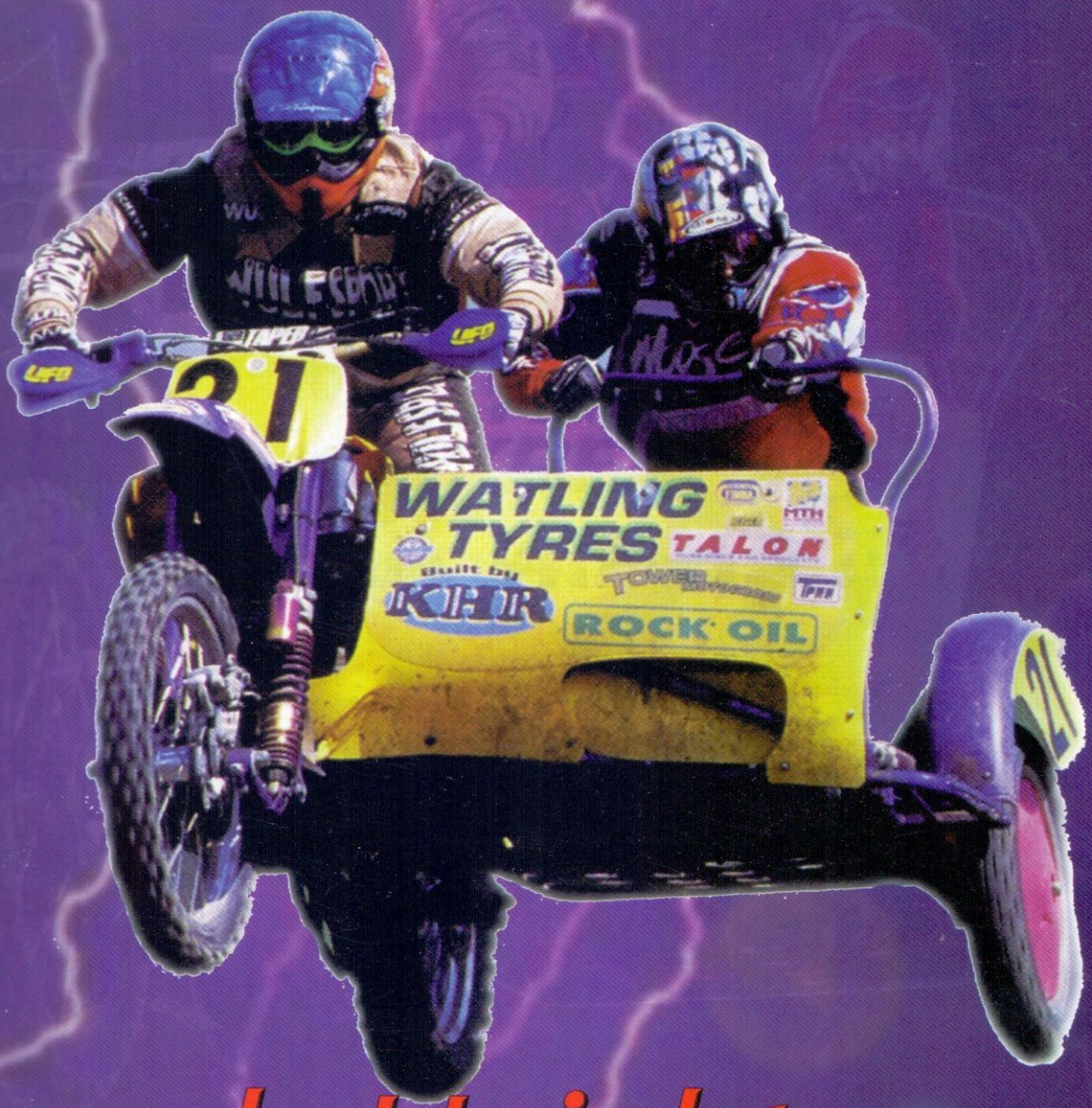
The British Sidecar Grand Prix



Canada Heights
2/3 September 2000

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The world of sidecar motocross "Simply amazing"

It is with considerable pleasure that - on behalf of the organisers Euro Motorsport, the Sidcup & Dist. MCC and the sports Governing bodies, the ACU and The Federation Internationale Motorcycliste (FIM). I welcome you to the tenth round of the sensational World Sidecar Motocross Championship, run for the second year on the spectacular International "Canada Heights" course.
This will be the only opportunity that the fans have in Great Britain this year to see these incredible athletes compete on their powerful outfits on one of the countries most exciting and picturesque tracks.

Motocross is one of the worlds most physically demanding sports, with Sidecar Motocross being even more so. To throw an enormously powerful sidecar outfit - with two people aboard - around a fast, rugged, demanding course requires enormous skill and bravery and is a wonderful example of teamwork. The spectacular "Canada Heights" course will also bring out the very best in the Worlds finest competitors.

You will marvel at the sheer speed of the machines as they power off the massive jumps then fly past over the undulating terrain in frighteningly close company - unleashing their awesome power - sending huge plumes of earth high into the air as they battle for supremacy. There are few sports where you can get safely so close to the action and it can quite accurately be described as "Simply amazing".

A stroke of pure genius this time is the inclusion of the booming MR Thumpercross fourstrokes as the support races. These are extremely popular with the fans and have an enormous following. The thuderous roar of their engines will make the earth move as they pass and will be sure to thrill you. They are not described as "Rolling Thunder" for nothing. "Prepare for the Storm".

As is customary at this popular venue we have again attempted to provide for everyone's needs over the weekend. You will find a wide variety of excellent food and drink available also the popular beer tent. Water is also available on site for those wishing to make a relaxing weekend of it.

At this point I would like to thank the many people who have contributed to what I am sure will be a sensational weekends sport, and in particular to the two Roy's (Humphrey & Barton) of Euro Motosport who's faith and dedication to the British World round has remained undaunted, also to the dedicated members of the Sidcup & District MCC for hosting this wonderful event.

Finally, let me invited you - at the end of the day - not to join the mad rush home, but to stay a little longer and enjoy the colourful presentation and prize giving and to meet the riders. It will make leaving much easier.

Have a great weekend.

Brian Edwards.

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The World Side Car Motocross Grand Prix of Great Britain

Organised by the Auto Cycle Union. An international event counting towards the 2000 sidecar motocross championship of the world. Held under the sporting code of the F.I.M., the national sporting code of the Auto Cycle Union, the standing regulations for motocross and these supplementary regulations.

• IMN 204/11 • A.C.U. PERMIT NUMBER TBA •

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Thanks

Thanks to Mr Peter Knight for permission to use his land for parking. Thanks to the Sidcup & DMCC for allowing us to use their land for racing. The organising committee wish to thank all officials, marshals, helpers, Red Cross officials, the Kent Constabulary for their co-operation and all the advertisers for their support.

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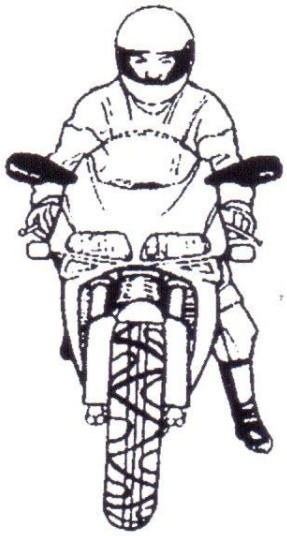

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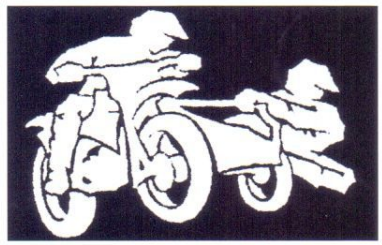

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British Sidecar Motocross Grand Prix 2000
&
MR Thumpercross Championship
Time Table / Horaire Des Cours / Zeitplan

FRIDAY 01/09/2000

13:00 - 16:00	Machine Examination Sidecar	Grand Prix

SATURDAY 02/09/2000

07:30 - 09:30	Machine Examination Sidecar	Grand Prix
08:30 - 10:30	Machine Examination Solo	MR Thumpercross
10:30 - 10:45	Free Practice - MR Junior 'B'	MR Thumpercross
11:00 - 11:40	Free Practice Sidecar 'A'	Grand Prix
12:00 - 12:40	Free Practice Sidecar 'B'	Grand Prix
12:50 - 13:10	Race 1- MR Junior 'B 20min+1Lap	MR Thumpercross
13:30 - 14:10	Free Practice Sidecar 'A'	Grand Prix
14:30 - 15:10	Free Practice Sidecar 'B'	Grand Prix
15:30 - 16:10	Qualifying Practice Sidecar 'A'	Grand Prix
16:30 - 17:10	Qualifying Practice Sidecar 'B'	Grand Prix
17:20 - 17:40	Race 2 - MR Junior 'B' 20min+1Lap	MR Thumpercross

SUNDAY 03/09/2000

09:45 - 09:50	Start Test Session-Sidecar 'A'	Grand Prix
09:55 - 10:00	Start Test Session-Sidecar 'B'	Grand Prix
10:00 - 10:40	Free Practice Sidecar	Grand Prix
10:50 - 11:10	Free Practice - MR Junior 'A'	MR Thumpercross
11:10 - 11:30	Free Practice - MR Expert	MR Thumpercross
11:30 - 12:00	Riders Presentation	
12:30 - 12:55	Race 1 - MR Junior 'A' - 20min+2laps	MR Thumpercross
13:30 - 14:15	First Sidecar Race - 30min+2laps	Grand Prix
14:30 - 15:00	Race 1 - MR Expèrt - 25min+2laps	MR Thumpercross
15:10 - 15:30	Race 2 - MR Junior 'A' - 20min+2laps	MR Thumpercross
16:00 - 16:45	Second Sidecar Race - 30min+2laps	Grand Prix
17:00 - 17:30	Race 2 - MR Expert - 25min+2laps	MR Thumpercross
17:50	Prize Giving	

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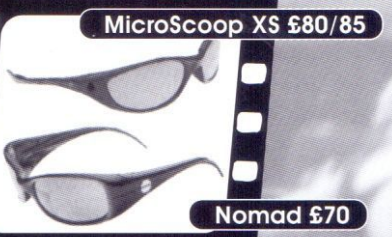
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DANIEL WILLEMSEN AND SVEN VERBRUGGE, HOLLAND AND BELGIUM. RIDING No 1

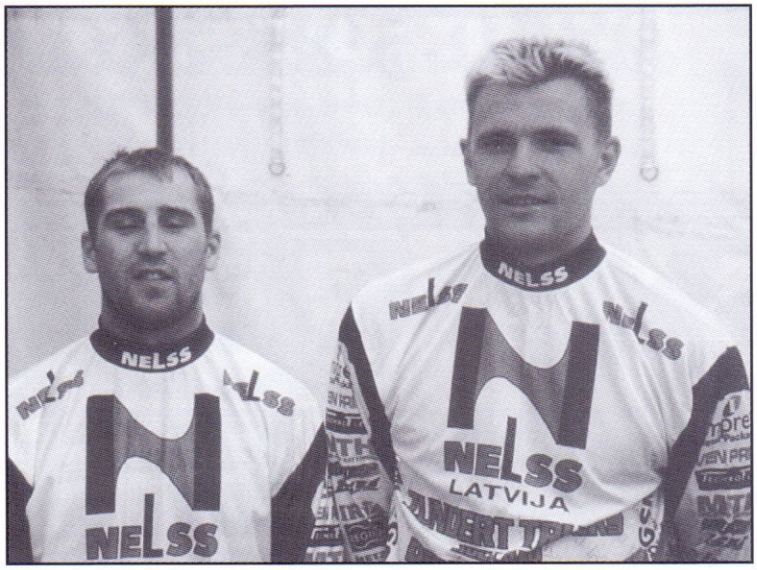
After the 25 year old Daniel won the World championship last year with his brother Marcel in the chair, it all went horribly wrong in their preparation for this season.

A pre season practice crash in Italy left Daniel with a broken shoulder and Marcel with back injuries. Once restored to full fitness Daniel teamed up with the Belgian passenger Sven Verbrugge, 32, and proceeded to take the overall win at their first outing in Frauenfeld.

Because they missed the beginning of the season it is now impossible for Daniel to win the Dutch championship but they are very much in contention for the world crown.

Daniel will be looking for a repeat performance at Canada Heights but he is not as unbeatable as he was with Marcel.

KRISTERS SERGIS AND ARTIS RASMANIS, LATVIA. RIDING No 2.



Kristers, 26, had to start the season with Ramon van Mil in the chair whilst Artis recovered from a broken leg sustained in a pre season practice crash.

Although Kristers had never ridden with Ramon before, and many experts said that Ramon was not up to it, they rode very sensibly in the first two GPs and were in second place in the series when Artis was fit again.

They proceeded to take the overall win in rounds three and four, but a disaster in Germany when they came away with no points set them back.

Although very disappointed they did not let it bother them unduly, and went on to win in Belgium. In the two rounds in Latvia and Estonia they have been plagued with engine problems, but even so they are only eleven points behind the leaders.

ALOIS WENNINGER AND HENRY van de WIEL, GERMANY and HOLLAND. RIDING No 7

In what is believed to be their last season Alois, 35, and Henry, 34 look like going out at the very top.

Their results this year do not truly reflect their ability. They have holeshotted more than half their races this year but unnecessary crashes and stalled engines meant they have not fully capitalised on their lightning starts.

They will be keen to improve on last year at Canada Heights when they broke down in the first race, and hit the start gate, leaving them dead last in race two.

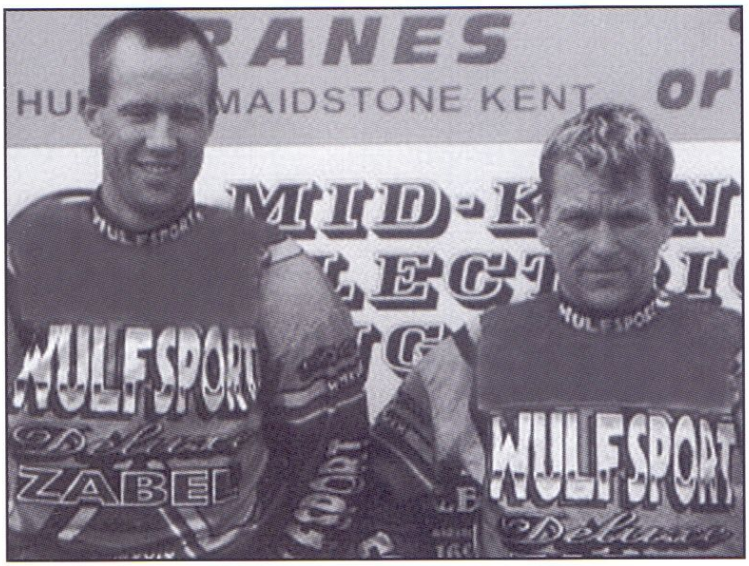
In their domestic championship they have not finished a race lower than third, but three DNFs because of mechanical failures mean that they are currently only third.

ARE KAURIT AND ARWO LAKSBERG, ESTONIA. RIDING No 5.

After a number of years riding with Jurgen Jakk in the chair Are, 34, changed passengers in '96 bringing in 25 year old Arwo. They then won the Estonian title in '97 and in the last three years have not been lower than sixth in the world.

Although they have not yet won a GP race they have come closer than ever this year. In the second leg at Pflückuff they hounded Wenninger for virtually the whole race but could not find a way past. Even so they finished second overall, their best world placing to date.

CHRIS ETHERIDGE AND JOHN CHAMBERS, GREAT BRITAIN. RIDING No 19.



Chris, 34, and John, 35, have had a very mixed season in GPs, but on the domestic front it is very much business as usual.

The high point of their season must be their win in the first race at the Swiss GP back in April. This was followed by a disaster in race 2 when they crashed out early on while well placed. Both Chris and John were taken to hospital but were allowed home the following day.

A work injury put John out for most of June and July meaning that they have not competed in a GP since the beginning of June.

Canada Heights is Chris's local track and one that they both like so anything is possible.

COLIN PHILPOTT AND IAN BEAVIS, GREAT BRITAIN. RIDING No 25.

The vastly experienced Colin teamed up with Ian in '97 and the pair of them have not looked back since.

They had planned to contest all the GPs this year but a shoulder injury to Colin at Neeroeteren has sidelined them since mid July. Initially it was thought that an operation would be needed on the shoulder, which would have probably put him out for the rest of the season. An examination by a specialist revealed a lesser injury that will only require rest.

They very much hope to be fit in time for Canada Heights but it will be very much touch and go. If they are fit there is no reason why they shouldn't get amongst the points.

World Sidecar Cross Championship / Cha

List of riders entered / List

No	RIDER/PASSENGER	NAT	FMN	MOTORCYCLE	POINTS TO DATE	RACE 1 PTS	RACE 2 PTS
1	DANIEL WILLEMSEN SVEN VERBRUGGE	NED BEL	KNMV FMB	BSU ZABEL			
2	KRISTERS SERGIS ARTIS RASMANIS	LAT LAT	LaMSF LaMSF	BSU MTH			
3	HENRIK SODERQVIST TOBIAS SYLWAN	SWE SWE	SVEMO SVEMO	EML MTH			
4	KLAUS WEINMANN THOMAS WEINMANN	GER GER	DMSB DMSB	EML MTH			
5	ARE KAURIT AVRO LAKSBERG	EST EST	EMF EMF	AYR MTH			
6	JACKY JANSSEN WILJAN JANSSEN	NED NED	KNMV KNMV	EML ZABEL			
7	ALOIS WENNINGER HENRY V.D WIEL	GER NED	DMSB DMSB	AYR MTH			
8	AIVAR KORJUS JURGEN JAKK	EST EST	EMF EMF	AYR MTH			
9	GERTON KOPS GERWIN WIJS	NED NED	KNMV KNMV	EML MTH			
10	PETER STEEGMANS	BEL	FMB	EML ZABEL			
11	BENOIT BEAUMONT SIES HURKMANS	FRA NED	FFM KNMV	BSU MTH			
13	DOMINIK SCHOCH HANSRUEDI SCHLAEPFER	SWISS SWISS	FMS FMS	VMC YAMAHA			
14	DAVID BARAT SEBASTIEN BELLAUD	FRA FRA	FFM FFM	EML MTH			
16	WILFRED V WERVEN DIMITRI VAN DEURSEN	NED NED	KNMV KNMV	BSU ZABEL			
17	MARKO HAPPUCH SEBASTIAN BOHME	GER GER	DMSB DMSB	EML MTH			
19	CHRIS ETHERIDGE JOHN CHAMBERS	GBR GBR	ACU ACU	BSU MTH			
20	BEN VANLUCHENE ELI PICCART	BEL BEL	FMB FMB	BSU KTM			
21	MARIS RUPEIKS NORMUNDS BERZINS	LAT LAT	LaMSF LaMSF	AYR ZABEL			
22	MIKE BENS PATRICK NIEUWENHUIZEN	NED NED	KNMV KNMV	VMC ZABEL			
23	JOSEF BRUSTMANN PREMYSL NOVOTNY	GER CZECH	DMSB DMSB	EML MTH			
25	COLIN PHILPOTT IAN BEAVIS	GBR GBR	ACU ACU	VMC MTH			
26	LEO VAN DER LAGEMAAT ROGER VAN DER LAGEMAAT	NED NED	KNMV KNMV	BSU MTH			
27	WOLFGANG KUHN STEFAN URICH	GER GER	FMS DMSB	EML YAMAHA			
30	DAVID SURCIN HERVE ALLIER	FRA FRA	FFM FFM	VMC ZABEL			
32	STUART BROWN LUKE PETERS	GBR GBR	ACU ACU	BSU ZABEL			

At time of going to press points to date were not availab

Championnat du Monde de Sidecar Cross
Liste des coureurs engages

No	RIDER/PASSENGER	NAT	FMN	MOTORCYCLE	POINTS TO DATE	RACE 1 PTS	RACE 2 PTS
34	MARCO BISCHOF	SWISS	FMS	SHR MTH			
	WALTER NEFF	SWISS	FMS				
35	DIETMAR SCHMID	GER	DMSB	EML ZABEL			
	MICHEL IMBERT	GER	DMSB				
36	CHRISTIAN WALDBURGER	SWISS	FMS	JHR KTM			
	BEAT KOCH	SWISS	FMS				
38	WILLIE VAN HAL	LUX	MUL	EML MTH			
	ERIC VAN DER WIJST	NED	KNMV				
39	ERIC SCHIJVER	NED	KNMV	EML MTH			
	CHRISTIAN VERHAGEN	NED	KNMV				
45	SVEN VAN ZANTEN	BEL	FMB	AIR MTH			
	ALCO VAN DER KETTERIJ	NED	KNMV				
46	PATRICK GREUP	NED	KNMV	VMC MTH			
	RENE TEN HAVE	NED	KNMV				
48	EMIL KOCH	SWISS	FMS	BSU ZABEL			
	MARTIN KOCH	SWISS	FMS				
49	UELI MULLER	SWISS	FMS	JHR KAWASAKI			
	CLAUDIO MAMOLITI	SWISS	FMS				
50	FRANK HOFMANN	GER	DMSB	PME ZABEL			
	AXEL SIEGLE	GER	DMSB				
51	JEAN MARIE AINS	FRA	FFM	EML ZABEL			
	HERMANN LIEVRE	FRA	FFM				
52	SCOTT WILKINSON	GBR	ACU	VMC ZABEL			
	GARY BURT	GBR	ACU				
53	LAURENT DEVOLDRE	FRA	FFM	VMC MTH			
	SEBASTIEN DEVOLDRE	FRA	FFM				
54	MICHAEL POIRIER	FRA	FFM	BSU MTH			
	BERTRAND POIRIER	FRA	FFM				
55	GERRIT VAN WERVEN	LUX	MUL	BSU ZABEL			
	RICHARD DYKSTRA	LUX	MUL				
56	SIMON BRADFORD	GBR	ACU	KTH BSU			
	DAVID KEANE	GBR	ACU				
57	JOHAN SMIT		MUL	BSU ZABEL			
	HENK ROEHORST	NED	KNMV				
58	KEVIN TURNER	GBR	ACU	MTH BSU			
	MICHAEL TURNER	GBR	ACU				
59	DANIEL FUCHS	GER	DMSB	EML MTH			
	STEFAN MEIERHANS	GER	DMSB				
60	ANDY EASTMAN	GBR	ACU	HONDA BSU			
	LIONEL EASTMAN	GBR	ACU				
62	JOHN WATSON	GBR	ACU	BSU ZABEL			
	MARK WATSON	GBR	ACU				

available, they will be announced during the race weekend

MR Thumpercross Championship Expert group
Round Twelve

NO.	NAME	MACHINE	SPONSOR	HOME TOWN
1	Lee King	600 Husaberg	Barry Patterson/Dave Clark/Motoextreme	Oxford
2	Nathan James	426 Yamaha	Car World Racing Team	Merthyr Tydfil
3	Greg Hanson	426 Yamaha	Stevens/Hanson Racing	High Wycombe
4	Stewart Penny	400 Yamaha	Weston Nurseries/Martin Rubber Co.	Corton
5	Graham Beale	426 Yamaha	MX Gear	Lymington
6	Fred Sparkes	600 Husaberg	Orinoco Studios/ Dave Clark Racing	Sutton Courtney
14	Jason Fountain	520 KTM	GA Fountain Plant	High Wycombe
17	Gary Woollam	610 Husqvarna		Woking
18	Rob Samways	426 Yamaha	MD Racing/Pro Clean	Dorchester
20	David Lee	426 Yamaha	Car World Racing Team	Hatton
33	Trevor Sheppard	426 Yamaha	Car World Racing Team	Woodley
36	David Watts	610 Husky		Wheatley
41	Gary Morison	400 Yamaha		Honiton
42	David Williams	426 Yamaha	Art in Motion	Upper Norwood
44	James Potter	400 Yamaha	Revetts M/c's/Captiva Systems	Ipswich
51	Mark Williams	600 Husaberg	Dave Clark Racing	Merthyr Tydfil
55	Gary Henson	426 Yamaha	BY Henson Haulage Contractors	Bristol
61	Allan Clark	426 Yamaha	H&H Celcon	Mereworth
62	Howard Standfield	426 Yamaha	Mott M/c's/Pool Const/Caulfield Roofing	Stockbridge
64	Darren Osborne	426 Yamaha	CMW M/c's/Motul Oil	Chichester
65	Carl Belfield	426 Yamaha	Hanson Racing	Buxton
67	Patrick Winter	400 Yamaha		Welwyn Garden City
68	Brian Wheeler	426 Yamaha	Winterstoke Tyres	Wotton-Under-Edge
70	Antony Dyer	426 Yamaha		Yarnton
74	Graham Burton	426 Yamaha		North Holmwood
78	Tom Fuller	426 Yamaha	Art in Motion/Nine One One/Elderfields	Upper Norwood
80	Keith Gillett	426 Yamaha		Bishops Stortford
87	Marcus Lake	426 Yamaha	Boretech	Southampton
93	Phil Mercer	503 VOR	Team Thunder Racing	Wallingford
94	*John Priestley	610 Husky		Sipson

MR Thumpercross Championship Junior A group
Round Twelve

NO.	NAME	MACHINE	SPONSOR	HOME TOWN
38*	Mark Parker	400 Yamaha		Newnham on Severn
100	Wayne Partington	426 Yamaha	MX Gear/Partington Civil Eng/Wulfsport	Kildeck
102	Chris Taylor	426 Yamaha	Chamberlain Bros Building Ltd	Bristol
103	Mark Taylor	426 Yamaha	Chamberlain Bros Building Ltd	Bristol
105	David Stone	426 Yamaha	GRG Group Racing Team	Bristol
106	Derek Morris	400 Yamaha	WG Jones Plant Hire	Braunton
107	Lee Osmond	400 Yamaha		Bristol
108	Dean Saunders	426 Yamaha	Saunder Surfacing	Chesham
109	Nigel Parker	426 Yamaha	Winford Ford	Whitchurch
117	Graham Ward	501 Husaberg	Uniclaim Waste/MX Gear	Melksham
118	Chris Stone	426 Yamaha	GRG Group Racing Team	St. George
120	Phil Roberts	426 Yamaha	Roberts Plant Engineers	Drybrook
123	Christopher Rowlands	400 KTM		Holme Lacy
124	Mark Cook	580 CCM	Performance Eng Services/SWS	Calne
126	Chris Sparkes	600 Husaberg		Sutton Courtney
127	Brett Henson	426 Yamaha		Kingswood
130	Craig Williamson	400 Yamaha	Hanson Racing/Oxford Pool & Leaisure	Kidlington
131	Brad Davey	400 Yamaha	Wantage Motors/Grove St Tyres/Morris Oils	Wantage
133	Lea Ayris	426 Yamaha		Brackley
134	Jay Smith	400 Yamaha	Astral Windows/Lynx Signs	Lee
135	Paul Annetts	400 Yamaha	Brain Goss Ltd/Julia's of Bond Street	Yeovil
136	Stuart Arnold	501 Husaberg	SS Racing/AVS	Shrewsbury
139	David White	400 Yamaha	Instant Landscapes	Warmley
141	Steve Jones	600 Husaberg	Jones Racing	Banbury
167	Keith Best	400 Yamaha		Uckfield
168	Chris Brown	400 Yamaha	Winterstoke Tyres	Weston Super Mare
172	Wayne Tame	400 Yamaha		Reading
174	Ian Lelai	426 Yamaha		Jersey.C.I.
175	James Barette	426 Yamaha		Jersey.C.I.
177	Shane Skellhorn	610 Husky	Rockin Horse Racing/Motorcycle HQ	Bushy
183	Mark Kingdom	426 Yamaha		Braunton
184	Ian Meredith	400 Yamaha		Barnstaple
186	Paul Baldwin	426 Yamaha	Aristocars	Towcester
199	Gary Stevens	400 Yamaha		Warminster
210	Gary Mulford	426 Yamaha		Leighton Buzzard
218	Darren Harvey	400 Yamaha	GRG Group Racing Team	St. George
244	Jason Webb	400 Yamaha		Bristol
257	Shaun Miles	426 Yamaha		Bath
301	Rob Foden	426 Yamaha	CDUK/Mototech/N Hudson/Scott Leathers	Witney

MR Thumpercross Championship Junior B group
Round Twelve

NO.	NAME	MACHINE	SPONSOR	HOME TOWN
98 *	Jason Peters	426 Yamaha		Braintree
112	Lee Shearing	426 Yamaha	Bath Road M/c's	Shirehampton
113	Paul Rogers	426 Yamaha	Winterstoke Tyres	Burrington Combe
115	Graham Lovell	620 KTM		Lopcombe
116	Alan Deer	400 Yamaha		Wivelliscombe
140	Jack Ithell	501 Husaberg	Walkden Commercials/First Call Group	Radcliffe
142	Rob Jones	400 Yamaha	Jones Racing	Banbury
148	Wayne Harman	500 SCC	Sprocket Clock Co	Merthyr Tydfil
150	Simon Rawson	400 Yamaha		Taunton
152	Alan Dale	426 Yamaha		Congleton
155	Philip Blackley	400 Yamaha	Jackson's Mercedes	Wimborne
156	Paul Hardy	610 Husky		Hedge End
190	Derek Aburrow	426 Yamaha		Chichester
191	Karim Bourious	501 Husaberg	Captiva Air Filtration	Ipswich
193	Jonathan Burrows	426 Yamaha	J Burrows Light Haulage	Polesworth
196	Robert Bullock	426 Yamaha	Ray Hockey Racing	Melksham
198	Paul Robey	400 Yamaha		Blackheath
200	Luke Lush	610 Husky		Owlesbury
202	Rob Higgins	400 Yamaha	Bulstrodes Auction Rooms	Christchurch
204	Kevin Wakeham	426 Yamaha		Lancing
205	Andrew Eagle	400 Suzuki	Allway Surfacing & Construction	Frome
216	Daren Neale	426 Yamaha		Calne
219	Paul Coombes	501 Husaberg	Motoextreme	Corsham
220	Rupert Copping	400 Yamaha	Robert Plant Engineers	Lydbrook
224	Darren Whistence-Smith	426 Yamaha		Lancing
225	John Stanley	400 Yamaha		Bishops Stortford
233	Tony Priestley	426 Yamaha		West Drayton
243	Lee Powles	400 Yamaha		Earley
245	Mark Hounslow	426 Yamaha		Abingdon
246	Gary Turner	610 Husqvarna		Southampton
255	Stephen Webb	400 Yamaha	Ash Bros	Chard
258	Daniel Turner	400 Yamaha	Eastwood Yamaha	Orpington
260	Craig Bower	501 Husaberg	NEB Engineering	Bedworth
261	Brevin Beeson	400 Yamaha		Andover
264	Mike Townsend	426 Yamaha	Maxfield Motors	Swindon
268	Ian Scriven	400 Yamaha		Loxwood
278	Tony Fuller	400 Yamaha		Yateley
711	Paul Clarke	426 Yamaha	Mototech	Kidlington

Saturday 2/9/00 Event 1 MR Thumpercross Junior B Race 1

1	2	3 .....
4	5	6 .....
7	8	9 .....
10	11	12 .....
13	14	15 .....

Saturday 2/9/00 Event 2 MR Thumpercross Junior B Race 2

1	2	3 .....
4	5	6 .....
7	8	9 .....
10	11	12 .....
13	14	15 .....

Sunday 3/9/00 Event 3 MR Thumpercross Junior A Race 1

1	2	3 .....
4	5	6 .....
7	8	9 .....
10	11	12 .....
13	14	15 .....

Sunday 3/9/00 Event 4 British Sidecar Grand Prix Race 1

1	2	3 .....
4	5	6 .....
7	8	9 .....
10	11	12 .....
13	14	15 .....

Sunday 3/9/00 Event 5 MR Thumpercross Expert Race 1

1	2	3 .....
4	5	6 .....
7	8	9 .....
10	11	12 .....
13	14	15 .....

Sunday 3/9/00 Event 6 MR Thumpercross Junior A Race 2

1	2	3 .....
4	5	6 .....
7	8	9 .....
10	11	12 .....
13	14	15 .....

Sunday 3/9/00 Event 7 British Sidecar Grand Prix Race 2

1	2	3 .....
4	5	6 .....
7	8	9 .....
10	11	12 .....
13	14	15 .....

Sunday 3/9/00 Event 8 MR Thumpercross Expert Race 2

1	2	3 .....
4	5	6 .....
7	8	9 .....
10	11	12 .....
13	14	15 .....

Sunday 3/9/00 British Sidecar Grand Prix Overall Result

1	2	3 .....

The 2000 Grand Prix season so far.

ROUND 1 Toulon sur Arroux (F) 19th March

This year's championship started in France back in March without the defending champions Daniel and Marcel Willemsen (NL) and with the ex champion driver, Kristers Sergis (LAT), riding with stand in passenger Ramon van Mil (NL). The Willemsens were recovering from a training accident in Italy where Daniel broke his shoulder and Marcel sustained serious back injuries. Sergis's passenger, Artis Rasmanis, had broken his leg.
In two keenly contested races the overall win went to the home team of David Barat / Sébastien Bellaud from Are Kaurit / Arwo Laksberg (EST) with Sergis riding well within himself finishing third.

ROUND 2 Frauenfeld (CH) 24th April

For the first time ever a GP was held on Easter Monday at Frauenfeld. It saw the first appearance of the season of Daniel Willemsen now teamed up with the very experienced Belgian passenger Sven Verbrugge. They had ridden together in a GP in Holland back in '97 but since then they had only practised briefly before this GP.
The first race was led by Alois Wenninger / Henry van de Wiel (D/NL) from our own Chris Etheridge / John Chambers. A mistake by Wenninger let Etheridge through into the lead mid way through the race. Although the following crews closed on the Brits they were unable to pass and Chris and John held on to win. (This was John's first ever GP win)
In race 2 Etheridge / Chambers were one of a number of casualties that caused the race to be stopped early because of insufficient medical staff. The overall winners were Willemsen / Verbrugge. Wenninger, whose engine was deteriorating rapidly, was a very lucky second.

ROUND 3. Chateau du Loir (F) 4th June

This round saw the first appearance of the season of Artis Rasmanis in the sidecar of Sergis. Although Sergis had ridden well with van Mil he was now able to step up a gear. He won the first race easily from Willemsen but could not repeat it in race 2. This was won by Wenninger with Willemsen coming in an excellent 3rd despite Verbrugge's handrail having worked loose giving him a moving target to hang on to. Of the Brits the real surprise was the non-qualification of Colin Philpott / Ian Beavis. They were only able to complete a couple of laps against the clock because they could not get the engine to fire at the beginning of the session.
After this round Sergis led the series by four points from Wenninger with Willemsen a further twenty points adrift.

Willemsen & Verbrugge lead Barat & Bellaund in race one of the German Grand Prix

ROUND 4 Volkovysk, (SU) 25th June.

This first ever GP in Belarus attracted a huge crowd that was estimated at 60,000. Colin Philpott, the only British driver to enter, described it as a sea of people with the width of the track being the only ground visible during the races.
Sergis / Rasmanis rode two impeccable races to take maximum points with Willemsen / Verbrugge taking two second places.
The end of the event was totally spoiled when the organisers admitted that there were insufficient funds to pay all the prize money. To make things worse they had paid those at the front of the queue in full while those at the back got absolutely nothing.

ROUND 5 Pflückuff (D) 2nd July.

Wenninger & Van de Weil winning in Germany

Over 10,000 spectators came to watch the first ever sidecar GP in East Germany and were rewarded with a home win when Wenninger / van de Wiel won race two.
Willemsen dominated the first race with the Weinmann brothers in second place. Wenninger went out very early on with a back wheel puncture and Sergis stopped with a blown engine.
Race two was led from start to finish by Wenninger with Willemsen coming through to second on the last lap. Sergis rode a storming race from virtually last to finish 5th but it was not to be the Latvian's day. The Willemsen team protested against the result alleging the Sergis's cut out was inoperative. The protest was upheld and Sergis was stripped of his points. Willemsen now led the championship by six points from Wenninger with Sergis a further one point behind.

ROUND 6. Neeroeteren (B). 16th July

Heavy rain in the preceding week very nearly brought about the cancellation of this GP, but hard work by the organisers did enough to keep the meeting on.
Sergis / Rasmanis were in a determined mood following their failure in Germany and led the first race for the first 23 minutes only to be passed with comparative ease by Willemsen. (This was later explained when it was shown that Sergis had no front shock absorbers and a slow puncture in the back tyre.) Willemsen won from Sergis with Jacky and Wiljam Janssen (NL) coming in third.
In race two Sergis led again but this time he was never in any danger of being caught and went on to win comfortably.
Willemsen on the other hand worked his way up to third but as the race went on he became more and more ragged and was nearly caught by the young Swedes Henk Soederquist / Tobias Sylwan on the line.
The British teams entered had a disaster of a meeting with three crews failing to qualify and Philpott qualifying eighth in his group but crashing during practice and breaking his shoulder.
At the top of the championship Willemsen was now 5 points in front of Sergis with Wenninger another 14 points down.

ROUND 7. Kegums, (LV), 30th July

As in recent years Sergis / Rasmanis were looking for a home win in front of 15,000 avid fans, but once again it was not to be.
The on form crew this time were the young Swedes, Soederquist / Sylwan who won the first race easily from gate to flag.
Sergis's problems started on lap 5 when his engine went sick. One lap later it was all over for him when the engine died completely. Willemsen rode steadily to take third while Wenninger, who had been up to second, dropped back to seventh with suspension problems.
Sergis initially led the second leg, but this time his engine only lasted 4 laps before it started to lose power. Soederquist started back in eighth but was soon up to second and 2 laps later was in the lead.
As in race one Soederquist won from Weinmann, Wenninger was third and Sergis persevered to finish fourth. This opened the gap at the top a little wider but there were still only 19 points between the top three. Weinmann had now risen to within striking distance of the top three.

ROUND 8, Jaanikese (EST), 6th August.

Having been beaten into second place in Kegums by Soederquist the Weinmann brothers turned the tables in Estonia taking the overall win.
Both Sergis and Willemsen suffered one DNF each while Wenninger managed two good finishes.
This has now lifted him to second place, only six points behind Willemsen, with Sergis just five points behind the German. Closing in on the leading three are the Weinmanns and Soederquist / Sylwan.