

Oss a good show from the Sidecars

■ Report: Leen van der Sluis

THE venue for the second round for the International Dutch Open Sidecarcross was Oss, the well-known Grand Prix track, which attracted an entry of 28 teams.

Three British crews were in the line-up – Stuart Brown/ Josh Chamberlain and Brett Wilkinson/ Steve Kirwin (both of whom had raced in Holland the previous weekend) and Nick Jarvis/ Dan Chamberlain.

Under sunny skies world champs Ben Adriaenssen/ Ben vd Bogaart blasted uphill to the first corner in moto one.

A bout of flu prevented Adriaenssen from contesting the opening round in Lochem, but he showed in Oss that preparations for the opening round of the World Championship are on course.

Adriaenssen pulled out a gap as Closhe/ Verhagen held off Bax/ Stupelis for a while.

By the time Bax got through to second, Adriaenssen was out of sight.

Despite this Bax pressed on and it took the Dutch champs the whole race before they were able to close the gap to win the race.

Adriaenssen, racing with a malfunctioning suspension, didn't or couldn't respond and settled for a safe second.

A significant distance behind Daniel Willemsen/ Robbie Bax claimed third.

Britain's Brown/ Chamberlain finished eighth after a tough race.

The pair started 12th but looked less comfortable than the previous week at Lochem.

"It was a hard race," explained passenger Josh.

"The ruts are very deep, which makes it difficult to change lines and to pass."

Wilkinson climbed from an initial 15th to 11th. Jarvis didn't have a good start and was 22nd after lap one. He improved ten places to finish 12th, which was an excellent performance in the difficult conditions.

Daniel Willemsen was first to the top of the hill in moto two, but Adriaenssen slipped into the lead on an inside line. Van Werven, Willemsen, Van Duynhoven and Close were the top contenders. Bax started mid-pack and completed lap one in tenth.

At the front Adriaenssen upped the pace and pulled out a huge lead to win the race and claim the overall. Bax was second and Daniel Willemsen rode strong, but also has to acknowledge that his speed is not on par with the fastest teams on the track, and Adriaenssen in particular.

Brown climbed through from an initial 11th to finish seventh. Wilkinson started 18th, and Jarvis 22nd, and both crews had to work hard to improve their positions. Wilkinson finished 11th and Jarvis 13th.

RESULTS

OVERALL: 1 Ben Adriaenssen/ Ben van den Bogaart (B/NL) 45+50=95, 2 Etienne Bax/ Kaspars Stupelis (NL/LAT) 50+45=95, 3 Daniel Willemsen/ Robbie Bax (NL) 41+41=82, 4 Gert van Werven/ Peter Beunk (NL) 38+38=76, 5 Koen Hermans/ Kenny van Gaalen (NL) 34+35=69, 6 Carlo van Duijnhoven/ Siebe van der Putten (NL) 32+36=68, 7 Jan Visscher/ Jeroen Visscher (NL) 35+33=68, 8 Marcel Willemsen/ Bart Sloop (NL) 36+32=68, 9 Stuart Brown/ Josh Chamberlain (GB) 33+34=67, 10 Brett Wilkinson/ Steve Kirwin (GB) 30+30=60,...