

NG Road Racing... Thruxton Preview



Thruxton | 25th and 26th July | Rounds 8 and 9

Words : Russ Gardner

Images : EDP Photo News

www.ngroadracing.org



Once more this is the view that most see of 15 time NG Open and Powerbike champion Phil Bevan. Phil and his ZX10 are well practised at lifting silverware, and ominously as we head into the second half of the year Phil heads the points tables once more.....can anyone stop him ?

Campbell...Cobb ...Seagrave..... It must be Thruxton time!

Iconic corner names for an iconic circuit and a first for NG with this two-day meeting at Thruxton.

We are now through the mid-point of the season and it is getting serious for all those after the 2015 silverware. It will be a big weekend for so many riders, and what a track to host this round, the fastest on the UK mainland, and as we all know racing is about going fast, whether it be on a 125...a Superbike or a sidecar.

So special is this meeting that every solo class championship leader is on the grid for their respective classes.

The Circuit.

Thruxton is without doubt quick, and I mean quick. Speed and power, and lots of it are vital. But a fast bike is not enough, the 2.356mile Thruxton circuit takes skill to ride fast, and bravery to master. With Superbikes able to lap at

near 110mph and topping out over 170mph the 40 strong grid is not a place for the feint-hearted. Expect the big bikes to push the pace, but do not be surprised if some of the 250 GP's and 600's start mixing it, as slipstreaming can keep the lighter bikes in touch.

The Fastest.

BSB Supersport rider Luke Jones set the fastest NG Road Racing lap here at last years meeting on his BSB spec 675 Triumph Daytona. He took the Supersport triple round in 1min 17.86 seconds.... That's an astonishing average speed of 109.11mph... Believe me when I say... "...That will take some beating!"

The Phoenix Open.

This is the NG Road Racing premier class and for the seventh successive year Welshman Phil Bevan sits at the top of the table. Being brutally honest, and not showing any disrespect to his rivals, it is difficult to see who will stop him taking the 2015 title. He has an 89-point lead in the championship, so is in the driving seat. For his rivals it is all about who can nick a race win. Roo Cotton has been in good form, so too Nick Williamson, David Irons will be up there too along with Leigh Corfield, and you can never discount a good 600 here so Max Symonds could pop up on the podium. But as a surprise package keep an eye on 2015's top newcomer, Paul "Potchy" Williams, anything can happen when the exuberant Welshman is on the grid, and he has had a few tips from a certain Phil Bevan !!

The 250 GP ACU National Championship.

These former 250cc world championship spec machines are pure race bikes and are designed with one thing in mind, to race, and this is the best place to see them. Former champ Ant Hodson heads the grid, along with Phil Atkinson and another former champ Daniel Jackson, but we also have proven 250 winners Dave Hampton and Darrell Higgins on the grid and looking for points and podiums.

Ones to watch.

Liam Delves is the man on the 125's this year, but this meeting sees BSB Moto 3 leader Taz Taylor on the grid, along with the full RS Racing team of Jake Archer and Gorgina Polden, so points will be hard fought. Tim Bradley, Simon Gates, Ben Harrison and Steven Palmer will be gunning for glory in the F400 class, whilst in the 600's Mark Hughes will be fending off Sean Montgomery, Max Symonds, Mark Piper and Peter Carr. Carr also leads the way in the Sound of Thunder class on his 675 Triumph, but can Dave Irons use his exquisite 1198 Ducati power and handling to take his first win of the year.

The closely matched road going Streetstock bikes will again see wheel to wheel action with Paul Williams and Martin Lowe, with Thomas Williams and local man Chris Whitehouse in close attendance.

Aaron Silvester will be out to add more wins in his Mini Twin campaign, but local man Tom Blackwell, plus Paul Wardell and Richard Goode will again be out to spoil the teenager's weekend.

With GP45's...500's...pre injections and Sidecars also on the weekends program it will be a cracker.

My tip for the weekend for someone that will shine is Taz Taylor on his Moto3 KTM, this kid is something very special. Settle-back on the vast spectator banking and enjoy!!!.....tell them I sent you !!

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The 250 GP ACU National Championship is turning into a battle between two men. Former champ Ant Hodson (4) and Phil Atkinson (2). Thruxton is a track made for the high corner speed style of the 250 GP bikes

This Meeting.

This 2-day meeting at Thruxton meeting is a real coup for NG Road Racing. Normally the only full weekend meeting that the bikes command is the MCE BSB British Superbike meeting, but for 2015 we see two full days of Club and National racing around this 2.4 mile circuit for the NG club.

As ever there is the full compliment of classes as well as the 250 GP ACU National runners, plus the Sidecars return for this meeting. Thruxton is the fastest UK mainland circuit, and is no place for the faint-hearted as laps well in excess of 100mph are a must for anyone looking for race glory (...the lap record is 109mph !!!!). That allied to the circuits reputation for being notoriously bumpy (...I prefer challenging!!) a well set up machine is a must.

Admission Prices.

Adults **£7** (Saturday) **£12** (Sunday) **£14** (Weekend)
Grandstand Tickets **£2** (Saturday) **£5** (Sunday)
Paddock Access **Free**

For full ticket information and to take advantage of the online discounts go to www.thruxtonracing.co.uk to take full advantage of online discounts (concessions are available – accompanied Under 15's free)

See the circuit web site www.thruxtoncircuit.co.uk for full conditions of admission

Directions to the Circuit – Sat Nav: SP11 8PN

Thruxton is situated in Hampshire, approx. 5 miles from Andover, and just off the A303. Look out for the brown chequered flag signs from all directions.

Race Day Timetable	Sat	Sun	
Technical Inspection	7:00am	7:00am	See the bikes being checked by the Scrutineers, and wander round the pits
Free Practice	9:00am	8:55am	Watch the riders get familiar with the circuit in free practice
Qualifying Races	10:00am	11:00am	The competitors race for grid positions for the finals
Championship Races	14:00pm	14:30pm	Now it gets serious.....Championship points, trophies and glory at stake

Note : There is a quiet period on Sunday morning between 9:20am and 10:40am. So that is a good time for a paddock stroll.

What's on track

20 NG Road Racing championship split into qualifiers and final for each of the classes. That means some 8 hours of on track action each day. The finals will be scheduled to start at approximately 2pm, but I suggest you get in nice and early, soak up the atmosphere as the riders go through technical inspection and free practice before taking to the track in anger. Then they line up for the qualifiers in seeded championship order, and race for their vital grid position for the main finals

Feature races: 250GP ACU National Championship (backed by ACU, DTR Racing and Watchwood)
The Phoenix Open (Backed by Phoenix Motorcycles of Trowbridge)

NG Support classes: F125 | 125GP | Moto 3 | F400 | GP45 | 500cc | 600cc | Powerbike |
Sound of Thunder | Super Twin | Mini Twin | Streetstock | Pre Injection |
Sidecars | Newcomers |

Future NG meetings.....

15 th and 16 th August	Anglesey	Features a full NG Road Racing Test Day on Friday 14 th August
26 th and 27 th September	Pembrey	Prince of Pembrey

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