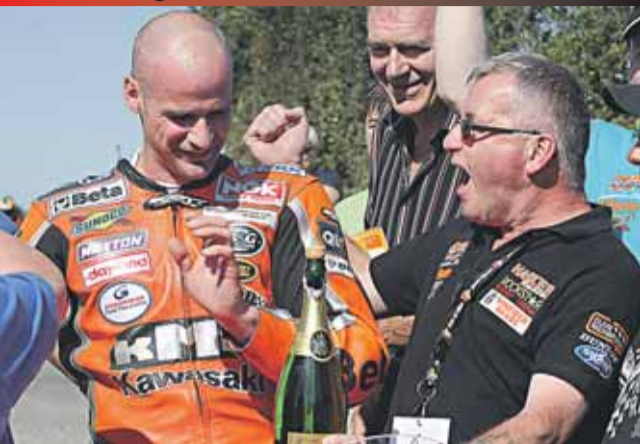


# Road Racers 4 U

BY JACKIE HENRY

## Ryan Farquhar breaks Joey's all time record



Ryan celebrates his achievement. (Photos by JH)

### 25th Anniversary of Killalane Road Races Saturday 12th - Sunday 13th September 2009

The 25th anniversary of the Killalane Road Races run by the Loughshinny Motorcycle Club took place over the weekend 12th - 13th September just outside Skerries in the south of Ireland. The weather was fantastic and the crowds were out in full to witness history being made. Yes, you read it right, road racing history that is. The all time no. 1 road racer Joey Dunlop's record has just been beaten by none other than Dungannon's Ryan Farquhar who took his tally to 121 wins, passing Joey who was on 119 wins. It was a very emotional time for Ryan as he realised what an achievement he has accomplished. Once again, the local road racers, by this I mean all the local Irish road racers, put up some mighty performances throughout the year, so it is about time the local councils come on board with sponsorship for all the events and not leave all the hard work to the small clubs and teams to find finances. Do they not realise the revenue these events bring to the country with all the bikers from across the water attending them?

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those that were killed throughout the year and also to those who are recovering from accidents at home or in hospital.

There were two races run on the Saturday night but unfortunately I was not able to attend. The 600cc Darren Lindsay Invitation Race was won by Michael Dunlop followed by Ryan Farquhar and William Dunlop.

The other race run was Classic A Irish Championship, which was won by Edward Manly from Ashbourne on his Honda 350cc.

Sunday morning saw us up bright and early at 5:30am to head off to Killalane for the day, the driver, the baldy photographer and co-pilot Paul plotted the route without getting us lost again. What did I expect from two Glen men? Ha, ha! The crack was good and so was the banter. Thanks, lads.

Hammy and I head off to see the best possible places to take photos while Paul got himself a good spot to watch the racing as a big crowd was expected.

The first race was the 250cc 2 stroke machines combined with the 650cc class. It was a great race with the Dunlop brothers battling it out and the eventual winner was William from Michael with Davy Morgan third. Ryan Farquhar won his first race on his KMR Kawasaki 650cc machine followed by John Burrows on a 650cc Suzuki.



Ryan on Superbike.

The next race up was the Martin Finnegan Supporters Club sponsored Irish Championship 401cc - 750cc over 6 laps. William Davidson from Kilrea on his Neeson Honda 600cc was the winner from the local racer from Skerries David Yeomans and in third was Noel Carroll from Portlaoise.

Irish Championship Open 201cc - 1010cc saw Ryan take his second race of the day to beat Joey's record and what a celebration at the last corner on his slowdown lap as all his supporters were waiting to open the champagne bottle with him present, it was great to see the joy and relief on his face. Well done, lad. Second place went to Michael Dunlop with Michael Pearson third.

Classic B Irish Championship Race is split in two classes for those machines up to 500cc and those up to 100cc, so you get two results in the same race. The race up to 500cc was won by John Burrows from that hotbed of Dungannon racers. Well done, John. Second, from Cheshire, was Mark Morgan and third also from Cheshire, Richard Ford. In the race for machines from 501cc up to 1000cc, the winner was another Dungannon man Neil McWhirter followed by Allan Brew from Isle of Man, third place I did not get, but Gary Jamison from Glengormley finished a credible 4th.

The first races ever held at Killalane took place in 1984 and some of the competitors who took part then had a parade lap to let the spectators see the difference in the bikes.

600cc Irish Championship was up next and what a race it turned out to be with that man Farquhar winning yet again. **Ryan, you are a local guy and you are truly the Rossi on the roads, long may it continue.** Once again, Michael Dunlop took second and Michael Pearson third with William not far behind in fourth place.

The sixth race up was the 201cc - 400 Support Irish Championship. First place went to Gerry Daniels from Trim on a Suzuki 650cc machine followed by David Howard from Skerries and Sean Leonard third.

The 125cc Irish Championship along with the 400cc machines were up next with the overall winner being Andrew Farrell from Skerries, the 125cc was won by William Dunlop on his PJ Honda, Michael Dunlop was in second and Samuel Dunlop made it a 1, 2, 3 for the Dunlop family. It is also great to see the boys doing so well, keep it lit.

The 401cc - 750cc Support Non-Championship Race saw William Davidson from Kilrea win his second race of the day, in fact the first 4 places were the same as their first race, David Yeomans, Noel Carroll, Gary Miller.

This brought us to the last race of the day, The Grand Final. In the early part of the race saw Ryan and Michael battle it out with Pearson, Sweeney and Archibald close behind. I'm not sure on what lap Michael Dunlop and Ryan had a coming together which let Michael Pearson through to take his first ever road race win and what a time to do it in the final of all places. The boys from Lizzy Drakes send their best wishes and so do I. Second went to Michael Sweeney and third went to Adrian Archibald.

That's the road racing season over for another year, there is just one more short circuit meeting left and that will be held at Bishops court on Sat 17th - Sun 18th of October. It is the last leg of the Irish Superbike Championships so keep that date free in your diary.



John Burrows' Classic bike.



Farquhar fans.



William Dunlop.



Hailwood's old bike.



Des Butler off.



Michael Dunlop.

### Manx Grand Prix 2009

This year's Manx saw local lads do very well with a number of winners. One local rider achieved his first ever race win and what a place to do it on the famous Isle of Man circuit. Brian Mateer is his name and he is one of the many self-supporting riders who finance their passion for road racing and give great enjoyment to those who come along to watch. So the next time you go along to a race meeting make sure you put your hand in your pocket and buy a programme to support racing.

The ever-popular Ryan Farquhar had two successes on the Island to

keep his tally ticking along nicely. Many thanks to Derek Clegg for supplying the photos of Brian.

