

Levi Day #57 RACING

2012 INTERNATIONAL ISLAND CLASSIC - Phillip Island 27-29 January

With a small break over the Christmas period, I was more than ready to be back on a bike. With the first race meeting of the year being the International Island Classic. Riders came from NZ, USA, UK, France and all over Australia. This race meeting attracted over 19,000 spectators, and 250 competitors, making it the largest classic race meeting in the southern hemisphere, and the third largest motorcycle event in Australia, only beaten by MotoGP and World Superbikes. Riding the immaculately built Honda CB72 350 and 500 by Jerry Kooistra, I had my hopes set on winning the Phil Irving perpetual trophy, which is awarded to the highest points scorer overall in any class over the weekend. I won this back in 2010, and at 20 years old, I was the youngest person to ever win the trophy.

Friday was practice and then qualifying in the afternoon. I found it challenging re-adjusting back onto the classics, after spending the later part of 2011 doing a lot of testing on the 600. I managed to find good rhythm by the end of the day, placing both bikes on top of the time sheets for their class. Although classes were combined on track so it meant I would start from 3rd on the grid.

On Saturday morning I was approached by the UK team to join them in the International team challenge. The teams were Australia vs. UK vs. NZ vs. World. There are four races for this over the weekend, with all 40 riders scoring points and added up at the end and the highest points is the team that wins. Usually the teams choose their bigger sized period 5 bikes which go up to 1982, but I proved I could be competitive on the 1962 model Honda so I was able to race. The races Saturday went as planned, coming home in front in all the 500 and 350 races. In the two international races I finished in 20th and 18th.

Sunday was here and I was super keen to get into racing. I had done 1000 laps in my sleep so I was ready to get down to business. The 350 races came together well bringing home the class win with 4 wins from 4 starts. The 500 started smoking out of the right exhaust early on during the day, but didn't seem to hinder my lap times when I managed a 1:49.1 only .07 off the 500 lap record! That made it 4 wins from 4 starts in the 500 class also. In the international races I finished 19th and 20th. I was extremely happy with those positions considering the age and size of the Honda compared to the Suzuki Katana 1300's and so on. Hopefully next year I'll be on something bigger and better to give them a hurry along!

With 8 wins in the two classes I was the recipient of the Phil Irving trophy, which was an absolute honour to receive. The weekend couldn't have gone better. It's really set a positive beginning to the 2012 season! We stayed and began testing the 600 on the Monday and Tuesday for the 2012 season in Supersport, with a very positive few days, I'm looking forward to the first round of the Australian championship which is at the World Superbikes on the 24-26 of February.

Thanks to Jerry Kooistra and the UK team for their support, and to all my sponsors who continue to support me! Levi Day #57 - #29



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