

Supermono-GB

2021 CROFT RACE REPORT

Supported by Turbo Caddy and Burton Gas Services.

Report and Pics by Dee and Nick

Here we are for one last time. We have made it to our season finale and our longest journey yet. We studied the weather forecast and packed the van with all the necessary winter clothing. We were heading north, far away from our sunny southern climes. Might even need a passport for this one! We set off early Friday morning under the cover of darkness, after playing "Hunt the diesel" during the week. We made good time and arrived early afternoon in bright sunshine. Track day activities meant the paddock was pretty full but we found a spot and set about putting up gazebo etc. By now the wind had got up and you've all experienced the joys of flapping canvas and runaway frames. It certainly puts teamwork and patience to the test. Hopefully it would all still be there in the morning. Saturday morning, and with most of the technicalities taken care of on Friday it was a pretty leisurely start. Out for morning practice, with the wind blowing a gale and the rain starting to fall. No time for tyre changing now. This circuit is new to many riders so track time is essential to get a feel for the place. Oliver Bingham looked particularly happy on the damp surface and as confidence grew the lap times improved. We were only due to have one race later in the day and as the rain got more persistent it was time for a tyre change. Time for us to break out the welly boots and rain coats...again!



Dan Ledger pushing on in the rain

Race time, and thanks to a good practice Oliver Bingham sat on pole. Championship leader Andrew Widdowson had forgotten his transponder during practice so had to start from the back of the grid. He would have plenty of work to do! Flag down and everyone away in a cloud of spray. The wet conditions had kept a few chaps in the paddock. Oliver obviously didn't want to spend any longer than necessary out in the rain and soon had a tidy lead in the bag. He was being followed round by Alex Sinclair on his new Kramer and Dan Ledger who was beginning to nibble away at the gap. Jamie O'Brian pulled off on lap2 with machine issues.

By the end of lap3 it was clear that Oliver was not going to be caught but Alex was being reeled in by Dan and Andrew was carving his way up through the field now running in 4th place. Round for lap4 and the front runners remained in situ with the action taking place midfield. Brian Stroud had found some extra pace on the slippery surface, passing Joe Webb and James Inman but as he headed over the start finish line he was unable to get his bike stopped down into clervaux and down onto the tarmac he went. No permanent damage to Brian but his bike was certainly the worse for wear. The red flag came out and brought an end to proceedings. Final result 1st Oliver Bingham 2nd Alex Sinclair 3rd Andrew Widdowson. Fastest lap went to Dan Ledger.1:49:802. The rest of the afternoon was really hampered by the weather. We all retired to damp vans hopefully to dry out before the morning.

Sunday morning, greeted by rain and a very soggy circuit, 7 brave souls decided to give it whirl. Dan and Andrew side by side on the front row with Oliver sitting just behind. Off they went and as they came past it was a pretty close call between the top three. Crossing the line for the 1st time and it was Andy out front, Dan 2nd with Oliver snapping at his heels.



Andy Widdowson taking the honours in race 2

The wet conditions were really stringing the mid field runners out as they battled to stay aboard. Lap 3 saw the demise of Oliver as he crashed out towards Barcroft. Over the line at end of 4th lap and Dan was right behind Andrew pushing him all the way, unfortunately waved yellow flags and back markers forced Dan to back off leaving himself with a bit too much ground to make up at the finish. An exciting race despite having to keep wiping my glasses. Final result 1st Andy Widdowson 2nd Dan Ledger 3rd James Inman. That was the end of point scoring racing for the weekend.

CRMC run Race Of The Year events on Sunday afternoon. The track was drying out nicely so some of the riders who missed out earlier made it to the grid. It was to be a 7lap race to round of the season. Oliver had repaired his machine and Father and son duo "The Welch's" also fancied a trip out. Andrew had pole position, Oliver behind and Alex starting a good few rows back. The dry track meant Andy was off like a rocket but so too was Alex and by the end of 1st lap had shot up behind Oliver and had Andy in his sights. He had plenty of laps to play with but did not hang about. End of lap2 and Oliver ticked off the list. The new machine was running well and he was chasing Andy down inching ever closer. Midfield saw Pat with James in his sights making up ground through the pack. Lap3 and Alex had hit the front. He had found his rhythm and was away.



2021 Trophy winners.
(with Gary Widdowson standing in for Pete Boast)



Alex Sinclair cutting through the field in the CRMC Race Of The Year.

Oliver retired on lap5 and Pat had made his move on James passing him up into 4th position. As the race came to an end Alex had a big lead over Andy who was untroubled in 2nd and with the retirement of Oliver, Pat was promoted to 3rd place. Final result 1st Alex Sinclair 2nd Andrew Widdowson 3rd Pat Welch. This brought a very entertaining season to an end. We have seen record entries this year and hopefully with all the interest shown at the circuits around the country we will continue to grow. The provisional calendar is already out and we can look forward to some great venues even one down south.

Hope the winter months see you all busy in the "man caves". Thanks for all the entertainment. We have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Congratulations to all of those who took a shiny cup home. Counting the days, bye for now.



Just some of the 2021 Supermono GB competitors