

Supermono-GB

2021 PEMBREY RACE REPORT

Supported by Turbo Caddy and Burton Gas Services.

Report and Pics by Dee and Nick

Hello again, have you ever had that feeling of excitement when you get the chance to do something that you thought had passed you by? Pembrey cancelled they said, so looking forward to Cadwell and wham Pembrey's back on. Then with some frantic re-arranging of time off work we are now here enjoying the Welsh hospitality. Well done to all who were able to make the event at short notice. Some of the regulars were missing but we do welcome a new face, 14 year old Dean Widdowson, having his first outing on his KTM390.

Up and raring to go Saturday morning, no problems with noise testing and out for a bit of timed practice. First round the lovely Pembrey circuit for some of our novice riders and with a nice dry track some good times were posted by all. Our two friendly rivals Dan Ledger and Andy Widdowson both on front row for 1st race, with Dan taking pole. Pembrey is not ideal for spectating but we took up position on the bank at woodlands in preparation for some exciting action. Flag down and away, a good start for all. Andy



Widdowson was quick off the mark and came past us just in front of Dan Ledger who was challenging hard as he went round Honda Curve onto the back straight and over the line with a whisker between them. Andy soon found his racing groove and started to gradually eek out a lead which was to prove too great for Dan to reel in. Further back down the order is was all go. Dean Widdowson had kept his nose in front of William Grant and pulled out a comfortable gap to make third place his own. However the novice championship was being keenly contested with the last 3 positions being thrown around between Joe Webb, Brian Stroud and Mark Fairweather. All keen for some points because as we all know points mean prizes! The front runners all fairly spaced out over the line with the win going to Andy Widdowson, Dan Ledger 2nd and Dean Widdowson an impressive 3rd. Quickest lap to Andy with 1:06.745.

Back to paddock for a cuppa and a bit of tinkering. Weather still nice and warm and out for race 2. Andy lining up in front of Dan on the front row. William Grant did not make it out. With a roar of engines we knew they were away and we didn't have long to wait before the front pair came hurtling towards us. Andy just had the edge, but Dan was breathing down his neck and you could sense that he wasn't going to let him get away. Dean was behind Tim Oliver and Steven Colville but clearly not content with staying there. He would go on to pick them off lap by lap. Up front the pressure was being piled on by Dan, keeping Andy on his toes. The pace was pretty hot and a fair gap was forming between the front pair and the remaining field. Once again the well matched guys at the rear were battling away. With positions changing with every lap. As Dan came out of Brooklands hairpin we could see that he was on his own, Andy had suffered a mechanical failure and as he coasted past us his frustration was obvious. Dan had only to finish safely to claim the win, Dean Widdowson 2nd and Tim Oliver 3rd. Fastest lap to Dan with 1:07:695. So , a win a piece, what would tomorrow bring apart from rain!!!!

Sunday morning and although we had rain during the night the track was dry, weather overcast. So after a good nights sleep and a few repairs. Everyone was keen to get out there. Race3 and Dan on pole, Andy alongside ready to do battle. Once again Dean just behind, having a remarkable weekend. Joe Webb had worked his way into his best grid position of the weekend to start ahead of some more experienced riders. All safely away off the line, we could see helmets flying round into paddock bend, who would it be this time? Andy first into view with Dan sitting at his shoulder. Dean in 3rd. As they streamed past, the remaining pack were all pretty close together. Out onto lap 2 and it was here that we lost Brian Stroud at Diben bend. Thankfully although both bike and Brian were a little battered, all okay. Laps 3 and 4 saw Dan closing up ever closer until as they came past on lap 5 there was nothing in it.

For the first time this weekend, back markers made their presence felt. The gap had opened up just a tad as the front runners made their way onto the start finish straight onto the final lap. With Dan throwing everything at it looking for a way past Andy, Mark Fairweather ended up as the filling in the sandwich. As Andy went down one side, Dan had to take the other and breaking hard lost a little momentum. This was all Andy needed to secure his 2nd win of the weekend, just 0.7sec ahead of Dan 2nd and Dean in 3rd



The Novice trophy hotting up. Joe Webb hunting down Brian Stroud

place, what a weekend this young man was having. Fastest lap to Dan 1:06:355 which is a new Supermono GB lap record. Well done. Well the rain arrived and despite the lovely welsh scrutineers referring to it as “a Heavy mist” it sure did get everything wet, including us as we went to see the top three riders collect their trophies from both Saturdays and Sundays first race. A rather soggy podium but still smiling.



Picking up the silverware

That left one final wet race to be run, Dan starting from pole hoping to be able to get away. Andy was having none of it and passed us on the first lap a second ahead of Dan. Mid field riders were chopping and changing as the final points of the weekend were up for grabs. Tim Oliver and Steven Colville having a wee battle with Dean making up ground to join the fun. Andy and Dan spurred each other on neither of them relenting. There was nothing to choose

between them lap 5 and 6 but Dan must have found his mojo on the final lap as round he came into Honda curve for the last time and over the line to take the chequered flag 1sec ahead of Andy. Exciting riding in demanding conditions. It was the wet surface that spoilt a perfect weekend for Dean as he just clipped the red and blue paint and his bike slipped away from under him. No damage done. Final result 1st Dan, 2nd Andy and 3rd Tim Oliver. Another clean sweep in the Air-Cooled class by Clive Somerfield taking all 4 wins over James Inman.

We had an excellent weekend racing with the sun reappearing as we packed up for the long journey home. Well done all, with a special mention to the novice guys and to Dean who showed maturity, skill and above all such enthusiasm for our sport.

So off to Cadwell in a couple of weeks. Let's hope our summer has returned by then. See you soon.