

Broadford Ride Day

Monday 10th June 2013

Pierre Ong	Aprilia RSV 4 Factory	Rod Merrett	BMW S1000 RR
Paul Simonson	Aprilia RSV 4 R	Scott Bowden	Honda CBR 929
Glenn Aspden	Suzuki GSX-R 1000	Roman Biaroza	Honda CBR 600

The Broadford Motorcycle Complex is build on a 420 acre property which has a road circuit, motocross and supercross tracks, speedway track, enduro loop and trial area. I believe it's the only venue in Australia that has such diverse tracks on one location.

The last time I rode the Broadford road circuit was 2004 on an Aprilia RS250 racing in a Hartwell Club event. I pulled out the lap time sheets for a benchmark time to aim for. 1.06.330 was my fastest time. It was interesting to see one Jean-Pierre Rouseaux on the timing sheets. I wonder if he's any relation to MSR former member John Rousseaux? *[The very same... Ed.]*

Glenn Aspden arrived at my house at 6.15am to collect my bike on his trailer. Big thumbs up Glenn! It took us about hour to get to Broadford and the temperature was around three degrees. On the way we noticed some bright objects in sky travelling at a very fast rate leaving trails of flame. I dare say a burning meteorite, something I've never seen before. Rod Merrett thought I'd been smoking the hard stuff though!

The first session was bit of a write-off as my visor fogged up and I had to come in due to lack of vision. Better preparation such as installing an anti-fog device to my helmet would have prolonged the session.

Wayne Maxwell (Australian Superbike fame) was impressed with Glenn's new fairings. He took some photos and tweeted to the world. See Duane's post on MSR Facebook June 12.

The following session was better and my visor was not fogging. I'm in the same group with Rod and Glenn and we are all having a good time until I see Glenn lying on the ground at Turn 3 (crash corner). He had over-cooked the corner, run off and laid the bike down in the dirt. No major damage with the crash knobs doing their job.

As the day progressed, the temperature increased and it turned out to be a pleasant day. Paul Simonson got down to a low 1.01.05 on a shagged rear tyre. Not a bad effort considering the lap record is 0.57.93.

Scott Bowden brought his old bike to the track, not prepared to put his new Fireblade on the line. I probably would have done the same thing. He seemed to be having a good time on the old blade though. Aiden Baker turned up just after lunch to have a look. Apparently, he wanted to participate but had trouble getting tyres.

Glenn, unfortunately, crashed again on the first turn later on in the afternoon. This time he decided to call it quits. Paul and I also decided to leave. Rod, Roman and Scott stayed on for the last session.

Overall a great day. I got down to a 1.09 which was a little disappointing considering I was on a much more powerful bike compared to 2004. 58 hp vs 150hp. I put that down to old age - and I'm carrying a few more spare tyres these days.

Pierre Ong