

RACE OF ACES

Gardner hits a hat-trick!

ONE of the few bright things to happen at a rain sodden Snetterton on Sunday was a brilliant performance by Aussie ace Wayne Gardner—who managed three wins from three rides.

Unbelievably, in the middle of a heat wave, Snetterton suffered a downpour halfway through Sunday's racing, which halted proceedings for nearly an hour and a half while marshals pumped and swept water from the track.

But the Aussie was not letting a little water dilute his efforts. He took his '82 999cc F1 Honda to the front to keep his lead in the British Formula One championship, his RS500 Honda to the front to join teammate Roger Marshall at the top of the Shell Oils 500cc championship, and his 500 two-stroke, again, in the Masters race to maintain his lead in that championship.

Unfortunately his RS500 suffered an electrical short circuit just before the Race of Aces, and he was unable to start in the main race of the day.

Despite a couple of heart-stopping slides he was in brilliant form, the three wins being just the psychological boost he could do with before his British GP appearance at Silverstone on Sunday.

First race of the day was the 250cc event and the meagre crowd were treated to a tremendous battle between Andy Watts (EMC), Paul Tinker (Yamaha), Donnie McLeod (Yamaha) and Phil Mellor (EMC) in the early stages of the race.

Then Watts, using a slick rear tyre, fell foul of the drizzling rain and McLeod and Tinker broke away to dice for the lead while Graham Young (Rotax) moved up to challenge Mellor.

McLeod, with a good deal of experience under his belt, waited until two laps before the end of the 10-lap event to make his bid for the flag. While Tinker rode his Donny Robinson Mitsui Yamaha with a great deal of skill, he had no answer to McLeod's challenge.

Unfortunately for Young, the accumulating water proved too much for his bike to handle—

and he dropped out on the last lap leaving Mellor a safe third.

With Rocket Ron Haslam spectating in the wings, Rob McEnea (Suzuki) blasted away to lead the Shell Oils F1 race. But his glory was short lived.

By the second lap Gardner, on his four across the frame 999cc machine, was in front and there was no stopping him. McEnea was safe in second and top F1 privateer Trevor Nation was blasting his way up into third. Endurance racer Dave Morris, making a rare F1 appearance on his Nikko Bakker Suzuki, was adding insult to Nation's injury by making it two privateers ahead of works rider Roger Marshall, struggling with his 850cc V-4.

Further back Andy Key (999cc Honda) was joining battle with Joey Dunlop (999cc Honda). The pair swapped places several times but Dunlop was in front when it mattered and took sixth.

Asa Moyce (PIP Kawasaki) had worked himself up to third halfway through the race, with an excellent ride. But his bike quit with an overdose of water in the electrics.

Snetterton Pro-Am (or Mad Hatters) action saw Kenny Irons tear away from the start to lead for three laps until Niall Mackenzie established his claim firmly on the race from lap four. Try as he might Irons just could not match Mackenzie's pace and he had to settle for second.

MCW's own Road Test Editor Mat (The Dog) Oxley fought his way clear of Graham Cannell, Paul Tinker and Kevin Mitchell to take over third from the fifth lap. Mitchell was taking some time to get into his stride, but once he found his pace he had no trouble passing the other two to claim fourth.

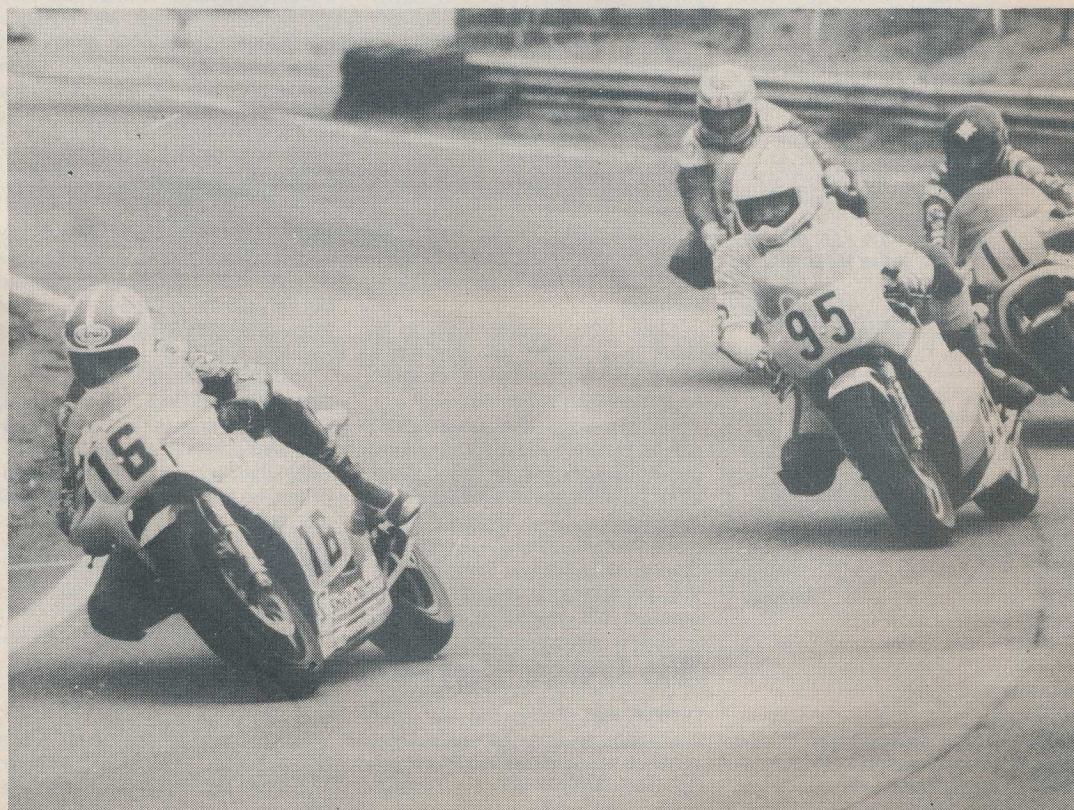
Round five of the Shell Oils 500cc championship began with Roger Marshall showing



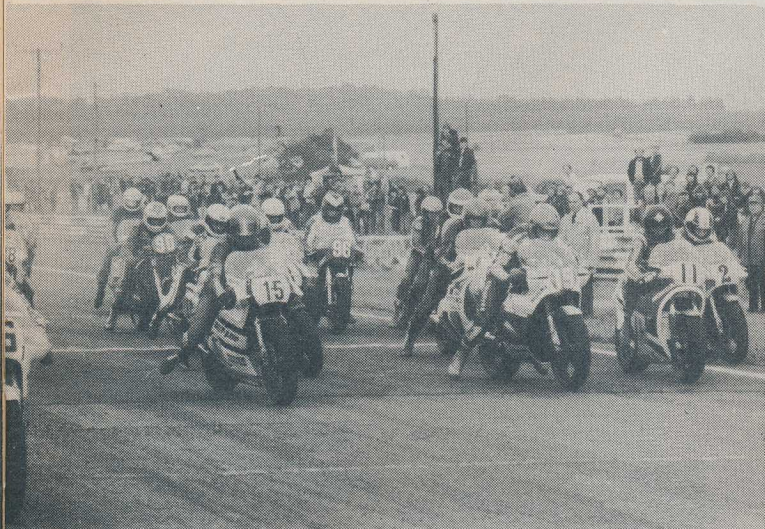
the rest of the lads the way round. But Graham Wood was giving his specially prepared Silverstone GP 500 Yamaha a test and he was quickly on Marshall's heels.

Never content with anything except first, Gardner was recovering rapidly from an average start and by the third lap had passed both Marshall and Wood. Following Gardner's lead Wood gave chase, leaving Marshall to contend with a challenge from Keith Huewen (Suzuki) and Steve Parrish (Yamaha).

Marshall finally succumbed to the onslaught and dropped back to fifth. Diminutive Aussie Paul Lewis was finding the



Racing at last in the Masters and Huewen (16) ducks inside a back marker while Marshall (11) and Parrish wait their turn to get past.



Second false start in the Masters race and Huewen (16) and Lewis (15) were determined to be away first.

conditions a little too much and was battling with Wayne Mitchell (Suzuki) for sixth, a battle he finally won.

The sidecar race turned into a Terry Haslam/John Gainey benefit. Their Seymaz outfit was noticeably faster than anything else on the track and they waltzed away from the start to a handy lead which they kept for the entire 12 laps.

Keith Cousins and Phil Hookham gave valiant chase, and although they had no trouble in hanging on to second there was no catching Haslam. TT winner Nick Edwards, with Ken Clarke in the chair, had a good dice with Steve Webster and Tony Hewitt until the latter pair dropped out—letting Gary Golder and Jimmy Webb through to fourth.

With the threat of cancellation hanging over the meeting, the rain finally stopped, the track was pumped almost dry and the Race of Aces began.

Most of the other competitors must have breathed a sigh of relief when Gardner failed to make the grid, none more so than Keith Huewen and Graham Wood. The pair set the pace for the first two laps until Wood's 750cc Yamaha went off

song, and he retired leaving Rob McEInea (Suzuki) the chance to set the pace with his teammate Huewen.

Lewis, second on the third lap, dropped back to third and immediately settled into a battle with Roger Marshall. But his tyres weren't up to the task and after being forced to let Steve Parrish past, he retired.

As the race progressed Huewen began to pull away from McEInea, who in turn had a good lead on Marshall. Parrish was well back in fourth and David Griffith and David Morris (Suzukis) were testing each other for fifth with Griffith getting the advantage.

Trevor Nation, not wanting to wear out his four-stroke before Silverstone's F1 race, was pushing his 350cc Yamaha to the limit, and was rewarded for his efforts with a tremendous seventh place. He beat the three 500cc RG Suzukis of Dennis Ireland, Gary Lingham and Wayne Mitchell in the process.

Two false starts heralded the beginning of the fifth round of the Masters series, much to the annoyance of several riders who suffered slipping clutches as a result.

RESULTS

Classic Bike race (10 laps, 19.17 miles): 1, D. Hughes (Arter Matchless), 17m 59.7s, 76.70mph; 2, R. Cutts (Matchless G50); 3, B. Newby (Mullarney Marx Norton); 4, I. Lawton (Lawton Aermacchi); 5, M. Wheeler (Brightman Aermacchi); 6, B. Lawton (Lawton Aermacchi); 7, A. Myers (Velocette); 8, M. Greenland (Velocette); 9, M. Ward (Aermacchi); 10, C. Walton (Aermacchi). **Fastest lap:** B. Newby, 1m 25.9s, 80.33mph.

Startrack 250cc Series race (10 laps, 19.17 miles): 1, D. McLeod (Yamaha), 13m 27.5s, 85.46mph; 2, P. Tinker (Yamaha); 3, P. Mellor (EMC); 4, M. Barr (Yamaha); 5, S. Thompson (Spondon Rotax); 6, R. Swann (Yamaha); 7, K. Irons (Yamaha); 8, K. Clarke (Yamaha); 9, P. Wild (Yamaha); 10, G. Noel (Exactweld). **Fastest lap:** S. Chambers (Yamaha), 1m 16.5s, 90.09mph. **Heat winner:** Noel.

Wrangler/Which Bike Pro-Am race (10 laps, 19.17 miles): 1, N. Mackenzie, 14m 57.3s, 76.91mph; 2, K. Irons; 3, M. Oxley; 4, G. Cannell; 5, K. Mitchell; 6, D. Shearer; 7, R. Hurst; 8, P. Tinker; 9, G. Fowler; 10, I. Gray. **Fastest lap:** G. Cannell, 1m 26.6s, 79.69mph. **Championship points** (after 4 rounds): 1, Cannell, 46; 2, Mackenzie, 29; 3, Irons, 24; 4, Tinker, 23; 5, Oxley, 19; 6, A. Watts, S. Chambers, 18; 8, N. Robinson, 16; 9, Mitchell, 13; 10, R. Swann, 10.

500cc Shell Oils race (12 laps, 23 miles): 1, W. Gardner (Honda), 15m 35.3s, 88.54mph; 2, G. Wood (Yamaha); 3, K. Huewen (Suzuki); 4, S. Parrish (Yamaha); 5, R. Marshall (Honda); 6, P. Lewis (Suzuki); 7, W. Mitchell (Suzuki); 8, D. Morris (Suzuki); 9, J. Birkett (Suzuki); 10, D. Griffith (Suzuki). **Fastest lap:** G. Wood (Yamaha), 1m 15.9s, 90.92mph. **Championship points** (after 5 rounds): 1, Marshall, Gardner, 45; 3, Wood, 38; 4, Parrish, 36; 5, Huewen, 20; 6, B. Sheene (Suzuki), 17; 7, S. Williams (Yamaha), 16; 8, R. Roche (Honda), 12; 9, S. Avant (Suzuki), B. Smith (Suzuki), 10.

Sidecar race (12 laps, 23 miles): 1, T. Haslam/J. Gainey (Yamaha), 13m 33.5s, 84.83mph; 2, K. Cousins/P. Hookham (Yamaha); 3, N. Edwards/K. Clarke (Yamaha); 4, G. Golder/J. Webb (Yamaha); 5, P. White-side/S. Prior (Yamaha); 6, R. Gardner/J. Haynes (Yamaha); 7, T. Calvey/A. Greatwood (Yamaha); 8, G. Rushbrook/R. Smith (Yamaha); 9, B. Brindley/C. Jones

(Yamaha). **Fastest lap:** Cousins/Hookham, Haslam/Gainey, 1m 19.1s, 87.24mph.

Battle of the Twins race (10 laps, 19.17 miles): 1, T. Rutter (Ducati), 13m 29.9s, 85.21mph; 2, M. Wheeler (Laverda); 3, D. Raitton (Ducati); 4, R. Cutts (Norton Commando); 5, M. Brookes (Norton); 6, G. Farmer (Ducati); 7, D. Saville (Norton); 8, S. Linsdell (Royal Enfield); 9, C. Phelps (Norton); 10, R. Windmill (Ducati). **Fastest lap:** Wheeler, Cutts, 1m 19.1s, 87.24mph.

Masters race (12 laps, 23 miles): 1, W. Gardner (Honda), 14m 25.4s, 95.69mph; 2, K. Huewen (Suzuki); 3, R. Marshall (Honda); 4, S. Parrish (Yamaha); 5, T. Nation (Suzuki); 6, S. Henshaw (Suzuki); 7, D. Ireland (Suzuki); 8, J. Dunlop (Honda); 9, W. Mitchell (Suzuki); 10, J. Wells (Kawasaki). **Fastest lap:** W. Gardner, 1m 09.7s, 99.01mph.

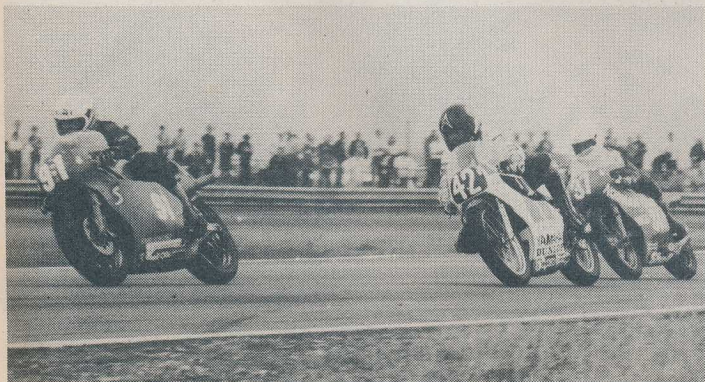
Championship points (after 5 rounds): 1, Gardner, 75; 2, Parrish, 50; 3, Huewen, 47.4; Marshall, 35; 5, G. Wood (Yamaha), 22; 6, Dunlop, 19; 7, Nation, 18; 8, R. McEInea (Suzuki), 15; 9, Ireland, 12; 10, M. Grant (Suzuki), 10.

Race of Aces (12 laps, 23 miles): 1, K. Huewen (Suzuki), 15m 19.1s, 90.10mph; 2, R. McEInea (Suzuki); 3, R. Marshall (Honda); 4, S. Parrish (Yamaha); 5, D. Griffith (Suzuki); 6, D. Morris (Suzuki); 7, T. Nation (Yamaha); 8, D. Ireland (Suzuki); 9, G. Lingham (Suzuki); 10, W. Mitchell (Suzuki). **Fastest lap:** K. Huewen, 1m 13.9s, 93.38mph.

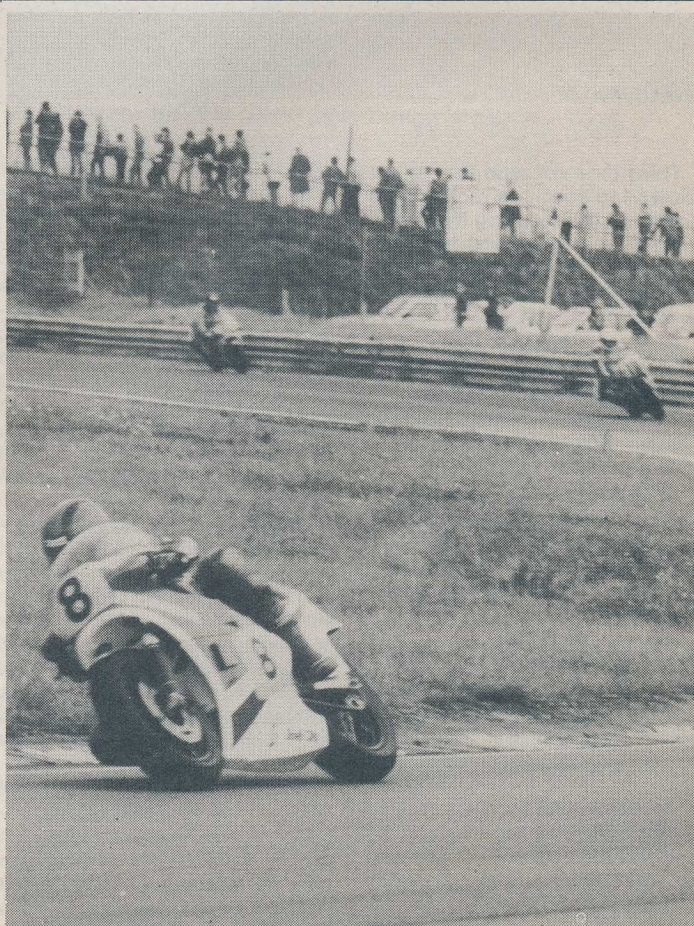
Shell Oils Formula 1 race (10 laps, 19.17 miles): 1, W. Gardner (Honda), 13m 39.3s, 84.23mph; 2, R. McEInea (Suzuki); 3, T. Nation (Suzuki); 4, D. Morris (Suzuki); 5, R. Marshall (Honda); 6, J. Dunlop (Honda); 7, A. Key (Kawasaki); 8, M. Hunt (Kawasaki); 9, J. Wells (Kawasaki); 10, G. Page (Kawasaki). **Fastest lap:** W. Gardner (Honda), 1m 19.6s, 86.69mph.

Championship points (after 7 rounds): 1, Gardner, 92; 2, McEInea, 62; 3, Marshall, 58; 4, Nation, 51; 5, M. Grant (Suzuki), 49; 6, Dunlop, 35; 7, Wells, 29; 8, M. Salle (Kawasaki), 8; 9, A. Moyce (Kawasaki), 13; 10, G. Johnson (Suzuki), 9.

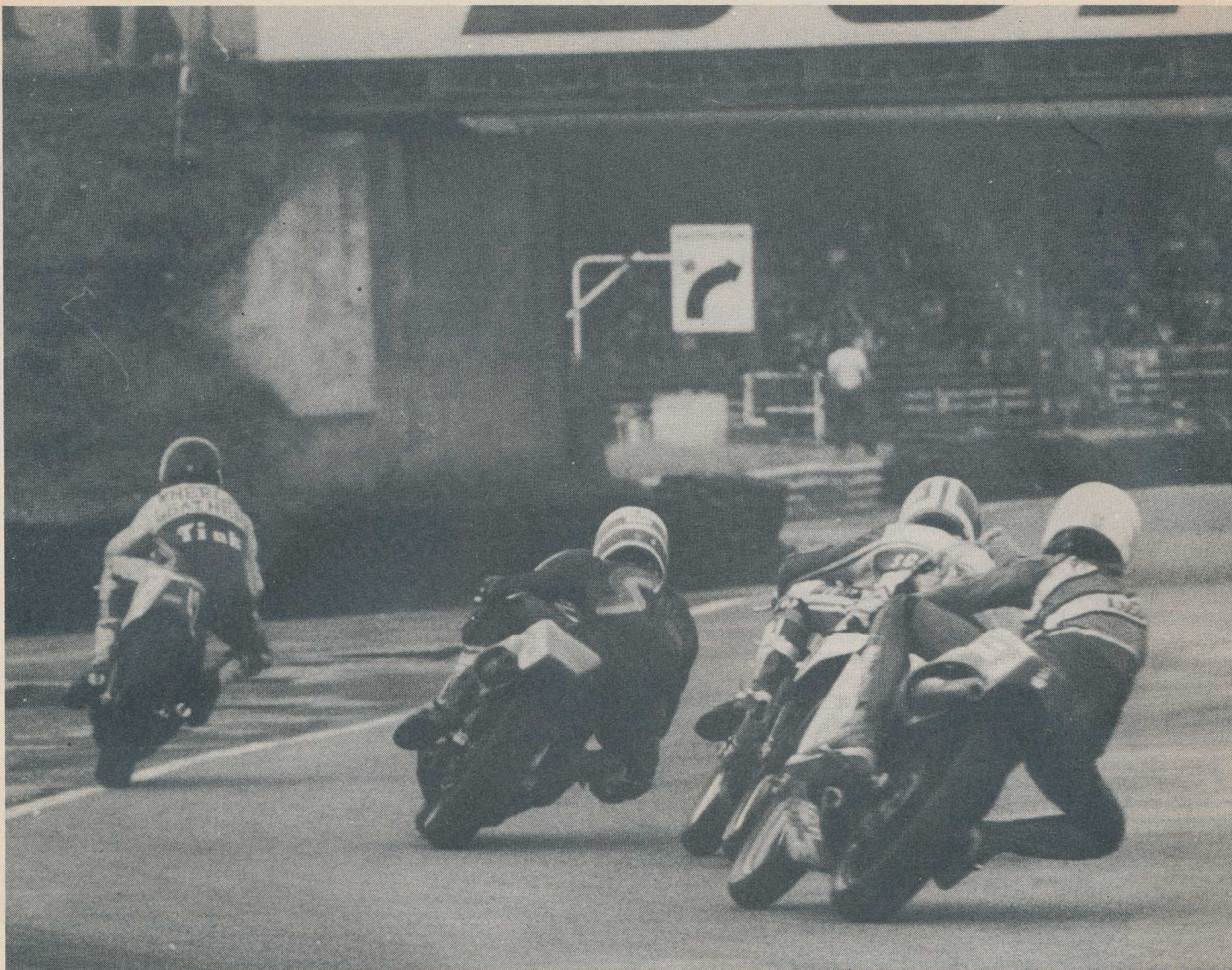
350 race: 1, G. Young, 15m 12.2s, 90.78mph; 2, D. McLeod; 3, R. Burnett; 4, T. Nation; 5, A. Watts; 6, K. Clarke; 7, T. Rutter; 9, T. Knight; 10, C. Lake. (All Yamahas). **Fastest lap:** G. Young and D. McLeod 1m 13.7s 93.63mph.



Startrack 250cc runners doing their best with Paul Tinker's Yamaha (42) sandwiched between two EMCs, Andy Watts (91) and Phil Mellor.



On his way to victory in the Shell Oils 500cc race Wayne Gardner (8) has a handy lead over Graham Wood (18) and Roger Marshall (11).



Left to right: Tinker, Watts, McLeod and Mellor get their knees out early in the Startrack 250cc race.

Third time off, and they were allowed to continue racing with Keith Huewen setting the pace. He pulled out a good lead but then his soft compound intermediate front tyre began to over heat.

Gardner, having chosen a slightly harder compound, was having no such problems. He hauled Huewen in at an incredible rate and was in the lead just after the halfway mark.

McElnea, riding like a demon because of a slipping clutch, overdid things and came off early in the race in a high speed spill. He was, amazingly, completely unhurt.

While Gardner led and Huewen wrestled with a sliding bike in second, Roger Marshall held off a strong challenge from Nation on his F1 bike, who eventually dropped back and was passed by Steve Parrish. Steve Henshaw had his best ride of the meeting to claim sixth, and Dennis Ireland got the better of Joey Dunlop, and the conditions, to grab seventh.

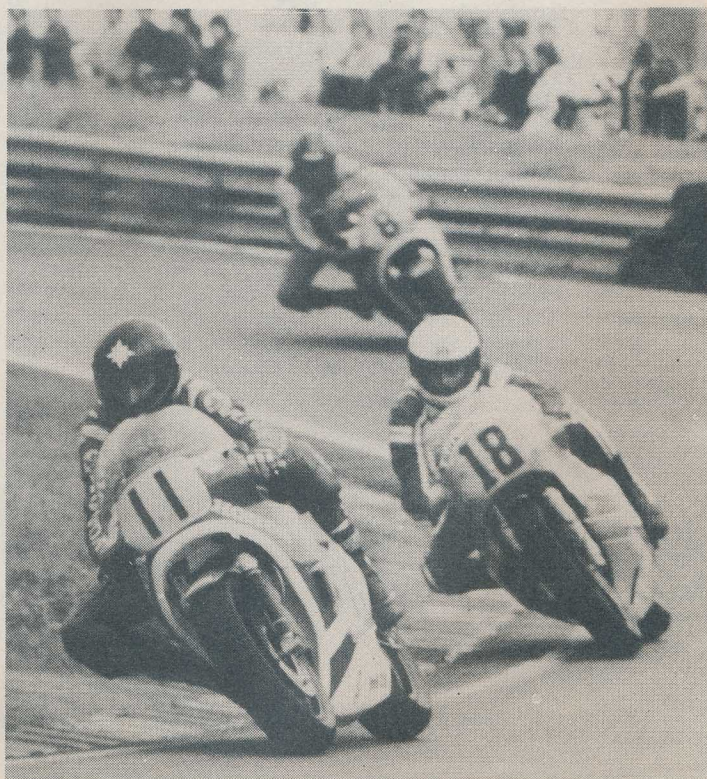
Dave Hughes and Richard Cutts, both on G50 Matchlesses, swapped the lead sev-

eral times in the Classic race until Hughes finally tired of the game and pulled away to win safely.

Late Battle of the Twins entrant Tony Rutter had little trouble in annihilating the opposition on his works F2 Ducati. Dave Railton (Ducati) held on to second place for a while, until he had to bow to pressure from Malcolm Wheeler on a Laverda. Richard Cutts kept the Union Jack flying with a fine fourth on his Norton Commando.

Once again the Sponsors Association 350cc race proved one of the best races of the day with a titanic battle between Graham Young and Donnie McLeod (Yamaha). Young, tired of being beaten on the last lap by McLeod, made his move with a lap to go and try as he might McLeod could not find a way round the Irishman.

Roger Burnett had a brilliant ride for third, passing the on-form Trevor Nation on the last lap to add to his impressive tally of placings. Andy Watts got the better of Kevin Clarke for fifth, and the evergreen Tony Rutter rode a steady race to take seventh.



Marshall leads Wood in the Shell Oils 500 race—but that antipodean freight train is hard on their tracks.