



## **Race Report**

**Aust Superbike Championship – Rd 4  
Mallala (SA), 5<sup>th</sup> June 2005**

## **TOP 10 MANAGED IN MALLALA MAHEM...**

Round 4 of the Australian Superstock Championship will be remembered for a remarkable mix of results, with one-off local entries filling-in in where the regular front-runners crashed out. No less than 8 of top-10 riders had at least one off-track excursion at the demanding and unforgiving Mallala track. Dean Bonthorne was victim several times, while in contention for all top-5 finishes, but some gritty comebacks resulted in enough points to boost him from 8<sup>th</sup> to a brilliant 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the Championship points with just three rounds remaining... two of them in his home state. Bring it on!!



### **QUALIFYING: 7th of 33, Best Lap 1:14.45**

The narrow, bumpy, hard-braking Mallala circuit is one renowned for cunningly hiding the secrets to a fast lap, as evidenced in practice with 5 locals in the top 7, with Dean back in 18<sup>th</sup>. But after some head-scratching and set-up changes following a minor crash, Dean managed to unravel a few of these mysteries and in the dying moments of the final session pumped out a string of mid 1:14s to lock in his target of an excellent second-row grid position.

### **RACE ONE: 18th, Best Lap 1:15.05 (L6 of 8)**

With a re-start required due to a first-lap accident, Dean surged forward from the grid to be in 4<sup>th</sup> place from the start, but this was short-lived. A simple, but costly mistake of using his 'normal' braking marker on the crowded first lap meant Dean arrived at Turn 7 way, WAY too fast, with cold brakes and the three bikes ahead virtually at a standstill. Moving to the inside, he avoided two riders, but even with the back wheel airborne & sideways he had no choice but to brake even harder to avoid the leader. The resulting locked front wheel saw Deano's Suzuki exit the track on its side, pirouetting in a shower of sparks and dust, while he narrowly avoided being run-over himself! Quickly picking up the bike, he rejoined in last place and rode furiously though the pack, hoping for a top-20 place for some valuable championship points. This was achieved, carving up 12 riders in the remaining laps.

### **RACE TWO: 4th, Best Lap 1:14.26 (L6 of 8)**

With Sunday's sunshine came new hopes for Deano and determination to make up for the previous race's error. This was immediately rewarded, with him claiming third place in the opening lap and actually being held up by the local rider ahead, as another local cleared off in the lead. Whilst trying to get past, yet another South Australian came through, but soon crashed out of contention leaving Dean to continue his battle to reach 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Although he had superior braking, the rider ahead would block the corners and drive out faster, so passing was proving frustrating and exhausting. The dreaded rider's 'arm pump' fatigue set in during the closing laps, forcing Deano to brake earlier in order to pull up in time to stay on track. During the second last lap, this allowed a rider to pass and steal Dean's third position, but taking out his second-ever top-5 national result was exceptionally pleasing!

### **RACE THREE: 10th, Best Lap 1:15.25 (L4 of 8)**

In his final departure from the Mallala grid, Deano's GSX-R600 launched into a spectacular mono, with the front high enough to obscure his vision as he carried it nearly all the way to Turn 1! Despite this less than ideal beginning, he muscled into 4<sup>th</sup> and was fighting closely with the top group. But on Lap 3 he missed his tip-in point to Turn 1 due to sun glare robbing concentration. At speed he drifted wide and off the track onto the pit-entry road – an error that caught out hoards of riders over the weekend, even several Superbike champions. Forced through pitlane at 40kmh before re-joining meant a drop to 19<sup>th</sup> place and a frustrating climb forward made all the worse by anger and the unpredictable moves of slower riders. Dean managed to pick off 7 bikes in the 5 remaining laps, and with 2 of the leading group crashing out, found himself in 10<sup>th</sup> and bizarrely, a still-impressive 9<sup>th</sup> for the meeting!

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



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