

Motor cycling with John Savage

# Scott seals Senior series

**Saintfield man Scott Rourke claimed the Irish Senior Clubmans' Championship title at Bishopscourt last Saturday, in only his second season of racing.**

Eighth position in the first race and a second place in race two, were sufficient for the 31 year old self-employed fireplace fitter to put the seal on the championship with two races remaining, after his only title rival, Newtownabbey man Jason Pypier, crashed heavily during the early stages of the second race and broke a wrist.

Rourke's points advantage over Pypier in the Bridgestone Tyres-sponsored championship is 41 points and with Pypier sidelined for the final round at Mondello Park in Co Kildare on September 30, Scott is in an unassailable position.

Using a slipper clutch for the first time on his Stokin Stoves Suzuki GSX-R1000, Scott made life difficult for himself in the first race, when he ran off the track and dropped way down the field.

However, he bettered the lap record as he battled his way back up the leaderboard and he was running eighth when the race was red flagged on the sixth lap of a scheduled eight.

Scott's quickest lap came on his fifth circuit, when he hoisted the lap record to 88.103mph.

Southern Irishman Ciaran O'Callaghan led all the way to score his second win of the season in the first race, astride his PVC Suzuki GSX-R1000, finishing a comfortable five seconds ahead of Philip Carmichael from Dromore on his Yamaha R1, as Bangor man Martin Titterington narrowly got his InterCity Suzuki home ahead of similarly mounted Colin Thompson.

Pypier, who won four races this season, had to settle for sixth on the Pypier Bros Yamaha, behind Suzuki-mounted Angus Poston.

Carmichael was leading Titterington and Rourke when the second race was stopped on the second lap, after Pypier crashed.

Rourke grabbed the lead in the restart and led for a

couple of laps, before Carmichael overhauled him and went on to take his maiden championship win, but with Pypier unfortunately out of contention, the runners-up slot was enough for Rourke to clinch the title.

Brian Patterson placed third on his Suzuki, ahead of O'Callaghan, Caoith Lawless from Dunshaughlin and Thompson.

En route to the title, astride his five year old Suzuki, Rourke racked up six championship wins in the 13 races staged to date, including five wins on the trot — he notched double wins earlier in the season at Bishopscourt, together with another double at Kirkistown and he also won at Mondello Park.

Scott said: "It's good to win the championship and nice to have it over and done with, but it's a pity I had to clinch the title under those circumstances."

Scott's racing efforts are entirely self-financed, although he is grateful for support from his wife Julie, who owns 'Ultimate Images' in Saintfield, together with George and Leta Johnston, of Johnston Scrap Metals; Jim of Fast Tyres in Downpatrick; and Ballynahinch-based GMCC motor cycle club.

Although he does the majority of his own machine preparation, Scott is also grateful for the technical assistance of former racer Paul Truesdale, who runs PT Road Racing Services, specialising in race and road preparation, together with motor cycle servicing and MoT preps.

Paul, from Ballynahinch, will be supplying Scott with a Yamaha FZR400 for the Sunflower Trophy meeting at Bishopscourt on October 20/21.

**Results**

Senior Clubmans' Championship, 1st race: 1, C. O'Callaghan (1000 Suzuki) 85.65mph; 2, P. Carmichael (1000 Yamaha); 3, M. Titterington (1000 Suzuki); 4, C. Thompson (1000 Suzuki); 5, A. Poston (1000 Suzuki); 6, J. Pypier (1000 Yamaha); 7, C. Lawless (1000 Yamaha); 8, S. Rourke (1000 Suzuki); 9, J. Quinn (1000 Suzuki); 10, K. O'Doherty (1000 Yamaha). Record lap: Rourke 88.103mph. 2nd race: 1, Carmichael 85.08mph; 2, Rourke; 3, B. Patterson (1000 Suzuki); 4, O'Callaghan; 5, Lawless; 6, Thompson; 7, Poston; 8, O'Doherty; 9, J. Rowe (1000 Suzuki); 10, Titterington. Fastest lap: Lawless 87.23mph.



Irish Senior Clubmans' champion Scott Rourke, aboard his title winning No 87 Stokin Stoves Suzuki GSX-R1000. Also included, from left: Scott's Stokin Stoves team-mate Ryan Taylor, who has been contesting the Irish National Pre-97 Championship on the Stokin Stoves Honda CBR600; Richard Rourke; sponsor George Johnston, of Johnston Scrap Metals; former racer Paul Truesdale, of PT Road Racing Services, aboard the Yamaha FZR400 which Scott will ride at next month's Sunflower Trophy meeting; and Hugh Rodgers and Mervyn Ferris of sponsors GSMCC.

Photo by Bob Torrens B9-20/9/07

# Crockard to miss MX des Nations

Following his recent serious shoulder injury, Newtownards moto cross ace Gordon Crockard has decided to miss the Moto Cross des Nations in the United States.

The Moto Cross des Nations is effectively a one-off world team championship and Crockard would have been a member of the Irish team. However, he reluctantly made the decision last week, after some serious soul searching and a meeting with his consultant.

Gordon is staying at home to continue his recuperation and is currently mixing light training sessions on his PAR Homes Honda with cycling to increase his fitness, with a view to be back in action before the end of the year.

Crockard, who is currently examining a number of options for next year, admitted: "I'm certainly disappointed to miss the des Nations, especially in the States, but once my consultant told me that the shoulder wouldn't withstand any sort of heavy fall or blow, my mind was made up."

He explained: "It was a complicated break, and even though I have made a significant recovery it's nowhere up to 100% and I can't risk putting myself back to square one." The former world championship grand prix winner and British champion added: "I'm currently weighing up my options for 2008 and I certainly hope to be in action on a moto cross machine before the end of the year, maybe in the UK, possibly in Europe, or even Australia."

# Scottish hat-trick for Jamison

**Ards ace Kirk Jamison scored a hat-trick of wins in the penultimate round of the Scottish Championships at East Fortune last Saturday, but was ultimately frustrated, when Sunday's racing had to be cancelled, due to torrential rain.**

In only his second racing visit to Scotland, the Newtownards man won both Superbike races and one of his two Supersport races, set a new Superbike lap record, and was two-fifths of a second outside Scots ace Keith Amor's outright lap record for the East Lothian track.

Kirk explained: "I had a brilliant first half of the weekend, pity about Sunday, but what can you do?"

"My second trip to East Fortune was mainly to take part in the Steve Hislop Memorial Trophy race. Having missed out on retaining the Ken Redfern Trophy, which I won at Croft last year, I was determined to win a big trophy on the superbike before the year was out, to go with the Laird of Croft trophy I won on Wayne Griffiths' 600 Honda at Croft at the end of July."

The weekend began perfectly for the 26 year old last Saturday, and although it rained during Superbike qualifying, he qualified his Jim Angus Contracts Suzuki GSX-R1000 in pole position, having put Preston's Wayne Griffiths' Honda CBR600 in second place on the grid for the Supersport race, during dry conditions that morning.

Kirk's racing opened with the first Supersport 600 race, and he finished third, but with two different 600cc categories in the Scottish Championships, he was runner-up in his class.

The luck of the 'Fekkin Irish' was on his side in the second 600 race, as Scottish Superport Championship leader Bob Grant ran out of fuel, Paul Wishart retired with an electrical fault,

and Kirk was promoted to second, although he was unable to reel in Virgin Media Cup front-runner David Paton, who took the win and broke the Supersport lap record.

Kirk recounted: "The first 600 race was a lottery regarding tyres. The track was drying quickly, but still had a few wet sections. We opted for dry tyres, which turned out to be the right choice. I got away in third, but took too long to gain confidence in the front end on the quick sections, which were still wet, and lost the tow on the leaders."

"At three-quarter distance I was under pressure from fourth, but was now happy with the front tyre and began to push. I pulled away from fourth and was closing the leaders in, setting the fastest lap of the race in the process, but it was far too late and I finished third, although with two different 600 categories being run in the same race, I was actually second in my class."

He continued: "I was suitably psyched up for the second 600 race, as I knew I had the pace to win it. Unfortunately I got pushed wide at turn one and ended up fifth. I struggled to get past a Suzuki in front of me for half the race, but once past I started making inroads into third. Fortune was on my side, as Grant ran out of fuel and Wishart's bike had an electrical fault, promoting me to second. I tried to catch Paton, but again it was too late and I had to settle for second overall, but first in my class."

Kirk comfortably won both Superbike races and repeatedly broke the lap record in the second race, with his best lap only two-fifths of a second outside Amor's outright lap record. He reflected: "I put slicks in for the first Superbike race, as there were only one or two damp patches left. I got the holeshot and tried to put a handful of quick laps together to make a gap. It worked, and at half distance I was clear, so I backed off to come home the winner."

"I lapped in 61.5 seconds — the Superbike lap record being 61.2 secs. The outright record is held

by Keith Amor in the Sports Production class at 59.68 secs, but it seemed few were able to get close to that."

Kirk went on: "For the second Superbike race, I was confident I would be able to pull away again, so I just put in consistent laps from the start. At half distance I was again clear, so I backed off for another comfortable win."

"It turned out I'd broken the Superbike lap record on a number of occasions, the first being on my first flying lap. I had posted a 60 seconds lap — only four tenths of a second off Amor's outright record."

Having secured a front row grid start for the Steve Hislop Memorial race, due to be staged on Sunday, Kirk was confident of becoming the first non-Scott to lift the trophy and had a new set of tyres and new brake pads fitted to the Jim Angus Contracts Suzuki.

He rued: "Considering I hadn't been pushed in the Superbike races, I was confident I could get the outright lap record. Unfortunately I wasn't to get a chance to find out, as we woke up to terrible conditions on Sunday morning."

"Still I was happy with my times in the wet in morning warm-up on both bikes — in fact I probably had a better chance of winning the 600 races in the wet."

"There was too much standing water and after a few hours of waiting, the meeting was eventually cancelled. It was a big disappointment for the whole team, and with not enough money in the kitty to attend the Anglesey Grand [in Wales] at the end of September, it means we only have the Sunflower Trophy meeting left this season, and that isn't for another five weeks."

Kirk grinned: "On the positive side, after my mid-season lull, I am on the pace again and can hopefully put a good show on at the Sunflower to end the season on a high."

The Sunflower Trophy meeting, the final round of the Irish Superbike Championship, takes place at Bishopscourt on October 21.

# Just starting out...

**The tremendous achievements of young Ulster race aces, such as Jonathan Rea, the Laverty brothers and B. J. Toal, amongst others, have been inspirational in attracting the next generation of short circuit racers, and amongst those setting out on his racing career is Bangor teenager Johnny Annett.**

The 16 year old has followed the now well trodden path into short circuit racing from mini moto racing, having spent four years racing the tiddlers, before embarking this season on a campaign in the Irish RS125 Aprilia Challenge series, in which riders as young as 13 can cut their racing teeth.

Johnny began mini moto racing four summers ago, but really only began to take the sport seriously in 2004, and last year he was backed by the former Vivaldi British Superbike Championship team.

The Irish Mini Moto Championships take place at several circuits, including Nutts Corner; St Angelo, near Enniskillen; and Castlefin in Co Donegal, and although Jonathan has switched to short circuit racing, his 13 year old brother Daniel continues to fly the family flag in mini moto.

Mini moto championship classes are determined by machine capacity, together with the weight and age of the riders, and Johnny's weight was always something of a disadvantage. Nevertheless, he finished third in last year's Senior Heavies Championship and ninth in the Production class, in which he was first in his class on his Polini.

As an indicator of just how fast the quickest mini moto machines



Bangor's Johnny Annett scored two third places in the RS125 Aprilia Challenge series at Bishopscourt last Saturday. Photo by Deek McCoubrie

and riders are, they are lapping Nutts Corner about three seconds slower than karts.

Johnny explained: "At the end of last year, our plan was to give up mini moto to do track days. The plan was not actually to race, but as is often the case, the best laid plans went out the window and we decided to race the Aprilia."

Johnny made his Aprilia debut in the non-championship meeting at Kirkistown on St Patrick's Day, and created an immediate impression by finishing third in the first race and runner-up in the second, both of which were won by another former mini moto racer, Scott Wilson, who is also from Bangor.

Johnny points out: "The Aprilia

and 125GP Newcomers paddock is like a mini moto paddock. There are about 12-15 riders who have come to short circuit racing from mini moto, and this year there are five or six riding Aprilias, with the rest on 125GP machines."

With the final two races in the RS125 Aprilia Challenge to be staged at Mondello Park in Co Kildare on September 30, Scott Wilson leads the series by just six points, from Castleblaney's Joseph Loughlin.

Johnny missed the opening two rounds and four races of the championship at Aghadowey and Mondello Park, nevertheless, he hasn't finished outside the top five in any of his races, and he notched

two third places at Bishopscourt last Saturday

Dad Maurice and Johnny are meticulous about machine preparation and presentation, and after just one season in the Aprilia Challenge, Johnny could switch to their recently acquired 2002 Yamaha R6 next year.

Johnny has already posted good lap times on the R6 during track days at Kirkistown and it is obvious which machine he would prefer to race next season!

And if that happens, there could be two Annetts on the short circuit scene next year, if Daniel takes over his big brother's ride in the RS125 Aprilia Challenge.

# Celtic Match Race team named

Ireland will 'field' one of its strongest ever teams in the Celtic Nations Match Races, which will be staged in Wales on November 3/4.

Moneyreagh's Michael Pearson and Ballynahinch man David Craig are both included in the nine man team, which also includes James Dickson from Coleraine; recently crowned Irish Supersport champion Matthew Percy, from Randalstown; Ballymoney's Gerard Kinghan; Corkman Declan Swanton; current Irish Superbike Championship leader, Brian McCormack, from Waterford; and southern Irish duo Rory Clarke and Colm Lynch.

The Irish Sidecar match race team is headed by John Clarke/Karl McGrath, who will be joined by Scobie Killough/Paddy Marley, Dylan and Derek Lynch, and John Farragher/C. J. Fahey.

Solo and sidecar teams, representing Ireland, Isle of Man, Scotland and Wales, will contest the annual Celtic Nations Match Race series at Pembrey.



The Scots were cursing the 'Fekkin Irish', after Ardsman Kirk Jamison stacked up three wins in the penultimate round of the Scottish Championships at East Fortune in East Lothian last Saturday. Photo by Deek McCoubrie

# Motorcycle Charity Night

**The Windsor Bar in Bangor will host a Motorcycle Charity Night, in aid of the Injured Riders' Fund, on Wednesday, October 24.**

Proceeds will benefit road racers, short circuit riders and off-road competitors, and there will be an auction, chat show, raffle and much more.

Anyone wishing to donate items for auction, or anyone requiring further information, should contact David on 07729 421270 or email Andrea at: andrea.acpromotions@virgin.net

# Kirk Jamison RSC

**The inaugural meeting of the Kirk Jamison Racing Supporters' Club got off to an excellent start, in the Wildfowler Inn, Greyabbey, on Thursday, September 6.**

A committee has been elected and annual membership of the club is only £10.

Membership forms can be obtained from Alison on 4278 8447, Alan on 07710 010065, or forms can be downloaded from www.kjamisonracing.com or www.nicebikepaintshop.co.uk

Meetings of the club will take place in the Wildfowler Inn on the first Thursday of each month at 8pm, and everyone will be made welcome — the next meeting is on October 4.

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