



The Reece Bancell Scholarship

Ryan Dymond

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As the Queensland Round of the ASBK Championship approached, I must admit that my level of confidence was at an all-time low. My Yamaha had undergone major surgery to rectify a lunched bottom-end which was sustained at Eastern Creek back in early July. And, having collected the bike on the Thursday before this meeting, I had absolutely no prior testing-time in saddle.

Friday was wet and challenging. Official practice kicked-off at around 10am. A 34-bike-strong field fronted for the weekend's epic double-header – for what would be the final ASBK 600cc Superstock meeting for 2010. Even though I had anticipated a difficult weekend ahead, it was an awesome feeling to be back on-board my Reece Bancell Yamaha R6. The level of competition in Superstock is always very high, and my lack of time on the bike wasn't going to make the task ahead any easier.

With six races planned over the course of Saturday and Sunday, we also confronted qualifying on Friday. It was such an awesome feeling to plonk myself into P2 – my first front-row start in this

category.

Saturday's Race 1 came around pretty damn quickly. With clear blue skies forecasted throughout the weekend, I was hoping to continue my wet weather form, this time on a dry circuit. The day transpired remarkably well. Posting 6-3-6 results, I finally experienced what it was like to stand on a podium in the senior ranks in race two – I'm still lost for words!

I awoke Sunday morning feeling much more confident. My starts were great. And with a bike that was working well, I was determined not to reflect on my last race meeting wondering if I could have performed better. Although I didn't make it to the podium again, recording 6-4-4 results furnished me with a phat-arse wad of points which sling-shotted me from 11th place in the Championship to 5th outright.

In my 11-years of racing motorcycles, I can now honestly say that being awarded with the Reece Bancell Scholarship was the highlight of my career. To be given the opportunity to represent Reece has been a privilege beyond belief. It's just a shame that my on-track performance this year realistically didn't prove my worthiness.

I've had such a privileged childhood as a result of racing. I've had the pleasure of meeting some truly amazing people, have visited many wonderful places throughout Australia, France and Portugal, penned my own columns for MCNEWS and AMCN, and have actually won the odd title here and there.

Unfortunately though, I've confirmed the old adage, 'All good things must come to an end'. My budget was all but exhausted before the season began, when I cart wheeled my R6 at Eastern Creek – just a week before Round 1 at Phillip Island. The engine failure in July further destroyed the budget I no longer had; so it's with deep regret that I'll be hanging up my AXO boots for the time being.

I would, however, like to express my sincere appreciation to the following people who have helped and supported me along the way. Firstly, a massive thanks to my mum and dad who have supported me both morally and financially. My technician, Andrew France, for selflessly spending a copious amount of time on my bike (as well as my head) over the past 6-years, his brother Bruce for his at-circuit assistance, my spray painter Steve Maartensz, for always making sure my steed was lookin' the goods, Ben from OGK helmets for keeping my twisted little brain in one piece, Yamaha's Ian Irving, Springwood Suzuki's Tony Armstrong, Aluma-lite's Derek and Rhonda Williams, Michael Day of Pussy Energy Drinks, and Champions Ride Days' Brendan Clarke for their assistance and advice.



Finally, I wouldn't have been racing this year if it wasn't for David and Jill Bancell. I now consider you both part of my family. Not only did you enable me to squeeze another year out of the sport I love, you do so much for the motorcycle-racing community in terms of safety. Yep, you're amazing people! The Scholarship partners, too, ALL deserve a special thank you. **Yamaha Australia, YRD, GYR, Motul, RK Chains, JT Sprockets, Racers Edge, Ficeda Accessories, Keith Muir Photography, Champions Ride Days, Motorcycling Australia, Andersons Stands, IEG and Sportsbike Tyre Warmers.** The Scholarship is lucky to be supported with awesome products, supplied by fantastic people like you.

Congratulations must also go to the Championship winners – Matthew Walters, Aaron Morris and Mike Jones. You all deserve what you've worked so hard for – well done!

Hope to see you again one-day. Good luck with your racing and stay safe.

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