

It's Bax to front

Report: LEEN VAN DER SLUIS
Picture: BERT VAN DER SLUIS

THE second round of the Dutch Open Championship was held at Valkenswaard and 47 top sidcar crews were present to contest two motos.

Out for the very first time on their brand-new outfit were Britain's Daniel and Joe Millard, hoping to repeat their form from Lochem a week earlier.

Richard Jenkins and Dan Chamberlain were also in action on their Zabel WSP.

With such a large entry the organisers decided to allow 35 teams to start the main races, but this still left 12 crews who would be relegated to a B race.

In practice Bax/Stupelis headed Group A from Hendrickx/Smeuninx and Hendrickx/Liepins.

The second group was won by Adriaenssen/Verbrugge from Marcel Willemsen/Eggink.

Daniel Willemsen/Kurpnieks could only manage fifth place, just two places ahead of the Millards.

Jenkins just made it into the main races in 17th spot.

Marcel Willemsen took the holeshot in the first leg but after one lap Bax moved to the front.

A few laps in Daniel Willemsen had forced through to second but he could not catch Bax.

Millard was unfortunately



Richard Jenkins and Dan Chamberlain plough on at Valkenswaard.

forced to pull out when passenger Joe bashed his knee on the sidcar, while Jenkins had a torrid time, finally finishing 33rd.

The second leg started the same way, with Marcel Willemsen leading Bax - but by lap two Bax was in pole position again.

Daniel Willemsen, initially eighth, pulled up to fourth at the flag.

Millard was lying in tenth place but crashed and dropped back and the British brothers finally finished 16th.

Jenkins finished in 23rd and admitted afterwards that they will have to stop crashing and stay on the bike if they are going to get anywhere.

DUTCH SIDECARX CHAMPS

Rd 2 - Valkenswaard

OVERALL: 1 Etienne Bax/ Kaspars

Stupelis (Zabel WSP) 50 + 50 = 100 points, 2 Marcel Willemsen/ Gerbe Eggink (Zabel WSP) 41 + 45 = 86, 3 Daniel Willemsen/ Harald Kurpnieks (Zabel WSP) 45 + 38 = 83, 4 Ben Adriaenssen/ Sven Verbrugge (KTM) 36 + 41 = 77, 5 Janis Daiders/ Lauris Daiders (Zabel VMC) 38 + 36 = 74, 6 Carlo van Duijnhoven/ Elvijs Mucenieks (Zabel VMC) 33 + 35 = 68, 25 Richard Jenkins/ Dan Chamberlain (Zabel WSP) 8 + 18 = 26, 26 Daniel Millard/ Joe Millard (Husaberg WHT) 0 + 25 = 25.

Tear-off short-si

JEFFREY Herlings' vision problems at the rain-affected third round of the Dutch championship served to emphasise just how ludicrous the KNMV regulations are concerning eye protection.

Tommy Searle had been a victim of the tear-off ban one week earlier.

Apparently the Dutch federation - concerned at the environmental implications of the plastic tear-offs being discarded during racing - have banned their use.

And in a comical scene at the start gate last week Dutch officials confiscated Tommy's stash and hurriedly picked up the one which fell to the ground in the incident.

Explaining his narrow margin of victory in the opening moto at Heerde, Herlings admitted he could hardly see the track when misting added to his problems and he would clearly have preferred to ride with tear-offs.

So anybody going to ride in KNMV competition be warned.

No tear-offs, and no exceptions. Apparently