

What a Scorcher!!!

Sunday 24th May 2009 saw the first ever round of the ACU backed MinibikeMasters at Buttercup Farm near Peterborough. Not only was it one of the hottest days of the year so far, with beautiful clear blue skies and bright sunshine, but the racing was red hot too as the best of the UK's minibiking talent lined up to do battle.

Following the great work of the MINI4GB championship over the last couple of years, and MINI4GB's unfortunate demise, the MinibikeMasters was created to ensure that minibikers could still benefit from a top class racing series. There have been a few notable changes, with the MinibikeMasters being run as a not for profit series focussed on widening the appeal of minibiking through the addition of novice and kids race classes to run alongside along side the pro classes.

Round 1 saw a good strong turn out with well over 100 competitors lining up throughout the day, with the fiddyparts.co.uk supported Mid-size (clubman) class seeing the biggest turnout and delivering some great racing from the club level riders. Steven Payne, Gary Phelps and Luke Humphries finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the overall results. The Airport Auto's sponsored over 40's class also saw some close battles between Bradley Briggs and Mark Houghton, with the two of them sharing the wins but with Bradley edging Mark for the overall. Three good consistent rides ensured Nigel Mealing of a well earned 3rd overall.

The youth classes added a new dynamic to the racing and it was great to see some of the future stars battling it out. In the RB Auto's backed age 6 – 8 class there was drama in the first moto when Miles Beaumont fell in front of Ethan Breckon, leaving Ethan with no-where to go but straight over Miles. After a bit of dusting down, Miles bravely remounted and rode to a strong 2nd place behind Ethan, with Martha Mills coming home in 3rd. This 1, 2, 3 finish pattern continued through moto's 2 and 3 resulting in the same positions for the overall.

The Lyndon Chaplin Photography supported 9 – 12 class saw a similar 1, 2, 3 pattern all day, although the racing was closer than the results suggest with John Verdugo taking the overall win with three 1st places, followed by Reece Bissonette with three 2nd's and Jason Breckon with three 3rd's. The Allwood Ceiling Services sponsored 13 – 15 class saw some great battles between Ben Franklin and Luke Armon resulting in first and second overall respectively, with Ben Rial putting together 3 solid rides to take the 3rd place spot.

In the ben's bikes backed Super-stock class, new addition to the Motox-collect.com team and reigning British Super-stock champion Jonny Groves was as quick as ever and claimed 1st and 2nd in moto's 2 and 3. A DNF for Jonny in race 1 however ruined his day dropping him to 12th overall showing just how competitive this class is. Having battled through to 2nd after being dead last on the first lap of moto 3, Jonny will again be one to watch this year. Overall honours went to Jordan Fielder with a 1, 2, 1, with Adam Lee and Simon Mellor also notching up 3 solid rides a piece to take the second and third overall spots.

There was a similar story of excellent riding tempered with misfortune in the Monstermoto sponsored open mini class. Monstermoto rider Grant Dyer was the run away victor in moto 1, however his day was ruined after an injury sustained in a crash in the Mid-size Pro class effectively ended his chances of competitive racing. Bad luck also robbed Stomp rider Luke Coker of a final moto win after a derailed chain approaching the last corner saw his 20+ second lead eaten up before he could push over the line to finish in 2nd earning Luke second overall. Paul Williams capitalised to take the overall with two 2nd places capped off with a 1st in moto 3 giving him the overall win. Consistency again proved highly effective with two 3rd's and a 4th good enough to secure 3rd overall for Dave Alexander.

The minibikemx.com 50cc Pro Mini class saw a dominant display from Joe Pyke who lead from start to finish in all 3 moto's to take the overall and leave the balance of the field to fight over the other podium places. Tim Newcombe and Lloyd Harwood were best of the rest swapping positions for most of the day to finish in 2nd and 3rd respectively. In the 88cc Modified Mini class sponsored by MotoX-Collect.com, The top two riders of the day were Jamie McLaren and Chuck Davies

taking all 3 wins a 2nd and two 3rd places between them with Craig Powell also getting into the mix for a creditable 3rd overall.

Some of the closest racing of the day was reserved for the Stomp backed Mid-size Pro class, where Tommy Wright finishing 1, 2, 1 triumphed over Trevor Scott (3, 1, 2) for the overall win. These guys were flying and swapping the lead throughout the day with Pat Crump also getting in the mix in moto's 1 and 2 leaving him 3rd overall, however his disappointing 12th in moto 2 leaves him with a bit of a points deficit to make up. Scott was stronger off of the start all day, however Wright appeared able to lap quicker than anyone, proved by his moto 2 charge from 8th on lap 1 to be within inches of Scott's back wheel over the line. Grant Dyer will also be one to keep an eye on after his crash in moto 2, whilst leading with a comfortable margin, demonstrated his outright speed.

Overall it was an excellent days racing catering for everyone from kids, to vets and not forgetting the hardcore pro-class racers. Round 2 is at Slough Ace Riders on Sunday 21st June – if you've got a minibike make sure you're there, after all there is a class for everyone, if you don't own a minibike go and buy one – this is the most (legal) fun you can have, so you won't regret it!!!