

Race Meeting Report

NG Road Racing – Cadwell Park

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“Wins, records and trophies for Jody Lees”

A host of riders shone in the Cadwell Park sunshine, for rounds 3 and 4 of the NG Road Racing championship. Daniel Jackson (450 Open)... Matthew Billington (700 Stock)... Phil Hacker (Pre Injection)... Philip Evans (1300 Stock)... Miles Bennett/Kevin Perry (F2 Sidecar)... Ben Marsden (Mini Twin)... Shannon Hale (400 Stock)... Max Symonds (F125) and Billy Mellor (Powerbike) all tasted double championship race winning glory.

In the “ideal-for-racing” 19-degree sunny conditions the class lap records tumbled one after another, with Phil Crowe setting a new NG Cadwell Lap Record at 1 min 31.57sec, that’s 85.76mph average.... not bad for a rider still learning how to get the best out of his new Holbeach Tyres BMW S1000RR.... and riding with broken bones in his foot, courtesy of an accident at Snetterton just seven days ago. Billy Mellor had put in an astonishing 1min 30.71 in timed qualifying for the Phoenix Open on his new Form-it UK S1000RR.... but unfortunately for him lap records have to be set in race conditions, and he was unable to get down into the 30’s in the race.

So in a weekend of star performances it is hard to single anyone out for extra praise, but it was Jody Lees and Kyle Ryde that caught my eye.

Firstly Jody Lees the Rugeley based Midlands VW backed 675 Daytona rider not only won both **Performance Red Sound of Thunder** races by staggering margins of 22 and 18 seconds. He headed home Matthew Billington and Sam Middlemas but the former EMRA and New Era 600 championship winner who, has come across to NG this year also set a new class lap record. He broke the best time previously held by Billington by an amazing 3.8 seconds. Lees has been using the first couple of NG meetings as preparation for his British 600 Supersport bid that starts at Brands on the Easter weekend. He was also on course to take the double in the **Air Racing 600 Open** too, but unfortunately fell on the first lap of Saturday’s final whist chasing fellow 600 BSB riders Dan Cooper and Matt Whitman who were having a “fun-day-out” on last years Smiths 675’s. Cooper pulled out on the last lap after holding a seven-second advantage to allow Adam Blacklock on his M8 R6 to come through to take the flag first. Lees though regrouped to dominate Sunday’s race winning by over 12 seconds. The battle for runner-up spot had taken the crowds attention though, as Sam Middlemas and Chris Beverley despite losing ground to Lees were never more than two bike lengths apart. We looked to be in for a frantic last lap drag to the line but Middlemas high-sided out of Barn... the last corner... on the last lap!. Beverley had nowhere to go and collided with the spinning bike in his path, so both ended up with no points to reward them for all their hard work. Glen Harrison then came through to take the runner-up spot. Jody Lees now heads off to BSB currently leading both 600 and Thunder classes after 4 rounds, and the bad news for his rivals is that he has vowed to return to NG meetings when the dates don’t clash!.

For his efforts in the Sound of Thunder Jody Lees also won the inaugural Edna Gardner Memorial Trophy, which will now be run annually at the Lincolnshire circuit.

As I mentioned earlier the other stand out rider was 13 year old Kyle Ryde, who I have dubbed “the-learning-machine”. The 4-time British mini moto championship winning Jacksdale schoolboy just doesn’t seem to make any mistakes. He gets quicker and quicker lap after lap on his HCM Electrical RS125 Honda that is owned and prepared by Ryan Saxelby, and is the bike that James Lodge rode to the BSB125 title last year. Kyle was faultless in both **125GP** finals and with perfect form in the latter stages of Sunday’s final, with plenty of laps under his belt he set new class lap record figures. The young man now embarks on a full British 125 series and also has a place in the prestigious Red Bull GP Rookies that prides itself in honing GP stars of the future.

Dan Jackson suffered with a stuck powervalve on his Team Sigie TZ on Saturday morning, but after some frantic spannering the bike was well and truly sorted for the for the after noon and Sunday and was able to take two convincing wins in the **Gofasterbits.co.uk 450cc open**. He headed home Jamie Thackery the impressive 16 year old on his GP45 Aprilia in one final and the ever younger 13 year old Kyle Ryde in the other.... makes Jackson seem like the old man of the class.... and he’s only 24 !! Jackson now leads the series after Jon Stamper was absent due to illness.

2010 Streetstock champion Shannon Hale has her sights firmly set on the **A and R Racing F400** title in 2011. After a steady start at Brands early season where she had suspension issues on her Black Lion Transport ZXR 400 she is now, after two victories this weekend leading the championship. She took full advantage of her rivals misfortune as Ben Cole fell in practice and broke his hand, then hot favourite and pole man Anthony Van Looy suffered machine failure in the final, coasting to a halt after building up a healthy race lead. Shannon also benefited from so one-to-one tuition from former double F400 class champ Chris Beverley.... all the lessons certainly paid off for 21 year old Shannon. Alistair Rowland-Rouse, had his best ever weekend to come away with two runner up spots.

Another 2010 champion was back to winning ways at Cadwell too. Max Symonds was getting in some valuable testing on his new J and C Symonds Aprilia in the **Steve Lynham Motorcycles Formula 125** class taking wins on both days from Sam Edwards on his 80cc Derbi. Symonds is eyeing up a change of machine later this year as the 15-year-old is now knocking on 6 foot tall, and outgrowing the little Aprilia.

As ever the road based classes provided us with close racing as in the **Metzeler / DTR 1300cc Streetstock** Philip Evans rode the wheels off his A-Tec Draining/Fast Rads GSXR 1000 to stay ahead of Dan Millard and Tom Louth. Matt Billington bettered the previous class best laps for 3 laps in a row in Sunday's **Metzeler / DTR 700cc Streetstock** on his My Gosh Photography 675 Triumph to get the better of Suzuki mounted Darrel Jones to head the series after 4 rounds. The high pace caused Jones to crash out of Sunday's race after 3 laps whilst challenging Billington. In the smallest road class, the **UK Bike Track Days 400 Streetstock** honours were shared between Andy Green on his A R Green Boiler Services ZXR 400 and Ben Marsden on his Premier Ink CBR400. They both go ahead of pre meeting championship leader Benedict Ireland, with Marsden now topping the table.

Not content with leading just one class Ben Marsden continued his winning ways in the **Euro Auctions Mini Twins** on the Premier Ink SV650 Suzuki. He was not without his challengers though as Matt Page pressured on Saturday before brake failure saw him retire at mid race distance. Undaunted though he was back on track on Sunday and he along with Keith Clark tried to get the better of Marsden. As the pair battled to see who would be the one to challenge, Ben had built up a 3 second lead that could not be bridged in this closely matched class.

Phil Hacker once more racked up a double win on his FJ Owners Club supported FJ1100. Phil "The Doc" has now opened up a considerable advantage in the **MPH Bikes Pre Injection** points table after defending champion Adam Jeffery is still battling on with his old "wet-bike" as he is still waiting for his main motor to come back after an engine rebuild. Jeffery had to settle for third place on both days as he followed Nick Colley home on Saturday and Chris Draper on Sunday..... we hear the new motor will definitely be in place for next time out at Pembrey.

16 year old Jamie Thackeray on his North Yorks Racing Supporters was in great form on the GP45 Aprilia RRV Twin taking top spot in this exiting new **Pirelli UK GP 45** series. He used his high corner speed style learned from his 125cc days to great effect to set a run of new class lap records. This puts him in good shape as there is reported to be strong talks about a National series in 2012. We also run a class for the **Pirelli UK GP45 Single Cylinder** machines too and Matt Andrew and Ant Hart took a win each there.

As I mentioned earlier Phil Crowe was in blistering form on Saturday on his new BMW in the Superbike races and took the win in the **Phoenix Open** setting that new outright NG club lap record after beating off the early challenge from Billy Mellor and Phil Bevan. It was great to see him on track and up to speed but those broken bones in his foot took their toll as he was not able to compete on Sunday. That left the way open for Mellor and Bevan. Mellor and his new BM wrapped up Sunday's Open final. But it was the pair's races in the **STP Motorsport Powerbikes** that had us all gasping, as the result sheets that show two wins to Mellor just don't do the races justice. Sunday's final saw the wily Bevan lead all race, dictating the pace on his Phil Bevan Track Days R1, frustrating 21year old Mellor and forcing him to make some radical lines to try and get through.... which he did on a number of occasions, only for Bevan to strike straight back retaking the lead. Mellor though got through and made it stick on the final lap. Phil said that ".....if he had been fighting for a world championship win there was an opportunity at Park to block pass Billy" but... as he said ".....this is club racing" and Bevan is looking at the season long championship, so settled for second spot. Although he was grinning from ear to ear after such a great race on a circuit that he has limited experience on.

Miles Bennett and Kevin Perry continued their 3 year dominance in the **CSC Racing Formula 2** sidecar series and are on target to claim a hat-trick of class titles after lifting the crown in 2009 and '10. Their race winning margins were in excess of 30 seconds and they never put a foot wrong all weekend. Ian Drowne with new passenger Ryan Anderson used this weekend's **CSC Racing Open Sidecar** as a shakedown for their new LCR Suzuki and took things easy early on, on Saturday but upped their pace in the final to win after Gary Horspole and Rob Briggs had spun their LCR Honda. Sunday though saw the arrival of former world Champions Tim Reeves and Gregory Cluze, who were in the area after attending former passenger Pat Farrance's wedding to Guy Martin's sister..... they thought they would give their newly built LCR Honda an outing. They had a bit of fun in the qualifier and pulled into pit lane in the latter stages. They started the final at the back of the 19 strong grid... on row 10 !. two laps later they swept into the lead circulating 6 seconds a lap faster than anyone else, and obviously setting a new Open sidecar lap record, as they headed home Drowne/Anderson and Horspole/Briggs by over 26 seconds.

We also ran rounds of the **Post Classic Sidecars** here that had Pat Gallagher and Sean Rooney take two wins on their 1085 Derbyshire Suzuki. In the **FSRA 350** series Merv Noble and Keith Brotherton to Saturday's victory on the TZ350 Ham Yam with Gordon and Julie Jones taking Sunday's win which was fair reward after they retired from a leading position on Saturday.

Wayne Axon took the big points in the **Performance Red Mini Twin newcomers** race, whilst Sam Edwards was the first **April UK 500** class rider home on his 125 Honda. GSXR 1000 rider Phil Evans played a waiting game in the **April UK Open Newcomers** to draft past Tom Louth to take the win, after early race leader Gary Lucitt fell at the notorious Mountain... from the lead ! on lap 3.

The **Vital Equipment Carless Fuels Performance Award** went to Newcomer Phil Evans for his unbeaten run all weekend in the Newcomer and Streetstock classes. After this weekend he leads both series and was a worthy winner, proving that you don't need to be an established name to be considered by the NG judging panel for this award..... we watch everyone..... so ride like to want to win it.

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Images for NG Road Racing Meetings are available from NG official supplier :

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