

BENNETTS BRITISH SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 5 – SNETTERTON – 20TH MAY 2007 - RACE REVIEW
British Supersport**Race Report**

Ian Lowry left Snetterton today in a jubilant mood - the Norfolk circuit having provided the location for a deserved maiden victory today in the Supersport class. The 20 year old Ulsterman, together with his team-mate Michael Laverty, onboard the Relentless Suzuki's by TAS were rewarded climbing the top steps of the podium having closely contested the lead with Honda-mounted Dennis Hobbs and Poleman Billy McConnell on the Virgin Media Yamaha.

Paul Young was a surprise but welcome season improver, qualifying at the head of the second row on the Pirelli-shod PYR Triumph, Young scored an impressive sixth at the flag. The seasoned campaigner benefited from recent steps forward in chassis setup and enjoyed a tussle with Jamie Robinson, Guy Sanders and John McGuinness as Pirelli riders occupied five of the top seven positions

Lowry continued to pile on the pressure and moved past McConnell out of the Esses on lap twelve, recording the fastest lap of the race with a 1:08.069. Hobbs was also pushing Laverty and by lap fourteen, he tried a move at Russell Bend, eventually succeeding in a carbon copy move next time around. Hobbs' lead was short lived, however, as Lowry took advantage of the change and slipped past both Laverty and Hobbs on the next lap down the fast Revett back straight.

Lowry, Hobbs and Laverty squared up for a grandstand finish, bearing down on tail enders, three laps from home. Laverty's Suzuki was strong on the back straight and managed to get past Hobbs on the final lap but Hobbs kept the heat on, holding a tighter line at Coram, the penultimate bend, to regain second place through Russell Bend. A determined Laverty never gave up though and responded as his Suzuki, still with plenty of rear Pirelli grip, accelerated out of the final bend to snatch second place from Hobbs.

Final standings would record Lowry first from Laverty and Hobbs, separated by just 0.3s.

Christian Elkin continued his form taking second place in the Privateer's Cup, following on from the previous round held at Oulton Park a couple of weeks ago.

A highly delighted Lowry and Laverty enjoyed the champagne shower on the top steps of the podium clearly pleased with the decision to go for the harder compound Pirelli tyres.

Philip Neil, TAS Team Manager: *"We've been working hard on the bike for two years and it's good to see it paying off now. The bikes are fast everywhere. We new the Pirelli tyres would give us the grip where we needed it towards the end of the race."*

THE DIABLO SIDE OF EMOTION

Laverty and Lowry now head the Championship from Hobbs as the sixth round heads for the Mondello Park, Ireland, 15-17 June.

Race Standings

	Rider	Bike	Team	Race time
1	Lowry	Suzuki GSX-R	Relentless by TAS (Pirelli)	22:58.589
2	Laverty	Suzuki GSX-R	Relentless by TAS (Pirelli)	22:58.845
3	Hobbs	Honda CBR600 RR	Padgetts Motorcycles	22:58.924
4	McConnell	Yamaha YZF-R6	Virgin Media Yamaha (Pirelli)	23:04.609
5	Robinson	Honda CBR600 RR	Margal/Bykerbabe	23:12.083

Championship Standings

	Rider	Bike	Team	Points
1	Laverty	Suzuki GSX-R	Relentless by TAS (Pirelli)	102
2	Lowry	Suzuki GSX-R	Relentless by TAS (Pirelli)	81
3	Hobbs	Honda CBR600 RR	Padgetts Motorcycles	66
4	Robinson	Honda CBR600 RR	Margal/Bykerbabe	58
5=	McGuinness	Honda CBR600 RR	Padgetts Motorcycles	38
5=	McConnell	Yamaha YZF-R6	Virgin Media Yamaha (Pirelli)	38
7	Easton	Kawasaki ZX-6 R	ISILON MSS Discovery	35
8	Hutchinson	Honda CBR600 RR	Bike Animal Honda	34
9	Westmoreland	Honda CBR600 RR	Centurion Racing	30
10	Sanders	Kawasaki ZX-6 R	Gearlink Racing (Pirelli)	29

Virgin Media Cup

Race Report

Reigning World Sidecar champion, Tim Reeves was on hand to give James Webb a few words of wisdom before the start of the fifth round of the 2007 Virgin Media Cup at Snetterton today, 20 May.

Scott David Paton took the holeshot from third on the grid, followed by Leon Morris who made a blistering start from fourth. James Webb settled into fifth, with BJ Toal in sixth on the Pirelli Diablo R6 for the opening exchanges.

South African Dane Hellyer had looked strong all weekend but high-sided out of third and the race at Russell's at the end of Lap 3, offering Webb the opportunity to capitalise as he stole a number of places. Within half a lap Webb had gained the lead on the run in to the Bomb Hole and didn't look back.

THE DIABLO SIDE OF EMOTION



Behind Webb the action began to hot up. Leo Aldersley swapped paint with Leon Morris for fifth, before getting his head down to catch Midge Smart. 2006 Knockhill race winner, David Paton gained the upper hand over Smart and broke free to claim his second podium of the season and third in the championship.

By the time Webb rode under the chequered flag to take his second win and 25 points, he had taken the new lap record and extended his lead over second placed Paton to 6.7 seconds.

BJ Toal limited the damage at one of his least favourite circuits by crossing the line in sixth. His lead may be cut to 18 points, but BJ Toal will still line up on the championship-leading Pirelli Diablo machine at Knockhill in six weeks time.

James Webb: *“I crashed a few times yesterday but managed to get pole still then carry it through to the race win and the new lap record. I hope to continue my form on to Knockhill and get the Championship lead. It’s such a strong series this year it will be no walk over.”*

Race Standings

	Rider	Bike	Race time
1	Webb	Yamaha YZF-R6	16:56.575
2	Paton	Yamaha YZF-R6	17:03.313
3	Smart	Yamaha YZF-R6	17:05.383
4	Aldersley	Yamaha YZF-R6	17:09.712
5	Morris	Yamaha YZF-R6	17:11.027

Championship Standings

	Rider	Bike	Points
1	Toal	Yamaha YZF-R6 (Diablo Corsa III)	101
2	Smart	Yamaha YZF-R6 (Diablo Corsa III)	83
3	Paton	Yamaha YZF-R6 (Diablo Corsa III)	57
4	Morris	Yamaha YZF-R6 (Diablo Corsa III)	54
5	Webb	Yamaha YZF-R6 (Diablo Corsa III)	50
6	Hipwell	Yamaha YZF-R6 (Diablo Corsa III)	46
7	Brown	Yamaha YZF-R6 (Diablo Corsa III)	35
8	Howell	Yamaha YZF-R6 (Diablo Corsa III)	32

THE DIABLO SIDE OF EMOTION

