



Amor is hard nut to crack

ISLE OF MAN TT

SCOTTISH hard nut Keith Amor ended his 2011 Isle of Man TT with a brilliant fifth place finish for the Honda TT Legends team in the Senior race on Friday.

Amor was only a second behind Wilson Craig Honda's Cameron Donald after six gruelling laps of the Mountain Course and it was a tremendous effort from the Falkirk rider, who injured his shoulder following a practice crash at Quarterbridge and was left battered and bruised following a spill at Union Mills in the rain-hit Supersport event last Wednesday.

Despite his woes the Honda ace, who also posted his first 130mph lap in the race, finished all five solo races at the TT in the top five.

He finished second overall behind team-mate and 17-times winner John McGuinness in the TT Championship to cap a remarkable week given the circumstances.

"That was a tough day at the office and there certainly wasn't much left in the tank at the end, I gave it everything," Amor said following Friday's Senior.

"I struggled a bit in the early couple of laps as I was too tense and I got bad arm pump but after the first pit stop I settled down and got into the race a bit more. I rode a lot better on laps three and four and after the last pit-stop there was nothing between Cameron and myself - fourth was definitely up for grabs.

"My boards kept saying '+1' and then '-1' so I got my head down and gave it my all but I caught some backmarkers at the top of Barregarrow and Ramsey Hairpin and I just lost a little bit of time," Amor explained.

"I tried all the way to the end and was completely done in, so to lose fourth by a second is quite gutting. But after all that's happened this fortnight, I can't complain."



Keith/Amor

CASEY SUBLIME AT SILVERSTONE

Stoner capitalises on Lorenzo crash

REPSOL Honda's Casey Stoner capitalised on the demise of MotoGP title rival Jorge Lorenzo to move into the lead of the championship with a superb victory in the wet at Silverstone.

Stoner rode an almost faultless race from pole position to take his third successive win and now leads defending champion Lorenzo by 18 points in the standings.

"We had a great race in very tough conditions where anything could have happened, but to come away with a win is fantastic," he said.

"At the beginning of the race we didn't have a great start and I needed to wait for the tyres to get up to temperature. "In the first few laps when

MOTOGP

I was behind the other riders, I got a lot of spray up inside the visor and it was hard for me to see, or for me to push.

"At this time I was being careful, trying to cover my lines to stop them coming inside, then after five laps my visibility got clearer and the water drained away from my visor and I was able to start doing the lap times we were looking for and started to open up a gap."

Stoner was beaten into the first corner by Lorenzo but the factory Yamaha rider was passed by both the

Australian and his team-mate Andrea Dovizioso on the first lap.

Lorenzo also lost a place to San Carlo Gresini Honda rider Marco Simoncelli but gained that back when the Italian went wide and dropped to fourth.

Lorenzo was running between Dovizioso and Simoncelli as the three battled for second place when the Spaniard's race came to an end as he was thrown over the handlebars.

Stoner was setting up a commanding lead and left Dovizioso and Simoncelli to battle for second spot.

That was a battle the latter lost when he lost control of the front end of his Honda and also slid out of the

race. Simoncelli's spill Colin Edwards to third, with fourth going to factory Ducati of Nicky Hayden.

Rizla Suzuki's Alvaro Bautista finished fifth, while multiple world champion Valentino Rossi completed the top six.

Britain's Cal Crutchlow missed his home race when he crashed during qualifying, sustained a broken collarbone.

His Yamaha team manager, Herve Poncharal, said: 'Cal's injury is a big disappointment and I feel really sorry for him because he was desperate to do well in his home race. A lot of people came to support him and he didn't want to let anybody down.'

Casey Stoner leads his Repsol Honda team-mate Andrea Dovizioso at Silverstone on Sunday and (inset) celebrating his victory on the podium

MAIN PICTURE: GAVAN CALDWELL





IN CHARGE: Kirk Jamison has moved to the top of the Irish Superbike Championship after claiming a victory and a runner-up finish at Bishopscourt on Saturday

PICTURE: PACEMAKER



Lavery in Knockhill podium bid

BRITISH SUPERBIKES

MICHAEL Lavery hopes to build on his victory at Thruxton last time out as the MCE British Superbike Championship resume this weekend at Knockhill in Scotland.

Lavery and his Swan Yamaha teammate Tommy Hill are currently fourth and fifth respectively in the series, separated by just a single point and the pair have their sights set on more success at the Scottish circuit on Sunday.

Both riders are in a determined mood ahead of the event as Hill seeks a return to the podium following two challenging rounds at Croft and Thruxton, while Lavery has been buoyed by his Thruxton victory which came on the back of following several frustrating rounds.

Lavery said: "After winning at Thruxton I am really looking forward to Knockhill this weekend and hopefully the conditions will be consistent throughout so we can have two good races.

"The Swan Yamaha has been strong whether it has been wet or dry, but after being on the podium at the last round I want to be back in the top three again because it is so close for the top six positions in the standings," he added.

"I am in there at the moment but I need two good results this weekend to stay there and try to cement the position.

"We definitely have to keep the momentum going so we need another good weekend to try and get more points and podium credits for everyone at Swan Yamaha."

Hill too is bidding to return to form at Knockhill, where he has his sights firmly fixed on a rostrum finish.

"I am ready for Knockhill. The last few rounds we have run at the front and have been up there setting the pace in practice and qualifying, but it just hasn't happened for us in the race with the lottery of the wrong tyre choice in the changing conditions.

"This weekend hopefully there will be none of that and we can just get out there and race to get the results we know that the Swan Yamaha team are capable of," said Hill.

"I want to be on the podium at Knockhill as it is frustrating when you have been fast all weekend and then you are not up in the top three in the race but like I said, we are definitely capable of challenging for the win and we are all positive we can do it at Knockhill."

CAPTAIN KIRK

Jamison on course for famous five

GREYABBEY'S Kirk Jamison is in the midst of what could turn out to be the best season of his career after he moved into the lead of the Irish Superbike Championship at Bishopscourt on Saturday.

Jamison also tops the Ulster Superbike series and leads the Irish and Ulster Superstock title chase on his Jim Angus Contracts BMW Superstock machine.

And if that's not impressive enough, he is also leading the prestigious Adelaide Masters Series at Mondello Park to put himself on course for a stunning championship five-timer in 2011.

Jamison overtook Cameron Donald in the ISB points table at Bishopscourt at the weekend, where he notched a win and a runner-up finish, with David Haire taking victory in the first race.

"The BMW has been perfect from the word go this year," Jamison said.

"We have it set up perfectly for the wet or the dry and another big plus this season has been the switch to Bridgestone tyres, which has really suited me.

"I've never made a good start to the Irish Superbike Championship in the past although I've always come on strong towards the end.

"This year I'm leading it, although it's only by nine points from Cameron, but he won't ride in all the races.

IRISH SUPERBIKES

"I'm 31 points ahead of the next man, Matthew Percy, so I'm happy enough at the minute and fingers crossed.

"The next race isn't until Kirkistown in a month's time but if I can get a bit more of a lead built up there then I might start and ride the Mar-Train Yamaha R6 a bit more this year."

Jamison had to settle for second place in a wet first race at Kirkistown just one second behind David Haire, but he made amends in the dry in race two, beating Matthew Percy to the chequered flag by four seconds with Denver Robb third and Haire fourth.

Derek Sheils and Percy finished third and fourth in race one.

Percy is third in the points tables, 31 points down on Jamison, with Robb, Haire and Mark Johnston the top six.

Alistair Kirk was a double winner in the Supersport class, with Emmet O'Grady twice finishing as the runner-up.

Jonathan McKelvey and Trevor Wilson had a win apiece in the Clubmans 600-1010cc races, while Conor Parkhill won both 125GP races.

The 250GP wins went to Mark Hanna and Richard Glasgow, while Andrew Irwin was a double winner in the Supertwins class.



MAKING A SPLASH: Matthew Percy



Michael Lavery

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