

Brad JONES
TWELVE

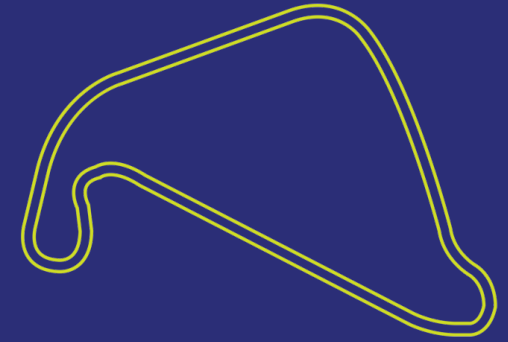
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**ROUND 1 //
SILVERSTONE
INTERNATIONAL**





Round 1 was headed at Silverstone in Northampton, with a long but productive off season with lots of training and laps on bikes I was



feeling in great shape for the first races on the year! The weekend was set to be a scorcher and it didn't disappoint. Friday as usual we had the two free practice sessions which were 30 minutes each and like last season, we had a plan for each.

Coming from the test the week before with a best time of 56.7, we were still looking to further improve our set up to give me a better feeling.

To start with, we added 10mm of oil into the front forks to give me more support near the bottom of the stroke when braking deep into the turns. Oil levels in front suspension only come into effect when you begin to get to the bottom of the stroke, this is what gives feeling and feedback to the riders.

We also played around with engine braking to help me stop the bike and get to the apex. The outcome was mixed, I had less feel from the front due to the front forks now not being able to go as far through the stroke as I am used to, therefore I found it harder to turn and had less feel because the front was too high. However, the engine braking was a good improvement and I was happy with that change. Finishing FP1 in 3rd with a 56.8 was a good start to the weekend.

After a long debrief we opted to go back to a very similar set up to what we used at the test. From here on in we hardly changed the bike all weekend apart from a click of compression here and a turn of preload here. The compression helped to allow the bike to soak the bumps up more efficiently and the preload was giving me more support on braking.





With a solid qualifying in 2nd and me and my team mate being the first Supersport riders to break into the 55's it was game on for the two races. In addition, other than new tyres and a bigger fuel load the bike was not touched for race 1 as it worked so well!

Over winter the aim was to work hard to bridge the gap to the leaders and in race 1 I did just that!

// IT WAS A MEGA RACE TO BREAK AWAY WITH BOTH KENNEDY AND SEELEY IN THE 18-LAP SPRINT RACE AND HAVE A GOOD BATTLE. //

I learnt a lot about race craft and tyre management from the two very experienced men in front of me, to sit behind for a good number of laps was brilliant for improving my race strategy and also to figure out where I could improve for race 2. A 3rd place and only 0.4 of a second off the win in an epic battle was a rewarding way to start the season!

// GOING OFF WHAT I LEARNT IN RACE 1, FOR RACE 2 I WANTED TO GET STUCK IN MORE AND LEAD SOME LAPS. WITH A CLEAN START AND GOOD FIRST LAP I HIT THE FRONT AND TOOK THE LEAD TO TRY AND SET A HOT PACE. //

However, Seeley wanted to slow the race down to look after the tyres and every time I took the lead he pounced back and slowed the pace. So, I had a great battle and just had to run the pace that was being set, it ended up being a hard charging group of 4 pushing all the way to the end with lots of close passing being traded all race long. Another 3rd place and 0.6 off the win this time which concluded an end to a brilliant weekend!

Now it is on to a test at Oulton Park on Thursday which is the next round on the 4th-6th of May, I will certainly be looking to challenge for the win there!



**THANKS
FOR
ALL
YOUR
SUPPORT!**

**NEXT UP
ROUND 2 //
OULTON
PARK**

