

# Supermono-GB

## 2021 CASTLE COMBE RACE REPORT

Supported by Turbo Caddy and Burton Gas Services.

### Report and Pics by Dee and Nick

Hello there, here we are again packing the van ready for a relatively short 3hrs trip for us southern folk. That will make a nice change. I hear a voice calling "do you want to take your wellies dear?" Bless him, hadn't yet checked the forecast. With hindsight a canoe would have been more useful. Having received the heads up regarding paddock space we arrived around midday and quickly set up the garage etc. Another new circuit to get to grips with for some riders, so an evening stroll around the track was called for. Back at camp for a nightcap, tyre discussion and what time to set the alarm clock chat.

Well the morning brought the rain as promised so the anticipated wheel changing got underway whilst breakfast was being rustled up. Scheduled to race 5<sup>th</sup> on the program didn't leave much time before timed practice. 17 entries this meeting and being put in with the 1300 superbikes and 1300clubman led to a grid of over 40 bikes, exciting racing on the menu.



*A big wet grid for the first race*

Race 1 and Alex Sinclair had secured pole position with Andy Widdowson and Tom Blackwell alongside him. Flag down and away in a cloud of spray. Andy Widdowson away well with his wheel just ahead managing to hold off Alex but it was Tom Blackmore who hit folly corner first. Neck and neck the front runners made their way out around quarry and onto farm straight as they past us for the 1<sup>st</sup> time Andy had the edge, just, with Alex, Tom and Dan ledger all breathing down his neck. As they began to pick up the pace in tricky conditions Andy and Alex inched out a gap from Tom and Dan and as they slowed for the chicane down into camp corner on lap 3 it was Alex who had the advantage. Andy was able to apply some pressure for a couple more laps but Alex had found a good rhythm and by the end of the race had a 4sec lead. Tom and Dan had unchallenged rides in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place. Midfield saw James Inman, Brian Stroud and newcomer Neil Bagley running in close order. Clearly the damp track led to some cautious riding but everyone returned safely just as the sun tried to put in an appearance. Final Result 1<sup>st</sup> Alex Sinclair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andy Widdowson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Blackwell. The weather decided it was time to show its hand and as we stood under the cover of the gazebo watching the rivers of water running past, the tannoy announcement confirmed our suspicions. No more racing for us today. Early dinner, shower and a visit to the bar to listen to the band. A bit of boogieing and merriment passed the evening. We waded back to the van and off to bed dreaming of long hot DRY summers. The following morning promised a much better day, and wheels were being changed left right and centre. It had been decided to give the days races an extra lap.



*New recruit Neil Bagley on his Yamaha SZR*

So with the sun shining all was looking good. Nick and I made the trek, sorry, jog round to our viewing spot. Marshalls were beavering away like orange ants all around the circuit. One of the sidecars from the previous race had given up the ghost in spectacular fashion dumping oil all around the track. A long delay followed, another jog back for Nick to organise the stand and starter as the bikes in assembly area turned engines off. An excellent job by the marshals got the guys back out on track ASAP.

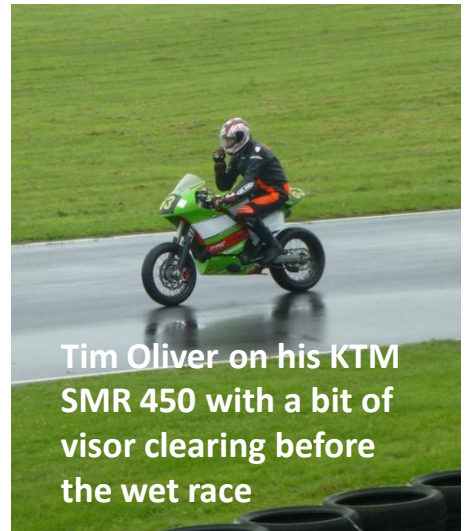
Grid line up for 1<sup>st</sup> race was a rerun of the day before. Flag down and everyone away with a mighty roar. Tom Blackwell leading the way with Andy, Alex and Dan on his shoulder. The next trio included Andy Pike, Steven Colville and Oliver Bingham all scrapping for position, trying not to let the front 4 get away. Midfield saw Tim Oliver keeping Joe Webb at bay . Up front the tussles continued, the esses and chicane causing riders to bunch up with the brave squeezing through. Dan Ledgers run of bad luck continued with him pulling off with gear change issues. As they stormed past us on a dry track onto lap5 we had a new leader Alex Sinclair out front with Tom, Andy Pike and Andy Widdowson in hot pursuit. A real scrap was to ensue with Andy Pike catapulting himself past his rivals into the front spot on lap6. With a bit of breathing space he was able to pull out a couple of secs on Alex. A little way back and Steven Colville was doing everything he



could to hold off a determined Oliver Bingham and as they approached the tight chicane into camp corner for the last time Oliver appeared to run out of track and had to take to the grass to hold it together. Side by side they went onto the start finish straight with Oliver just pipping Steven by 0.145sec. A good exciting race for the growing number of spectators. Final result 1<sup>st</sup> Andy Pike, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Sinclair, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Blackwell.

The sun was now shining and the word “shorts” was mentioned. I told Nick that may be a step too far. Lets just have an ice cream instead. The final race of the weekend and out onto the grid . Andy Pike on front row, Alex, Andy and Tom behind him and Dan with a repaired bike a row behind. Off on the sighting lap and the unthinkable happened. Mark Fairweather had been shunted from behind up at Folly. One bike in flames and Marks badly damaged. Thankfully both riders ok. Another long delay out on the start line, another excellent job by the marshals and another jog back for Nick!!! By this time the grid looked more like a Moto GP weekend, partners, starters and riders everywhere. Track cleared and away safely this time, although we were now missing Alex Sinclair. At the end of the first lap it was anybody's race, a couple of secs covering the front 4 riders.

The midfield runners had their own battles going on. Tim Oliver had Oliver Bingham within striking distance who in turn was creeping ever closer to Steven Colville. Lap 4 saw a change up front Andy Pike once again taking a liking to the number one spot but not for long Tom fought back and they battled on neither of them giving an inch. Andy Widdowson 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dan Ledger 4<sup>th</sup> A fair old gap had opened up back to the continuing tussle between Steven, Oliver and Tim. Passing us for the final time and victory to Andy Pike who now had a 1.5 sec advantage over Tom, with Andy W. a further 6secs back. There had been some good close racing all through the field. Just what we like. Final result 1<sup>st</sup> Andy Pike 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Blackwell 3<sup>rd</sup> Andy Widdowson. Fastest lap of the weekend goes to Andy Pike 1:20:946.



Next up the lovely Anglesey Circuit. Surely the sun has got to shine. Look forward to seeing you all there.

I expect many of you will have heard about the medical emergency that Andy Pike suffered after the final race. We are thinking of him and send him our best wishes for a safe and speedy recovery.