

AUSTRALIAN SUPERBIKE SERIES 2011



SAM LAMBERT #17

600cc Super Stock



Round 3 (April 2011) Darwin NT RACE REPORT

Once again Major Events put on a great show in Darwin for the ASBK round 3 of the series. There was a great deal of excitement in the lead up to the weekend and Sam and his family were busy making sure everything was ready to go. This is Sam's first year on the 600cc and despite understandable belief to the contrary, he has had very little time on the bike let alone at the Hidden Valley track.

Thursday/Friday practice

The weather this year was certainly less humid than last year and it remained reasonably overcast for most of the weekend which kept things a little cooler too. As far as Sam's practice sessions on both days..... it was a bit of a non event. On Thursday the bike had a few minor issues that turned into major ones as Anthony was still away at the mines and not there to help fix the problems. Friday was a lot better as Anthony was now back from the mines and in the pits to mechanic however the issues still took most of the day to resolve. Such is racing!

Qualifying

Qualifying wasn't much better than practice. In the first qualifying session Sam completed 5 laps and came in with a flat front tyre. By the time that was sorted the session was long finished. Never mind – still one more qualifying session to go with the hope of a good grid position. That didn't happen! The tyre went flat again in the second qualifying session after 3 laps which did not allow Sam to put in a good lap time. This placed him 14th on the grid with a 1:15.35. Nowhere near the times he is capable of doing. After filling out all the appropriate paper work, we were able to obtain a new (inflated) tyre for the racing. ☺

Race 1

With a grid position of 14th Sam knew he had to get great starts to be in with a chance of fighting with the front runners. Sam has tremendous determination and we love seeing him fight back from positions such

Round Points	
Mike Jones	76
Daniel Falzon	57
Mark Wilkinson	51
Samuel Lambert	46
Tim McGregor	45

as this. His start was red hot and he had gained at least 5 positions by turn 1. Every lap his times improved and he gradually worked his way up to cross the finish line in 7th. Excellent effort!

Race 2

Sunday started a little rainy and the race was officially declared a wet race then the rain went away. The track was pretty dry by the scheduled start time but there were a couple of rivers of water crossing the 140/150kph double left corner (Shenanigans') right in the normal braking area. This meant that the normal dry control tyres were the only choice, and extreme care had to be taken through the wet patches where bikes were on the verge of crashing every lap. Again Sam got off to a flying start and gained 5 positions by turn 1. By lap 3 he had bike 69 (M Lockart - Kawasaki) hot on his rear wheel and a great battle ensued for the rest of the race. Sam crossed the finish line in 5th position with a fastest lap time of 1:14.07 despite the slippery conditions. There was much screaming to be heard from the hill by Sam's fan club.



Race 3

The final race of the round was just superb viewing. Sam again had an excellent start which again brought him up 5 positions by turn 1. By lap 3 he again had bike 69 hot on his rear wheel but was able to shake him during lap 7 and begin to hunt down Daniel Falzon on bike # 25 in 4th position. Running out of laps however saw Sam cross the finish line in position 5 with the 3rd fastest lap time out there of a 1:13.4. WELL DONE SAM!

ROUND POINTS

This is Sam's first year on a 600cc and he absolutely loves the Suzuki GSXR 600 and can't wait to get his hands on the latest model 2011 machine for next year. Our expectations for 2011 are for Sam to learn the bike and tracks and hopefully achieve somewhere around 10th position for the series. He has already exceeded expectations by finishing 4th for round 3 in Darwin. Had it not been for flat tyres during qualifying he may even have achieved a podium position. Sam, his family, sponsors, and his team are extremely proud of his achievements so far. This fantastic round finish also places him in 9th position in the Australian championship series. With 2 more rounds to go (Qld in June and Phillip Island in Nov.) anything is possible. Sam will be testing at Queensland raceway at a track day on the 28th of May hoping to finally get some good track time on his 600 before a race meeting so he's not having to learn the ropes during the

race. As most people know motor racing is expensive and without some very valuable financial and product support from the team and Sam's personal sponsors this season for Sam would not have got off the ground - so many thanks to Ben Henry and Cube Racing and all of the sponsors below and thanks to Jonathan Pillington for his excellent mechanic skills and attention to detail that helped resurrect what was turning out to be a potentially disappointing weekend with small but crucial issues with Sam's bike for the weekend. Jonathon had the bike in top condition for all of the racing. You did an excellent job and we really appreciated your help.

We would like to thank:

PIVIT, AME Electronics, Hertz and Motorsports NT. Also special thanks to Marty of Underground Designs for all the signs and posters for the weekend and to Mel Edwards of X-POZD photography for the poster portrait photo.

We would also like to thank Cube Racing Team Sponsors:

Australian Outdoor Living, Underground Designs, Shotz Sports Nutrition, Fred White, INOX Lubricants, Hogs Breath Cafe, Taylor Made Carbon Products, , Ficeda , Bel-Ray Oils, DID Chain, NGK Spark Plug, BMC Filter, Shark Helmet, Berik Leathers, Boots and Gloves, Vortex, La Corsa Race stands, Brembo Brake products



Thanks for your support Darwin
