

# sighting ap

## Motorcycle Racer

Editor: Gary Pinchin

Assistant Editor: Tony Carter  
 Editor's Secretary: Julie Lawson  
 Designer: David Robinson  
 Group Sales Manager: Drew Seymour  
 Sales Executive: Emma White  
 Tel: 01780 755131 Fax: 01780 757261  
 Advertising Director: John A Barker  
 Advertising Production: Jane Lowndes  
 Photographers: Duncan Cubitt & Steve Fletcher  
 Promotions/Marketing: John Phillips  
 Publisher/Chief Executive: Richard Cox

website: [www.motorcyclercacer.com](http://www.motorcyclercacer.com)

Contributors: Grand Prix - Mike Scott (words), Gold & Goose (photos); World Superbike - Kel Edge (photos & words); British Championship - Double Red (photos); Track Tests - Alan Cathcart; North America - Colin Fraser; additional photographic contributions - Mark Wernham, Clive Challinor, Don Morley; statistics - Martin Raines

Copies of Motorcycle Racer can be obtained monthly by placing a regular order with your newsagent or your copy can be mailed direct to any address worldwide by taking out a subscription. If you experience any difficulty in obtaining a copy please contact our circulation manager.

Subscriptions and Back Issues:  
 All applications for subscriptions should state name, address, telephone number, issue to commence and remittance to:  
 Motorcycle Racer, Subscription Dept., PO Box 300, Stamford, Lincs., PE9 1NA, UK.  
 Tel: 01780 480404, Fax: 01780 757812, E-Mail: [subs@keymags.demon.co.uk](mailto:subs@keymags.demon.co.uk)

All prices below are for 1 year and include postage.  
 UK £39.60; Europe AirMail £45.60  
 Zone 1 AirMail £48.60 (U.S.\$87.40)  
 Zone 2 AirMail £49.80; Surface Mail £45.60  
 USA Subscriptions are available from: Motorsport, 550 Honey Locust Road, Jonesburg, MO 63351-9600  
 POSTMASTER: send address changes to: Motorcycle Racer, Key Publishing Ltd, PO Box 100, Avenel NJ 07001  
 Periodicals. Postage paid at Rahway, NJ

Back issues are £3.45 each. Overseas please add 50p per magazine.

Typesetting/Reproduction by: Kettering Typesetters  
 Printing by: Printed in England by William Gibbons & Son, Willenhall, W. Midlands  
 Distributed by: Seymour Distribution, 86 Newman Street, London, W1P 3LD Tel: 0171 396 8000

Motorcycle Racer is published by



Editorial, Publishing & Advertising Address:  
 Key Publishing Ltd.,  
 PO Box 100, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 1XQ  
 Tel: 01780 755131. Fax: 01780 757261  
 ISSN: 1461 3778

E-Mail: [racer@keymags.demon.co.uk](mailto:racer@keymags.demon.co.uk)

Copyright: The entire contents of Motorcycle Racer are the copyright of Key Publishing Ltd., and may not be reproduced in any form or stored on a retrieval system without the prior permission, in writing, of the publishers

### Cover

Frankie gives the Suzuki the berries.  
 It's going to be one helluva WSB season.  
 (Gold & Goose)

Checa (Gold&Goose); Duhamel (Kel Edge); Illustration (Mike Car); Roberts (Gold& Goose); Ducati (Ducan Cubitt & Steve Fletcher); Hodgson (Clive Challinor); Honda Rc45 (Koichi Ohtani); Pirelli tyres (Alan Cathcart); Suzuki action (Kel Edge)

### Hardman hero

Miguel Duhamel. What a hero. To come to Daytona barely able to walk and to win both major races was something truly special. Thanks also to Mat Mladin for working Duhamel so hard in the 200 race - and to the other guys in the 600 for putting on such a thrilling race. And don't forget John McGuinness' excellent second in 250GP.

### Daytona Decline

Daytona in March is the place to be - one of the world's greatest biking festivals. But the feature 200 race is in decline. Analogy? Think Isle of Man TT. Another great biking event. But neither the TT nor the 200 play an important role in international racing.

Was a time when the 200 counted as one of the world's prestige races. In the Seventies, with the introduction of Formula 750, it was the world stage for factory teams. BSA, Triumph, Norton, Harley-Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Yamaha fielded massive factory efforts. European riders like Saarinen, Agostini, Smart, Hailwood, Sheene, Hansford, Pons and Crosby jetted in.

And, when Yamaha's TZ750 steamroller killed F750, an American called Steve McLaughlin introduced Superbike - now a world-wide phenomenon. Factory money came flooding back. Huge works teams again graced the 200. And while the 200 never hosted a World Superbike round, manufacturers continued to use it as a flag-waver. Ducati fielded factory riders. Daytona hosted the world-wide launch of the new generation Suzuki GSX-R750 race effort in 1996.

Eddie Lawson was brought out of retirement by Yamaha for the 1994 200, and Scott Russell became a Daytona legend by becoming a five-time 200 winner.

But the 200 is now just another AMA National. Last year it wasn't even the curtain raiser for the domestic series. That honour was bestowed on Phoenix - three weeks prior to the 200.

Outside the huge NASCAR-dominated facility the billboard reads, 'Welcome to Daytona, World Center (sic) of Racing.' Sorry guys. NASCAR maybe, but in terms of international bike sport, Daytona in no longer quoted. There was nothing new on the superbike front at the 58th running of the Daytona 200 to get excited about. Yamaha weren't ready to race the R7. The VR1000 effort gave the journos plenty of Harley jokes to exchange. Apart from Mladin and Gobert, there were no foreign stars.

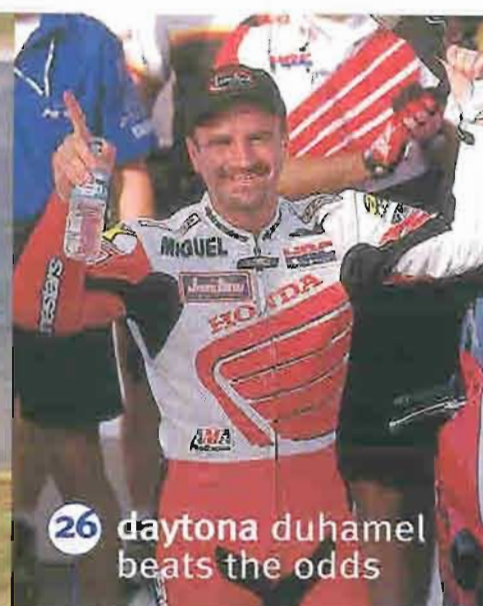
Yes, the superbike and 600 races produced incredible racing but the 200 desperately needs an injection of international participation.

Without world points to shoot for, I don't see it happening. Pity.

Don't forget, we're monthly from the very next issue. MCR7 goes on sale April 22nd. Order your copy now.



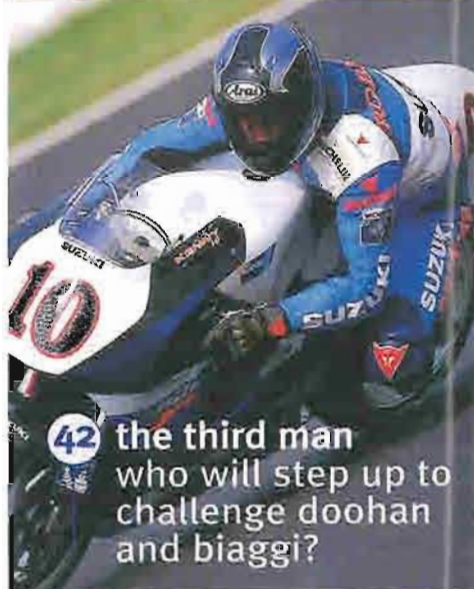
20 gp news update from the world's stage



26 daytona duhamel beats the odds



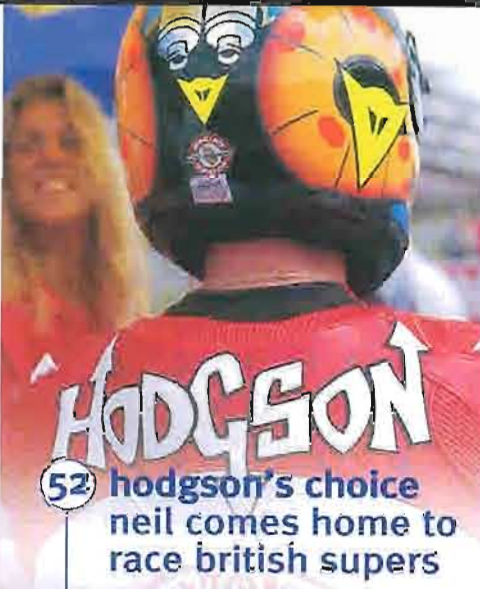
32 superbike superheroes the british campaign blasts off



42 the third man who will step up to challenge doohan and biaggi?



48 gse-ins expanding the network



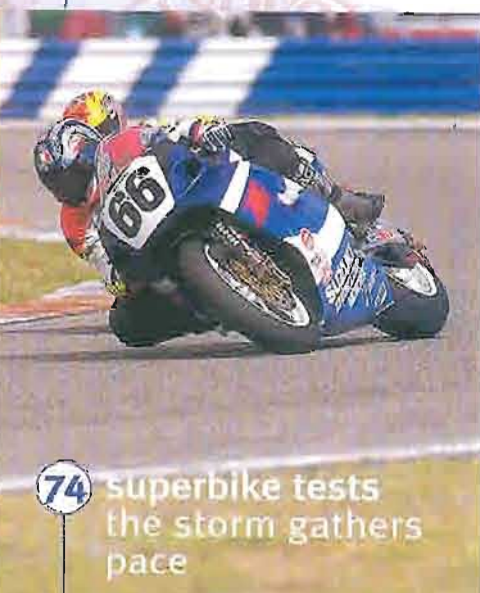
52 hodgson's choice neil comes home to race british supers



58 racer ready riding slight's rc45



66 pirelli evo what's new in rubber



74 superbike tests the storm gathers pace