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# DILLIGAF RACING NEWS Vol:28

## EMRA Championships June 2019

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After a very wet two days, the sun finally blessed the paddock with some much-needed glorious summer sunshine. This was the third round of the EMRA club championships held at Mallory Park in the heart of the Leicestershire countryside. The Moody pair would be competing in two races each, Steve in the lightweights and pre-injection (up to 600cc) classes and Elaine in the lightweights alongside Steve and the rookies. The bikes and Elaine in her PJs, passed noise testing and the team waited for their supporters, armed with homemade cake and sausage rolls, to arrive and practice/ qualifying sessions to get underway. The question on everybody's mind was, would the sun stay out for the entire day or would the rains return; secretly the Moody pair were hoping for a down pour as both were feeling confident if there was to be a wet race after their very soggy track day on Friday.



First practice began with the Moto 3 bikes but the Moody's would have to wait until the final practice sessions for their qualifying. Steve only had one qualifying session but Mrs Moods had back to back qualifying with her first race in the rookies to follow. It was going to be a busy day for spanner man Steve Big Hammer Gilkes, little did anyone know how busy!! Steve qualified 2nd in class in the lightweights and was the 6th fastest in the pre-injection 600's on his 400cc Honda NC29. Elaine would bring up the rear in the rookies but with her lap times consistently coming down; she qualified second from the back of the grid in the lightweights.



Straight from her back to back practice, Elaine lined up at the back of the grid in the first of the two rookies' races. She was a late entry in the rookies as she decided to enter off the back of her successful wet track day on Friday. Under the watchful eye of her husband, she had smoothed up her lines and increased her speed even in the wet. The extra practice had definitely boosted Elaine's confidence and although she finished last, she broke her own personal lap record in race 1 by 3 seconds in the race!



Steve's first race wasn't until after lunch, the first pre-injection championship race of the day. Steve had qualified mid pack, surrounded by much bigger 1000cc and 600cc bikes, 14th on the grid. As always, as the red lights went out the red mist came down and by the end of lap 1 Steve had moved up to 11th place.

Lap by lap Moody manoeuvred his way through the pack on little Erin but on the final lap he was taken out at the hairpin along-with fellow competitor John England; another rider lost control of his bike, ran into the back of Steve and literally ran Steve and Erin over! Both Erin and Steve did not come out of the collision well resulting in a hand injury for Steve and Erin being totally unrideable! Steve not only lost critical championship points in the pre-injection series but it also meant there wasn't enough time to get the wet bike ready for lightweight race that followed



Despite Mrs Moods offering Old Moods Bessie May to race on, time and his injury were against them so Steve sent Elaine out on the start line while they went to collect a very battered Erin and prepared the wet bike for a dry race. With all the kerfuffle following the crash and delay to the start of the race, Elaine didn't have the best of races to say the least, finishing well behind the rest of pack and the considerably faster Allcomers who were on the same start line as the lightweights.

Everyone rallied round to get the wet bike ready while Elaine composed herself for the second rookies. The Moody's would be out in back to back races at the end of the day. Due to so many red flags, races had now been reduced to 7 laps. Race 16 was the second rookies race and despite finishing last she was now consistently much quicker and had considerably reduced the gap between her and the rider in front as she passed the chequered flag.



Race 17 was the second pre-injection race. With a possible broken hand, Moody lined up on the back on the grid as had a DNF in race one. From 28th he finished 16th, passing 12 riders in his way to the chequered flag. And if that wasn't impressive enough, he then lined up on the grid behind his wife for the very next race, race 18, the second of the lightweight races. In pain and on a bike that only a few weeks ago was sat in a field in Wales unused and unloved with no race bolt on goodies and standard everything, Moody methodically made his way through the lightweight pack to finish second in class!! What a ride! What a man! Now that's what I call impressive!



Sadly, the crash means Steve has slipped down the table in both championships but with news of entry and start number for the Manx Grand Prix, the racing horizon looked much brighter.



Thank you to all those who came to watch and support us both and fellow competitors Darren Corkett and Jodie Fieldhouse for kind offer of helping to get Erin race ready for the next meeting in July! We would also like to wish Lee Stanaway a speedy recovery, as speedy as his entry into the hairpin!