



UK GP45 CHAMPIONSHIP

Race report round 13

1st September 2012



Above: Paul Annetts is shadowed by *Bluebell Lakes* rider Tony Bridgefoot.
Credit: www.EDPphoto.co.uk



Above: 14 year olds Harry Coomber and Brad Jones gave *Bardahl Oils* and *Bob Jones Heating Ltd* some great publicity in front of the spectators.
Credit: www.EDPphoto.co.uk

The penultimate round of the NGRRC calendar took the Pirelli GP45 Championship on a rare visit to Castle Combe in Wiltshire. As one of the UK's longest standing race circuits, every bump and dip helps to remind riders of it's colourful 62 year history.

Saturday 1st September qualifier

Combe always manages to attract good spectator numbers and with some much appreciated sunshine added to the scene the day looked set to provide some eventful racing.

The Pirelli GP45 Super Singles were joined by a couple of hard charging 14 year olds on Super Twin Aprilias – Harry Coomber riding under the *Bardahl Oils* banner and Brad Jones piloting the *Bob Jones Heating Ltd* machine. The usual suspects on the GP45 Super Singles all set about trying to learn the tricky unfamiliar track in their warm-up session.

From the start last season's Super Single Champ Matt Andrew led the Singles. Putting on a great show for *Corby Kawasaki Centre* on their KX-based GP45. However, Andrew knew that he couldn't rest on his laurels as Pistol Pete Carr would soon be joining him and battling hard for the Super Single win. Sure enough by lap four the #27 of *pistolracing.co.uk* Carr was in Andrew's wheel tracks.

Up ahead the two Aprilias were making their mark for the overall race lead. Harry Coomber took control mid-race, putting in the fast lap at 1:18.42. At the chequered flag Coomber succumbed to an attack by the mini-twin of Nigel Read and had to settle for 2nd by a whisker and the Super Twin Aprilia of Brad Jones snapped up third spot by a similar margin over Ben Marsden.

On the last lap, whilst negotiating backmarkers, Peter Carr took advantage of an off-track excursion by Andrew to take the Super Single win and putting a mini-twin between the dualling pair of green machines. James Stacey took another excellent 3rd GP45 finish whilst West Country rider Paul Annetts headed off *Bluebell Lakes'* chief Tony Bridgefoot with Jonathan Grover rounding out the finishers. >





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Saturday 1st September final

The front row took shape with the two GP45 Super Twins flanked either side by mini-twins – 14km around Combe would be hard and physical work. The two Aprilias were taking no prisoners this time out and headed up the race from start to finish, both riders finished well clear of the rest of the field but with only a second to split the pair of them. Harry Coomber's *Bardahl Oils* machine took the win but Brad Jones' *Bob Jones Heating Ltd RRV450* made the fastest lap of the race with a 1:18.31.

Newly crowned 2012 Champion Peter Carr made the task even more difficult by missing the warm-up lap and found himself relegated to the back of the grid, forfeiting his third row position earned in the qualifier. Matt Andrew took advantage in the early laps and headed up the Super Singles for *Corby Kawasaki* but Carr was rapidly progressing through the pack to join him in time for a titanic last lap battle. Showing his intent at the notorious Quarry bend Carr and Andrew then locked into frequent and close exchanges of position. On the approach to the final chicane it was evident that to reach the flag Andrew and Carr would need to negotiate a gaggle of backmarkers, Andrew had the advantage but in the ensuing melee lost out to Carr who swept through to take the chequered flag and first of the GP45 Super Singles. Andrew crossed the line just 0.99 seconds behind and, although a little disappointed, was pleased to have enjoyed such an exhilarating final lap – the outgoing Super Single Champion is eager to thank *Corby Kawasaki* for the opportunity to ride their superb machine. Carr put in another fastest Super Single lap with a 1:21.83 setting the standard as the class lap record.

Bluebell Lakes' riders James Stacey and Tony Bridgefoot took creditable 3rd and 4th respectively with novice riders Paul Annetts and Jonathan Grover rounding out the finishers points.

Pirelli UK GP45 Championship results: Peter Carr 281, James Stacey 143, Matthew Andrew 110

Next round: Thruxton 6th October 2012. Visit www.ngroadracing.org and www.gp45.co.uk to find out more.



Above: Jonathan Grover from Somerset gets to grips with the bumps and chicanes. **Credit:** www.EDPphoto.co.uk



Above: Matt Andrew took the controls of the *Corby Kawasaki* 450 giving pistolracing.co.uk's Pete Carr a hard target to chase throughout both races. **Credit:** www.EDPphoto.co.uk

