

NATIONAL BEARS BROADFORD APR 09; ROUND 2

DARREN LEWIS UNDEFEATED IN F2

The second round of the National BEARs title (British, European and American Racing) machines was held at the Broadford Sports Complex in Victoria in conjunction with the 2009 Victorian Historic Championships.



Jay Normoyle on the well presented 1098R was the only F1 bike to turn up so the focus was on the well contested F2 class and the top 5 had a titanic battle all weekend.

Our team hadn't been to the circuit for some 15 years but after a few practice sessions on the Friday the 848 was on the pace. The track supplied plenty of grip so we kept using the old tyres from Eastern Creek, saving the new ones for Sunday.

The first race on Saturday was red flagged and restarted as Chris Panayi had a huge highside on lap 2. It was Jay in the lead, then Chris and I had a birds eye view behind him. As he was exiting turn 1 he lost the back end and was thrown over the bars in spectacular fashion. He was knocked out and received some soft tissue damage. He was taken to hospital for observation and I believe he is ok now.



The restart had Jay get the start on the 1098R with me trying my best to stay with him. The 848 was no match for the outright horsepower of the big 1198cc Ducati, but I could hold on to him in the tight turns of the Broadford circuit and then see him just blast away down the straight. Formula 2 is my class so I just needed to ensure that I concentrated on the class win. Paul Bailey debuted the Buell 1125R 14 seconds behind in 3rd.

Race 2 and I was about 5th into turn 1 and had to make some passing moves to get back to the front. Broadford lends itself to some exciting racing and race 2 showed that with Jonathan Riley (Ducati 848) running off dicing with Paul on the Buell. Once again Jay stormed off on the 1098R and I came home second outright and 1st in F2, scoring a new lap record for the class.



We fitted a new rear tyre on for Sunday but still used the same front that had done a total of 71 laps and still looked good. So another not so good start with Paul Bailey actually holoshooting off into the lead but only for a short while as Jay and I went past on the 1st lap and cleared away. I tried to hold on to the 1098R and got down to my fastest time of the weekend and another new lap record for the F2 class at 1:02.331. 3 starts, 3 wins in F2.

The last race of the day and we could all see the clouds roll in, and then at the 5 minute call it started to rain. So we pull up to the start line and drops of rain on the visor with slick tyres don't give you the best feeling in the stomach. We all took it fairly easy on the first lap and surprisingly enough there was some grip out there so we pressed on and come home safe with another 2nd outright and F2 win.

So that's 8 wins from 8 starts and the 848 was just a dream to ride all weekend. We sit 59 points ahead of Jonathan Riley on another 848, seems to be the bike to have in Formula 2!

We head to Winton Raceway in May for the 3rd round of the National BEARS title where we get the chance to show our style on SBS Speedweek and repeats on FOX 1,2 and 3 HD.

As usual I wouldn't have been able to contest and have all this fun without the generous support of the following.

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Special thanks to Andrew Korlaki Photography for the great snaps.
www.korlaki.com

Lewis Racing Team at the Broadford was;
Brett Roberts, Neil Macartney and Andy Baird

Fun first, if you can't win be spectacular!

Bow to the flag marshals!

Lewis Racing Team gives our most heart warming condolences to the Greedy family at this difficult time.

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