

THE 2010 SILVERSTONE INTERNATIONAL MINI GRAND PRIX

The event was a great success. The newly extended Stowe circuit, now about the same length as the Brands Indy, was perfect for the MiniGP70, XL-80 and PreGP125 machines that ran at the event. It is worth noting that none of the riders had ridden this circuit before so everything was as equal as possible.

Metrakit Italia sent their race truck over with the bikes for the Italian riders plus additions for the Australian and Bermudian riders. They also provided PreGP125 bikes for Brits Rowan Miller and Nathan Westwood while Bradley Ray used the bike loaned by Metrakit Spain to FAB-Racing.

The 26 riders on the MiniGP70 grid provided fantastic racing with the current leader in the MiniGP British Championship, Joe Francis, taking the win in all three races, but certainly not with ease. In all three 18 lap races he had to ride to the limit to fend off challenges by Kai Johnson and two very quick Italians, Alessio Castelli and Alessio Pascoli. He took the win in Race 2 by just 0.107 seconds from Pascoli. A similarly close finish in race 3 was avoided when Pascoli slid off on lap 10. With his three wins Francis was obviously the overall winner but second place went to consistently fast Johnson, who was only riding a 70 for the second time, and third was Castelli.

Not so far behind the leaders close racing went on all down the field with groups of riders battling race long to take the advantage from their competitors and make it to the finish just that bit in front. Josh Owens, Bradley Perie, Zac Corderoy, Oliver Fitzpatrick, Calogero Ciulla, and Lewis Rollo rode consistently and fast to take 5th to 10th places overall.

The combined XL-80 and PreGP125 20 races were equally exciting with each class being scored separately. In race one the PreGP125 class was eventually dominated by the Italians when Nathan Westwood, riding a 125 for the first time at the weekend, relinquished the lead as his bike came to a stop on lap 8 and Bradley Ray had to slow with oil on the left side of his rear tyre, not good on an anti clockwise circuit. The remainder of the 125 field was then Italian and the first three places were taken by Gianluca Fedi, Luca Antonelli, and Andrea Monaco. Race 2 and 3 are best described as manic. Just one second covered the first four finishers in race 2 with Ray taking the win by 0.204 seconds from Westwood with Antonelli and Fedi in very close attendance. Race 3 was again a close run thing with Ray once more just taking the win from Westwood but this time Fedi got the better of Antonelli to take the 3rd position. The overall result went to Ray, which was very much a result of his determination to finish the first race and gain points despite the handicap of oil on the tyre, second to Fedi and third Antonelli.

The somewhat smaller 80 class was very much an Australian affair with Luke Mitchell and Zac Zanesco dominating all three races. Mitchell taking two wins and Zanesco the other. These two went at it full on in all three races and gave the crowd a great showing of their skill and speed. Bermudian Wytico Showers and Italian Giordano Ferratti contested the third overall place with Showers coming out top. The one Brit that should have made the 80 class races, Taryn Taylor, was sidelined from all 3 races with a damaged wrist caused by a fall in the paddock during evening.

Roll on next year.