

MAX COOK IMPRESSES IN A HIGHER CLASS AND COLLECTS CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY



BRANDS
HATCH

14 - 16 OCT

Mansfield based Binch Racing and rider Max Cook headed down to Brands Hatch in Kent this past weekend for the season finale of the 2022 British Superbike Championship.

Having already secured the 2022 National Junior Superstock championship back in September at Oulton Park, an unassailable points lead gave the team an opportunity to try something new.

Championship rules dictate that the top three riders in the class are not allowed to compete in the same class the following year so the defence of the title is not permitted. Therefore team owner David Binch and Max decided that Brands Hatch would be the ideal opportunity to run their Isle of Man TT fully modified Yamaha 600cc machine, Lulu.

With the support of race direction Max was given clearance to leave the Junior Superstock class and compete on the more powerful machine in the Quattro Plant Supersport Championship.

The Supersport class is highly contested and very competitive. The wildcard opportunity represented a significant step up for Max and the team as they would be battling on track with teams running on much larger budgets and infrastructure. Never the less, assured of their collective ability and passion for racing, the opportunity was seized with both hands.

In the weeks and days before the weekend started in earnest Binch Racing were absolutely delighted to have a chat with none other than international DJ and dance music producer Carl Cox. Carl has a huge interest in high octane motorsport most notably working alongside 21 times Isle of Man winner Michael Dunlop.

Carl is currently on a world tour promoting his forthcoming album 'Electronic Generations,' he was looking for a platform to help promote the release and he very kindly helped the team with a unique 'one off' race livery that would include a QR code that takes fans and listeners to the pre order of the new album.



After a frantic morning of press releases and social media activity (@binchracing) Max and Lulu took to the 2.43 mile circuit for their two free practise sessions.

Both sessions were extremely useful in terms of time on the new machine. There was a lot to learn in terms of different racing lines and how the bike behaves. Max remained very calm and calculated throughout giving the team really useful feedback that would help them choose a direction to make the necessary changes.

In a field of 37 faster riders and quicker machines Max ended the first session in 13th position and 15th in the second session. As track conditions improved, so did the pace. Fridays debriefing session was very positive. A very good day considering everyone was starting from scratch.

Onto Saturday and it was all systems go. The Supersport class have two races every weekend and Saturday morning would also include a qualifying session to determine grid positions for race one later that afternoon.

The 25 minute qualifying session would see Max improve his lap time again setting his best of 1.29.02 on lap 14 of the 15 completed. This would prove good enough to start the race from 15th on the grid. More importantly for Max and the team the lap time was 0.74 seconds quicker than free practise 2, progress...

Race one got underway and by turn one Max could feel the increased level of competition. As he selected his line into paddock hill bend it was quickly disrupted by other riders making the dash for the front boxing Max in. In a more competitive field it was clear that no quarter is given. Max used caution and his maturity for the first few laps getting settled maintaining his position, whilst others looked a little more loose and wild in front of him.

As the laps ran down Max started to passing riders in front getting quicker and quicker each lap setting his best lap of the race on lap 7 of 1.28.84. As the chequered flag came out on lap 12 Max crossed the line in P10.

First a first effort the whole team were delighted with the result. A top ten in the higher class for our first effort was fantastic. To be within 0.70 of the fastest lap of the race winner was a real achievement. Max feedback a slight issue with his clutch at the start which was easily assessed and repaired in readiness for Sundays second race.

Morning warm up on Sunday was slightly cooler and quite damp after some rain through the night. Max used 5 minutes of the session on some spare wet tyres to test the new clutch. Happy with how that felt on a few practice starts he returned to the garage for his coat and bobble hat.

Shortly before the afternoons race we had the opportunity to watch the last race of the Junior Superstock class to see who could achieve 2nd and 3rd in the championship.

Race two of their weekend went the way of Franco Bourne who would secure second in the championship with Dan Brooke's finishing 3rd overall. Well done to them !!

After their race presentation Max was called to the podium for the long awaited Championship presentation. In front of huge crowds that lined the banks of Brands Hatch Max finally got his hands on the trophy he has worked so hard for.



Dave Binch had this to say after finally limiting the Team Championship trophy :

"I am delighted for the whole Binch racing family, team, sponsors & friends who have been with us on this amazing journey. The support we receive really keeps us going when things don't always go our way. We have worked tirelessly to be successful for the last few years & the hard work has paid off.

Max and the team have worked their socks off to win this British championship and they really do deserve all the well wishes they have been receiving from around the the world.

Our focus will then soon shift to next years race season, but for now we are going to celebrate tonight and enjoy bringing the winning trophies back to Mansfield for 2022 tomorrow."

Max Cook had this to say : "I am so happy to win the 2022 junior stock championship with Binch racing. It has been by far my favourite year racing.

From being dropped by Dorna in 2020, I was close retiring in 2021. I still can't believe we are champions.

We worked hard for this one!! All the boys at Binch racing have gone above and beyond to give me the best package possible to win. I'm so happy I delivered for them, our families our sponsors and our fans!

When I first met Dave, he said I needed to win. It was our goal from day 1 and we definitely exceeded expectations. A huge thank you to Binch Racing and my personal sponsors for making this year happen!"

With the trophies on display in the team garage it was time to refocus and accelerate preparations for the second Supersport race.

The improved lap time from race one would elevate Max's grid position to 13th for the start of race two. Max was really pleased to be two further up the grid as this would give him an outside line into turn one allowing him to start his own race without the added pressure of avoiding other machines jostling for the inside line.

The new clutch worked a treat and Max made an excellent start. The better launch enabled him to get away with the front runners which would yield a real time opportunity to learn and adapt to their racing lines and breaking points.

As he crossed the line after lap one he had managed to gain 5 places and was running in 8th place. Clearly excited and delighted to see his position on his pit board he set his fastest lap of the weekend on lap 2 with a time of 1.28.57 which was his ideal based on all his fastest sector times of the weekend.

By the end of lap 9 he had battled hard and picked his moments to overtake to get himself into 4th place. Now at the front of a pack of proven 600cc experts with only 6 laps to go it would prove to be hard to hold the position as his rear tyre deteriorated. Having never had to consider tyre life in the previous class, the longer and faster race eventually concluded with Max in 9th.

Never the less, Max was delighted with his own performance as were the whole team. When he returned to parc ferme he was congratulated by a number of fellow competitors who were commending him on his race craft and pace. It was really to see such sportsmanship and hear the praise they had for him.

Two top ten finishes is nothing short of fantastic for a wildcard appearance. The perfect end to the prefect season.

The whole paddock ended the day with huge congratulations for the new Superbike Champion Bradley Ray.

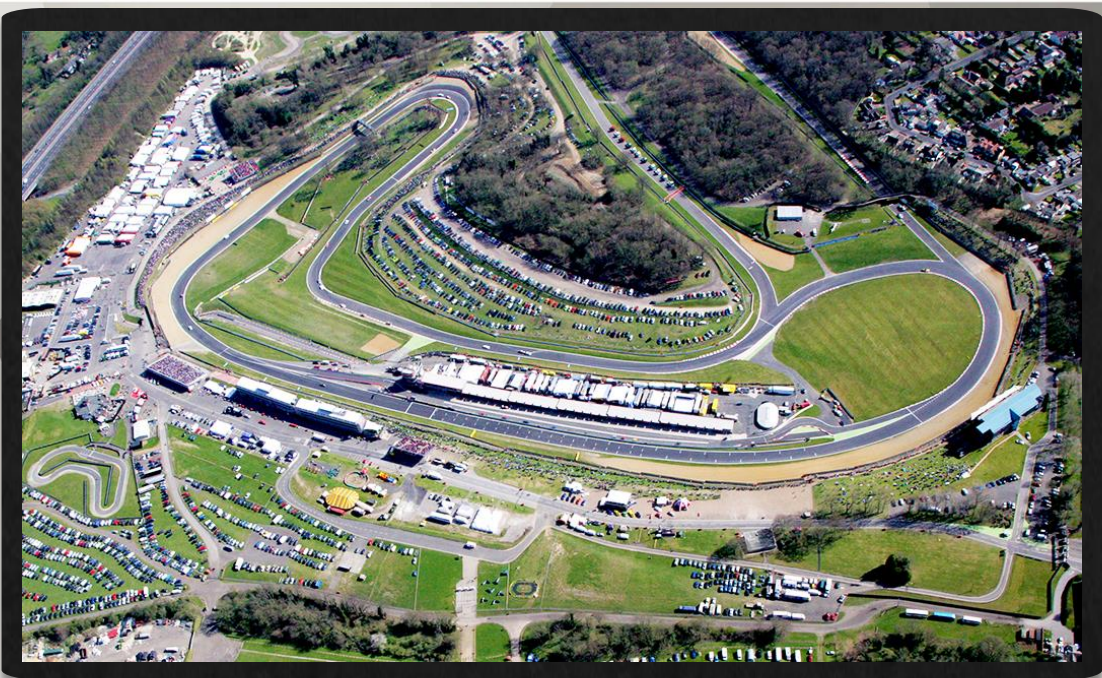
Fans were granted permission to access the track to join in the celebrations and photo opportunities.

Max and the whole team will be taking some much needed time off to rest and recuperate whilst some plans for 2023 simmer away in the background.












We hope to confirm our exciting new news in the coming weeks.

2022 Champions, Mansfield's Binch Racing and Max Cook.





Junior Superstock BSB

POS	NO	RIDER/TEAM	POINTS															
				SILVERSTONE 15 - 17 APR	OULTON PARK 30 APR - 02 MAY	DONINGTON PARK 20 - 22 MAY	KNOCKHILL 17 - 19 JUN	BRANDS HATCH 22 - 24 JUL	THRUXTON 12 - 14 AUG	CADWELL PARK 27 - 29 AUG	SNETTERTON 09 - 11 SEP	OULTON PARK 23 - 25 SEP	DONINGTON PARK 30 SEP - 02 OCT	BRANDS HATCH 14 - 16 OCT				
				R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14	R15
1	1	MAX COOK UGGLY & CO by BINCH Pro Yamaha	265		25	25	25	20		20	25	25	25	25	25	25		
2	54	FRANCO BOURNE Marvel HCL Motorsport Kawasaki	170	25		10	13	25		16				20	20	16	25	
3	21	DAN BROOKS R4R Vision Team Kawasaki	144	10	13	16	20	9		13		16	20	13		7	7	
4	34	AARON SILVESTER A & J Racing Yamaha	140	20	11	11	10	11		9	20		11	11	10		16	
5	57	SETH CRUMP SEEEETH Yamaha	129	8	10	13	9	13		8	9	5	7	16	11	20		
6	55	LOUIS VALLELEY TeamVal-Tech Racing Yamaha	97	16	20	20		16		25								
7	64	ASHER DURHAM Completely Motorbikes/Affinity	97			9	5	10		7	13	10	16		8	13	6	