

## Another stunning weekend for Gareth Jones and the RT Motorsports team

The RT Motorsports team competed this weekend at the German Superbike Championship (**IDM**) at Oschersleben and have added another stunning result to their tally. It was the first time to an IDM event for the RT Motorsports team this year and was a brand new experience for rider Gareth Jones. The IDM event, is a very high level of competition and the team were using the weekend as a test for the Dutch Superbike round that will run there in the coming months. The weather was fantastic and the pace was fast. The weekend was surely shaping up to be fiercely contended with Friday practice times being so close.

Jones wasted no time in learning another new track and getting into the swing of things early in practice and dropping his times with every outing on the 3.6km circuit. The team tested numerous different settings to find the best times from the bike for Jones to tackle the demanding tight and twisty track, with the last lap on Friday's practice being the fastest for Jones all day.

With Friday under the belt and Saturday being host to two 40 minute qualifying sessions, Jones and the team revised the settings again and went into the qualifying session confident that a faster pace could be set. Times were so tight and the top 12 riders were within 1 second of each other. In the closing minutes, Jones managed 10<sup>th</sup> fastest, qualifying less than a second from championship front runner, Kai-Borre Anderson.

The second qualifying session was just as close and the times fell even further. The RT Motorsports team decided to use more race orientated tyres during qualifying as the team needed data to make a careful tyre selection for the 21 lap race distance. Again in the closing minutes, Jones managed to improve his time by 0.4 of a second but with the majority of riders using qualifying tyres, Jones dropped to 12<sup>th</sup>. However, Jones, undeterred by this was confident that his race pace was going to be strong and was still within a second from the pole sitter, Austrian, Martin Bauer.

Before long, Sunday's first race was looming, and with perfect weather and a crowd of 15,000, the atmosphere was very exciting. Jones made a fantastic start and quickly made his way through the field. By half race distance Jones had made his way to 5<sup>th</sup> place, dropping off the group behind him and with clear track in front. Jones rode very consistently and brought home a 5<sup>th</sup> place in what was his first IDM race and what was even more pleasing is that after debriefing post race, Jones felt there was more that could be extracted from the bike.

Race 2 was a real highlight to Jones' career and for the RT Motorsports team. After a blinding start, Jones was able to tag onto the lead group of 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place from the first lap. Quickly gapping the next group, allowing Jones to plan what proved to be a very calculated and controlled race. By mid race distance, Jones had moved even further up the field, passing the Factory KTM and BMW efforts and could see a potential podium. With some well placed passes and strong race pace, Jones managed to make the pass placing him in a podium position with 5 laps remaining. Jones kept the pressure on to secure a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish!

### **QUOTE FROM GARETH JONES**

"Today was a fantastic day for me, I never thought for a moment that a podium here was on the cards. The RT Motorsports team has given me every possible chance to succeed and it is a real credit to everyone in the team that has made the success of this event possible. It is a real buzz to be standing on the podium in one of the most highly contested championships in Europe. I can't thank the team enough for their support and giving me the opportunity to ride such a great bike. I have been working really hard on my fitness and training to be the best I can."

### **QUOTE FROM Teammanager ROB VENNEGOOR**

"Again a stunning weekend for the whole team, I am very proud of our rider Gareth Jones. He puts in a lot of feedback to prepare the bike 100% and together with the technicians we came up with the best possible package to give Gareth the opportunity for good results. For us and Gareth it's another progression in making our team ready for hopefully a European campaign in 2010. For now we focus on the Dutch series and with 2 street tracks on the calendar from this weekend on. We are preparing everything for hopefully more success. With Gareth's background from street racing in NZ it will be interesting".

The team only has a few days now to prepare before the next round of the Dutch ONK Superbike Championship at the street circuit of Hengelo this coming weekend.