

## Manston 2/3 August 2025

Was it only the week before that we were up in the wilds of northern England?! Back down south for our next event at Manston.

A more encouraging turnout with some 40 riders entered plus 10 or 11 day entries to add to the fun. The weather was pretty good, generally sunny but with a bit of a head/side wind on both days which pegged some of the times back a bit, overall a great weekend for racing.

So straight into the results:

Actually a bit of a hard luck story first. You may remember last time at Manston a chap with a BSA Bantam powered sprinter was thrilled to get 5 runs, all the way to the end and back. Sadly this time firing up on the rollers for the first time on Saturday and an ominous knocking began. Straight back to the pits and the head and barrel off revealed the big end bearing gone. It was going to be a quick strip and rebuild ready for next weekends Heritage Sprint. Actually several runners were just taking their machines out for a gentle airing as they are also running at the Heritage Sprint.

In 250cc Racing, Stuart Buchanan was the only entry, a new head gasket installed after the last meeting, running a best of 13.44s@93.8 mph on Saturday and slightly slower on Sunday.

In 500cc Racing, Kerry Phillips completely ruined my tales regarding the head wind by beating his own class record (11.191s) with an 11.158s@116.4 mph on Saturday, slightly slower on Sunday. Next was Adrian Licence, only running on Saturday, on a nice T500 Suzuki, 13.92s@97.6 mph.

In 750cc Racing, Pete Smith was the only runner on both days, trying as hard as he could to get a run into the 11s, taking his 'well used' CBR 600 to a best of 12.05s@115 mph on Saturday, also slightly slower on Sunday before, on his 3<sup>rd</sup> run, after leaving the line a large puddle of rusty water was spotted.

I intercepted him on his return and indeed rusty water was still dripping or pouring if you tilted the bike. Pete immediately went and apologised to Dave and the rest of the clean up crew as we had to run a single lane for a while. Dave remarked that he had always said these new fangled water cooled bikes would never catch on! Pete called it a day but some sort of water feed to the carbs was suspected to have come loose, I'm not quite sure of the details but it didn't seem to be too serious.

In 1000cc Racing, Paul Houghton was another bucking the trend on his super low slung GSXR1000, taking a bit off his own class record (9.80s), running 9.77s@142.4 mph on Saturday and just a shade slower on Sunday.

Next it was Richard Ward on his GSXR1000, 11.02s@136.4 mph on Saturday, also slightly slower on Sunday.

In Unlimited Racing, Steve 'The Eliminator' Everett was just off his class record, taking his 'Busa to 9.68s@141.3 mph on Saturday and 9.67s@141.7 mph on Sunday.

Then it was Simon Havercroft taking his Blackjack Suzuki to a best of 10.0s@145.2 mph, only running on Saturday.

On Sunday a new machine appeared, the quiet and understated mount of Brian Hopkins. A huge Yamaha XV1700 V twin. It was the first time out for this machine and it looked quite a handful to say the least. Brian did just 3 runs before retiring, I'm not sure why, with a best of 15.56s@77.3 mph. Apparently he has the 1900cc version at home!

Dave Woodard was our first 3 wheeler entrant, establishing a class record with 4 runs in the mid 11s on his 1500cc Superside Suzuki, with a best of 11.53s@127.3 mph, just running on Saturday.

In Vintage up to 350cc a nice battle was brewing between Noah Harrison on his BSA/JAP 350, Allen Randall on his Ducati 250 and Ken Thorn on the smaller of his two Enfields, the 250. On Saturday Allen was quickest, running 16.18s@80.1 mph, from Noah with a 16.28s@79.1 mph and Ken with a 16.88s@77.7 mph. On Sunday it was just Noah and Allen. This time Noah came out on top with a slightly quicker 16.02s@79.6 mph, Allen running a slower 16.36s@77.6 mph.

In Vintage Unlimited, Mark Richards took quite a chunk off Tony Lockwoods class record (13.91s) having strapped the front of his Triumph T110 in an effort to tame the wheelspin he ran 13.38s@96.1 mph on Saturday and did a single run on Sunday, an even quicker 13.35s@95.9 mph. Next was Ken Thorn on the big 700 Enfield, running 15.48s@86 mph just on Saturday and John Daly, also just running on Saturday, getting his Triumph 500 to a best of 16.83s@74 mph.

In Classic Scooter, all the entrants only ran on Saturday, Nige Howard did just a single run but it was well under Stuart McVickers class record, (14.89s), taking his Vespa 210 to 13.55s@98.8 mph, Stuart was next, under his own record if Nige hadn't got there first, taking his Lambretta 240 to 14.33s@86.8 mph and then Jamie Lawn with his Vespa 180, 16.0s@72.1 mph.

In Open Scooter, Eric Cope on his Lambretta 249 was just outside Mike Pacey's class record, running 12.82s@99.99 mph, he did several slightly slower runs at over 100 mph btw. Then it was Mike, feeling maybe the Rotax 300 was getting a little tired, 13.12s@92.1 mph and Paul Gurney taking his Lambretta 265 to 13.52s@89.5 mph. On Sunday Mike was the sole runner, his first run was slightly slower than Saturday but his second run came to an abrupt halt when his left handlebar snapped clean off on the start line! Luckily it was right on the line and not on the run!

In Classic Open up to 1500cc, Mark Taylor had got the set up on big Suzuki just right, hovering the front wheel and running under his own class record (9.87s), with a 9.81s@135.3 mph on Saturday, and slightly slower on Sunday. Next was Steve Mundy on his Z1 Foale rep, 12.02s@118.9 mph on Saturday, slower on Sunday, and Pete McGuinness on his KH500, 12.87s@103.5 mph, slower on Sunday.

Once again 750cc Road Bike was the most populated class with 6 runners! Quickest was Ben London on his ZXR6, 10.683s@130.5 mph on Saturday and an almost identical 10.681s@129.4 mph on Sunday.

Then it was me, Neil Jenkinson, on my 675 Street Triple, with a best of 11.37s@117.3 mph on Saturday and a slightly quicker 11.33s@117.7 mph on Sunday. Next was Steve Everett taking his Ducati 750SS out for an airing, 12.78s@101.8 mph, running a 100<sup>th</sup> slower on Sunday, then it was Amanda Taylor on her Ducati SS, 14.38s@94.7 mph, with a quicker 13.82s@97 mph on Sunday, Gill Pacey on her CBR500, 14.49s@88.7 mph, slightly slower on Sunday, and a new face, Ian Dale-Molly on a very smart Moto Guzzi V50, thoroughly enjoying just the one day with a best of 17.04s@76.8 mph.

In Unlimited Road Bike, Steve Walton was back, taking his own class record on Saturday, (10.23s), running 10.14s@140.7 mph on his GSXR1000, slightly slower on Sunday, next was Zac Holt on his big 1216 Suzuki, 10.33s@135.7 mph, slightly quicker on Sunday, 10.29@130.6 mph, Dunk Rose on his Panigale, 10.69s@141.9 mph, slightly slower on Sunday, and Will Lubbe on his ZX12R, 10.71s@135.5 mph, again slightly slower on Sunday.

There's just time to do a quick run through the eliminations. We ran them on Sunday as things had quietened down a bit.

The first round saw me, against Steve 'The Eliminator' Everett, oh dear! Still off I went and sure

enough Steve came steaming past me just before the line. As we got back and parked up, Steve came up and said he was sure he had broken out, really? Well yes he had. My run wasn't that good, 11.49 to a dial in 11.33, Steve had dialed 9.8 and ran 9.67, well that wasn't in the script!

Ben London took out Pete McGuinness, who must have had a mare of a run, running 17.44 against a dial in of 12.98, and Kerry Phillips beat Gil Pacey. Mike Pacey obviously couldn't run with only one handlebar and Richard Ward was a no show.

In the next round, Kerry Phillips had one of those runs, going everywhere but straight, handing the win to Ben London. I had a bye through to the final round, yippee!

In the final, once again I'm never going to be a drag racer, although my run was pretty good, 11.35 to my 11.33 dial in, a reaction time of 0.56s to Bens 0.16s was way to slow and Ben was a deserving first time winner.

A great weekends racing and somehow it seems me and Kerry are equal second in the NSA elimination challenge, how on earth did that happen?!