

## The Chequered Flag



By Stephen  
**English.....**

### Red Bull gives you wings....but Webber has his wings clipped

SUNDAY marked the halfway point of the Formula 1 season with the British Grand Prix. Red Bull driver Mark Webber was victorious for the third time this season but the focus of the race, and the long term implications, came in Saturday's qualifying session.

Red Bull brought a redeveloped front wing to Silverstone that both drivers were given on Saturday for the third practice session of the weekend. The front wing is perhaps the most critical aerodynamic element of a racing car. It dictates how the air flows over the rest of the car and as a result how every other aerodynamic element performs. The team only had two new wings for the weekend due to time constraints for manufacturing the new part.

#### Webber's place within the team made clear

During Saturday morning's practice session Sebastian Vettel suffered a failure of the new front wing. When he returned to the pits it was clear that the wing was beyond repair and that he would have to revert to the older front wing. However when qualifying started it was Mark Webber who was using the older wing and Vettel who had the updated part.

Webber was understandably furious with the decision of the team to take his wing away and give his teammate a clear advantage for the remainder of the weekend. Vettel ended the day on pole position with Webber alongside on the front row but in the post qualifying press conference it was clear that all was not well within the Red Bull camp with Webber staring straight and the media and refusing to acknowledge his teammate.

Webber knew that Sunday's race would be crucial for his title charge and he managed to get alongside Vettel into the first turn and easily led the rest of the race. The Australian must have had a wry smile, like many within the paddock, when Vettel suffered a puncture on the first lap and forced the German down the field for the remainder of the race with Webber comfortably out in front and dominating the race ahead of Lewis Hamilton.

#### How did this happen so soon after Turkey?

The surprising thing about this whole incident is that it comes so soon after the Turkish Grand Prix when the first signs of favouritism within Red Bull became abundantly clear. Webber came into Istanbul on the crest of a wave after winning in Spain and Turkey and led away from a comfortable pole position. After the pitstops Webber was told to minimise his engines revs so as to save fuel but Vettel was given an extra three laps at maximum performance and he closed in on his teammate with ease.

The German then attempted to take the lead but caused an accident that ended his race and left Webber only able to finish in third behind the McLarens. With Vettel clearly to blame Webber would have expected the team to offer him some support but team principal Christian Horner would only call it a racing accident. Red Bull paymaster Helmut Marko though was furious with Webber and blamed the entire incident on him and exonerated Vettel from any blame. Within days it was announced that Webber had signed a new contract and that the incident had been put behind them all and they would move forward as a team.

Last weekend's incident though will be tough to move on from. The wound from Istanbul has been reopened and Webber knows that he is clearly not favoured within the team to win the title. Red Bull has not won a title before and while Vettel is arguably slightly faster over a single lap Webber has shown himself to be the more consistent driver recently and to be a genuine title contender. His race wins in Spain and Monaco were as impressive as any drivers in recent years yet his team are clearly handcuffing the Australian by their decisions to support Vettel.

Tensions are bound to flare up between drivers as they compete in a world title fight but the decision of the team to cause avoidable trouble within their camp is inexcusable. This storm will not blow over quickly but as Webber said as he crossed the line "not a bad result for a number two is it!

## HURLING MUNSTER SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

# Locals chase top honours at Motocross in Kilcurry

ROUND six of the Great Stuff Catering MCI Motocross Championship rolls into the picturesque Kilcurry venue this weekend, hosted by the Dundalk and District motocross club.

In what has been a very busy month of racing for the Dundalk club, the MCI championship should prove to be another exciting weekend of racing starting with Youth on Saturday followed by a full schedule of adult racing on Sunday.

Ross Brown leads the charge of the Pro MX1 class by a healthy points margin but behind him it is anything but settled. Stephen Rubotham fends off the advance of Christy Harnett in third by one point while local man Sean Kelly (JSM Kelly Suzuki) sits just over 20-points behind in fourth.

Switching to the bigger RMZ 450cc machine after starting out the early part of his season on the RMZ 250 is beginning to pay dividends for the Kilcurry local that has now already seen him gather a trio of third place finishes in previous rounds. With local knowledge to his advantage and everything still to play for, Kelly will be eager to push himself further into contention for a medal position.

Another local favourite keen for success is that of 29-year-old Dundalk man Ryan Callaghan. Putting in consistently strong performances throughout the season has seen Callaghan emerge as a contender for championship medals. Currently sitting just seven points adrift of third place in the title hunt, the RCR KTM rider will be hoping to put his nose in front of his nearest rivals on a circuit he knows all to well.

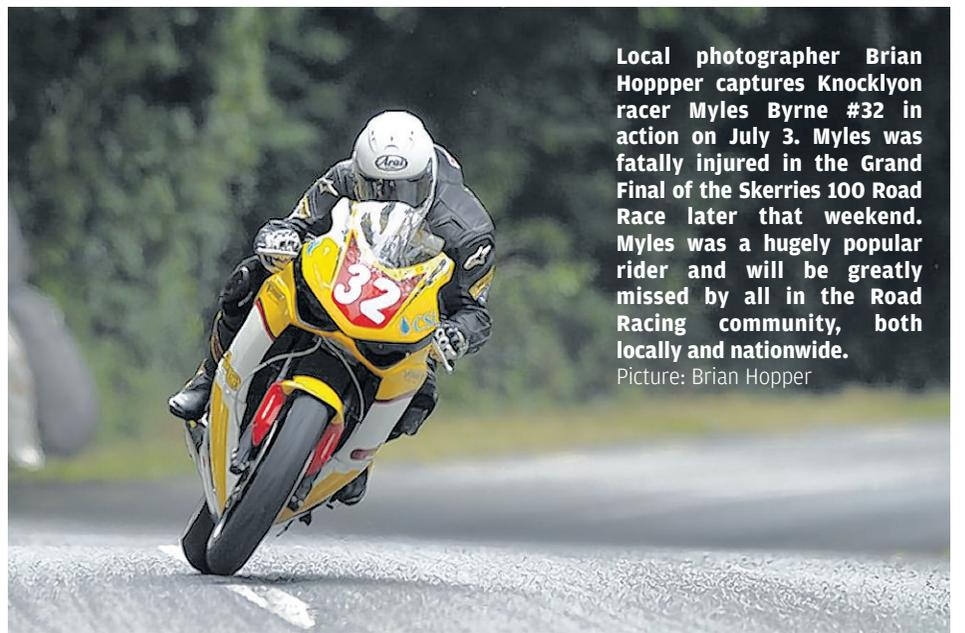
Meanwhile one of the clubs youngest members, 15-year-old Gary Marmion (Marmion Motors Honda) is creating quite a stir in the Clubman MX2 class. Gambling on a mid season switch to four-stroke machinery has proved a welcome move for the Kilcurry lad.

Currently sitting seventh overall, it's Marmion's latest string of results that show he has the potential for much more. Notching up a brace of second place finishes at the previous round in Wexford has added an extra level of confidence in the youngster's riding and one that he is keen to show on Sunday. Races commence both days at 11am.



Dundalk and District motocross club's Gary Marmion in action. The 15-year-old will take part in the Clubman MX2 class in Kilcurry this weekend.

### Number 32 - Myles Byrne - remembered



Local photographer Brian Hopper captures Knocklyon racer Myles Byrne #32 in action on July 3. Myles was fatally injured in the Grand Final of the Skerries 100 Road Race later that weekend. Myles was a hugely popular rider and will be greatly missed by all in the Road Racing community, both locally and nationwide.

Picture: Brian Hopper

## EQUESTRIAN RAVENSDALE LODGE

### Ravensdale Lodge Equestrian centre results

#### Week ten registered outdoor league

**90CM CLASS:** Leonora Mc Ateer's Wizard of Odd (L. Mc Ateer).

**1M CLASS:** Divided between, Sheik Samir Mirdad's Mirdad High Zoom (Sheik S. Mirdad), K. Mc William's Sheran Ping (J. Jardine), Leonora Mc Ateer's Wizard of Odd (L. Mc Ateer), Sheik Samir Mirdad's Mirdad's Son of Clinton (Sheik S. Mirdad), Mervyn

Clark Jnr's Pay Cheque (M. Clarke).

**1.10M CLASS:** J. Egan's Armani Velvet (M. Clarke jnr), J. Monk's Kingsdale Diamond (M. Rafter), Michael Smyth's Martelo (J. Floody), O. Lamat - Kane's Parfait Demobelle (J. Jardine), Tom Tait's Ard Eagle Chief (J. Floody), Joanne Jardine's Creating a Storm (J. Jardine).

**1.20M CLASS:** Siobhan Dunne's Condi (T. Dunne), Michael Smyth's Martelo (J. Floody), David Prentices' Couleur Fama St Z (E. Lyttle), Eugene Hanratty's Woodprins (J. Floody).

**1.30M CLASS:** # 1 Eugene Hanratty's Woodprins (J. Floody), # 2 Paula Rafter's PMR Caballero (J. Floody), # 3 P. J. Munnelly's Dervish

(J. Floody), # 4 Linda Courtney's Touched Up (T. Dunne).

Registered horse league continues Wednesday 14th July (final), start time 11am.

#### Week nine horse and pony training league

**70CM CLASS:** Divided between, Billy Stevenson's Oscar Again (B. Stevenson), Ruth Garrett's Russian Roulette (R. Garrett), Lesley Fowler's Quite Frankly (L. Fowler).

Horse and pony training league continues Friday 16th July, start time 6pm.

#### Week one Jump Cross League

**CLASS 1, 3'3":** Divided between, Jaemi Cochrane's Kilpatrick Honey (J. Cochrane), John Mc Bride's Hugh (J. Mc Bride), Nessa Toher's Honestly Dun (N. Toher).

**CLASS 2, 2'9":** Divided between, John Mc Bride's Liddy (J. Mc Bride), Martin O' Brien's Sea Breese (M. O' Brien), Marie Claire Bellew's Redzer (M. C. Bellew), Olivia Cumin's Seapatrik Hamish (O. Cumin's).

Jump Cross League continues Sunday 25th July, August 15th, 22nd and 29th August and 5th September (final). Start time 11am. Le Trec, Sunday 18th July and 1st August, start time 11am.

## GAA INJUSTICE

# BLUE DIAMOND BOOKMAKERS ARE PAYING LOUTH AS WINNERS

# WE ARE PAYING OUT ON ALL LOUTH BETS AS WINNERS AT 4/1

Linenhall St & Barrack St

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