

## Motor cycling with John Savage

# FARQUHAR FLIES TO FAUGHEEN TREBLE

After a lacklustre season so far by his own high standards, Ryan Farquhar rediscovered his true form at Sunday's Faugheen road races in Co Tipperary, when the Dungannon ace scored three wins from three starts.

'Flyin Ryan' won both Open races, together with the Supersport race, and in all three races in-form Manxman Conor Cummins and Ballymoney's William Dunlop completed the podium.

Dunlop stepped up to the top step of the rostrum when he got the better of his younger brother Michael in the 250cc race, and Michael also had to settle for second best in the 125cc race — this time when he was beaten to the chequered linen by his father, Robert.

#### Grand Final

It should be borne in mind that this is William Dunlop's first full season astride a superbike, and he did his utmost to put one over on vastly more experienced Farquhar in the Grand Final.

Aboard Raymond Lilley's Suzuki GSX-R1000, Dunlop held the lead until half distance, over the well prepared two miles Faugheen circuit, which was first introduced two years ago but once Farquhar forced Kenny Harker's Kawasaki ZX10R to the front, the outcome was a foregone conclusion.

At the completion of the eight laps, Farquhar took the win by 2.5 seconds, as Dunlop narrowly held onto second, after he fended off the attentions of Cummins, aboard the Millsport Yamaha R1, aboard which he had been down in fifth position during the formative stages.

For once, Tipperary man Roger Maher didn't have to travel a long way to race, and he finished fourth on his Yamaha R1, after he was displaced from third place by Cummins with three laps remaining.

Dungannon's John Burrows

was a lonely fifth aboard Hugh Murphy's HM Sports Motorhomes Honda Fireblade CBR1000RR, as Drogheda's Wayne Kirwan completed the leading half dozen on his John Donnan-liveried Yamaha R1.

#### Senior Championship

Ryan Farquhar won the Senior Championship race by two seconds from Conor Cummins, who got the better of a terrific scrap with William Dunlop, who had to settle for third.

Roger Maher was again fourth, ahead of John Burrows, with Longford's Damien Mulleady a distant sixth aboard his Yamaha R1.

Cummins' second position further enhanced his lead in the Irish Senior Road Race Championship.

#### Supersport

Astride Kenny Harker's Kawasaki ZX6R, Ryan Farquhar was always in complete control in the Supersport race.

He led throughout the eight laps to win by six seconds from Conor Cummins, who was always second on the Millsport Yamaha R6, with William Dunlop a second back in third.

Shane Connor from Duleek kept the JD's Racing flag flying with a good ride to fourth position, while Roger Maher grabbed another top six finish with fifth position on his Yamaha, safely ahead of John Burrows on the HM Sports Motorhomes Honda CBR600RR.

It was the same story in the non-championship race, which Farquhar also led from start to finish to win by five seconds from Cummins, with Dunlop close behind in third.

Maher was fourth, in front of Connor, with Dubliner Michael Weldon completing the top six on his Yamaha, after he had earlier placed seventh in the championship race.

#### 250cc

Michael Dunlop left himself with a lot of work to do to get on terms with big brother William in the 250cc race, but at the end of seven laps they were separated by just half-a-second.

William was never headed on Saintfield man Paddy Flynn's Honda, while Michael ran fourth

at the conclusion of the opening lap and then overtook Barry Davidson and Darran Burns to move up to second, but he had left himself too much to do to get the better of William.

Cullybackey man Davidson finished 12 seconds behind the Dunlops in third, with Lisburn man Burns close behind on the Roy Hanna Motors/S Gas NI Honda, hotly pursued by Portstewart's Ian Morrell on his Honda.

Saintfield's Davy Morgan rounded off the leading sextet aboard his Ballygowan Road Racing Supporters' Club-backed Honda.

Following his heavy crash at Bush road races in June, when he damaged a shoulder, Morgan made his comeback the previous weekend at Kells.

At Faugheen he was reunited with the Investasture Honda Fireblade CBR1000RR which he rode at the Isle of Man TT, but after he finished 12th in the Senior Championship race and 16th in the Supersport Championship race, Davy sensibly decided to minimise any further damage to his shoulder, and sat out the Grand Final and the non-championship Supersport races.

With the Ulster Grand Prix only a couple of weeks away, Davy will decide this week whether he will compete at this weekend's Mid Antrim 150 road races.

#### 125cc

Robert Dunlop came from behind to overhaul son Michael to win the 125cc race by a minuscule fifth of a second.

Father and son gave or asked no quarter as they duelled for the win, but Robert got the verdict on the Kennedy Equipment Sales Aprilia.

Mark Young finished 15 seconds back in third, a couple of seconds ahead of his fellow Dungannon man Nigel Moore, with Sam Dunlop — nephew of Robert — fifth, in front of Jeff Shaw from Antrim.

#### Senior Support

Stephen McKnight from Dromore continued his charge towards the Senior Support Championship, with an impressive four seconds victory on his Suzuki GSX-R750.

McKnight bided his time in the eight laps race, before he hit the front on lap three, and once ahead he eased away to win from Michael Sweeney from Skerries on his Suzuki GSX-R750 and Sheffield's Ivan Lintin, aboard the McKinstry Skips Suzuki.

McKnight also won the non-championship race, but this time Lintin got the better of Sweeney for the runners-up berth.

#### Junior Support

Mark Young cake-walked the Junior Support Championship race, which he won by a resounding 19 seconds from fellow 250cc Honda rider Michael Sweeney, with James Cooney from Kilkenny third on his Suzuki SV650.

Ivan Linton was fourth on his 400 Kawasaki, in front of Sean McConnell and Derek Costello.

#### Results

Grand final: 1, R. Farquhar (1000 Kawasaki); 2, W. Dunlop (1000 Suzuki); 3, C. Cummins (1000 Yamaha); 4, R. Maher (1000 Yamaha); 5, J. Burrows (1000 Honda); 6, W. Kirwan (1000 Yamaha); 7, D. Coughlan (1000 Yamaha); 8, S. Connor (600 Kawasaki); 9, M. Weldon (600 Yamaha); 10, V. Gilmore (1000 Yamaha). Fastest lap: Farquhar 103.96mph.

Senior Championship: 1, R. Farquhar (1000 Kawasaki); 2, C. Cummins (1000 Yamaha); 3, W. Dunlop (1000 Suzuki); 4, R. Maher (1000 Yamaha); 5, J. Burrows (1000 Honda); 6, D. Mulleady (1000 Yamaha); 7, A. Brady (1000 Suzuki); 8, M. Weldon (1000 Yamaha); 9, D. Coughlan (1000 Yamaha); 10, S. Connor (1000 Yamaha). Fastest lap: Farquhar 102.73mph.

Supersport Championship: 1, R. Farquhar (600 Kawasaki); 2, C. Cummins (600 Yamaha); 3, W. Dunlop (600 Yamaha); 4, S. Connor (600 Kawasaki); 5, R. Maher (600 Yamaha); 6, J. Burrows (600 Honda); 7, M. Weldon (600 Yamaha); 9, W. Kirwan (600 Yamaha); 10, A. Brady (600 Suzuki). Fastest lap: Farquhar 100.90mph.

Non-championship: 1, Farquhar; 2, Cummins; 3, Dunlop; 4, Maher; 5, Connor; 6, Weldon; 7, Mulleady; 8, Burrows; 9, B. Davidson (600 Honda); 10, E. Hughes (600 Yamaha). Fastest

lap: Farquhar 101.29mph.

250cc Championship: 1, W. Dunlop (250 Honda); 2, M. Dunlop (250 Honda); 3, B. Davidson (250 Honda); 4, D. Burns (250 Honda); 5, I. Morrell (250 Honda); 6, D. Morgan (250 Honda); 7, S. Dunlop (250 Honda); 8, J. Burrows (250 Honda); 9, K. Costello (400 Honda); 10, D. Butler (650 Suzuki). Fastest lap: M. Dunlop 97.03mph.

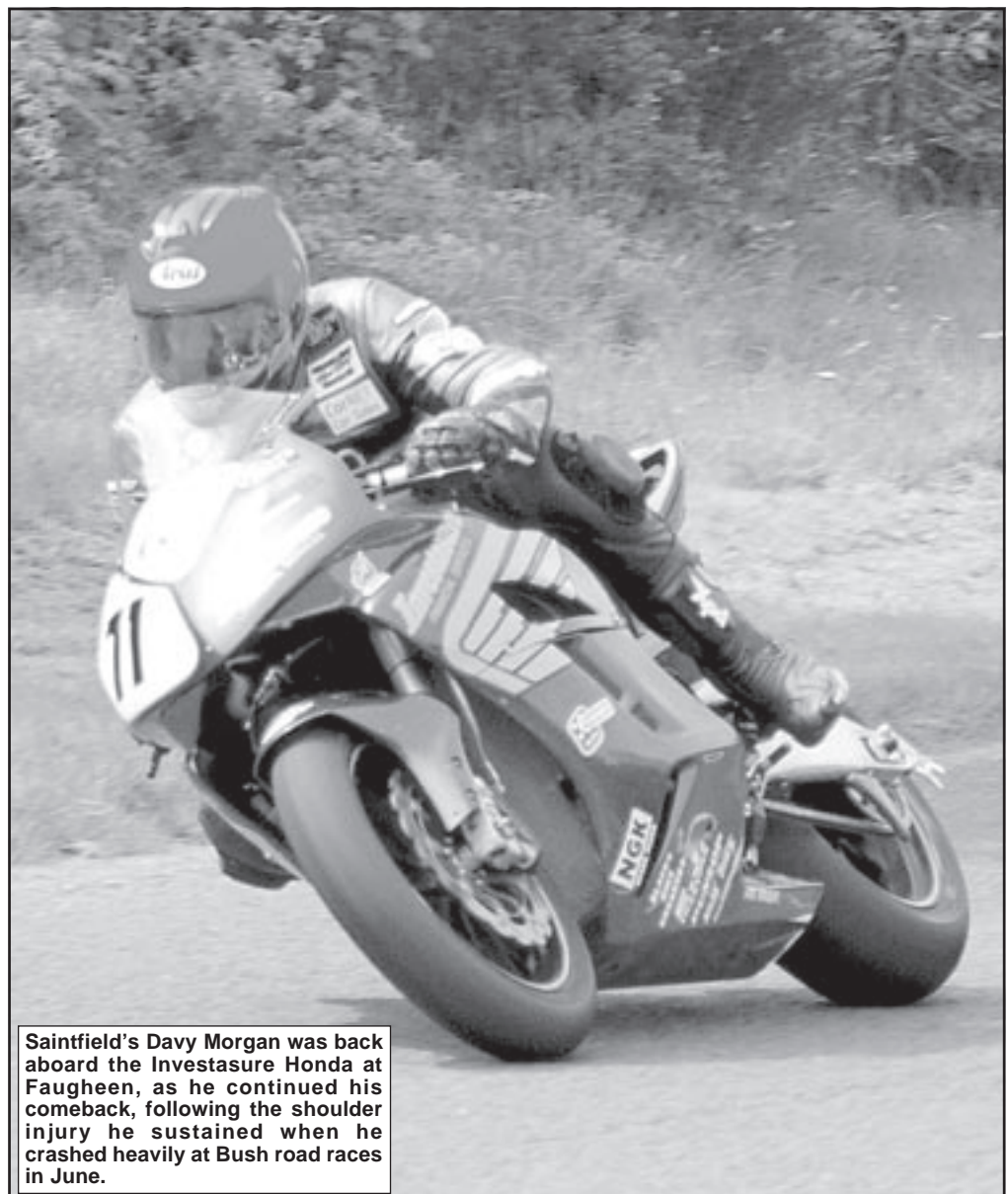
125cc Championship: 1, R. Dunlop (Aprilia); 2, M. Dunlop (Honda); 3, M. Young (Honda); 4, N. Moore (Honda); 5, S. Dunlop (Honda); 6, J. Shaw (Honda); 7, S. Leonard (Honda); 8, M. Chatterton (Honda); 9, P. Lunney (Honda); 10, H. McHenry (Honda). Fastest lap: M. Dunlop 91.89mph.

Senior Support Championship: 1, S. McKnight (750 Suzuki); 2, M. Sweeney (750 Suzuki); 3, I. Lintin (750 Suzuki); 4, J. Cooney (750 Suzuki); 5, D. Lumsden (600 Yamaha); 6, D. Shiels (600 Yamaha); 7, N. Lyons (600 Yamaha); 8, A. O'Dwyer (750 Suzuki); 9, M. Byrne (750 Suzuki); 10, D. Yeomans (600 Honda). Fastest lap: McKnight 96.88mph.

Non-championship: 1, McKnight; 2, Lintin; 3, Sweeney; 4, Cooney; 5, Shiels; 6, O'Dwyer; 7, Lyons; 8, D. Costello (600 Yamaha); 9, A. Farrell (600 Yamaha); 10, Byrne. Fastest lap: McKnight 97.15mph.

Junior Support Championship: 1, M. Young (250 Honda); 2, M. Sweeney (250 Honda); 3, J. Cooney (650 Suzuki); 4, I. Lintin (400 Kawasaki); 5, S. McConnell (650 Suzuki); 6, D. Costello (400 Honda); 7, D. Howard (650 Suzuki); 8, A. Farrell (400 Kawasaki); 9, P. Maguire (250 Honda); 10, M. Byrne (400 Honda). Fastest lap: Young 92.49mph.

Classic: 1, R. McCrum (850 Weslake); 2, R. Ford (920 Norton); 3, B. Lyle (500 Honda); 4, P. Riddall (750 Weslake); 5, G. Hutton (500 Honda); 6, K. Callan (500 Honda); 7, R. J. Woolsey (500 Honda); 8, T. Stephenson (500 Seeley); 9, A. McVicker (500 Honda); 10, G. O'Sullivan (500 Honda). McCrum 83.28mph.



Saintfield's Davy Morgan was back aboard the Investasture Honda at Faugheen, as he continued his comeback, following the shoulder injury he sustained when he crashed heavily at Bush road races in June.

## Kelly battles to sixth at Anglesey

Comber teenager Scott Kelly battled back from a qualifying race crash to finish a fighting sixth in the premier race at the Wirral 100 Championships, at the superbly revamped Anglesey circuit in Wales on Sunday.

Scott, who celebrated his 19th birthday last month, was challenging British National Superstock Championship regular Craig Beggs, from Crewe, for the lead, in the Powerbike Championship qualifying race, when he went down at a fast turn, at half distance in the six laps race, over the 1.55 mile Coastal Circuit.

Leading the Wirral 100 Powerbike Championship after the opening two rounds, Scott started the qualifying race from pole position, to determine where riders would line up in the championship race itself.

But his spill — which he put down to 'riding too hard' — relegated him to the back of the grid, in 27th position.

His father, Billy, and the rest of the Kelly Racing Team had only a couple of hours to repair his damaged ex-John Donnan Honda Fireblade CBR1000RR for the final, and then Scott stalled the bike on the grid as the race got underway.

Despite being last away, and suffering not inconsiderable pain from his earlier prang, Scott was undeterred, gritted his teeth, and knuckled down to business.

By the completion of the opening lap of six he had brilliantly carved his way up to 15th position, and he doggedly made further inroads up the leaderboard as the race progressed, finally nabbing sixth position from Darren Johnstone on the final lap.

Beggs took a comfortable 11 seconds win, astride his Enviro-Strip UK 1000cc Yamaha R1, and despite having to negotiate such heavy traffic, Kelly posted the third fastest lap of the race at 74.70mph, bettered only by Beggs and runner-up Carl Dodwell.

Scott's next outing will also be at Anglesey later this month, the weekend before the next round of the Irish Superbike Championship, at Mondello Park in Co Kildare on August 25/26.

There was success for Irish riders in the 250cc races at Anglesey, where Thomas Lawlor comfortably won the first race, and then just managed to out-pace Ronan Shanahan to win the second race.

Irish 250cc Short Circuit Championship leader Lawlor scored a six seconds win in the first six lapper, in which his fellow Honda riders, and fellow Co Kildare men, Shanahan and Paul Minahan, placed sixth and eighth respectively.

Shanahan gave Lawlor a run for his money in the second race, but Lawlor got the verdict by just under half-a-second, with Shanahan runner-up and Minahan fifth.

# Kirk is 'Laird of Croft'

Newtownards man Kirk Jamison was crowned 'Laird of Croft', after he took the prestigious title at the north Yorkshire circuit last weekend, where he scored a remarkable four wins and eight podium finishes from nine races and ten starts.

The 26 year old finance manager took the Laird of Croft title, when he won last Saturday's premier Supersport race, astride the 2004 Honda CBR600 loaned to him for the remainder of the season by former Preston rider Wayne Griffiths, after Wayne quit racing, following an early season crash at the Three Sisters circuit on Merseyside.

With a delighted Wayne looking on, Kirk scored two wins each in the Supersport and Superbike classes, although his hopes of retaining the Ken Redfern Trophy he won at the

same track in the corresponding fixture last year, were thwarted by a controversial last corner manoeuvre, which attracted such criticism that the secretary of the North East Motor Cycle Club lodged a protest against the winner, after Jamison refused to contest the outcome. The protest was not upheld.

Competition was hot in the Supersport class, as Scotsman Dave Cleland qualified in pole position, ahead of rising North East Motor Cycle Club starlet Jonathan Dickson, a teenager who is expected to move up to the Virgin Media Cup series next season.

Jamison had not raced the 600 Honda prior to arriving at Croft — venue for the next round of the British Superbike Championship on August 12 — and he admitted the bike performed beyond his expectations.

Kirk did qualify the Honda third fastest for the Irish Supersport Championship race at Aghadowey last month, but conditions were such that after

a spill in the third restart of the first Irish Superbike Championship race, he decided not to take any further part at Aghadowey.

As 19 year old Dickson romped to an impressive win in the first Supersport race at Croft last Saturday, Jamison pulled his way up from seventh position to close on Cleland, but he had to settle for third.

Nevertheless, Kirk admitted: "We weren't expecting much with the 600, so I was well chuffed."

Better was to follow, when Jamison got the better of Dickson in the Laird of Croft race, as the determined Ardsman utilised all of his experience to get the verdict on his somewhat out-paced Honda, over Dickson's ultra-fast Yamaha R6.

Kirk recounted: "I got in behind Dickson and sat there. I tried to get past him, but his bike was too quick. Eventually I went under him and a backmarker at the same time, and once I got past Dickson, I

put my head down and went for it."

His Laird of Croft win gave Kirk the distinction of having scored a race win this season in every corner of the British Isles: Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

With his brother Cliff joining the usual backroom crew of sponsor Jim Angus, dad Norman and uncle Jim for the weekend, Kirk won the opening Superbike race last Saturday, ahead of North East Powerbike Championship leader Andrew Bennett, and British National Superstock Cup runner Martin Jowett.

Jamison was involved in a four rider scrap for the lead, but it ultimately came down to a duel between himself and Bennett, and with a lap remaining, Kirk forced the Jim Angus Contracts Suzuki GSX-R1000 to the front and held on to win.

Saturday's programme was rounded off with a fourth place in the second Powerbike race, but Kirk posted his only 'dnf' of the weekend in the final Supersport race.

He recounted: "I got away in third or fourth and the nice thing about racing over there is the circuits and the races are long enough for you to take a couple of laps to settle into your rhythm and plan a race strategy.

"Dickson got away again, and I got through to second and posted the fastest lap of the day on a 600 machine. With a lap-and-a-half to go, I got up to him and just sat there.

"Down the start/finish straight, I discovered I had no front brake and I had to use the back brake to get past a guy and into second place — apparently it looked brilliant, but I definitely didn't mean it!

"Then, again on the start/finish straight, I stayed off the brakes and Dickson must have knocked it down a gear too many and put me into the gravel — the steering damper bracket broke and that was that. DNF"

Battle resumed with Dickson in Sunday's opening Supersport race, which the English teenager won by a tenth-of-a-second, but Jamison won the rematch in the second race, taking full advantage of his superior corner speed to get the

verdict, with a daring last lap pass.

Perhaps Kirk's most impressive performance of the weekend came in Sunday's first Powerbike race.

A rain shower before the race got underway left the track damp in parts, but Jamison opted to race on slick tyres, while the majority of the opposition chose intermediate rubber.

Kirk grabbed the holeshot, but on the opening lap it began to rain, and in the knowledge that as the track became damper, the others would gain an advantage, Jamison turned up the wick to put as much space between himself and his pursuers as he could.

He smiled: "I put my head down and left them for dead. Everyone behind me was sticking their hands up for the race to be stopped — it was absolutely teeming down. They did stop it with a couple of laps to go and I got the win."

He laughed: "Afterwards, a few of the other lads said I was bonkers!"

Kirk's only disappointment of the weekend came in the Ken Redfern Trophy race.

Last year, Kirk emulated Joey Dunlop as the only Irish rider ever to win the prized silverware, and he was determined to retain the trophy this time around — but it wasn't to be, albeit in somewhat controversial circumstances.

Jamison, Bennett, Jowett and Dickson were the fancied runners, but in wet conditions, Jamison was the only one of the quartet to figure, and the winner transpired to be relatively unknown Gavin Littlewood.

Kirk recounted: "I was third into the first corner and into second straight away. The leader pulled two or three seconds on me during the first couple of laps, but I had never used wet Pirelli tyres before and I hadn't ridden at Croft in the wet previously.

"I let the leader go, and as my confidence came up I started to push a bit more and passed him. I had about a one second lead on the last lap and covered my line on the last three or four corners, but on the final corner he did a kamikaze move on me up the inside and took me out and he



Kirk Jamison with his trophy haul from Croft, flanked by his father Norman (right) and sponsor Jim Angus. N23-2/8/07

won it. We were so far ahead of the rest, I was able to turn the bike around on the edge of the track and get second."

Jamison fumed: "When you are on the apex of the last corner in the lead, you don't expect someone to punt you off the track."

Having scored four wins, Kirk completed his races by finishing third in Sunday's second Powerbike race, and although disappointed that he failed to retain the Ken Redfern Trophy, he did end the weekend with a smile.

Kirk, who is sponsored by Feckin Irish Whiskey, recollected: "After the racing was over, one of the guys congratulated me and said how well I had ridden, but that he was a backmarker and I had given him a scary moment when I lapped him.

"I said I hoped I hadn't carved him up and he said I passed him

cleanly enough, even though I was out to the white line and leaned my knee on his fairing! He said what really scared him was when he looked at me pulling away from him and saw 'Feckin Whiskey' on the back on my leathers. He said he thought he had been passed by Father Ted!"

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## Quality line-up for Mid Antrim

As always, there is a quality line-up for this weekend's Mid Antrim 150 road races, which provide an opportunity for local riders, and a few from further afield, to have a final shakedown between the hedges, before the Ulster Grand Prix.

There is a nine race programme at Clough, with two Superbike races, two Junior races, plus rounds of the Irish Supersport, Senior Support, Junior Support, 125cc and Classic bike championships.

Roads will close for practice from 5–9.30pm tomorrow (Friday) night, while on Saturday roads will close at 10am, re-opening not later than 6.30pm.



Kirk Jamison turns on the style, astride his Jim Angus Contracts-backed Suzuki GSX-R1000.