

# TAZ MACKENZIE AND GR MOTOSPORT, CROWNED **BRITISH SUPERSPORT CHAMPIONS** AT BRANDS



Championship Points:  
**Tarran Mackenzie 363**  
James Westmoreland 317  
Bradley Ray 313

Tarran Mackenzie claimed his first British Championship in dramatic style, signing off his rookie Supersport season with a last corner manoeuvre to win the final race.

**The Dickies British Supersport 600:** Entering the season finale with a 12 point lead in the championship meant Tarran's rivals had all the hard work to do if they wanted to challenge the STAUFF Connect Academy/Team WD-40 rider. Taz qualified 3rd for the Saturday Sprint Race, where in a determined mood he put together a fantastic race and last lap to grab 2nd on the line extending his Championship lead going into Sundays main feature event. His last lap, the fastest of the race would also give Taz a pole position start.

A 21-point lead ensured his main Championship rival James Westmoreland had to win this feature race to have any chance of taking the Title away

from Mackenzie. Taz made a blistering start to lead the charge around the 2.4 mile Kent circuit for the first time, things started to get really hectic on the second lap and Tarran settled his Kawasaki ZX6r into 4th place. Westy made a mistake coming out of Druids hairpin crashing out of the race and bringing a red flag stoppage, ending his Championship challenge!

Now 'Dickies British Supersport Champions' both the Team and Tarran wanted to finish the season on a high in the restart of the shortened race. Again starting from the front row Taz made a great start and dropped in behind the on form Bradley Ray to pull away from the pack, both entering >>>

the last lap and some 3 seconds ahead of the perusing pack, it became a straight forward race to the flag with Brad having the advantage, Taz lined it up perfectly to out brake his rival into the last corner and charge to the chequered flag – The perfect Gentleman’s set:- Pole Position, Race Win, Fastest Lap and Championship Title.

**Tarran Mackenzie:** I couldn’t have asked for a better way to end my season! After extending my lead to 21 points with a second place in Saturdays Sprint Race, I was fairly certain I could get the job done on Sunday, as I only had to finish in 12th position. On Sunday I started from Pole and managed to hole shot. I got knocked back to 4th and then the red flags came out due to James Westmoreland crashing, with James out I became Champion which meant I could relax and enjoy the last race of the season with no pressure. Bradley Ray and me pulled away at the front by 3 seconds, I sat behind him for the whole race until the very last corner where I out braked him and came across the line to win my final race of the season! A perfect way to end my season with 5 race wins and 15 podiums! I can’t thank all of my team enough for their hard work throughout this year as well as my personal sponsors, family and friends.

**The MCE British Superbike Championship:** Josh had picked up an injury in training before the event which made the whole weekend very difficult. The Team had made some more great improvements to the Team WD-40 Kawasaki ZX10r which unfortunately Josh was not able to get the most out of. His performance again shows the Teams potential even with the injury just missing out on points.

**Josh Hook:** “Leading into brands hatch I broke my foot in 3 places dirt track training so that being said it was always going to be a hard weekend physically, I was disappointed i had to carry this injury in the final round because we had a good direction with the bike from Assen and we definitely found something which was much better than previous events, so I was happy we made a big step with the bike. Thanks to team WD-40 for all their support this year, coming in



*Geoff and Taz collect the Team and Rider Championship Awards at Brands Hatch*

Half way through the season was always going to be hard but together we have shown signs of brilliance so a huge thanks to my team.

**Brent Gladwin, GR Motosport Managing Director:** “Its been 3 years since we were last able to say that we are British Champions, and who would have believed it could be possible again just 8 short months ago when we had the problems we did.

**2016 Dickies British Supersport Champions sound good to me.**



Josh Hook #16 Team WD-40 Superbike at Brands hatch

Photo credits to Aaron Scott

The STAUFF Connect Academy has done a fantastic Job with 15 podiums, 5 race Wins, 4 fastest laps. Rider Championship, Team Championship, Rookie Rider and Team Championship and it's nice to be able to deliver Kawasaki's first British Supersport Title in 26 years.

The Team gave Taz the bike and confidence to do his job and Taz gave the Team his skill and enthusiasm to WIN the Title 'BRILLIANT'

The Superbike Team has had a challenging time in

what is the world most competitive series, yet we have led races and had top ten finishes. We will be announcing some exciting Superbike news soon when our bikes will again be on show at EICMA in Milan.

I have to congratulate and thank everyone, all their hard work this season made this possible and I am proud of you all.

Finally Thank you to all our sponsors, our families and our fans who have helped make this all possible. 

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