



Metzeler Racetec National Superstock Cup - Round 4 Oulton Park

CM Racing Kawasaki rider Dean Johnson left Oulton Park today, 7 May, having secured his third consecutive win to head the Metzeler Racetec National Superstock Cup Championship in another action packed weekend of racing.

A mixture of weather conditions hampered the field's progress throughout the weekend. Dry conditions saw Dean Johnson unsurprisingly head the timing sheets in both Free Practice and Q1. Dijon Compton on the Astro Kawasaki and James Hurrell on the Enanjay Racing Suzuki rounded out the top three. Showers on Monday gave rise to damp conditions for Q2 and an uncertain forecast for today (Monday's) final race of the day. Paul Shoesmith posted the fastest time in Q2 on the Speedfreak Racing Yamaha from Tom Clegg (Team NCR Suzuki) and Michael O'Brien on the Motomob Suzuki. Combined times for both sessions would see the Sunday times prevail for the leading grid slots.

As the riders took their places for the start of the 12-lap race, it was by no means certain whether track conditions would change for better or worse. The race was declared wet, and some teams hedged their bets with a mixture of wet front and dry rear tyres (Compton & Hurrell), others opted for full wets (Johnson).

Compton's Kawasaki went backwards from the start as James Hurrell's Suzuki seized an early advantage from Dean Johnson and Paul Shoesmith up into third from the second row, clearly confident onboard the Speedfreak entry in the damp. As the leaders battled, Shoesmith became stronger and by lap three, took to the head of the field and looked as if he would run away with it as the lap times became progressively quicker. However, Dean Johnson had other ideas and despite challenges from Hurrell and Norman Brunton on the Yamaha machine, he steadily improved as conditions came back to favour him.

Steady pressure and a series of consecutive fastest laps in the latter stages of the race saw Johnson's Kawasaki take the lead from Shoesmith on lap nine, securing victory with a 5.5s margin and fastest lap of the race (1:47.908). Shoesmith dropped back into the clutches of Brunton and Hurrell but finished second, 0.1s ahead of Brunton, 0.2s ahead of Hurrell.

A single point now separates Championship front-runners Johnson and Hurrell, with a twenty-eight point gap back to Brunton in third position.

Metzeler Racetec National Superstock Cup Race Result

1 – Johnson (Kawasaki), 2 – Shoesmith (Yamaha), 3 – Brunton (Yamaha)

Championship Points

1. Johnson	75
2. Hurrell	74
3. Brunton	46
4. Angel	35
5. Howarth	34