

Brown leads Brits home in Holland

■ International Dutch Open Sidecarcross

■ Rd 2 - Lochem, Netherlands

■ Report: Leen van der Sluis

AFTER the stormy end of round one of the Dutch Sidecar Championship at Lierop a week before, most of the teams were back in Lochem at the weekend.

Despite the heavy winds and rains during the week the club presented a well prepared track.

A total of 23 crews packed their gear for another attempt to get some race time on the sidecar wheels.

Amongst others a whole bunch of Brits challenged the striking French Customs to cross the channel for this second round of the International Dutch Open Sidecarcross.

Lochem is the hometown of Daniel Willemsen so the ten-times champ was highly motivated to win in his back yard.

Strong heats by Willemsen/ Rostingt could not prevent Etienne Bax/ Kaspars Stupelis to win this meeting. Both Bax add Hermans won a heat apiece.

In the first moto a group of five were clearly fastest. Willemsen/ Rostingt took the holeshot and went off together with Vanluchene, Bax, Veldman and Hermans. Sanders was sixth and Stuart Brown/ Josh Chamberlain seventh, missing the connection.

Brown didn't make it to the finish as the hose of the cooling went off.

In the front group Veldman was the first who attacked, the French passed Bax, but was pushed back one lap later.

It was time for Bax to sorted things out. The former world champs passed Vanluchene and Willemsen for the win.

Meanwhile Hermans/ Musset went out.

Bax then headed rivals Willemsen, Veldman and Vanluchene.

The British pairing of Brett Wilkinson/ Ryan Humphrey came back from

midfield to snatch seventh, while Jake Bown/ Joe Millard rode a steady race for 11th. George Kinge/ Lewis Gray went from 16th to 13th.

Sam Osbaldiston/ Nathan Cooper did even better by trading the 21st place in for 14th at the finish as Dan Foden/ Roy Beijenhof did not reach the finish.

In the second heat Foden together with Kops went down at the start, causing a pile up in the first turn.

That was not a problem for Davy Sanders/ Lari Kunnas, who got away clearly in front of Willemsen/ Rostingt and Brown/ Chamberlain.

Sanders, Willemsen and Hermans came out in front with Bax only eighth. Brown was quickly passed by Vanluchene and Veldman.

Up to midrace Sanders was able to keep Willemsen behind, but surrendered making room for Willemsen, Bax and Hermans.

This trio went into the final battle, won by Hermans/ Musset.

Launched

In the last lap Bax launched a final attach on the position of Willemsen - unsuccessfully. Brown finished seventh with Wilkinson eighth, while George Kinge and Jake Brown both rode a steady race.

Young Brown finished 12th and Kinge 13th. Osbaldiston was less impressive than earlier, in 18th.

First leader in the championship and winner of Lochem were Etienne Bax/ Kaspars Stupelis with Daniel Willemsen/ Luc Rostingt second and Marvin Vanluchene/ Ben van den Bogaart third on the podium.

In the Non-Championship national riders Alfie Brown/ Josh Cooper were immediately out in race one.

In race two the pair were stalled by a fallen team and remounted to claim 31st. The young lads rode an extremely good heat.

Norris Marches on

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