



Race Report

A CHERRY-POPPING 1ST PLACE AT BROADFORD!

**Interclub Series – Round Two
Broadford Motorsport Complex (VIC)
9 May, 2004**

In preparation for his first circulation of the Broadford racetrack just north of Melbourne, GSX-R600 rider Dean Bonthorne had no idea what to expect. On arrival he was alarmed by the bumpiest, tightest and most varied circuit he'd ever encountered. Yet despite the steepest of learning curves with only a 4-lap practice before the first race, he conquered the track and follow competitors to come away with an astounding first-place trophy in his 600cc C-grade class! The perfect Mother's Day gift for his elated trackside Mum!



Image: James Bonthorne

SANDRINGHAM CLUB RACE ONE: 5th of 23, Best Lap 1:05.60 (L2 of 4)

With no qualifying, grids were based on previous performances, giving Deano a 2nd-row grid slot of 7th place. Taking off with the pack, he pulled into the fast, uphill 180° turn one with a fair degree of trepidation, not knowing the lines and unsure where bikes were going to pass. The first lap was a messy affair, yet to his surprise, no riders approached him to pass. So with the vastly experienced pack of five leaders now far in the distance, he focused on learning lines and braking points mid-race, maintaining a great 5th position overall in his first event at the track!

FORMULA 1 RACE ONE: 10th of 41, Best Lap 1:04.68 (L3 of 5)

With a packed grid of over 40 riders in the Formula 1 class (over 500cc, All grades) event, a 3rd row slot surrounded by riders up to 1000cc A-grade on this still-intimidating track had Dean still somewhat nervous. But when the lights went out a solid start saw him stay with the front two rows until the fast straight showed the power handicap of his Superstock 600 against full Superbikes. Still, he clung to the back of another higher-ranked 600 rider and chased him all the way to the line, cutting another whole second off his previous best time and a top-10 finish.

FORMULA 1 RACE TWO : 7th of 41, Best Lap 1:04.19 (L5 of 5)

An over-eager clutch drop had Bonthorne's Suzuki pawing skyward, allowing 4 riders to shoot past by Turn 1. But, pumped by his last result, Deano attacked hard and made up seven places in the opening laps, his progress only halted by another 600 racer making himself extra 'wide'. A lunge by Dean under brakes resulted in emergency manouvering as the rider unexpectedly pulled across his line, forcing Deano to pick the bike up, and another pilot get pass. But not one to sit back, the flaming-eyed Deano immediately shoved his GSX-R back past on the inside of Turn 5 (an unheard of move – resulting in victim later commenting on the size of Dean's 'manhood' to make such a pass) and then fire off his fastest lap of the weekend to a well-earned 7th overall.

FORMULA 1 RACE THREE: 6th of 41, Best Lap 1:04.88 (L3 of 5)

With a perfect launch from the final Formula 1 grid, Dean actually found himself in third place by turn one, ahead of several of the state's leading club racers! Naturally it did not last, as two 1000cc Superbikes blasted past on the straight. But with every lap providing valuable experience, Deano stuck to the rear of the leading group for several laps and learned a great deal about the best lines whilst protecting a brilliant 6th place in the field of 41!

SANDRINGHAM CLUB RACE TWO: 4th of 23 Best Lap 1:45.98 (L5 of 6)

From his second-row placing, a less than ideal start meant Deano had to chase hard in the opening lap to reach fourth place and close on the higher-powered Supersport 600 rider ahead for the final lap. But a missed gear change onto the straight lost him ground, making the planned out-braking pass for third impossible, but a fourth place extremely welcome for a fantastic first race meeting at Broadford.

NEXT MEETING: B&C Grade Clubman Series, Round Two, Broadford (VIC) 30 May 2004.



PIRELLI - NGK - DAINESE - PTR - YOSHIMURA - OHLINS - JAG SIGNS - SPIDI