



## *Race Report*

**Aust Superbike Championship – Rd 3  
Barbagallo (WA), 29th May 2005**

## *DEANO ON NATIONAL PODIUM IN WEST OZ!*

Although he initially was not going to make expensive trip to Western Australia, it turned out to be one of the best weekends in Dean Bonthorne's racing career. Quickly coming to grips with the uniquely elevated track layout he built from a top-10 grid position to run with the front pack of every race and even lead the final race for all but the last lap – a definite first for the Suzuki rider! In all, the trip west saw him climb aboard his first national-championship round podium with an astounding third overall!



### **QUALIFYING: 10th of 32, Best Lap 1:02.31**

Dean was excited about heading over to the Barbagallo circuit for the first time, known as being one of the most enjoyable to ride, with huge elevation changes and highly cambered corners. However, it also takes a great deal of learning to perfect, something that Deano did not have time for after dumping his bike in the sandtrap mid-way through the first qualifier and retiring early from the second due to a gear-selection problem. Still, thanks to a few hints from local Suzuki riders, he was extremely happy with times putting him top 10 on the grid.

### **RACE ONE: 5th, Best Lap 1:01.94 (7 of 8)**

A return to excellent starting form resulted in a brilliant launch from the third row, with Deano sling-shooting past seven riders to be third by the first corner! He held this placing for the opening two laps, until a pair of late-braking locals came though in the hard-braking Turn 7. Feeling the pressure of a pack sitting right behind whilst still trying to learn the best lines, Dean made an error in the tricky 'Basin' section of the track, losing drive up the hill and allowing a group of three riders to overpower his Suzuki. On the final lap the leading pair of riders were involved in a nasty crash on the final corner, leaving Deano to finish an exceptional 5<sup>th</sup> in a close pack, just 1.5sec off 2nd!

### **RACE TWO: 7th, Best Lap 1:01.94 (L3 of 8)**

Sunday morning's race delivered another outstanding launch by Dean, even though the front lifted under acceleration, he held the power on and actually wheelstood past two rows of riders all the way to Turn 1 to be alongside the leader! He rode strongly in this second place for three laps, until his mind wandered with the thrill of being near the front. The result was a severe lack of focus and scrappy riding, with lines all over the place and braking points ignored. The result was an average of two riders each lap making a pass, mostly under brakes or using faster lines, and Dean dropping to 8<sup>th</sup>. On the final lap he salvaged one place for a still fantastic 7<sup>th</sup> as the tight pack of six bikes crossed the line with Dean again just 2secs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed rider.

### **RACE THREE: 2nd, Best Lap 1:01.56 (L2 of 8)**

Realising he could run at the front, Dean re-focused for the final race and the effort delivered, big time! Another hard launch spun the wheel of his GSX-R600, but soon gripped, flinging him forward alongside the leader in Turn 1. But this time he didn't back off and found himself leading his first ever national-championship race!! Despite the temptation to again lose concentration from excitement, Deano ignored the TV cameras and crowd, focusing hard on being smooth. The outcome was maintaining the race lead for over 6 laps, albeit with challengers right behind. With just over a lap left, the series leader challenged a braking duel in Turn 7, & although Dean won it initially, the concentration to do so meant he missed his braking point and lost drive through the corner, surrendering the lead for the last lap. Although Dean caught him, a yellow flag meant passing was not permitted. He finished just 0.3sec off the win, but absolutely overwhelmed with delight, triumphantly monoing for the crowd and gestating for their applause. The elation continued with a beaming smile for his post-race television interview unable to be dislodged.

**NEXT MEETING:** Australian Superbike Championship - Round 4, Mallala (SA) 4 - 5 June, 2005.



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