

CLOSE RACING KEEPS CROWDS ON THEIR TOES!



● Alex Gault (17, Malagutti).

Picture: John Tarbett - fastrackimages.

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By: Stephanie Wood

CLOSE, exciting racing kept the crowds on their toes at the second Ace of Aintree meeting at the Liverpool circuit with Greg Lewis and John Dieterman Jnr dicing with each other in the big bike classes and 15-year-old Alex Gault beating 125GP ace Ian Perks.

The 250 and 350cc classes saw Colin Wilcock and Ian Jones in some nail-biting action as the rain threatened on several occasions to spoil the day, but thankfully it side-stepped the circuit.

Mal Taylor led off the line in the 250cc points race and headed Carl Salvage until lap two when

Tim Kermode and Christopher Dean were fighting hard for runner-up spot.

Kermode wound up his new liveried Kawasaki to overtake Dean on lap three and then start his charge to try and reel-in Bath, though he finished half a second down at the chequered flag.

Kermode was ahead of the 500cc class for one lap until Bath overtook him.

Kermode was not going to give up without a fight until he slid off going into Club.

Meanwhile, Perks was not going to let young pretender Gault get

second after Kermode's exit.

Gault finished a good fourth behind Christopher Dean.

Teenager Conor Cummins now heads the Formula 600 Championship after notching-up a win in the points race.

Tim Poole had taken pole-position after his qualifying win from Bath, but a fall at Village in the earlier 1300cc race rendering his Honda unrepairable in the short term and he failed to make the grid for the points race.

Cummins started on the second row of the grid but he was soon in the lead after overtaking Mark Cronshaw on lap two.

Bath was lying third but finished second on paper when Cronshaw

Andrew Bell-Shaul was unbeaten in the 600 Steel-Frame events, with Andy Lovett second on both occasions.

The big 1300cc races turned out to be gripping affairs between Greg Lewis (SMD Tyres/Andy Lee Yamaha), John Dieterman Jnr (Suzuki 1000) and Mark Heckles (Yamaha 1000).

The points race saw Dieterman heading the pack for the first four laps, before Lewis hit the front going into Bechers.

Keeping ahead of the determined Dieterman forced Lewis to break his own race record he set at the same meeting last year with an average speed of 97.22mph.

crossing the line a very lonely fourth on the first of the 600s.

The battle between Lewis and Dieterman hotted-up even more in the 1300cc Four-Stroke Championship race.

Dieterman and Lewis exchanged the lead until Lewis finally made the advantage stick after a pass at Bechers with Dieterman having to settle for runner-up spot.

The pace could have been even faster if Poole had not spectacularly crashed out at Village.

John Shipley also crashed out spectacularly with him sliding for several hundred yards sandwiched under his Honda 600 going across the start and finish line.

Those incidents saw the field circulating under yellow caution flags for two laps.

Once the restrictions were lifted Lewis took the chequered flag ahead of Dieterman by a fraction of a second.

John Dieterman Snr added maximum points to his first round Forgotten Era tally, while Alan Schofield and Steve Thomas kept Dave Holden and Richard Jacques at bay in the two F1 Sidecar events.

Terry Kermode was pipped to the post by David Smith after leading the 250cc Twin-Cylinder Classics for six of the seven laps.

The two Steves, Ferguson and Atkin, were the victors of the 350cc