

2021 MALLORY PARK RACE REPORT

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Report and Pics by Dee and Nick

Hello, and a warm welcome back to our trackside ramblings and observations. Racing at last, we could barely contain our excitement. The forecast was terrible but it was going to take more than the British weather to put us off. This season we are under the CRMC umbrella bringing a chance to race at some new circuits and against different machines. Enthusiasm clearly hasn't waned over the last year with our biggest entry to date. Including some very experienced riders, old names that fans will recognise from previous seasons, and novice riders out for their very first taste of competitive solo racing. Walking round a very full paddock, it was a treat to see such a colourful bunch of bikes. Some of you clearly had some time on your hands. Our personal paddock favourite was Barry Jones's lovely new fluorescent scheme. Very smart. We were going to be racing first on Saturday, so early to bed.

Saturday morning and we were woken by the sound of rain hammering down on the roof of the van. Most definitely a wet race. The morning familiarisation session was enough to get us holding our breath as the riders came slipping and sliding past. Then we had a timed practice session to determine grid positions. A nervous wreck before we even start racing.

Out after lunch for our first race. 154 Peter Boast had secured a front row place with 59 Dan Ledger and 102 Andy Widdowson just behind him. Clive Somerfield and Barry Jones had not been out to qualify so started from rear of grid. Flag down (no lights) and away in a cloud of spray.

These conditions were going to demand skill, concentration and nerves of steel, no full wets here. Past us for the first time and 154 Peter Boast had a 1.4sec lead over 59 Dan Ledger who had 102 Andy Widdowson snapping at his heels. 483 Tim Oliver also in the hunt. Clive Somerfield had made great progress from back of grid into 6th place. 2nd lap and 102 Andy Widdowson had passed 59 Dan Ledger who was still managing to hold off 483 Tom Oliver. Midfield riders were beginning to spread out as the wet conditions proved difficult.



New bikes and faces on the grid



Barry Jones's NWS Simoto

154 Peter Boast continued to stretch his lead and as they came round at the end of the fourth lap things looked a little different 102 Andy Widdowson giving all he had to keep the leader in sight, 483 Tim Oliver now in 3rd some 9secs down the road and 59 Dan Ledger who had saved a potential grass track incident now in 4th. It remained this way until the chequered flag with 102 Andy Widdowson producing some stunning wet weather riding to keep the gap down to just 2secs and produce the fastest lap of the race.

Final result 154 Peter Boast, 102 Andrew Widdowson, 483 Tim Oliver. Clive Somerfield received a 10 sec jump start penalty. All riders back safely with 4 retirees. Hopefully the weather would improve for Sunday.

What a difference a day makes. Still overcast and damp but not raining. Warmth and sunshine forecast. Most gazebos were a hive of activity as wheels were changed and the best possible tyres chosen for the now drying track. Out fairly early for our second race and thanks to all his hard work 102 Andy Widdowson was on the front row 154 Peter Boast, 59 Dan Ledger and 483 Tim Oliver behind. Away and round for the first time and 102 Andy Widdowson had been unable to capitalise on grid position now sitting in 4th with 154 Peter Boast up front being pressured by 59 Dan Ledger and 19 Clive Somerfield. 33 Andy Pike was in a good position keeping a watchful eye. 2nd lap and 154 Peter Boast having a tough time trying to shake off a very determined 59 Dan Ledger. 483 Tim Oliver was losing ground allowing 33 Andy Pike to move up a spot. Over the line onto 3rd lap, the opening came and 59 Dan Ledger didn't wait to be invited, round he came ahead of 154 Peter Boast by just a whisker. 102 Andy Widdowson still looking for a way around 19 Clive Somerfield. Holding our breath, we waited for them to come into view on 4th lap.

59 Dan Ledger now 0.5sec ahead of 154 Peter Boast and 102 Andy Widdowson in front of 19 Clive Somerfield. It was shaping up for a stonking last few laps, but we were robbed as a red flag came out towards the end of 5th lap, bringing our fun to an abrupt end. The biggest mover during the race was 9 William Grant who had been steadily picking his way up through the field. Final result 59 Dan Ledger 154 Peter Boast, 102 Andy Widdowson. Best lap 59 Dan Ledger 59.285secs



William Grant KTM RC 390

Late afternoon and glorious sunshine, perfect conditions for the final race. Track was dry, air warm, lovely. Warm coat and wellies had long since been cast aside. Out for the final time. 59 Dan Ledger front row with 154 Peter Boast and 102 Andy Widdowson ready to pounce from behind. 9 William Grant had made up good ground on the grid.



Terrific Supermono turnout for the first round

Off and away for the final time and as they came past 154 Peter Boast was meaning business already 1.5sec ahead of 102 Andy Widdowson, 59 Dan Ledger in 3rd and 33 Andy Pike 4th. These positions were to remain unchanged and with a dry track the boys could really show us what they are capable of. Lap times coming down and down. The speed of front man Peter Boast acting as the carrot for Andrew and Dan. Both riders later saying that someone of Peters class will bring on their own riding capabilities. Final result 154 Peter Boast, 102 Andy Widdowson, 59 Dan Ledger. Fastest lap and new lap record 154 Peter Boast with a 56.122sec.

Our weekend finished with an excellent race and all riders were able to push on as hard as they wanted. Giving novice riders valuable track experience and our regulars a chance to get back in the groove after such a long break. No major incidents meant everyone went home happy after a real mixed bag of a weekend. We have waited a long time for racing to resume, but all good things come to those who wait. Look out Pembrey here we come. See you there.