

Dunlop and Sheils take Victories at KDM Hire Cookstown 100

as Weather plays havoc with the Meeting.

It may not have been the best of Cookstown 100s, thanks to the changing weather conditions, where a spate of spills forced the organizers to abandon the 96th running of this unique event. Thankfully, no serious injuries were reported, but with time running out, Clerk of the Course, Francis Everard called it quits, despite a number of races still to be run including the feature race of the day, the KDM Hire Cookstown 100.



Following last night's cancellation of a couple of races, due to strong sunlight, to days racing was held in mixed conditions with lengthy delays caused by heavy rain showers.

However, the large crowd of spectators were treated to some very close exciting racing before the mother nature took over.

Michael Dunlop won the opening invitation 600 race following a six bike dice for the lead, admitting to a bit of elbow bashing, Dunlop took the win by 2.869 seconds from Adam McLean and James Cowton, giving local sponsor, Winston McAdoo a double podium delight. Early leader Derek Sheils took 4th ahead of Michael Sweeney, with Paul Jordan competing the top 6.

Newcomer, Davey Todd took 7th ahead of Daniel Cooper and Darryl Tweed. Fastest lap went to Dunlop. William Dunlop was an early retirement.

Dubliner Derek Sheils underlined his mantle as the rider to beat in the Superbike class at the Orritor circuit, having to start from the second group, following machine problems in practice, Sheils took the win by almost 5 seconds from Michael Dunlop who overhauled early race leader

Michael Sweeney, who finished third.



This race had been delayed due to a heavy rain shower, and riders were given time to make their own tyre choice. Derek McGee opted to ride his 600, took 4th ahead of the McAdoo pairing of Adam McLean and James Cowton, Fastest lap went to Dunlop, William Dunlop was an early retirement.

It was a dream debut for McAdoo racing's two man team for 2018, as James Cowton won the 600 supersport championship race from team mate Adam McLean, with Derek Sheils in third spot. Despite having the fastest lap of the race, Michael Dunlop could only muster a 4th place, albeit, only 1.7 seconds covered the top quartet.

The race was red flagged after Mike Norbury crashed with out injury on lap 5.

Derek McGee won a record breaking Moto 3 race when he beat Adam McLean, who also broke the old lap record, Paul Jordan was fourth ahead of the best 125 runner, Joseph Loughlin and Austrian Chris Eder competed the top 6.

The Supertwins race was re started three times before a result was called!

The first race was stopped when Michael Browne went down, In the second re start James Cowton went down, his machine collecting Joseph Loughlin, who also went down.

In the third re run, after a lengthy delay, it was Adam McLean who took the top honours from circuit newcomers, Kiwi Daniel Mettam and Davey Todd, with Thomas Maxwell in 4th ahead of Derek McGee and Dominic Herbertson..

Barry Davison took a double in the 350 and 500 classic races where Richard Ford did likewise in the 1000 and 250 class.



Barry Sheehan was the winner of the Junior Support race from Jason Cassels and James Chawke. .

There were wins for Daniel Mettam (600 B) , Enda Trearty (Junior Support B) ,Tommy Henry (Senior Support B) and Paul Williams (Open B).

The practice times promised us a Fantastic days but unfortunately It was a rather frustrating day for everyone ,officials, riders and spectators alike, where frequent rain showers along with the more than usual red flag incidents, spoiled what should have been a cracking days racing.

Baylon McCaughey