



Deano 66
DEAN BONTHORNE RACING



Race Report

**Aust Superbike Championship – Rd 1
Phillip Island (VIC), 1-3rd April 2005**

**OUTSTANDING NEW
NATIONAL SEASON DEBUT!**

For his third racing season, Dean Bonthorne made a triumphant return to the full national series in the opening round. After spending 2004 racing locally, Deano armed himself with a brand new race machine and attacked Phillip Island with a pair of brilliant top-8 finishes, despite qualifying back in 19th! Learning the new bike all the way, it's a fantastic way to start what is sure to be a very exciting season traveling the country to race!

QUALIFYING: 19th of 44, Best Lap 1:48.236

With no time in the World Championship schedule for practices, Deano had only a pair of 20 minute session to learn the new bike, new tyres and refresh himself with a track not visited for 5 months. Even so, he managed 12th in his first outing, only to be among 8 riders disqualified for having a now-illegal lap timer fitted. In the 2nd session he again managed 12th, and to save tyres, pulled-in with 3 minutes left in the session, but to his dismay dropped to 19th in these final moments as other riders posted their fastest times.



RACE ONE: 7th, Best Lap 1:46.133 (6 of 6)

For his 8.30am race, Deano was fired up & determined to prove what he could do. This was immediately evident in the opening laps where he carved his way through no less than 10 riders!! Two more were picked off in the following lap and, although working through the field meant the pack ahead pulled away, we has able to put his head down and stretch a healthy 4 second gap in securing a fantastic seventh place! The 1:46 lap time achieved would have been enough to put him front row if achieved in qualifying.

RACE TWO: 8th, Best Lap 1:47.53 (L5 of 5)

Delays in the day meant that Dean's second race was almost in darkness, starting just before 6pm! With new found confidence in his new Suzuki GSX-R600, especially in the braking department, Deano again surged forward from the start. Despite his 5th row grid slot, a rocketing launch and the ability to pass up to four riders at a time under braking meant that a staggering 11 places were made up in the very first lap! Again, making these passes was time consuming and allowed the leading pack to be out of reach, but Dean maintained his excellent 8th position throughout the dark race, increasing the gap with every lap.

RACE THREE: 24th, Best Lap 2:23.886 (L5 of 6)

Sunday morning saw a downpour on Phillip Island, and with the Superstock class forced to use a 'control' road tyre, not special wet weather race tyres, the race was always gong to be challenging. Past wet races have seen Deano show very impressive speed, but ultimately crash in the process. With a brand new shiny bike, the plan was just to stay upright! Forgetting to remove the plug, a bellypan full of water and fogged-up helmet visor resulted in a very conservative ride. A very-near highside accident in the second lap and a worrying nasty high-speed crash in front of him, meant that his 16th place after the first lap dropped to 24th, but the plan to stay upright was a success!

NEXT MEETING: Australian Super Bike Championship. Round 2, Eastern Creek (NSW) 1st May, 2005



BRIDGESTONE - OZY NOBS - PTR - DAINESE - BANDIT - JAG SIGNS - ALPINESTARS