

## Race report rounds six and seven

2/3 June 2012

The famous fast flowing curves of Donington Park have secured its place in racing history as one of the best circuits in the world and a firm favourite for many racers. The Derbyshire venue proved its popularity with good grids for NG Road Racing's early June visit including several European riders making the trip to sample the historic circuit and some wild weather.

### Saturday 2nd June, round six qualifier

Donington is notoriously tricky in wet conditions and experienced *Corby Kawasaki* rider Mark Carkeek was one of the first to be caught out in first practice. Carkeek, who enjoyed a strong 2nd position at Brands Hatch, fell at Redgate suffering a deep abrasion on his arm. *Bluebell Lakes'* rider Tony Bridgefoot also succumbed to bad luck with a broken gearbox which prematurely ended his race weekend.

After a morning of light drizzle the tarmac began to dry nicely and by 2:00pm conditions were as good as they were going to get. Our band of GP45 Super Singles took their positions amongst the mini-twins for the first race of the weekend. NGRRC's 2011 GP45 champ Matt Andrew, piloting the *Machine Tool Sales Online/ADP Group* RMZ

Suzuki 450, promptly crashed out in the melee as the riders funnelled into the deceptively tight first corner. Lady luck also frowned on *Corby Kawasaki* rider Mark Carkeek as his tyre deflated ending his ride once again. All this allowed championship rival Peter Carr of *pistolracing.co.uk* to comfortably take control of the Super Single field battling with the surrounding mini-twins and finishing up in 5th spot on-the-road. Next GP45 at the chequered flag was James Stacey on his *Bluebell Lakes'* CRF Honda in another solid performance for the novice rider. Alan Cragg took his CRF Honda 450 to 3rd GP45 spot after some close racing with Gary Moran's *machinetoolsales.com* Suzuki. Robbie Robson's *Trevor Pope Racing* KTM and Paul Annetts *Ash Honda* supported YZF Yamaha rounding out the points.

### Saturday 2nd June, round six final

A thoroughly disgruntled but fired up Matt Andrew was now at the back of the grid as a result of his earlier Redgate incident, meanwhile Andrew's main rival, Peter Carr, was sitting pretty on the 2nd row. Andrew took flight determined to catch an on-form Carr in the early laps and making excellent progress through the field. Despite a stirring effort Carr proved impossible to catch and once again took the GP45 Super Single win and 5th on-the-road with Andrew next up in 6th overall.

James Stacey looked set to upset the standings considerably at half race distance by showing Peter Carr a wheel at Redgate. However, the *Bluebell Lakes'* rider promptly pulled off the circuit with a mechanical issue ending a promising weekend in disappointment alongside fellow team mate Tony Bridgefoot. Scottish rider Gary Moran took his *machinetoolsales.com* Suzuki to a creditable 3rd GP45 spot followed by Robbie Robson and Paul Annetts.

### Sunday 3rd June, round seven qualifier

Sunday proved wet, windy and cold from the first race until the very last. Donington Park demonstrated how challenging the surface becomes when wet with many crashes throughout the day in every class and on most corners. Racing in these conditions usually provides unlikely winners and untimely exits – if nothing else it was going to be exiting! >



**Above:** Peter Carr demonstrates how superb the GP45s are in wet conditions  
**Credit:** www.EDPphoto.co.uk



# UK GP45 CHAMPIONSHIP

**Continued.** Race report round 6/7

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In the driving wind and rain Pistol Pete took to the conditions like a duck to water, swiftly snatching the overall lead and dominating the race. In a storming victory the *pistolracing.co.uk* rider took the flag some 14 seconds clear of the entire mini-twin and Super Single field setting the fastest lap at 1:29.38 – a lap time comparable to the top five finishers in the equally wet Open race!

Matt Andrew took 2nd GP45 and 4th on-the-road with Gary Moran celebrating another 3rd Super Single finish. Robbie Robson and Paul Annetts continued to brave the treacherous conditions as several of the mini-twins riders called it a day.

## Sunday 3rd June, round seven final

Peter Carr now found himself on pole position for the the final, the first time a Super Single has commanded this spot in the Pirelli supported UK Championship. The *Machine Tool Sales Online/ADP Group* GP45 Suzuki of Matt Andrew occupied the inside position on the front row making it a mini-twin versus Super Single dash for the holeshot.

Despite a depleted and thoroughly wet field of competitors those that chose to ride were keen to capitalise on the points. Isle of Wight GP45 rider Peter Carr launched his Kawasaki in impressive style getting the bike sideways on the slippery tarmac and launching himself into the first corner ahead of the chasing pack. This time the mini-twin and GP45 field were better prepared for Carr's wet weather skills and were determined not to let him get away. The opening laps saw Carr pushed to 3rd place on-the-road and 1st GP45. However, Matt Andrew was hot on his tail and looking for an opportunity to take the final GP45 win of the weekend – but it was not to be. In another heated, early race exchange Andrew crashed out of the race handing Carr the GP45 victory.

The *machinetoolsales.com* Suzuki of Gary Moran slipped a few spots mid-race but regained his composure in the final laps bringing home a well-deserved 2nd GP45 position and 7th place overall. *Trevor Pope Racing's* KTM 450 with Robbie Robson on board took 3rd GP45 in the incredibly slippery conditions with Paul Annetts' stylish speedblock Yamaha collecting 4th.



**Above:** Gary Moran and Alan Cragg enjoyed several close exchanges **Credit:** www.EDPphoto.co.uk



**Above:** Paul Annetts **Credit:** www.EDPphoto.co.uk

**Pirelli UK GP45 Championship results:** Peter Carr 136, Matthew Andrew 90, Mark Carkeek 56

**Next round:** Oulton Park 30th June 2012. Visit [www.ngroadracing.org](http://www.ngroadracing.org) and [www.gp45.co.uk](http://www.gp45.co.uk) to find out more.



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