

HAT-TRICK OF WINS FOR 'WEE BOB' GRANT!



● First lap mayhem in the Sport Production race. Colin Murray (44) goes down with Duncan Vincent (54) having to take to the grass. Both riders were uninjured. Picture: Harvey Thomson.



SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP Rounds 1 & 2 • Knockhill • April 8-9

By: Chris Carter

THREE rides from three wins gave 'Wee Bob' Grant the sort of start he was looking for in this opening round of the Scottish Championships.

Two of those victories were in the Scottish Supersport 600 series, giving him maximum points.

Right from the start of practice it was obvious that only bad luck would interfere in a successful day's racing for Grant.

Grant was 1.3 seconds a lap faster in qualifying than the next fastest, Mark Buckley, on his new Triumph 675.

In race one, Grant quickly took the lead and then pulled away from the opposition at the rate of a second a lap, before easing off.

Grant beat runner-up David Clelland on his Yamaha R6, by just

over seven seconds.

Hard on Clelland's heels over the finish line was Buckley.

Martin Sutherland's race was short lived. He struck a front-end padder problem on the Bob Grant-tuned Suzuki GSX-R and pulled out on lap four of 12.

Sutherland was back out in race two. This time he followed Grant over the finish line in the ten lapper, just under three seconds down on the reigning champion, with Buckley third, a second further back with Clelland relegated to fourth place.

Win number three for the unstoppable Grant came in the opening round of the new Bridgestone Supersport 600 series.

He won by over three

seconds from Buckley, but was not eligible for the first prize of a pair of tyres or the 25 championship points in the six round competition that carries a £500 first prize.

The tyres and the points went to Buckley.

Unlucky Sutherland had been battling with Buckley, when he slid off uninjured on lap four at the Hairpin, victim of that padder problem.

John MacDonald was another championship double winner.

Keen to regain the Sports Production crown he lost last season to Keith Amor, Macdonald held off a determined attack from

Torquil Paterson and Amor in the first 12 lap race, setting a new lap record of 51.383 seconds in the process.

Paterson was just over a second down in that race, but it was a lot closer in race two.

This time it was Amor who fought his way into second spot and he crossed the finish line just a fifth of a second down, setting the fastest lap of the race at an impressive 51.482 seconds.

Paterson was third and Bruce Birnie fourth, just as he had been in race one.

MacDonald is on 50 points, with Amor and Paterson joint second on 36.

Despite a lack of practice on his new Honda and the fact this was only his second ever race meeting at Knockhill, 15-year-old Alex Gault could hardly have asked for more than his pole-setting performance in qualifying and two race wins against tough opposition in the CDC Racing Formula 400 Championship.

Gault, a former 125 racer, had never done a race start on his new bike and it showed in race one.

He was down in tenth place on the opening lap, but by lap two he was up to fifth.

Soon he was with the experienced Lewis Farrow and Craig McClelland, battling for the lead.

Gault was second starting lap ten and he got ahead of Farrow on the brakes at the Hairpin to win the race and set a new class lap record at 56.091 seconds.

Gault made a better start in race two, holding fourth place at the end of lap one.

He took the lead from Farrow on lap five of eight and was joined at the front by McClelland.

Gault had the inside line at the Hairpin and again won the sprint to the finish line.

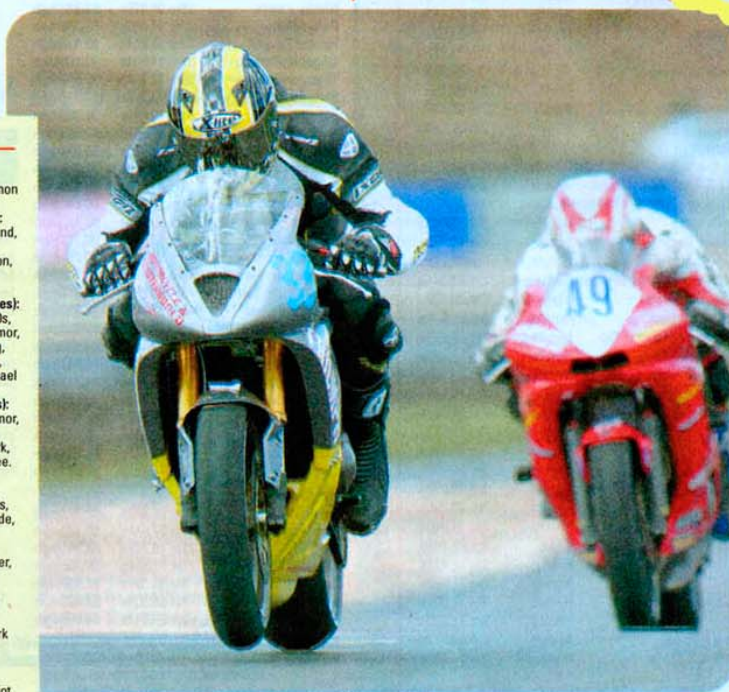
Phil Bell, still recovering from injuries he received last season, won both rounds of the Scottish Sidecar Championship.

With new passenger Tony Belsey in the chair of the ex Tim Reeves outfit, Bell beat reigning champions Michael Keenan and Alan McKinnon by almost 12 seconds in the first 12 lap clash.

It was a much closer thing next time out, but Bell and Belsey were still 1.75 seconds in front of Keenan and McKinnon in the ten lap battle.

Results:

- 125GP**
First race (10 laps - 12.98 miles):
 1 Stuart Anderson 10m 09.50s,
 2 Mark Wishart, 3 Adam Blacklock.
Second (10 laps - 12.98 miles):
 1 Anderson 9m 59.80s,
 2 Wishart, 3 Blacklock.
Formula 125
First race (9 laps - 11.68 miles) (All Aprilis):
 1 Desne Brown 10m 14.70s,
 2 Daniel Kinloch, 3 Steven Cusick, 4 Grant Thomas,
 5 Cameron Wilson, 6 Andrew Lawson, 7 Peter Sutherland,
 8 John Dean, 9 Ben Young,
 10 Max Thomas.
Second (9 laps - 11.68 miles):
 1 Lee Copland 10m 06.80s,
 2 Brown, 3 G. Thomas, 4 Cusick,
 5 Shaun Prow, 6 Wilson,
 7 Lawson, 8 Sutherland, 9 Young,
 10 Dean.
Classic
First race (9 laps - 11.68 miles):
 1 Les Morrison 10m 43.10s,
 2 Gordon Brown, 3 Bernard Harrower, 4 David Hasting,
 5 Mike Barry, 6 Peter Robertson,
 7 Dave Brough.
Second (9 laps - 11.68 miles):
 1 Morrison 10m 35.00s, 2 Brown,
 3 Harrower, 4 Jim Snaith,
 5 Hasting, 6 Tim Miller, 7 Barry,
 8 Robertson, 9 Brough.
Supersport 600
First race (12 laps - 15.58 miles):
 1 Bob Grant 10m 54.70s, 2 David Clelland, 3 Mark Buckley, 4 Ken Reid, 5 Bryan Duncanson, 6 Neil Glendinning, 7 David Stanger, 8 Mark Ward, 9 Sandy Berwick, 10 Paul Wishart.
Second (10 laps - 12.98 miles):
 1 Grant 9m 06.70s, 2 Martin Sutherland, 3 Buckley, 4 Clelland, 5 Reid, 6 Duncanson, 7 Glendinning, 8 Ward, 9 Stanger, 10 Berwick.
Sidecars
First race (12 laps - 15.58 miles):
 1 Philip Bell/Tony Belsey 11m 23.40s, 2 Michael Keenan/Alan McKinnon, 3 Bill/Graeme Davie, 4 David Winn/Dougie Robb, 5 Jim Hamilton/Colin Walker, 6 Hamish/Mike Mackay, 7 Stephen Kershaw/Robin Wilson, 8 Robert Thomson/Colin Riddell, 9 James Neil/Graham Whitehill, 10 Andrew Couper/Helen Sutherland.
Second (10 laps - 12.98 miles):
 1 Bell/Belsey 9m 24.20s, 2 Keenan/McKinnon, 3 Hamilton/Walker, 4 Winn/Robb, 5 Davie/Davie, 6 Mackay/Mackay, 7 Kershaw/Wilson, 8 Neil Whitehill, 9 Couper/Sutherland, 10 Robin/Annette Daykin.
Formula 400
First race (10 laps - 12.98 miles):
 1 Alex Gault 9m 30.90s, 2 Lewis Farrow, 3 Craig McClelland, 4 Rab Davie, 5 Brian Neilson,
 6 Stuart Sturrock, 7 Martin Clelland, 8 Mike Lawson, 9 Simon Berry, 10 Tom Robinson.
Second (8 laps - 10.38 miles):
 1 Gault 7m 36.90s, 2 McClelland, 3 Farrow, 4 Davie, 5 Neilson, 6 Sturrock, 7 Meikle, 8 Lawson, 9 Derek Glass, 10 Robinson.
Sports Production
First race (12 laps - 15.58 miles):
 1 John MacDonald 10m 27.60s,
 2 Torquil Paterson, 3 Keith Amor, 4 Bruce Birnie, 5 Scott Young, 6 Stuart Rollo, 7 Adrian Clark, 8 Donald Macfadyen, 9 Michael Robertson, 10 Mike Keith.
Second (10 laps - 12.98 miles):
 1 MacDonald 8m 44.20s, 2 Amor, 3 Paterson, 4 Birnie, 5 Rollo, 6 Macfadyen, 7 Young, 8 Clark, 9 Robertson, 10 Mark McPhee.
400 Sports Production
(8 laps - 10.38 miles):
 1 Murray Strathdee 7m 54.00s,
 2 Paul Christie, 3 John Raeside, 4 Tom Robinson, 5 Stuart McIntyre, 6 Liam Grant, 7 Gordon Baker, 8 Clint Walker, 9 Andy Cuthbert, 10 Duncan Vincent.
Bridgestone Supersport 600 Series (7 laps - 9.09 miles):
 1 Bob Grant 7m 11.20s, 2 Mark Buckley, 3 David Clelland, 4 Bryan Duncanson, 5 Neil Glendinning, 6 Mark Ward, 7 Paul Wishart, 8 Richard Elliot, 9 Sandy Berwick.



● Mark Buckley (33) and David Clelland (49).

Picture: Harvey Thomson.