

Brown ready for Grand Prix

■ IN the second round of the Dutch open Sidecarcross championship held at St Isidorushoeve, on Sunday, Daniel Willemssen/ Sven Verbrugge made their first appearance of the year and were joined on the line by Britain's Stuart Brown/ Marc Cooper, writes **LEEN VAN DER SLUIS**.

In timed qualification Willemssen set an incredible time in Group B with Brown qualifying in fourth but nearly eight-seconds adrift.

In the opening moto Brown started badly and was 14th at the end of lap one. He slowly fought his way through the field to finish tenth, one lap down.

In the early stages of the race he lost his front brake and soon after a front shock packed up so to finish was an achievement in itself.

At the front Willemssen led for the early part of the race but was overtaken by Eric Schrijver/ Christian Verhagen on lap nine. Three-laps later Willemssen retook the lead in a manoeuvre that ended with Schrijver upside down. Schrijver came home in sixth with Daniel's brother,

Marcel taking second place.

The second leg was much better for Brown. He gated in fifth but lost two places almost straight away. Having worked his way back up to fifth he made another mistake, going very wide on a corner and was back in seventh. He finally finished in sixth spot.

At the front of the race it was exhibition time for Willemssen who quickly opened up a big lead over Schrijver and the Van Duynhoven brothers in third.

At the end Willemssen's bike was noise tested and found to be over the limit - the ensuing one minute penalty dropped him to fourth.

Brown and Cooper were generally satisfied with their performance and now have one weekend off before travelling to Spain for the first GP

■ IN the first round of the German championship at Schnaitheim the overall win went to Jo Brustmann/ Alco Van der Ketterij while current champion, Marko Happich, having only just returned from injury, finished fourth overall.



Stuart Brown and Marc Cooper pictured in action at St Isidorushoeve, on Sunday, finishing sixth in the second leg. Picture: BERT VAN DER SLUIS.

Frome say a big thanks

FROME MC would like to thank all who helped out at the clubs Easter event, which was a huge success.

The next event for the club will be on May 8 and is a clubman sidecar event with support classes for both Junior and Expert solo entries also.

The event is open to members of the Sidecar Association and Wessex and Southern Centre riders. Send an SAE to Mrs Vera Webb, 2 Broomclose Farm Cottages, Longbridge Deverill, Warminster, Wilts, BA12 7DD for regs.

MMX set for Torridge

PLANS are well underway in the Torridge club for the third round of the MMX British Championships on April 24.

With Sidecars visiting the Waggadon Circuit for the first time, the Higgins duo, Brian and Si, are at present busy with track design and layout.

Secretary of the Meeting, Di Thompson, will be dealing with rider entries and all things ACU. To contact Di ring 01822-810336.

For all other matters, such as advertising and trade stands, contact Liz Meredith on 01271-324357.

Grand prix marshals required

ANYONE who is interested in marshalling at the British Grand Prix at Matchams on June 4/5, or at the MMX Under-21, British Four-stroke and Quad Champs round at Coolham on May 15, should contact Yan Dixon on 07889-721565 to put their name down.

DEP Expert correction

IN last weeks report from the combined Hants Grand National and DEP 125 Challenge at Matchams Park, the results for the Hants Grand Expert class were incorrect.

The correct results are:

- 1 Billy Mackenzie, 2 Jason Higgs, 3 Bryan Mackenzie, 4 Jason Dougan, 5 Zac Blackwell, 6 Dan Lillington, 7 Marc Gunter, 8 Jonathan Thornton, 9 Clinton Barrs, 10 Andy Trollope.

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR MOTOCROSS DIARY

pets...Zolder snippets...Zolder

■ PROMOTOR Eric Geboers presented the Grand Prix of Namur to the media on Sunday morning in Zolder.

The event will feature both MX1/MX2 and S1/S2 racing over the weekend. "And the price is the same as if only the MX1/MX2 GP were running. The price for the public, that is, because the costs for the promoter are substantially more, but we hope that everyone will want to take advantage of this unique opportunity to see both disciplines on the same programme."

"I would also like to stress that the motocross GP will not be affected in any way. The exciting track layout which will be introduced last year on the Esplanade will be retained in its entirety, and the timings of the motocross are unaffected by the Supermoto programme.

"S1 and S2 will practice on Friday, and they will each have their first race on Saturday evening, straight after the motocross qualification is completed. There will then be a second race in each class on Sunday. The full details of the race programme, plus a map of the planned track are on the website www.gpnamur.com

"Finally, I have one very big request of the press. Please, please tell your readers that Namur this year will run on May 6/7/8. I would hate for them to start making enquiries in June about the traditional August date, only for them to discover they have missed this great event!"

Thank you, Eric, we need add no more, you said it all so eloquently yourself.

■ Mike Alessi failed to arrive in Zolder. Apparently he took sick two weeks

before and, as the plan was for him to come over for the Dutch championship race at Easter before doing a week of testing, the visit was shelved. He will be in Europe for the next two GPs.

■ The factory SSX125 KTM will not be raced this year.

Kees Van der Ven: "Carl set the same lap times on the 125 and the 250 and the decision was left to him which bike to ride. The programme continues with our assistance to the Kosak, Silver Action and Spanish federation teams, each of whom already receive the factory engine, and the logistics would be too difficult to contemplate loaning the bike to one of them."

Marc DeReuver will not race again until the Dutch GP on the first weekend of September, by which time there will be sufficient material to run all three Champ team riders on the SX250F.

■ Ben Townley was the MX2 champion last year, but it is Tyla Rattray who has been getting all of the replica editions. First KTM named the SSX125 after the South African, and now Laser helmets are marketing Rattray replica helmets.

■ Neither the KX450F Kawasaki for Tanel Leok nor Stephen Sword's new KX250F were at Zolder.

Jan DeGroot's three week hospitalisation after an operation on the leg he smashed up some 25 years ago on top of the late delivery from Japan meant that the test programme had not been finalised, but an intensive week of testing should ensure that both bikes are at the start in Spain.

■ Suzuki completed its updates to the RMZ450F on Friday afternoon when new Akrapovic pipes were delivered. The casings on the left side of the motor show changes, but the most obvious external alteration is the heat shield between the pipe and the carburettor which should ensure better fuel efficiency and response.

After testing numerous gearboxes Smets and Stribos have restricted their choice to just two of the batch, and, believe it or not, one of those two is the standard gearbox!

■ Frenchman Luigi Seguy rode at Zolder with a neck support after damaging a vertebrae in his back in January.

Luigi had only ridden three times this year before Zolder.

■ Ireland's Gordon Crockard reported that he was now in no way restricted in his movement by the ankle injury he suffered at Hawkstone.

■ Compatriot Adam Lyons was a no-show after negotiations with the German Sarholz team broke down three weeks ago.

■ Wyatt Avis was another rider fighting back from injury: "I broke my collarbone practising in January, then three weeks later I broke it again in a car crash."

■ Max Nagl was already carrying an injury to his left ankle when he arrived at Zolder, and in the second race he wrecked his right one too!

■ Javier Garcia Vico withdrew before qualification after two heavy crashes during free practice.

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