



Be sure to keep an eye on Streetfighters Magazine in the coming months, for all the action from Monsters Race rounds two and three! See regulations, results, galleries and information on eligibility at www.monsters-race.net

wheeled with every gear change! It was all going well, until a suspicious white smoke emerged from the 1100 Gixer ridden by 'Vroom Vroom'. An oil hose had let go, coating the track in a nice carpet of oil. The red flag went out and the testing session was over.

In the paddock, the atmosphere is always great and everyone ends up in an informal debriefing around barbecues. The latest riders arrived, one by one, throughout the afternoon and night. There was 'On/Off' with his stripped-to-the-bone RD500LC, 'Speed Monster' and his turbocharged ZX-12R, 'Reno' and his minimalist Buell, and 'Diffol' with his CBR 900.

D-DAY!

It was early on Saturday morning and the ringing of my alarm was replaced by the screams of a two-stroke V4 being warmed right next to my car. Time to get out of my semi-coma! I realised that a lot of competitors arrived during the night. Most come from far away, and this motivation in the early morning, after hours of driving and a short night's sleep, are always a pleasure to see. And that two-stroke smell makes for a good start to race day!

During a morning stroll, I discovered the superb 1000RR ridden by 'Jéjé Le Petit Lapin' (Jéjé the Little Rabbit) with its tailored tailpiece and new paint, which contrasted with the Speed Triple of 'Disturbed,' another of the Street Monsters magazine racers, which was parked nearby. Before long, the bikes were

pushed out for technical inspection.

The Monsters Race riders are respectful of the rules and good mechanical handymen, so all motorcycles were allowed to race. Qualifying began, therefore, with almost the entire pack. They don't line up on the starting grid just yet though, and competitors return to the track slowly, one by one.

As the riders were out qualifying on circuit, visitors began to fill the parking lot, and many headed straight for the Monsters bike display. The level of preparation was fantastic, and the display was a real treat for the eyes! The bikes are typically French in style and, for the most part, very well finished, at once both simple and aggressive. Between practice sessions and the race, the machines of the Monsters Race are judged in the show category separately, with points counting towards the overall standings. We just had time for a stunt riding demo from our friends Matt and Big Jim Mekatrix, as the last few qualifying times came in. The die was cast, and the starting positions established.

It was just thirty minutes before the race, and the riders were preparing to start. The pilots donned their helmets and headed, one by one, to the circuit entrance. After a warm-up lap, each took his place on the grid. The departure was imminent, the engines were revving – and then go! The first Monsters Race was on!

The first surprise was when 'Cool-Ti' on his Gixer missed the start completely. After a

few short, but precious seconds, he recovered and got going, trying to catch the pack that was already at the first corner. At the front, 'On/Off' and 'Raspo' were neck and neck, and On/Off's 500LC was putting serious pressure on the big ZR-X under braking. Chris was a little further back, followed by Jéjé (The Little Rabbit) and 'Speed Monster', while 'Cool-Ti' was catching the leaders rapidly. Meanwhile JMB, the last Street Monsters magazine staff member left in the competition (after 'Ducat's' crash in practice and 'Disturbed's' Triumph suffered mechanical problems before the race) retires, having rather ignominiously run out of fuel. After twenty laps at an unrelenting pace, 'On/Off' passed the finish line first – however, he was just racing for fun, as he's an international race licence holder and therefore not eligible for points, because the series is aimed at amateur racers. So it was 'Raspo' who took the win, with 'Jéjé' and 'Cool-Ti' right behind him. Before long, the trophies were handed out on the podium, and all the riders had only one wish – to attend the next Monsters Race meeting!

A big thank you to our partners Krax Moto, Moto Discount, PDL, KMP, Silver Performance and the Chatterie des Little's Gargamel. Thank you also to Carole Motorcycle Club, to all those who helped us with organisation (you know who you are!) and the riders and spectators who trusted us and came for this first meeting. Finally, thank you to Matt and Big Jim for their good humor!

Chris Krax Moto

