



TRIPLE TIME

Triumph has officially returned to the track at the British GP, after 23 years on the sidelines. The Shell Triumph Speed Triple Challenge ten-lapper is the first support race on Sunday, 24th July. It's attracted some of the country's top riders as well as competitors from Australia, Switzerland, Holland, South Africa and America. Some 40 riders will chase the £10,000 total prize money, with up to £2,000 going to the winner...

At the first Donington Park practice, Supersport 600 front-runner Mike Edwards set the fastest unofficial time for the full circuit, with a stunning 1min 45.2sec. He was closely followed by ex-GP star Ron Haslam, who clocked a 1min 45.7. Close – but then there were ten riders, including James Haydon, Brian Morrison, Nick Jefferies, David Jefferies, Dave Heal and Rob Holden, who were within just 1sec of Edwards' time. "The bikes are heavy and have a soft power delivery, but it's amazing how quickly you can hustle them round the track," Edwards says. "The Speed Triple is actually very forgiving. You don't feel you're going that fast, but the lap times are impressive. The first corner of the race is going to be mayhem. It will be a forest of elbows, knees and machinery all clashing for the same bit of tarmac!"



Team Medd's James Haydon, who rode in the 500 British GP last year, was also surprised by the Triumph. "I was riding to the bike's limits rather than to my own, but I was getting the back end sliding all over the place," he grins. "I ground my footpegs right down. It's a great laugh and the racing will be hairy!"

Nick Jefferies, fresh from his ride on the Britten at the TT, adds: "I've never been on a Speed Triple before and it was great. On GP day, this will be the best-value racing. It will be the one which everyone will remember."

The top names to watch for include: Ray Stringer, Ian Duffus, Brian Morrison, Ron Haslam, Mike Edwards, Rob Holden, Steve Manley, Nick Jefferies, David Jefferies, Robert Dunlop, John Reynolds, Dave Rawlins, Dave Heal – and, of course, *SuperBike's* very own Ian Cobby!