun 7 Sep @4.30pm 3) FOXTEL: Thur 11 Sep @9pm**

**NEXT EVENT: Hartwell Motorcycle Club, Round 4: September 20-21, Phillip Island (VIC).**



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