



Round 5 - Knockhill



Round 5 of the Supersport championship and a trip up to the top of Scotland to the Knockhill circuit. Thankfully this heatwave had reached as far up as Knockhill and we enjoyed 3 days of good weather on the newly surfaced track. The new track surface is nice, less bumpy than the years before!

We knew coming into this weekend that we wanted to focus on race pace, and getting the bike dialled in early so we could do race runs during the free practices. The lap is so short here, so it means we can do loads of laps each session and make plenty of changes. I had a small crash at turn 3 – I lost the front on entry - but we bounced back in FP2. We played with the engine braking to help the bike turn into the corner with more ease, and we played with the suspension to give me a bit more confidence into the corners. I ended both sessions 6th & 4th, and I was comfortable on the bike going into qualifying.



Qualifying was ok, I found some good time and to be honest, I wasn't expecting to be as quick I was! All the boys on track have been fast all weekend, so I knew that qualifying would be close, but to be 0.1 off the front row, but back in 7th was definitely frustrating! From 3rd to 18th was only covered by 1 second, so its clear how competitive the class is! We had run both free practices on used tyres, so we knew our pace would be up there for qualifying on a fresh tyre.



Saturday afternoon for race 1 and I was confident that our work during free practice would help me to get away with the front guys. We decided to make the front of the bike harder for the race to give me the support I needed in the braking areas. I didn't make the best start, and found myself battling for 6th. I didn't make the progression I needed in the opening laps and ended up chasing the group with Twyman and Estment. I ended the race in 7th which was disappointing considering we had worked hard on race set up. We qualified 7th again for race 2, so we re-grouped, made some changes to the rear and tried again.





I made a much better start in race 2, and was determined to make up places in the first few laps. I managed to get past Rispoli and Estment early on, and knew I had to fight my way forward. I felt great on the bike, and was making really good in-roads to Westmoreland in 4th. I sat behind for a few laps to try and work out what his strong and weak points were and worked out that turn 1 would probably be my best option. The hairpin as the last corner and an uphill straight meant I knew it would be important to get the best drive out the hairpin to give me the best chance to take him into turn 1. But unfortunately I got on the gas a bit too early and managed to high side, coming down with snow on my head! Thankfully I walked away uninjured, which is crazy! It was frustrating to crash in a race where I felt like I had podium pace, but I'm taking the positives and moving forward to Brands in 2 weeks' time!