



Jones the Bike adds more success to European campaign with outstanding podium on debut in the IDM, German Superbike Championship at Oschersleben.

Gareth Jones and the RT Motorsports teams 'fairytale' start to the 2009 European season continues to go from strength to strength. Not content with leading the ONK 'Dutch' Championship by 16 points after 3 rounds, or taking on the teams in the World Superbike paddock and battling his way to an excellent 7th position in the FIM World Superstock 1000, this week the 22 year old Aussie Ace opened his account in the highly competitive German IDM Superbike Championship.

The IDM Championship which attracts the best riders from Germany, the Nordic Countries, Austria, Switzerland, Eastern Europe, Belgium and France including 2 times world champion Jorg Teuchert and Martin Bauer.

In his first visit to Oschersleben Gareth learnt the track quickly and raced to 5th place in the first race having qualified 12th after electing to use his race tyre rather than a specialist qualifying tyre in the 2nd qualifying session in order to simulate race conditions.



Jones, the 2009 NZ Supersport champion and NZ Superbike GP winner is no stranger to hard racing, In the winter he raced both Superbike and Supersport for the Bernard Yamaha team and in race 1 he worked his way quickly through the field before a nip and tuck battle with Philipp Hafenegger on the Suzuki held him up for 4 laps and allowed the leaders to get away from him. Gareth finally passed and took an excellent 5th place.



In Race 2 Gareth made a great start and closed the gap on the leaders earlier, out breaking the pack on the first corner to move through into 5th place. He then consolidated his position before fighting his way through the leading riders in this championship in the second half of the race. The race between Gareth and Werner Daemen on the faster BMW, Rizmayer on the Suzuki and Nebel on the KTM will long be remembered by the 15,000 fans and when Gareth crossed the finish line in 2nd place only 7/10th second covered places 2 through 5.

What makes this podium finish even more incredible is that Gareth is still riding the 2008 Yamaha R1 and the only bike ahead of him was the German factory Yamaha 2009 R1 of Jorg Teuchart.

The truth of the matter is that privateer teams are not supposed to go to one of the top International championships on last years bike against all of the local factory teams, with a young rider making his debut and first time out get on the podium—unless you are special, today was a very special day.

Quote from Team Manager Rob Vennegoor

" I am absolutely delighted. The team has proved once again that we belong in the highest level of competition. We can be competitive in the World Superbike paddock, in the IDM paddock and we are leading the ONK 'Dutch' Championship at this stage in the season. Although we are using the 2008 Yamaha R1 we are getting everything we can out of its capability and we continue to improve.

In Gareth, we have an outstanding rider who is fast, with a level of maturity beyond his years who works with his engineers to ensure we all understand what is required of the bike. The team then works to deliver the optimal racing package for the race and can rely on Gareth to exploit it to the full..

Today we made a small piece of history when Gareth became the first ONK championship rider to podium in the IDM, and we can all take pride in it, as a team.

However, we have a job to focus on this season, which is to win the ONK, but with the right financial support package we could easily be competing successfully in any of the championships and winning. At present with the balance of rider and bike the only limits to our ambitions are financial."

Quote from Gareth Jones

"Riders live for days like today, I came to Europe to learn the tracks and race against the best, and the riders in the IDM are fast. The more hard riding I get the more I can feel myself developing. Most importantly I am enjoying my racing, which is a pretty important thing if it's your job and is a testament to Rob and the team.

When we arrived in Oschersleben I had never seen the track before and this was my first time in the IDM paddock, I didn't know any of the riders except for Kai Borre Andersen whom I had beaten in a tight race at Assen in the ONK championship.

We came here to do a job which was to prepare for the ONK 'Dutch' Superbike round later in the year. For that reason we decided to use race tyres rather than the qualifiers which were available to us with the result was that we only qualified 12th but I got 20 consistent laps in, rather than 3 or 4 quick laps.

I am confident in the bike preparation so although there were some great riders ahead of me I always felt that I would be competing at the sharp end because historically I have always done quite well in longer race formats. I believe I can gain places as the tyres lose grip and I feel strong mentally and physically after racing 4 rounds in a day all winter in NZ .

In race 1 I made a good start but had to make my way through too much traffic and became separated from the leaders and against the best riders it's difficult to recover, I therefore had to accept 5th place. In race 2 I decided to race from the front and I realised that there was a tactical need to get into position to attack early on so I went earlier and had a challenging race against 3 bikes which had more straight line speed. Agility versus speed is always a great test and today I came out on top. I am looking forward to more rounds in the IDM championship when possible.

I am now looking forward to the next challenge, racing the street circuits in Hengelo and Oss on the next two weekends I have had some success in the 'King of the Streets' series in New Zealand and I enjoyed the format but it will still be a great learning exercise."

Contacts www.garethjonesracing.com barry.jones@jonesthephone.com

News

[Gareth Jones wins Round 3 ONK Superbike Championship and adds 7th place in FIM Superstock 1000 on Super Sunday in Assen.](#)

[Gareth Jones wins Round 2 of ONK 'Dutch' Superbike Championship to take 20 point lead over rivals](#)

[Jones Crowned 2009 New Zealand Supersport Cham-](#)

ONK Standings

RIDER	POINTS
Jones	86
Schouten	70
Vermonden	35
vKerkhoven	33
Rea	33
Berger	32
Lundh	24
Andersen	20

IDM Standings

RIDER	POINTS
Teuchert	100
Daemen	57
Nebel	44
Andersen	36
stamm	35
Tode	32
Jones	31
Giusepetti	30

Events

23-05-2009 - 24-05-2009

[ONK Hengelo \(gld\)](#)

31-05-2009 - 01-06-2009

[ONK Oss](#)

13-06-2009 - 14-06-2009

[ONK Assen](#)

03-07-2009 - 05-07-2009

[ONK Oschersleben](#)

08-08-2009 - 09-08-2009

[ONK Assen \(rizla racing days\)](#)