



**Deano 66**  
DEAN BONTHORNE RACING



## Race Report

Victorian Road Race Championships  
Broadford (VIC), 10<sup>th</sup> April 2005

Just a week after racing Phillip Island for it's first outing, Dean Bonthorne took his all-new Suzuki GSX-R600 to the sole Victorian Titles round at Broadford, and came away victorious! Two hard fought race wins on the new machine were extremely pleasing, especially in such early stages of development

### **QUALIFYING: 2<sup>nd</sup> of 10, Best Lap 1:02.35**

The qualifiers and first race were held in March, until the meeting was postponed due to a tragic racing fatality. It was Dean's first visit to a track for several months, but he was straight back on form and comfortably secured second position in both of the two sessions on his 'old' Suzuki.

### **RACE ONE: 2<sup>nd</sup>, Best Lap 1:02.53 (L4 of 9)**

A solid launch had Deano leading the pack in the rush to the first turn, but at the last possible second, the pole-sitter cut across in front of him mid-turn in a very aggressive move to secure the lead. Dean had to pick up the bike to avoid collision and in the process lost significant distance to the leader, who pulled away substantially. For the remaining laps, Dean was unable to catch the leader, but held off attacks from the rear to lock away second.

### **RACE TWO: 1<sup>st</sup>, Best Lap 1:01.82 (L6 of 9)**

A month later, at the re-scheduled meeting, Dean had his new bike on form after some testing to dial in set-up, and trial the excellent new Bridgestone supersport tyres. From the flag drop, he rocketed into the lead, but a second rider was hard on his tail. The other competitor tried to outbrake Deano on the second lap, but was unsuccessful, as the brakes are a clear strongpoint of the new Suzuki. In the remaining laps, Dean stretched his lead and crossed the line with a gap of several seconds, elated with his first state championship win and times just off the Superstock lap record!

### **RACE THREE: 1<sup>st</sup> Best Lap 1:02.53 (L6 of 9)**

With rain just cleared from the drying track, but threatening clouds, Dean took a gamble with suspension settings, going half way between firm/dry settings and soft/wet weather settings. But the rain held off and an epic battle ensued. An uncharacteristically average launch lost his pole placing to a fast Yamaha, who then pulled away. Struggling with too-soft suspension, it looked like the lead was out of reach, but Deano put in some faster laps and caught him, passing onto the straight for the second last lap. But the Yamaha came back past with the riders rubbing shoulders at full speed. Unperturbed, Dean again made a pass up the inside in the final corner, taking the win over the line by a bike length and ensuring his State Champion title!

**NEXT MEETING:** Australian Superbike Championship Round 5, Eastern Creek (NSW) 1<sup>st</sup> May 2005.



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