

East Coast Supermoto Series round 1

Eastern Creek NSW 30/7/06

www.jacksonracing.com.au

Rider :Joe Harvey #82 Age: 17 Bike Yamaha :YZ250F Class: S3

Outright position 2nd

Series position 2nd

Full results and laptimes on

<http://www.natsoft.com.au/cgi-bin/results.cgi?31/07/2006.RRT> follow S3 class

We travelled to Eastern Creek for the opening round of the East Coast Supermoto Series to contest the S3 class and hopefully return home with some silverware.

Track Layout.

The layout of the road section was fairly tight with two good straights as well. The surface was unpredictable due to a myriad of re-surface lines, paint and shiny patches of slippery concrete right in the braking areas of some corners, which made for some interesting racing. The dirt was mostly one-lined and extremely skatey which meant you were more likely to lose time if you tried to push hard through that part of the circuit.

Practice/Qualifying.

I tried to piece together my quick lap times by trying to get each section of the track right before doing my fast laps and I began to circulate reasonably quickly and ended up on the front row of the grid in 4th position next to Blake Jacobs in 3rd position, Linden Magee in 2nd and Cru Halliday on pole.

Race 1.

The first race of the day was very exciting, I got away from the line pretty well and slotted into 3rd position behind Blake Jacobs with Linden Magee in the lead. Cru Halliday was right on my wheel and he was pushing me along until he got by me in the dirt, I then tried to stick with him and try to get on the back of the two Hondas, Cru was going hard and he eventually got by Jacobs and started his assault on Linden. In the final corners Cru made his move on Magee he got by him then Jacobs put his bike down in the dirt section so I snuck by him to finish 3rd.

Race 2.

Race two was also very eventful, Linden Magee again took the lead to begin with but Cru was right on him and made a pass on the second lap, I was dicing with Jacobs until he made an error in the dirt section and I was able to get around him, I had a fair gap to make up to Linden but my work was made a lot easier when he lost the front end on the tar, he was just remounting as I passed him. I finished the race in a comfortable 2nd position with Halliday too far in front for me to contest for the win.

Race 3.

The third and final race for the S3 class did not start as well as the last ones for me as I started from second grid position but it didn't help me as I entered the first turn in 6th place. Luke Richards who has only recently turned senior got a blinder of a start and led the race for the first few corners with Halliday and Damien Grabham in hot pursuit. Magee, Jacobs and myself were giving chase all trying to stop Halliday from getting away but we now had some more opposition to deal with first. Magee made a brave move up the inside of Jacobs but it backfired on him as Jacobs was not willing to concede his position and Magee was spat off his machine, biting the tar pretty hard. Grabham was caught up in the carnage and ran off the track trying to avoid the mayhem. I was able to capitalise on this and got by him and onto the back wheel of Jacobs who had got out trouble miraculously. We started our chase on Luke Richards who now had a fair gap on us as he had not been involved in Magee's crash. We hunted him down and were putting a heap of pressure on the rookie. We were both looking for a way round him and it came down to the last time through the dirt section. I got up the inside of Luke while Jacobs attempted to go round the outside, I got the best drive out of the turn and was able to edge in front of Luke, into the next turn Luke and I were side by side, Luke lost the front end and nearly took me down with him but I stayed upright and finished the race in 2nd place. Luke put up a good fight but was eventually run down by the "Old Hands!"