

Motorcycling with John Savage

Seeley dominates as Jamison impresses

Newly crowned British National Superstock 1000 champion Alastair Seeley predictably dominated the Irish Superbike Championship fixture at Anglesey in north Wales last weekend, where Ardsman Kirk Jamison brilliantly finished runner-up to Seeley in two of the three Superbike races and made an impressive debut for the Mar-Train team in the Irish Supersport Championship, in which Jamison and defending champion Alistair Kirk handed Tim Martin's team their maiden Irish Championship one-two.

Obviously Seeley's main target this year was the Metzeler British National Superstock 1000 Championship, together with the North West 200, however, he has contested rounds of the Irish Superbike Championship which did not clash with his British Championship commitments and has now scored nine wins from nine starts in the ISB series.

With two rounds and five races remaining — the Mondello Masters at the Co Kildare circuit at the beginning of next month and the traditional finale at the Sunflower Trophy meeting at Bishopscourt, also in October — few would bet against Seeley clinching yet another Irish Superbike Championship title and picking up the coveted prize of a trip to the Kings of Wanneroo meeting in Perth, Australia, courtesy of the champion's associate sponsor, Paul Lindsay's *Irish Racer Magazine*.

Seeley increased his outright lap record holder at the superb Anglesey circuit, which hosted an ISB round for the first time last year, and the Carrickfergus ace now leads Coleraine's Mark Johnson by 9.5 points in the ISB standings, with Lisburn's Davy Haire just one further point in arrears, and only 6.5 points ahead of another Coleraine rider, James Dickson, with Ballymoney's Gerard Kinghan just half-a-point behind Dickson, therefore, there is everything still to play for.

Riding a Relentless TAS Suzuki Superbike, with a Superstock GSX-R1000 engine slotted into a Superbike frame, Seeley slashed over half-a-second off his existing lap record for the 2.1 miles circuit, as he scored an anticipated hat-trick and recorded the fastest lap of the weekend at 86.80mph in last Saturday's first race. Seeley opened his account with a resounding six seconds victory in the first ISB race of the weekend, in which Kirk Jamison rode one of his best races of the season to finish runner-up to the Jim Angus Contracts Honda Fireblade CBR1000RR, ahead of fellow Honda riders Mark Johnson and Colm Lynch.

Jamison retired from Sunday's first race, in which Seeley romped to a ten seconds victory over Davy Haire, who

brought his Honda home sixth the previous day, with Lynch again third, just ahead of Johnson.

Seeley completed his whitewash, with a seven seconds victory over Jamison in Sunday's second encounter, in which Haire had to settle for third, in front of Johnson.

Seeley recounted: "The configuration of Superbike chassis and 'Stock motor worked well in the GSX-R1000, and apart from the first race of the weekend, I was never headed. We were under the lap record as early as lap four or five during our first practice session and to shave over half-a-second off the circuit record again proves how good the 2009 bike really is. We did have to adjust a few bits and pieces to suit the circuit".

Relentless TAS Suzuki team boss Philip Neill added: "It was good to see Alastair familiarising himself so quickly with our Superbike chassis and to have won three races and taken another lap record is fantastic. With the British Superstock title now in the bag, the Irish Superbike Championship is something Alastair would like to win for Suzuki and all our sponsors, and he's now on course."

Like Seeley, Jamison arrived at Anglesey in a confident frame of mind, having recently scored his first Superbike win for a year in the Ulster Short Circuit Championship meeting at Knockhill in Scotland.

His confidence was further boosted, when Kirk qualified the Jim Angus Contracts Honda second fastest to Seeley. Jamison recounted: "I knew the key to a good Superbike result would be getting away with Seeley. I had no ideas of grandeur, in that I thought I would beat him, but I hoped he would pull me away from the pack."

"I got a decent start in race one and slotted into third. I was maybe a bit too over eager to get past Colm Lynch and after Seeley, and nearly ended up on my ass a couple of times on the first lap. I pushed my way through and got my head down. Seeley was already gone, but I just rode my own race and tried to stay consistent. In the end it worked, as I left everyone behind and came home second."

Kirk continued: "Race two on Sunday didn't go according to plan. I hit a false neutral off the line and dropped to sixth. I wasn't overtly panicked, as I was still with the



Alastair Seeley was in typically unbeatable form at Anglesey with three Irish Superbike Championship wins from three starts.

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pack, but I then missed another couple of gears and started to struggle. It turned out it wasn't my fault, for a change, as my gear lever fell off on lap two and I had to retire — the bolt had sheared right through, just one of those things."

Kirk quipped: "My dad, Norman, and my brother, Cliff, managed to manufacture the various spacers etc to get it back together in time for Sunday's second race — it's handy having mechanics and engineers in your crew!"

After Jamison tucked in behind Seeley at the start of the race, he explained: "I stuck to his back wheel for as long as I could, which was surprisingly long actually — nearly two laps! That sounds crap, but a lot of guys in the British Superstock Championship haven't managed to stay with him that long this year, so I'll give myself a pat on the back anyway! I managed to break the main pack and came home second, so I was well pleased. I also got my times down quite a bit and am now the second fastest person ever round Anglesey, after Seeley."

Kirk grinned: "My second places to Seeley are as good as a win in my book, although my 'dnf' in the second race has probably cost me any chance of winning the ISB title — another second would have left me only 30 points off the lead, but that's life."

Red flag incidents plagued the Irish Supersport Championship races, in which the honours were shared by defending champion, young Banbridge man Alistair Kirk, and rising teenage star, Glen Irwin from Newtownabbey.

Kirk Jamison made his debut alongside Alistair Kirk in Tim Martin's slickly run Mar-Train team, after Jamison's own Yamaha R6 dropped

a valve for the second time in three weeks at Knockhill in Scotland, although Jamison hopes to be back aboard the Jim Angus Contracts Yamaha for the penultimate round of the championship at Mondello Park in a couple of weeks.

After Martin stepped in to generously offer Jamison a ride on one of his Mar-Train Suzuki GSX-R600s at Anglesey, Kirk was delighted to reward Tim with the Mar-Train team's first Irish Championship one-two in the first of Sunday's Supersport races, in which he finished four seconds behind Kirk, with Irwin breathing down the neck of Jamison's leathers on the Slemish Water Suzuki.

Kirk came to grief while leading the second race, and was subsequently disqualified for remounting his Suzuki, and at the completion of the six laps, Irwin took the win by three-tenths of a second from southern Irishman Cody Nally on his Yamaha R6, with Jamison less than one second back in third.

It was Jamison's first outing aboard a Supersport Suzuki, although he has previously ridden a Honda CBR600RR, in addition to his current Yamaha R6, and although he was disappointed to only get a 20 minutes session astride the Mar-Train Suzuki last Friday, he qualified third fastest, behind Kirk and championship leader Irwin, and admitted: "As it turned out, the bike was pretty spot on. I just had to change the gearing and front suspension slightly."

Jamison's target was to finish on the podium in all three Supersport races, and he was running third in Saturday's first race, as Kirk and Irwin duelled at the front, before the race was red-flagged.

The temperature had dropped by the restart

and there were a number of crashes, as riders struggled for grip on the coastal circuit, and after a couple of laps Irwin went down at the first turn, leaving Kirk and Jamison at the front, however, another spill brought the race to a premature conclusion and no result was declared.

Alistair Kirk seized the initiative in Sunday's first race, as Jamison was embroiled in a four way scrap for second, and Jamison was frustrated when he had picked out a spot to make a pass on Belfastman Mark Lunney on the final lap, but the race was red-flagged and the result was called from positions at the completion of the previous lap, so Anglesey debutant Lunney got the nod for the runners-up berth on his Streetsweep Yamaha, with Jamison consigned to third.

Kirk led the second race from start to finish to win by four seconds from Jamison, who was engaged in a tremendous tussle with Irwin throughout the six laps, and after Jamison got the better of his younger rival by under three-tenths of a second, he recalled: "It was close, but I just braked as late as physically possible everywhere on the last lap and thankfully I managed to bring it home in second. I was really pleased to give the Mar-Train team their one-two as repayment for bringing me on board for the weekend — everyone was pretty happy to say the least."

The final Supersport race was a thriller.

Kirk set the pace, until he slid off on the third lap and was ultimately disqualified for remounting his machine. His premature exit left Irwin, Nally and Jamison to battle for the win, and the trio finished in that order, covered by less than one second.

Jamison analysed: "The race was a belter. I lined Glen Irwin up and

picked my spot with just over a lap to go, but made a pig's ear of it. I outraked myself and ran off the track, dropping me to third. I managed to stay upright and set off after them again, but I just wasn't close enough to make a move in the last few corners — frustrating but another podium."

He concluded: "These results actually lift me to fourth in the Supersport Championship and I have a chance of catching Declan Swanton for third. It has been a difficult couple of years, so it is really nice to be enjoying my racing and to see the whole team smiling again. A massive thank you to my whole team and supporters who came over and, of course, to Tim Martin and the Mar-Train team for giving me the chance to ride their bike."

Irish 125cc Championship

Bangor teenager Scott Wilson sprang a surprise on the established stars in the Irish 125cc Championship, when he won both races on Sunday, with the bonus of a new lap record for the class.

Wilson and defending champion, Nigel Percy from Randalstown, went head to head in the first race last Saturday, until the pair tangled and both went down while disputing the lead on the fourth lap, after which the race was stopped, and victory went to Mark Lunney, who had a three seconds cushion over Co Antrim-based Bangor man Robert English on the Stiff Kitten Honda, who got the better of Drew Jamison in a sprint to the chequered flag.

Mid Antrim social events

The road racing section of Mid Antrim Motor Club has a couple of events lined up over the next few weeks.

A fundraising 'Night at the Races' will be held in Clough Glasgow Rangers Supporters' Club on Saturday, September 26, from 8pm, with a disco by DJ Racer Davy Black, with proceeds from the evening going towards next year's Mid Antrim 150 road races.

This year's Mid Antrim 150 Awards and Race Dance will place in Clough Glasgow Rangers Supporters' Club on Saturday, November 14, at which guests will include Ryan Farquhar and the Dunlop brothers, Michael and William.

Everyone is welcome to both events and further details can be obtained from Derek McWhirter on 07740 772268.

association with *Irish Racer Magazine*, 1st race: 1, A. Seeley (1000 Suzuki) 85.02mph; 2, K. Jamison (1000 Honda); 3, M. Johnson (1000 Honda); 4, C. Lynch (1000 Honda); 5, G. Kinghan (1000 Yamaha); 6, D. Haire (1000 Honda); 7, J. Dickson (1000 Suzuki); 8, S. Owens (1000 Kawasaki); 9, L. Wilson (1000 Honda); 10, M. Percy (1000 Suzuki). Record lap: Seeley 86.80mph. 2nd race: 1, Seeley 85.47mph; 2, Haire; 3, Lynch; 4, Johnson; 5, Dickson; 6, D. Kinghan; 8, Wilson; 9, Owens; 10, J. Rowe (1000 Yamaha). Fastest lap: Seeley 86.58mph. 3rd race: 1, Seeley 85.63mph; 2, Jamison; 3, Haire; 4, Johnson; 5, Dickson; 6, Kinghan; 7, Lynch; 8, Owens; 9, Wilson; 10, Percy. Fastest lap: Seeley 86.72mph.

Irish Supersport Championship, 1st race: 1, A. Kirk (600 Suzuki) 84.18mph; 2, K. Jamison (600 Suzuki); 3, G. Irwin (600 Yamaha); 4, C. Nally (600 Yamaha); 5, M. Lunney (600 Yamaha); 6, D. Swanton (600 Yamaha); 7, A. J. Hutchinson (675 Triumph); 8, J. Lodge (600 Yamaha); 9, G. Robinson (600 Yamaha); 10, G. Walker (600 Kawasaki). Fastest lap: Kirk 85.33mph. 2nd race: 1, Irwin 83.56mph; 2, Nally; 3, Jamison; 4, Swanton; 5, Lunney; 6, Lodge; 7, Hutchinson; 8, Robinson; 9, Walker; 10, M. Hanna (600 Yamaha). Fastest lap: Nally 84.63mph.

Irish 250cc Championship, 1st race: 1, M. Lunney (Honda) 79.01mph; 2, D. Craig (Yamaha); 3, N. Kelly (Honda); 4, N. Percy (Honda); 5, P. Brandon (Honda). Fastest lap: Kelly 80.21mph. 2nd race: 1, Lunney 80.88mph; 2, Kelly; 3, Brandon; 4, C. Wilcock (Yamaha); 5, J. Ella (Yamaha); 6, S. Wright (Honda); 7, M. McEvoy (Honda); 8, C. Blair (Honda). Fastest lap: Lunney 82.24mph. 3rd race: 1, Lunney 80.86mph; 2, Craig; 3, Kelly; 4, Brandon; 5, Wilcock; 6, Ella; 7, Wright; 8, J. O'Brien (Yamaha). Fastest lap: Lunney 81.58mph.

Irish 125cc Championship, 1st race: 1, L. Hill (650 Suzuki) 71.05mph; 2, S. Hill (750 Ducati); 3, D. Craig (650 Suzuki); 4, E. McKnight (650 Suzuki); 5, S. Gilpin Swanton; 6, P. Myler Lodge; 7, Hutchinson; 8, Robinson; 9, Walker; 10, M. Hanna (600 Yamaha). Fastest lap: Hill 73.93mph. 2nd race: 1, A. Jones (1098 Ducati) 77.37mph; 2, S. Hill; 3, L. Hill; 4, Craig; 5, S. Quinlan (1000 Suzuki); 6, Gilpin; 7, McKnight; 8, Turner; 9, Myler; 10, Clubbe. Fastest lap: Jones 79.10mph.

Isaac Agnew Van Centre Irish Supertwins Championship, 1st race: 1, L. Hill (650 Suzuki) 71.05mph; 2, S. Hill (750 Ducati); 3, D. Craig (650 Suzuki); 4, E. McKnight (650 Suzuki); 5, S. Gilpin Swanton; 6, P. Myler Lodge; 7, Hutchinson; 8, Robinson; 9, Walker; 10, M. Hanna (600 Yamaha). Fastest lap: Hill 73.93mph. 2nd race: 1, A. Jones (1098 Ducati) 77.37mph; 2, S. Hill; 3, L. Hill; 4, Craig; 5, S. Quinlan (1000 Suzuki); 6, Gilpin; 7, McKnight; 8, Turner; 9, Myler; 10, Clubbe. Fastest lap: Jones 79.10mph.



In his debut for Tim Martin's Mar-Train team, Kirk Jamison leads Mark Lunney, Cody Nally and the rest of the Supersport front-runners.

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NATIONAL TRUST



Alistair Kirk leads Glen Irwin during the Irish Supersport Championship races at Anglesey, where each scored a win.

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