

## **Norman Southgate Memorial Meeting produces Sparkling action on Warm October Day.**

The Norman Southgate Memorial meeting promoted by the Fenland Grass Track Club (FGTC) was run on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at College Farm, Runcton Holme, nr Kings Lynn in bright warm sunshine in front of a 400+ crowd. In a fitting tribute to Norman and his support of Grass track over 40 plus years, many riders from the 60s/70s/80s were present along with many of his friends and family. Tony Steggles one of the main riders sponsored by Norman in the late 60s and early 70s presented all the trophies at the end of the meeting. The Mayor of Kings Lynn opened the meeting by cutting the tapes in front of the start assisted by Richard Rockcliffe, (the Farm owner) and Terry Lincoln the Club Treasurer.

The Norman Southgate Memorial Trophy was presented for the first time and was won by Shaun Harvey and Danny Hogg, the reigning British Champions, after a close final with Nick Radley who was had solo star Paul Cooper as his passenger for the day. Nick and Paul had beaten Shaun & Danny in a heat but Shaun & Danny made the gate in the final and try as they might they could not get by. Trevor Steward & Darren Sargeant had their best result of the season in third ahead of the Dutch duo of Jojo Van De Werf and Janny Van Dijk. The trophy was presented by Doris Southgate, Normans Widow, along with Laura and Ciara Southgate his Daughter-in-law and Grand Daughter. In the FGTC championship, run over the clubs three meetings, for club members Tony Cook & Richard Phillimore came out on top from Simon Beard & Stuart Supple with Dean Norton & Joe Richmond in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Lee Street was the big winner in the solo classes winning the 250cc class at the meeting in dominant style winning all his heats and also the sudden death final. Rob Bradley, David Knowles and Paul Simmons were battling hard all day but there was only ever one winner with Rob eventually getting second from Paul and David. This was the third and final round of the JRM 250cc Challenge Series and Lee went in with a clear lead after two rounds but his dominant form at the meeting ensured he won the 250cc JRM engine presented by the JRM factory via their UK importer Speedway Services Ltd. 2<sup>nd</sup> in the series was Rob Bradley but only on count back and last final result from Paul Simmons in 3<sup>rd</sup>. With this meeting also being the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final round of the South midland Centre Championships Lee also won this title. The FGTC championship winner was Scott Campos from Elliot Ryan followed by his brother Scott Ryan.

The 350cc solo final saw heart break for Dave Mears after a race long battle with Vince Kinchin. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> round for the Speedway services Ltd 350cc Series and Dave went into the final tied on points in the series with Bob Dolman. With Bob in a close but safe third the series title was Dave's' until he lost his chain on the last corner. This gave Vince a hard fought win on the day with Bob just second ahead of a coasting Dave in third and the ever improving Andrew Faulkner in 4<sup>th</sup>. In the series Bob was the overall winner by one point from Dave Mears with the consistent Teri Massingham (and FGTC 350cc champion) in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Like Lee this gave Bob the double as he also won the South Midland centre title.

The 500cc solos final looked to be a straight battle between Boston & Sheffield Speedway Star Paul Cooper and Vince Kinchin with the other likely challenger being Stephen Green who led the Speedway Services ltd 500cc series going into this the final round. Paul Cooper led from the start but he was hard pressed all the way by Vince Kinchin with Stephen Green holding a watching brief in third knowing this was

enough to secure the series win. The result on the day was Paul, Vince, Stephen and Karl Miles having his best result in 4<sup>th</sup>. The series standings were Stephen Green 1<sup>st</sup> with Scott Campos (FGTC 500cc Champion) in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Vince Kinchin 3<sup>rd</sup>. To keep the pattern going this meant Paul also won the South Midland Centre 500cc solo championship.

The 1000cc sidecar class produced some of the best racing on the day with the two battles between Rob Bradley/Shawn Simpson and Colin Blackburn/Paul Whitelam Jnr in the heats being some of the best seen this year. The small but grippy track was conducive to close sidecar racing right through the field. In the final the expected battle never occurred with Rob & Shawn make a great start and Colin & Paul left at the back from where they could only climb to 4<sup>th</sup>. Rob & Shawn were followed home by Peter Lloyd & Nick Wilson who had looked good all day with Matt Fumarola & Andi Wilson in third. Andi earlier in the meeting had survived a very scary moment when left hanging onto the bike with just his arms but somehow pulled himself back on to finish the race, no wonder they call him Velcro! This was the third and final round of the Geoff Read Memorial Shield and Rob & Shawn took this title as well as the South Midland Centre Championship. Colin & Paul took second in both series but did win the FGTC 1000cc sidecar championship.

The Upright open class run in a round robin series was won in a convincing fashion by Karl Rushden who was only beaten in one race by Wes Sheasby. Wes ended up 4<sup>th</sup> overall behind Peter Baker in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sam Joyce having one of his best meetings in 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was the third round of the Terry Lincoln Open upright series and second place was enough for Peter Baker to take the trophy ahead of Arnie Fenner with Wes Sheasby in 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was the same order in the FGTC championship with Peter ahead of Arnie but with Sam Joyce in third.

The strong Pre-75 open class was also settled over a round robin series with the two long distance travellers John Shelmerdine and Dave Norris battling for first. With a poor last race John allowed Dave to pull ahead for the win with John in second closely followed by another long distance traveller Eddie Rouse and the relatively local John Underwood in 4<sup>th</sup>. The Brickhill shield for Pre-75 riders held over the three FGTC meetings this year was won by Eddie Rouse from Chris Mackett and John Morrey. John the FGTC Vice-Chairman did however take the FGTC championship for Pre-75 riders.

The youth races supported by Norcam Medical Services were all part of the third round in the Norcam youth series. Alex Penfold in only his first meeting won the youth Auto Cadet class beating some of the cadets in one or two races and also took the FGTC championship. Max Cornes won the overall Norcam series, from Connor Oxlade and Edmund Best for Auto Cadets.

The British Champion Zach Watknecht won the youth Cadet class on the day. Zach took a clean sweep winning the Norcam Series as well along with the FGTC championship. 2<sup>nd</sup> on the day was Ryan Kinsley with Natalia Willis recovering from an incident at the start of the last race to claim 3<sup>rd</sup>. the order in the Norcam series was the same but Natalia was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the FGTC Championship with Joe Faillettaz in third.

The Large youth Junior class produced some very close and fast racing on the day with Robert Lambert looking a star rider of the future powering to victory from Jed Collins and James Shanes and the stylish Camron Willis-Wright in 4<sup>th</sup>. In the Norcam

Series Jed was the overall winner from Sean Faillettaz with Brendon Warvill in 3<sup>rd</sup>, it was the same three in the FGTC championship.

The youth Intermediate class was the youth class of the day with Daniel Glover winning three of the four heats but not always from the start and Oliver Rayson winning the other heat. Unfortunately Oliver had a series of machines problems which put him out of contention. It was left for the fast starting Matthew Saul and the hard riding Adam Portwood to battle for second with Adam pulling away at the end to get 2<sup>nd</sup> from Matthew. Danny Boyle was 4<sup>th</sup> in only his second meeting up from the Junior class. Daniel won the overall Norcam title with Oliver 2<sup>nd</sup> and Michael Bovis and Oliver Greenwood tied for third. The FGTC champion was again Daniel with Adam 2<sup>nd</sup> and Matthew 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The youth Senior class was won by Amy Taylor from Amey Gordon. Harry Betteridge, who has now moved up to the adult class, won the overall Norcam series. Amy did win the FGTC championship however with Amey in second.