

Final Round of the Eastern Centre MX Championship – Wattisfield Hall - Report from Charlie Ralph

Diss MCC hosted the seventh and final round of the Eastern ACU Motocross Championships at their excellent Wattisfield Hall venue, in Suffolk, on Sunday, and almost 150 riders competed in the hotly contested twelve race programme. As usual, the circuit was in great condition, although, with no rain, which was forecasted, the last few races saw a small amount of dust rising.



Following the timed morning practise sessions, the premier class, made up of all the expert graded riders, plus the fastest junior grade competitors, competed in the first race of the day, and Norfolk youngster, Ben Cole, led the forty strong pack in the twenty minute long race. His HMX Honda team mate, new Eastern champion, Luke Parker, was chasing him, with these two battling hard at the front. South African, Brad Woodroffe, joined them in an exciting three scrap for the lead, and with five minutes remaining, Cole fell on the tight right hand corner at the end of the start straight, allowing Parker to claim the win, closely followed by Woodroffe. Cole remounted to finish in third place, followed by the two Halstead club riders, Brendon Mayers and Brad Tomlin, who was riding with a heavily strapped knee, to protect a recent injury.

The 2015 champion, Luke Benstead, had problems on the first lap, but had a superb race to scythe through the pack to finish in sixth place. The premier class included the junior championship, and saw several closely fought battles for points, Josh Keeble had a great ride, finishing as first junior, in tenth place, followed by Hadleigh's Harry Clark, and new Eastern junior champion, Essex youngster, George Turner.

The second premier class race saw Benstead taking control, and setting a tremendous pace. Woodroffe chased him hard, claiming second place again, with Tomlin holding off the popular Braintree



rider, Jason Morland, riding his two stroke KTM machine. Parker was fifth, once again involved in a high speed battle with Cole. Keeble was in great form again, finishing a

creditable eighth, and first junior, with Harry Clark in tenth and Tim Clark was the third best junior in eleventh place.

Wisbech rider, Benstead, took his second win in the third premier group race, once again chased by the on form Woodroffe, and the South African's second place gave him the overall win on the day. The promising Ben Cole rounded out a good season with third place, followed by a very happy new champion, Luke Parker. George Turner was best junior in eighth place, from the overall junior on the day, Josh Keeble, with Rheis Morter having a good ride in tenth, and third best junior.



The intermediate group was also hotly contested, with three different winners. Local Diss riders, John Bavin and Ross Taylor were first and second in race one, with veteran Lee Keyton holding third place. Luke Nolan, celebrating his 18th birthday, with the overall on the day, took the win in the second race from Andy Cattermole and Taylor, and victory in the third race went to Essex youngster, Jack Gatland, ahead of Kesgrave teenager, Kyle Wilby.

In the support races, Cambridgeshire's Steve Bottoms took the overall win with a couple of first places and a second. Tom Fazah had three good rides, finishing second overall with Luke Martin in third place.

The supporting B group saw all three wins going to the Dunmow club rider, Sean Kettlewell. The organising clubs wish to thank everyone for their help during 2016, riders, marshalls, medics and officials, and special thanks to Sophie Brinkley for taking thousands of pics during the year, not forgetting the holeshot sponsor, John Chambers of Chambers Roofing.

Results.

Premier Expert Class Overall.

1st Brad Woodroffe Husqvarna, 2nd Luke Benstead KTM, 3rd Luke Parker Honda, 4th Ben Cole Honda, 5th Brad Tomlin Yamaha, 6th Jason Morland KTM

Premier Junior Class overall.

1st Josh Keeble Suzuki, 2nd Harry Clark KTM, 3rd Ben Crane Honda, 4th George Turner Honda, 5th Sean Bond Honda, 6th Rheis Morter Yamaha

Intermediates overall.

1st Luke Nolan KTM, 2nd Ross Taylor Honda, 3rd Lee Keyton Yamaha, 4th Chris Lake Yamaha, 5th Wally Hubbard KTM & 6th Paul Hubbard KTM

Support group A overall.

1st Steve Bottoms KTM, 2nd Tom Fazah Yamaha, 3rd Luke Martin KTM, 4th Chris Talbot KTM, 5th Chris Keeble Suzuki & 6th Darren Stone KTM

Support group B overall.

1st Sean Kettlewell Honda, 2nd Jamie Gill Honda, 3rd Andrew Smith KTM, 4th Mick Cadd KTM, 5th Adam Braithwaite Yamaha, 6th Robbie Blaxell Honda.

Chambers Roofing Holeshot Champions Expert Luke Parker, Junior George Turner.



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