



## Metzeler Racetec National Superstock Championship

### Round 5 Snetterton

Injuries, strong tailwinds and fluctuating track temperatures presented the Superstock field with plenty of reasons to exercise caution in a weekend that saw a number of riders affected during qualifying and throughout the course of the Snetterton event.

A gripping race ran its course, uninterrupted, with Australian Glen Richards taking the win from South African Hudson Kennaugh and last year's winner John Laverty. Laverty, from Northern Ireland, and the Ducati 1098 completed the top three, with their first podium finish of the year.

Previous round winner Howie Mainwairng (X-Bikes MV) was unable to compete having injured himself during practice for the European Superstock round held at Monza last weekend. Preceding practice and qualification sessions were as eventful for some entrants too. Ben Wilson (Windmill Suzuki) suffered a broken collarbone but would be passed fit for the race.

New entrant, Warwick Nowland (STP Racing MV Agusta) suffered a broken wrist from an off in practice. Both Hudson Kennaugh and Gareth Glynn suffered falls during practice and qualifying onboard their Raceways Yamahas but were able to start the race. Glen Richards' Embassy Racing Yamaha gearbox failed after he selected a false neutral when avoiding a slower rider. Forced to use the spare for the race, his number two bike was down on top speed in comparison. Steve Brogan (Tengo Honda) saw his second qualifying session cut short with an ignition sensor failure.

Hudson Kennaugh lined up for the race in pole position with a record time of 1:08.044. Second place on the front row was claimed by the in form Lee Jackson on the Krystal Racing Space Air Yamaha, from Glen Richards and Adam Jenkinson on his Suzuki GSX-R.

Richards took the lead at the start into Riches Bend from Kennaugh, Jenkinson and Steve Brogan but Kennaugh used his straight-line advantage to slide past Richards in to the Esses after the Revett Straight. As they entered Russell Bend at the end of the first lap, Kennaugh clipped a kerb hard, ripping the slider from his left knee. The next lap would see an unsettled Kennaugh back the Raceways Yamaha into Russell and over the kerb, narrowly avoiding disaster and a shortcut penalty.

Further back, Jenkinson, Brogan, Quigley, Laverty and Jackson fought hard. On Lap six, Steve Brogan ran straight on at Russell, rejoining in tenth place. Quigley and Laverty took up the challenge on the leaders with the Buildbase Ducati rider demonstrating a clear braking advantage over the Suzuki as he passed Quigley into the Esses. Quigley hung on but was too hot into Riches after Laverty on the next lap as the back of the GSX-R broke away, promptly ejecting Quigley over the high side. Laverty kept his head down for the remainder of the race but was slowly reigned in by Lee Jackson on the Yamaha.

Leader Kennaugh used his power advantage to stay ahead of Richards but the frenetic pace would prematurely wear his tyre and bring him back into the clutches of

Richards. As Kennaugh's rear tyre spun up out of Sear corner, Richards closed, taking the lead at the end of the lap and maintaining a narrow margin to the finish. Four seconds back and despite relentless pressure from Jackson, Laverty held on to third position by an equally slender 0.1s to record the first podium for the John Hackett machine. Adam Jenkinson and Maidstone's Steve Mercer on the Bikeshop Faversham Yamaha R1 completed the top six in one of the best races of the day.

After the race, Glen Richards and John Laverty celebrated as Hudson Kennaugh sprinted off to suit up for in preparation for his Virgin Media Optoma Loans Yamaha Superbike ride.

**Glen Richards:** *"My spare bike was down on power but once Hudson lost his tyre we were even!"*

**John Laverty:** *"Lee showed his hand too early by passing on the back straight. I knew that with the powerful Brembo brakes that I could outbrake him at the end. The twin cylinder machine runs out of power on long straights but there are not too many circuits now where we will need this power."*

### **Metzeler Racetec National Superstock Race Result**

1 – Richards (Yamaha), 2 – Kennaugh (Yamaha), 3 – Laverty (Ducati), 4 - Jackson (Yamaha), 5 – Jenkinson (Suzuki)

### **Championship Points**

1. Richards	115
2. Kennaugh	81
3. Jackson	56
4. Brogan	55
5. Quigley	50