



# UK GP45 CHAMPIONSHIP

## Race report rounds nine and ten

28th-29th July 2012

With the rest of the country suffering yet more rain and misery, the NGRRC paddock was delighted to enjoy beautifully sunny conditions for most of weekend's races at Britain's prettiest circuit – Cadwell Park. With several BSB regulars joining the NG regulars, lap times were sure to be as hot as the temperatures.

### Saturday 28th July, round nine

Race 7 drew to the grid three to a row due to Cadwell's narrow start/finish straight. The GP45s had it all to do from the back of the pack and Pistol Pete Carr was hungry for another overall win against the mini-twins.

Lap one proved eventful for *Bluebell Lakes* rider James Stacey and *Corby Kawasaki's* Mark Carkeek. Stacey crashed out at the steep downhill left-hander, Mansfield, taking a crash weary Mark Carkeek with him. The incident left the pair uninjured but spectating from the grass banking.



**Above:** Pistol Pete Carr crests the infamous mountain on his way to an emphatic victory over all the mini-twins and his fellow Super Single competitors. **Credit:** www.EDPphoto.co.uk

Peter Carr was on a mission making excellent use of the lightweight and nimble 450 single through physically challenging undulations and tight corners. By lap four he was at the head of the race both in class and on-the-road and fighting for position with the mini-twin of Ben Marsden. When the pair crossed the finish line Carr found he had lost his lead by just under half a second.

2011 GP45 Super Twin regular race winner, Chris Harrison was back for a visit to Cadwell riding under the *Insignia Signs and Engraving* banner. Harrison enjoyed a 6th on-the-road finish on his Aprilia SXV 450 twin. 2011 Super Single Champion, Matt Andrew was looking to improve on his terrible luck this season and brought the *ADP Group/Machine Tool Sales Online* Suzuki safely home 9th on-the-road and 2nd of the Super Singles. The final podium slot went to the Honda mounted *Bluebell Lakes' Tony Bridgefoot*.

At the start of race 17, NG Road Racing's Cadwell racers were still basking in heat and sunshine. Peter Carr was now sat in the middle of the front row with Chris Harrison and Matt Andrew close behind. Each rider eager to grab the outside line and attack the steep gradient up the hill and be the first through Coppice and Charlies.

As the riders launched themselves around the first lap Carr slotted into to second spot behind mini-twin rival Marsden. This soon became an exhilarating three way battle when they were joined by the mini-twin of Dale Thomas. The little 450 was pushed back into third on-the-road spot with only a fraction over one second separating the three of them at the chequered flag.

Disaster struck once more for a luckless Matt Andrew when a bolt worked its way loose on his rear sprocket chewing up his swing arm and preventing him from starting the race. *Corby Kawasaki* rider Mark Carkeek also joined Andrew on the sidelines with a gear linkage problem during the opening laps. *Bluebell Lakes* riders James Stacey and Tony Bridgefoot both completed the 13.08km race in fine form to collect 2nd and 3rd Super Single spots respectively. Super Twin rider Chris Harrison took his Aprilia through to 7th on-the-road.

### Sunday 29th June, round nine

No-one dared to complain about Saturday's hot weather but day two of racing provided slightly cooler temperatures which made for idyllic racing conditions. The GP45s were back to the rear of the mini-twin pack for Sunday morning but that didn't stop a determined Peter Carr who had a clear plan of where and when to attack the two pesky mini-twins who had denied him overall victories the day before. >





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Matt Andrew's luck took another nose dive in morning practice when the con rod made it's escape through the Suzuki's cases on the approach to the ultra twisty Hall Bends.

On a flawless charge *pistolracing.co.uk*'s Carr fired his warning shot by lap three and had forced the ex-NGRRC demo bike through the field to take a commanding lead. He took the flag some six seconds clear of the next man and put in an incredible overall fastest lap of 1:40.78 and averaging 77.51mph – an impressive feat on a bike that started life as a motocross KX450 machine.

James Stacey again racked up the points as second Super Single home and 8th on-the-road. To the relief of experienced rider Mark Carkeek, his *Corby Kawasaki* liveried machine completed the race unscathed rewarding them with a third Super Single and 12th on-the-road. Tony Bridgefoot took 4th for the two man *Bluebell Lakes* team and Super Twin Aprilia rider Harrison battled through to sixth on-the-road for *Insignia Signs and Engraving*.

As the weekend's racing drew nearer to a close and the GP45s prepared for their final battle riders observed some dark clouds looming. With a dry start they were underway and Peter Carr was on target for another impressive victory, however the rain soon began to fall and the red flags came out after just a few laps. Everyone rushed back to their camps for a rapid change of tyres and reform for a wet restart. Now famed for his wet weather expertise Peter Carr was in his element and quickly built up an impressive overall lead on the first lap. The Isle of Wight man cruised to an emphatic on-the-road win by 13 seconds still managing to average well over 70mph in the tricky conditions.

The *Bluebell Lakes*' team struggled to change wheels in time on both machines and Tony Bridgefoot made the decision to prioritise his key Championship points scorer James Stacey and get out him on track first. A disgruntled Bridgefoot failed to get his own wheels sorted in time meaning he missed out on the restart, however the team took home another 2nd Super Single championship finish from Stacey. Chris Harrison usually enjoys the wet and again secured a sixth on-the-road finish on board his Aprilia Super Twin.

At the end of the weekend Pete Carr boarded his ferry to the Isle of Wight with the GP45 Super Single Championship now secured on his racing CV. Second and third positions are alive and well with all to play for going into the next round at the popular and challenging Anglesey circuit.



**Above:** Bluebell Lakes' rider Tony Bridgefoot on the CRF Honda.

**Credit:** www.EDPphoto.co.uk



**Above:** 2011 Champ Matt Andrew has suffered a disastrous season.

**Credit:** www.EDPphoto.co.uk

**Pirelli UK GP45 Championship results:** Peter Carr 211, James Stacey 102, Matthew Andrew 90

**Next round:** Anglesey 18th–19th August 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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