

Motor cycling with John Savage - Monday, Kirkistown ISB - photos by Deek McCoubrie

# Another treble for Donald

**Ulster-based Aussie Cameron Donald clinched another treble, in front of a bumper holiday crowd at Kirkistown, on Monday, and he now has his sights set on both the Irish Superbike and Supersport Championships.**

Just seven points separate the leading quartet, after the opening six rounds of the Irish Superbike Championship, with Ballygowan man Michael Pearson still leading the way, two points ahead of Donald, who has leap-frogged Newtownards man Kirk Jamison, who is 3.5 points behind Donald, and only 1.5 ahead of vastly improved Coleraine rider, James Dickson.

Donald leads the Irish Supersport Championship by 13 points, from his Uel Duncan Racing team-mate Keith Amor, who shares second place in the standings with Manxman Conor Cummins and Nigel Percy, from Randalstown.

**Irish Superbike Championship**  
It was another tremendous day for Donegal man Uel Duncan's team, as his riders again dominated the Superbike and Supersport races.

Despite making a bad start in the first ten laps Irish Superbike Championship race, Cameron Donald stormed through to win convincingly on the Robinson Concrete-backed Honda Fireblade CBR1000RR.

His similarly mounted team-mate, Scotsman Keith Amor, set the pace for the first three laps, as Donald got into his stride, and once the Melbourne man got the big four-cylinder Honda purring, he picked his way to the front, overraking Amor on the fourth lap.

The outcome was a foregone conclusion, and as Amor found himself dragged into a battle for the other podium positions, Donald cleared off to win by six seconds.

Astride the KP Racing Suzuki GSX-R1000, James Dickson rode brilliantly and moved from fourth at half distance to second with four laps remaining, and he showed real determination to hold off Corkman Declan Swanton on the Sky Yamaha R1, who demoted Amor to fourth on the penultimate lap.

Conor Cummins, on the Millsport Yamaha R1, got the better of a race long dice for fifth with Michael Pearson, also astride a Yamaha R1.

With Dubliner Brian McCormack seventh on the MAC Honda, it was a disappointing day for Newtownards man Kirk Jamison, who struggled on his Jim Angus Contracts Suzuki, and had to settle for eighth.

The second race was red-flagged, after two riders went down together at Debtor's Dip on the opening lap, forcing several others to take to the grass, although they managed to stay aboard their machines.

Southern Irish rider Micky Fitzpatrick suffered a very unusual arm injury in the incident. He sustained a puncture wound which ruptured an artery in his left forearm, and after being treated at the scene, he was transferred to hospital by ambulance, with a police escort.

Thankfully, the injury to his arm was repaired without lasting damage, although he also

sustained two broken thumbs. The race distance was reduced from ten to seven laps, and again it was Amor and Donald who disputed the spoils.

Amor led for four laps, before Donald overtook Dickson to take second place, then Donald passed Amor on lap five, and stayed in front to win by less than one second.

Dickson was less than a second back in third, safely ahead of McCormack, who got the better of a terrific duel with Pearson, who he passed on the final lap.

Cummins completed the leading half dozen, just ahead of Adrian Archibald, who improved from tenth in the first race on the TAS Relentless Suzuki, and managed to fend off a last gasp overtaking bid at the hairpin by Jamison, as the trio were covered by less than one second.

26 year old Jamison was quick to concede he hadn't enjoyed the best of days, but was equally quick to point out he had achieved excellent damage limitation, as he is only a handful of points behind ISB series leader Pearson, who apologised to Kirk, after he forced him to run straight on at the hairpin, while they were dicing in the first race.

Jamison explained: "I was still having difficulty adjusting to the change from the 17 inch to 16.5 inch wheels and Pirelli had no new tyres left, so I had to use a worn tyre in qualifying, which stuck me on the third row of the grid.

"To make it even worse, the brakes weren't working in the first race, and I ran wide at Colonials and Fishermans on each of the first two laps, and when Michael ran me straight on at the hairpin, I lost 3.5 seconds at one corner."

Kirk added: "After all the problems I had, I tried to just be sensible and ride to finish as best I could."

Former 250cc road race champion, Lisburn man Darren Burns, was the pacesetter, aboard the S Gas NI Honda, but once Ballymoney's William Dunlop made a passing move on Burns finally stick at Fishermans on lap four, it was expected Dunlop would ease away to win on Paddy Flynn's Honda.

But it wasn't to be, and at the end of lap seven, Dunlop toured into the pits to retire, handing the lead to Morrell, who had found a way past Burns on the previous lap.

On the penultimate lap, Lawlor and Chris McAloran both slipped past Burns, and when the chequered flag came out to conclude an exciting and eventful race, Morrell took the win in a photo-finish with Lawlor, with Paul Robinson charging up from eighth place at half distance to snatch third by one-fifth of a second, from McAloran, with Burns fifth.

Dunlop made amends in the second race, after he overhauled the pole position man Lawlor on the fourth lap, and edged away to win by a couple of seconds.

Lawlor appeared to be on course for yet another second position, but he was snared on the final lap by McAloran, who nipped ahead and the out-sprinted Lawlor and Morrell to the chequered flag, as less than half-a-second separated the trio, at the end of another thrilling race.

Robinson was fifth on the D&P Honda, ahead of Cullybackey's Barry Davidson, who was seventh ahead on Cleaver Browne's Honda, and Dave Guiney, who finished sixth in race one.

**Irish 125cc Championship**  
Mark Lunney and Davy Lemon

when he made a similar manoeuvre in an attempt to pass Percy on lap seven, but this time it didn't come off and Cassells was down and out.

Astride the Slemish Water Suzuki GSX-R600, Percy finished fourth, one second ahead of Ryan on the Absol Racing Triumph, who was chased home by Manxman Nigel Beattie on the second Millsport Yamaha, Donnan on his JD's Motorcycles Honda, and James Dickson aboard the KP Racing Suzuki.

It was a similar tale in the second eight lapper, but this time Amor led on the opening lap, before Donald eased his way to the head of affairs. For the remainder of the race, the Wilson Craig Honda pair flew in formation, and at the finish Donald took the win by half-a-second.

Cummins was again third, six seconds back, while James Dickson was a steady fourth, ahead of Percy, with Donnan next up, in front of Shane Connor on the JD's Motorcycles Yamaha, and Ballymoney man Adrian Archibald on the TAS Relentless Suzuki, on which he retired from the first race, after he overshot Colonials while running seventh, and rejoined at the back of the field.

Astride his Suzuki, Banbridge man Marty Lennon took the win in the Supersport non-qualifiers race, ahead of Kawasaki ZX6R duo Cliffy Hamilton and Vincent Brennan.

**Irish 250cc Championship**  
Although he has yet to win a race this season, Thomas Lawlor increased his points advantage in the rejuvenated Irish 250cc Championship, and the Dubliner now has five seconds and a third place to his credit.

There were three different leaders in the first ten lapper, before the issue was ultimately resolved in favour of Portstewart man Ian Morrell.

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**Irish 125cc Championship**  
Mark Lunney and Davy Lemon

renewed their rivalry in the Irish 125cc Championship, but Lemon has still not managed to get the better of the defending champion this season.

The first race was red-flagged, after Brian Smith crashed exiting Colonials, and there was confusion at the conclusion of the re-start, when Lunney missed the chequered flag, Lemon slowed after taking the flag, and Lemon crossed the line fifth, as he was overtaken by four riders who continued racing.

Thankfully commonsense prevailed, and the result was declared from positions at the completion of the eighth lap.

Belfastman Lunney led all the way on his KRB Honda, with Lemon losing touch during the closing stages on his JDR Properties Aprilia, eventually finishing just over a second adrift.

James Maguire was second, until he was overhauled by Randalstown man Nigel Percy at half distance, and Percy finished a comparatively safe third aboard the Millar Racing Honda.

Newtownards man Stephen Kelly again rode an excellent race, and just failed to get the better of Maguire for fifth, while William Dunlop completed the leading sextet on the durien.com Honda, fractionally ahead of his cousin, Paul Robinson.

Lemon admitted he was disappointed not to have got the better of Lunney in the second race, in which the pair were split by less than half-a-second at the finish.

Lunney again led all the way, pulling a slight advantage during the formative stages, but Lemon kept his head down and after he was bravely overtaken by Percy at Debtor's Dip on the second lap, the Ballywalter man got his head down, regained second, and closed onto Lunney's tail. But in the final analysis, Davy was unable to make a pass on Mark.

Percy again took third, to enhance his championship lead, although he had Maguire breathing down the back of his leathers at the finish, while Robinson got the better of Kelly and Paul Jordan to secure fifth.

**Irish Lightweight Supersport Championship**

Lee Hill remains unbeaten after six rounds of the Irish Lightweight Supersport Championship, after two more start-to-finish wins, astride the NH Trade Frames Suzuki SV650.

Hill led the first ten laps race from start to finish, to win by 6.5 seconds.

For much of the distance, Ballywalter fireman Alan Brown and Kieron Egerton from Eglinton disputed second, but during the decisive closing laps, Egerton dropped off the pace on his 250 Aprilia, and Brown finished on his own in second, on his 650 Suzuki, as Michael McKinley took third on his 400 Kawasaki, a couple of seconds ahead of Egerton.

Brown briefly led the second race, but normal service was resumed when Hill led by the completion of the opening lap of eight, and the Ballyclare man went on to win by three seconds, with Brown always a safe second.

Egerton finished 14 seconds back in a lonely third place.

**Irish Sidecar Championship**  
The Irish Sidecar Championship races doubled as the third and fourth rounds of the Northern Sidecar Championship (see Easter Saturday report).

Banbridge man John Clarke and his passenger Karl McGrath broke the lap record in the first eight lapper, when they negotiated the 1.5 miles Ards Peninsula track at 89.494mph to improve on their own record of 89.484mph, set in August 2005.

But Clarke/McGrath were forced to retire their 1000cc LCR Suzuki after completing five laps, and Ken Knapton/Harry Matthews won by 14 seconds in their 1000 Baker Suzuki, from Phil Bell/Jonathan Neave in their 1000 LCR Suzuki, as Steve Pullan/Kevin Morgan made it an English 1-2-3 in their 750 Suzuki. Clarke/McGrath took the honours in race two, by four seconds, ahead of Knapton/Matthews and Bell/Neave, with defending Irish champions Dylan Lynch/Aaron Galligan, from Dublin, fourth in their 1000 Baker Yamaha.

**Classic**  
The non-championship Classic Bike races produced a brace of wins for Ed Manly/jnr. who won both from fellow 350 Honda riders Thomas Hogg and Alex Conroy.

**Results**  
Irish Superbike Championship, 5th round: 1, C. Donald (1000 Honda) 94.21mph; 2, J. Dickson

(1000 Suzuki); 3, D. Swanton (1000 Yamaha); 4, K. Amor (1000 Honda); 5, C. Cummins (1000 Yamaha); 6, M. Pearson (1000 Suzuki); 7, B. McCormack (1000 Honda); 8, K. Jamison (1000 Suzuki); 9, J. Donnan (1000 Honda); 10, A. Archibald (1000 Suzuki). Fastest lap: Donald 96.22mph. 6th round: 1, Donald 93.87mph; 2, Amor; 3, Dickson; 4, McCormack; 5, Pearson; 6, Cummins; 7, Archibald; 8, Jamison; 9, C. Lynch (1000 Suzuki); 10, M. Johnston (1000 Yamaha). Fastest lap: Donald 96.00mph.

Irish Supersport Championship, 5th round: 1, K. Amor (Honda) 92.81mph; 2, C. Donald (Honda); 3, C. Cummins (Yamaha); 4, M. Percy (Suzuki); 5, R. Ryan (Triumph); 6, N. Beattie (Yamaha); 7, J. Donnan (Honda); 8, J. Dickson (Suzuki); 9, S. Connor (Yamaha); 10, A. Kirk (Suzuki). Fastest lap: Amor 94.77mph. 6th round: 1, Donald 92.74mph; 2, Amor; 3, Cummins; 4, Dickson; 5, Percy; 6, Donnan; 7, Connor; 8, A. Archibald (Suzuki); 9, Kirk; 10, Beattie. Fastest lap: Donald 94.53mph.

Irish 250cc Championship, 5th round: 1, I. Morrell (Honda) 87.69mph; 2, T. Lawlor (Honda); 3, P. Robinson (Honda); 4, C. McAloran (Honda); 5, D. Burns (Honda); 6, D. Guiney (Honda); 7, B. Davidson (Honda); 8, R. Shanahan (Honda); 9, G. Ferguson (Yamaha); 10, D. Mateur (Yamaha). Fastest lap: Robinson 90.24mph. 6th round: 1, W. Dunlop (Honda) 88.18mph; 2, McAloran; 3, Lawlor; 4, Morrell; 5, Robinson; 6, Davidson; 7, Guiney; 8, Shanahan; 9, Ferguson; 10, J. Ella (Honda). Fastest lap: Dunlop 90.54mph.

Irish 125cc Championship, 5th round: 1, M. Lunney (Honda) 86.55mph; 2, D. Lemon (Aprilia); 3, N. Percy (Honda); 4, J. Maguire (Honda); 5, S. Kelly (Honda); 6, W. Dunlop (Honda); 7, P. Robinson (Honda); 8, P. Jordan (Honda); 9, G. Donnelly (Honda); 10, C. Donnelly (Honda). Fastest lap: Lunney 88.06mph. 2nd race: 1, Lunney 86.35mph; 2, Lemon; 3, Percy; 4, Maguire; 5, Robinson; 6, Kelly; 7, Jordan; 8, G. Donnelly; 9, R. Dunlop (Aprilia); 10, C. Donnelly. Fastest lap: Lunney 87.94mph.

Irish Lightweight Supersport Championship, 5th round: 1, L. Hill (650 Suzuki) 84.47mph; 2, A. Brown (650 Suzuki); 3, M. McKinley (400 Kawasaki); 4, K. Egerton (250 Aprilia); 5, R. McKeown (650 Suzuki); 6, D. Walsh (650 Suzuki); 7,

S. McKeown (650 Suzuki); 8, M. McKinley (650 Suzuki); 9, G. Fowler (650 Suzuki); 10, A. Cagney (650 Suzuki). Fastest lap: Egerton 85.95mph. 6th round: 1, Hill 84.87mph; 2, Brown; 3, Egerton; 4, D. Howard (650 Suzuki); 5, McKinley; 6, R. McKeown; 7, S. McKeown; 8, Walsh; 9, T. Callanan (650 Suzuki); 10, McKinley. Fastest lap: Hill 86.47mph.

Irish Sidecar Championship, 5th round/Northern Sidecar Championship, 3rd round: 1, K. Knapton/H. Matthews (1000 Baker Suzuki) 86.59mph; 2, P. Bell/J. Neave (1000 Suzuki); 3, S. Pullan/K. Morgan (750 Suzuki); 4, J. Hamilton/M. Knox (1000 LCR Suzuki); 5, G. Kennedy/C. Smyth (1000 Baker Suzuki); 6, S. Killough/P. Marley (1000 Baker Yamaha); 7, A. Johnston/K. Young (1000 LCR Suzuki); 8, P. Farrelly/J. Miller (600 Reptile Ireson); 9, C. May/C. McBride (1000 Reptile Baker); 10, S. Charlton/M. Hull (600 Honda). Record lap: J. Clarke/K. McGrath (1000 LCR Suzuki) 89.49mph. 6th round/4th round: 1, Clarke/McGrath 86.80mph; 2, Knapton/Matthews; 3, Bell/Neave; 4, D. Lynch/A. Galligan (1000 Baker

Yamaha); 5, Pullan/Morgan; 6, Kennedy/Smyth; 7, Killough/Marley; 8, Johnston/Young; 9, May/McBride; 10, C. Lavery/P. Carvill (1000 Yamaha). Fastest lap: Clarke/McGrath 89.32mph.

Classic, 1st race: 1, E. Manly (350 Honda) 74.28mph; 2, T. Hogg (350 Honda); 3, A. Conroy (350 Honda); 4, J. Scott (830 Triumph); 5, R. McCrum (350 Honda); 6, S. Wilson (350 Honda); 7, G. Hutton (500 Honda); 8, L. Gallagher (450 Honda); 9, G. O'Sullivan (500 Matchless); 10, T. Robinson (350 Honda). Fastest lap: Manly 76.42mph. 2nd race: 1, Manly 74.32mph; 2, Hogg; 3, Conroy; 4, McCrum; 5, P. Riddall (500 Honda); 6, Hutton; 7, Wilson; 8, O'Sullivan; 9, Gallagher; 10, Robinson. Fastest lap: Hogg 76.14mph.

Superbike non-qualifiers: 1, S. McKnight (750 Suzuki) 86.97mph; 2, T. Ferguson (1000 Suzuki); 3, J. McCann (750 Suzuki); 4, M. Irwin (1000 Yamaha); 5, N. Irwin (1000 Yamaha). Fastest lap: Courtney 89.50mph.

Supersport 600 non-qualifiers: 1, M. Lennon (Suzuki) 86.32mph; 2, C. Hamilton (Kawasaki); 3, V. Brennan

(Kawasaki); 4, P. Maxwell (Honda); 5, A. Neill (Yamaha); 6, J. McCann (Suzuki). Fastest lap: Maxwell 88.70mph.

**Irish Championship positions**  
Superbike: 1, M. Pearson 77 points; 2, C. Donald 75; 3, K. Jamison 71.5; 4, J. Dickson 70; 5, K. Amor 59; 6, B. McCormack 54.5. Supersport: 1, C. Donald 90; 2, K. Amor. C. Cummins and M. Percy 77; 5, J. Dickson 59; 6, R. Ryan 53. 250cc: 1, T. Lawlor 116; 2, C. McAloran 80; 3, I. Morrell 78; 4, P. Robinson 68; 5, W. Dunlop 66; 6, R. Shanahan 57.

125cc: 1, N. Percy 104; 2, M. Lunney 95; 3, J. Maguire 71; 4, S. Kelly 62; 5, P. Robinson 58; 6, D. Lemon 56.

Lightweight Supersport: 1, L. Hill 150; 2, A. Brown 86; 3, M. McKinley 72; 4, K. Egerton 61; 5, A. Glasgow 40; 6, G. Daniel 39.

Sidecar: 1, D. Lynch/A. Galligan 86; 2, P. Bell/J. Neave 81; 3, J. Clarke/K. McGrath 70; 4, S. Killough/P. Marley 62; 5, K. Knapton/J. Miller 61; 6, A. Johnston/K. Young 57.

Next rounds at Mondello Park on May 26/27.



Cameron Donald turns on the style.



It doesn't get much closer than this: Mark Lunney (69) and Davy Lemon in a 125cc scrap at Kirkistown.

## BEEB GEARS UP FOR NW200

**After wresting the rights to broadcast the North West 200 away from rivals UTV, BBC Sport NI is gearing up for next month's big races.**

Throughout the week, there will be dedicated coverage of the North West 200 on tv, radio, online, and on BBC's mobile phone services, with build-up, live coverage of races, and highlights.

During race week, BBC Newsline will be reporting live from the course each night, from Tuesday, and a new dedicated website (bbc.co.uk/nw200) will ensure fans can savour all the action, including live races and practice sessions, circuit guides, rider profiles, video diaries and much more. The Tuesday and Thursday practice sessions will be streamed live on BBC Sport NI's website.

The website will also offer on-demand highlights, video gallery and details of the mobile phone content, which will include a picture gallery, video downloads and race results, during the event.

There will be two special pre-race day programmes on the Friday evening, including a live one hour programme on Radio Ulster from 6.30pm, followed by live tv build-up on BBC1NI, at 10.35pm.

On race day, there will be live streaming on the website, with live build-up to the races and commentary on Summer Club on Radio Ulster.

The action will be rounded off with two hour-long highlights programmes on BBC1NI on Monday night from 9pm and on Wednesday night from 8pm.



Australian ace Cameron Donald and NW200 girl Jenny Curran, helped to launch BBC NI's North West 200 coverage. Photo by Stephen Davidson



Michael Pearson dives inside Conor Cummins at Colonials.