



Deano 66
DEAN BONTHORNE RACING



Race Report

INTERCLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WON IN TRYING CONDITIONS

**Interclub Series – Round Four
Broadford (VIC), 5th December 2004**

For his final race of the 2004 season, Dean Bonthorne was crowned Champion for the Interclub Series in his C-Grade Supersport class, but not without drama. Crashing out of his opening 600 race, intimidating front tyre grip issues and hot, humid conditions were all extremely taxing on the rider, but with a large support crew present, he was stoked to earn enough points to take the Championship!



SANDRINGHAM RACE 1: 3rd, Best Lap 1:01.42 (L2 of 4)

After an encouraging morning practice session, Dean managed to immediately put in some fantastic times in this club race. From the front row of the 35-strong field, he was quickly into third and as the 1000cc Superbikes ahead of him pulled away, he ran a string of 1.01sec laps to significantly gap any would-be challengers, crossing the line with plenty of room to spare.

SUPERSPORT RACE 1: DNF, Best Lap 1:01.83 (L3 of 5)

Surrounded by A & B-Grade 600cc riders on the front row, Deano got a solid start and was in second place by the first lap and right on the tail of the A-grader. Smooth, fast riding meant he gapped the riders behind, but on the last lap a back-marker threatened to reduce the gap. Knowing he had to pass on the back straight, Deano kept a tight line to avoid the unpredictable slow rider, but on the infamous tight 'Crash Corner' this combination of line and speed proved too much, with the front washing out under brakes and Dean crashing out of what would have been a brilliant result. The frustration that followed was... significant!

CLUB SHIELD RACE 1: 8th, Best Lap 1:03.47 (L7 of 8)

As one of the top-three riders of Sandringham Club, Dean was again a representative for the Interclub Shield race, racing in club colours against rival clubs. Unfortunately quick repairs to the Suzuki after the first race had it out on the track again, but the handlebars were far out of alignment making control difficult and lap times below par. Still, he rode on to earn as many points as possible for the club, gaining five places in the process.

SUPERSPORT RACE 2: 6th, Best Lap 1:02.78 (L3 of 5)

Having DNF'd the opening 600cc race, Deano was relegated to dead last on the grid – 32nd place! With only five laps to make up places and front tyre problems starting to arise, he set top-10 as a goal. Passing around 15 rider before turn 1 was a good start indeed, and he then proceeded to pick off a number of riders every lap on his re-aligned GSX-R. Crossing the line in 6th place from dead last was very pleasing indeed!

CLUB SHIELD RACE 2: 7th, Best Lap 1:03.40 (L3 of 8)

With his front tyre now wearing very badly, front grip was becoming an major issue. With no provision to change rubber, and important Supersport Championship points yet to be gained, the second Shield race was a slightly conservative affair. But Dean rode to again make up a few positions and finish among the top 600s.

SUPERSPORT RACE 3: 13th, Best Lap 1:03.24 (L2 of 5)

With his second Supersport result putting him back up to 6th on the grid, the plan was to try and overcome the desperately sliding front end and hold his position. Everything was going according to plan until mid race when a huge front tyre slide at Crash Corner again sent him off the bitumen. This time he was able to rejoin the field, but annoyingly losing 10 seconds and several positions in the process, but still enough points for the Championship!

SANDRINGHAM RACE 1: 3rd, Best Lap 1:03.95 (L2 of 4)

Deano initially decided not to risk crashing on the now destroyed front tyre and sit the final race out. But a late change of heart actually saw him lead for the opening lap. A spectacular near-crash with a screeching two-wheel slide at a huge angle soon changed that, but he saved it to hold off all the other 600s for third overall.



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