



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Improved Ulster Superbike Championship launches alongside all new prize pot for competitors**

The MCUI (UC) has announced the launch of a revamped and reinvigorated short circuit championship, now known as the 'Ulster Superbike Championship'.

The governing body for road racing, short circuits and trials in Ulster has also revealed an all-new overall championship prize pot of over £50,000, which will be split and paid out at selected rounds by promoting clubs and at the end of season awards night.

The seven MCUI (UC) promoting clubs will be working closely together under the new Ulster SuperBike Championship banner to give the competitors in Ireland and visiting competitors from UK and further afield the best National Championship in Ireland.

Chairman of the MCUI (UC), John McAllister said: "It is a privilege to be able to supply you with details of exciting times ahead for the MCUI UC short circuit championship.

"With rebranding of the title, and the fact that we've been able to attract much higher level financial and product support for competitors, we can now plan for better future in the sport. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our new title sponsor AJ Plumbing Supplies, who have come on board this year helping us create the end of season prize fund.

"I'd also like to thank two of our partner sponsors. Metzeler, whose generous support will allow us to provide free sets of tyres to various competitors at each round and who will also offer tyre price discounts to competitors who ride on Metzeler tyres. The second partner is Loughview Leisure Group, who will provide a complimentary night's stay in one of their three hotels (Chimney Corner, Ten Square Belfast and Loughshore Carrickfergus) for two people at each round. This will be given to the competitor who breaks or is closest to the class lap record and the Group will also host an end of season championship party in their newly refurbished nightclub at Chimney Corner," he said.

Ten championship events will take place in the Ulster Superbikes Championship, seven of which will be one day events and three other events will be held over two days.

The main championship classes are for Superbikes, Supersports, Supertwins, Lightweight, Supersport, Sidecars, Junior Cup and Moto 3. There will also be several support classes running within the championship.

John added: "Short circuits are the breeding ground for the National Road Races and British Superbike Championship events. Over the past decade alone we produced several British Champions, Moto GP competitors and just last year Jonathan Rea was the first person ever to win three World Superbike Championships back to back. What an ambassador for motorcycle racing and Northern Ireland.

"The time is now right to relaunch this series of events and I truly believe that not since the late Davy Wood and the Regal Championship has short circuits had this chance of developing into a prestigious Championship, where it belongs."

Jim O'Brien MD for AJ Plumbing Supplies Ltd said; "As a family owned business we are delighted to be involved with the 2018 new look Ulster Superbike Championship.

We previously sponsored Ulster & Irish Motocross back in 1990 for around 10 years along with our own AJ Plumbing Supplies Team.

We then went on to sponsor our local football team Newry City for many years.

So it's back to bikes again and Short Circuits this time with the USBK.

We're really forward to this year and wish all involved every success in getting Short Circuit Racing back where it used to be many years ago, talked about in the same breath as our National Road Races.

Simon Carter, Metzeler said: "We're proud to be involved with the Ulster Superbike Championship as a partner in 2018, our range of Metzeler Racetec RR and Comp K Slicks are well proven in World and British motorsports and are ready for all competitors to maximise their chances of Victory.

"We are looking forward to the start of what looks to be an exciting season of racing starting at Bishopscourt."

The Ulster Superbike Championship has also secured a media partner in Northern Ireland's leading radio station, Q Radio. Each round will benefit from an advertising campaign the week leading up to the events. This will target a wider audience who would otherwise be unaware events are happening.

The 2018 Ulster Superbike Championship dates, venues and promoting clubs are as follows:

Easter Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> March – Bishopscourt – Enkalon Trophy – Motor Cycle Road Racing Club of Ireland

Easter Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Kirkistown – Mayor's Trophy – Belfast and District Motor cycle Club

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Bishopscourt - Temple 100 SC - Temple Motorcycle Club

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Kirkistown – Presidents Cup – Belfast and District Motor cycle Club

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> & Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Bishopscourt – Neil Robinsons Memorial – Mid Antrim 150

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August – Bishopscourt - Norman Brown Memorial – Bishopscourt Club

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September- Kirkistown – Crown Prince Trophy - Belfast and District Motor cycle Club

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> & Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Sept – Bishopscourt – IFS David Wood Memorial Trophy – Motor Cycle Road Racing Club

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October – St Angelo - Enniskillen 100 Revival - Enniskillen Motor Cycle Club

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> & Sat 20<sup>th</sup> October – Bishopscourt – Sunflower Trophy – Hillsborough and District Motor Cycle Club

Ends

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