

RACE REPORT
APRIL 2022
By Mike Kraaij



FESTIVAL OF POWER
SANTA POD RACEWAY

Every new season the European Dragracing Championship series start in the United Kingdom on the great Santa Pod Raceway track in Wellingborough.

Track owner Trackbak made a complete new racetrack for the 1/4, as the old surface was getting unsafe for the speeds and performance the teams these days are showing.

Now last months the shutdown area was also renovated and a complete new and smooth surface was installed. There were many entry's this new season and they found new sponsors to add to their race program.

The reigning Champions made investments over the winter in chassis or engine program.

As after many years because of the Pandemic it was now possible to come overseas for teams to make their first appearance at the great Santa Pod Racetrack in 2022.



TOP FUEL DRAGSTER were testing this weekend and Ida Zetterstrom from Aland allready going great guns with the Rune Fjeld TFD clocking a very strong 3.837@261.63MPH!!!

This is stout and promising for the upcoming first FIA European Championship round that will also be held at Santa Pod Raceway on 26-29 MAY 2022.



In the great TOP FUEL BIKE CLASS it was Neil Midgley that showed great potential on his debut on the 2nd quickest TOP FUEL BIKE in the World!

He already managed to run a amazing run of 3.78 at the 1/8 with an stout 0.986 60ft!!! a PB for Neil well done to the whole team which I interviewed for Eurodragster and here is the link:

<http://www.eurodragster.com/news/news.asp?Story=april20#april20>

He bought this amazing piece of engineering from Filippou Papafilippou out of Greece who is on a sabbatical and hopefully will be back in the near future.

Other contenders as The Dealer Mr Steve Woollatt who is still going strong over 40+ years!

Al Smith with his immaculate 3 Cylinder Supercharged Nitro Dragbike and from Holland well known Dragbike racer Rene van den Berg.

It was Steve Woollatt who took the 1st Place after Al Smith (no Show) in the Finals.

The class is sponsored by Banks Nightclub



Where to begin I mean SUPER STREET BIKE is getting more popular then ever and the performance of this class is just incredible! The Top Runners were right on their game and it was great to see racers from outside the UK competing again at this amazing Dragrace event.

From Hungary it was Daniel Donat Lences who entered this event with his newly purchased DME(USA) build SUPER STREET BIKE with "special molytube chassis" same as Steve Venables and Jake Mechaell.

All others with Suzuki Hayabusa SSB are still using stock Suzuki OEM Chassis (modified).

And what an weekend it became for this class! Records broken in ET and Speed! Incredible for sure Multiple Champion Steve Venables was uncrowned in his record by the Hungry Hungarian!

He new he needed to step up and he did! He managed to run the fastest ever speed on a Super Street Bike in Europe but in ACU you need to back it up and he could not do this. anyway he still managed an amazing 222.31 MPH!!! But Daniel Donat Lences did the incredible of going as the first in the 6.7's!!! an ET that Steve chased for a long time and came sooo close with 6.800....

The field was strong and teams were also testing out new settings and fuel systems(methanol) that is allowed in the class. Some still use Racefuel(high octane).

Stephen Mead had an memorable weekend and left early. Jake Mechaell had engine faillure and damaged his cilinderhead because of an faulty Fuel Injector. Mark Dainty wheelied big and broke his chassis by landing. Margot Schmidt from Holland attended after many years and was trying a new Fuel System and needs to find the perfect tune up with her husband and crewchief Stefan Schmidt.

Alan Morrison Jnr did also good in qualifying with a strong 7.106@206.14MPH with tuner Rick Stubbins helping him during the races. Dave Smith was going faster each round and great to see him going over 200MPH again, bear in mind that he was the first to go over 200MPH in SSB. And now they are wel over 220MPH!!!

The HIGH Performance this class shows is just incredible!

But mind over matter Raceday is where it is at and after all this great results it was a strong finale in SSB with Steve vs Daniel so to say DME vs DME 220MPM vs 220MPH!
 Will this be the first 220mph side by side 6.7 race on European soil!?
 But Dragracing is Dragracing you can't predict it...never Daniel pulled a cherry! Named he was to quick on the tree! and steve took home once again the Super Street Bike Nr1 Trophy!
 Well done to all other racers and teammembers.



STUART CRANE from WARPSPEED RACING made DRAGBIKE HISTORY!!!

In Funnybike it was also amazing what happend and the Performance was just incredible it was Stuart Crane who made Dragbike history with an incredible record pass of 6.325@213.77MPH!!!
 The quickest ever Funnybike in Europe with his WARPSPEED build plain bearing Suzuki GSX1700 Turbocharged Methanol Funnybike.
 Mark Smith also running for WARPSPEED did good with a strong 7.246@185mph
 And 3rd qualified was Champion Louis Davies with his GSX Suzuki on Nitrous Oxide with an 7.253@177.83
 During the Finals it was Stuart against Louis(broke) and Stuart had a solo run and that was becomming epic!
 Thanks to Dale Leeks from Leeks Landscape to sponsor this class.



Winner Winner Chicken Diner! So it went for the PRO DUTCH Pro Modified team from Holland!
 They came and had the weekend of their lives every run better and stronger and in the end it all came together for them in a Victory and the Nr 1 Trophy and were they pleased and happy!
 Well deserved they worked so hard to achieve this and all the problems from the past are forgotten.

There was another Dragbike class that was showing great performance and that came from Malta in the form of CompBike Racer Shawn Buttigieg with his "Outlaw" type 7 inch slick stretched Suzuki Hayabusa without wheelybar. He managed to run in incredible strong et of 6.7091@215.12MPH and that was also a new Sanat Pod Track record. besides that he managed also to make new ACU records during this raceweekend. I interviewed them also and that can be read also on Eurodragster.com where I work for as reporter in this link: <http://www.eurodragster.com/news/news.asp?Story=april20#april20>



From Malta Shawn Buttigieg and his team with their recordholding Suzuki Hayabusa CompBike

The following records were set during the Raceweekend as in trackrecords and ACU records (back up)

The quickest ever TOP DRAGSTER 1/8 mile in Europe by Ida Zetterstrom(Aland)
3.0175@281.10MPH! (To our knowledge).

ACU FunnyBike ET 6.401 Stuart Crane
ACU FunnyBike Speed 213.77 MPH Stuart Crane(UK)
ACU Super Street Bike ET 6.7760 Daniel Donat Lences(Hungary)
ACU Super Street Bike speed 222.31 MPH Daniel Donat Lences
ACU Comp Bike ET 6.801 Shawn Buttigieg(Malta)
ACU Comp Bike Speed 210.94 MPH Shawn Buttigieg

SANTA POD TRACK RECORDS

Funny Bike ET 6.3251 Stuar Crane / Quickest ever Funny Bike Pass in Europe!
Funny Bike Speed 213.77 MPH Stuart Crane
Super Street Bike ET 6.7760 Daniel Donat Lences
Super Street Bike Speed 222.31 MPH Steve Venables (UK)
Comp Bike ET 6.7091 Shawn Buttigieg
Comp Bike Speed 215.12 MPH Shawn Buttigieg

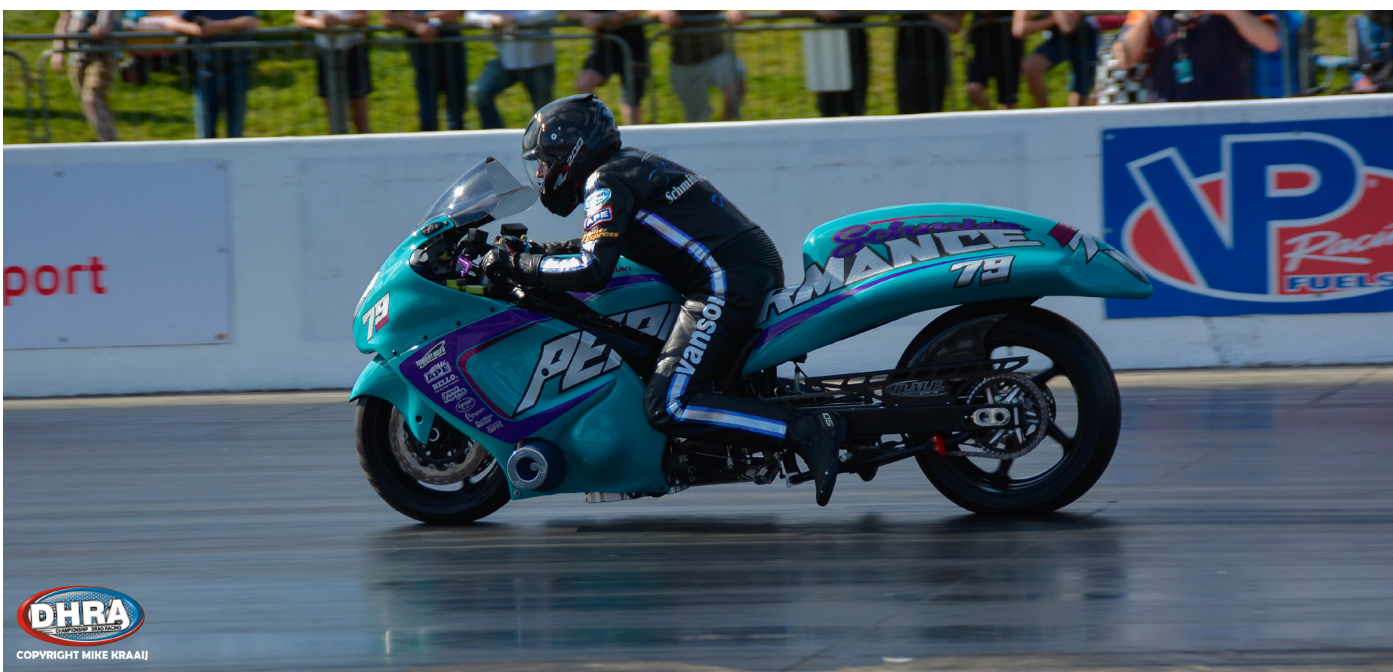
Thanks for SANTA POD Timing crew David Anniwell for the detailed timing data.
www.eurodragster.com/timing/2022festivalofpower/default.asp
santapodresults.com/2022/Festival%20of%20Power/

There were many more classes with great results for sure this report is a sum up of the high lights as there is so much to write about the Festival of Power and that it was overall an epic wekkend for all that attended. The weather gods played for sure in our favor this time and hopefully in the upcoming events at Santa Pod Raceway in 2022.



Racer Jason Phelps with the beautiful GLADIATOR NITRO SUPERCHARGED FunnyCar

The specators all came to Santa Pod over the weekend to once again witness the great sport Dragracing is and the all loved it with the amazing weather it is the perfect combination.



Dutch Power Lady came over to once again compete in the Super Street Bike Class with her newly wrapped Hayabusa bodywork Schmidt Performance but were still searching for an correct tuneup on their changed Fuel system which now contains methanol. besides that she did not qualify but other racers hat to call off because of mechanical faillureand she was back in the elimination ladder on sunday. Unfortunately she became ill from foodpoising and could run on sunday, to say she did feel poorly is an understatement. Good luck Margot and Stefan with your upcoming race at Santa Pod!
Just so you all know she is the only female now racing in this class and only racer from Holland in SSB.

In 8.50 Bike it was an great field with lots of potential for sure and did they were right on the money It was Graig Wright who 1st qualified with his new build Suzuki Hayabusa in beautiful colours The index is offcouse 8.50 at the 1/4 and most of them can go quicker but this is the stepping stone to the King of Street Bike classes Super Street Bike where is no index but makes it lots more expensive to run and to keep up not only in money but also in time and material offcourse.

From an 8.50 to a 6 seconds or low 7 is a huge deal! do not get me wrong and the power to go at least 1.5 seconds quicker on the 1/4 comes with a lot of efforts.

To see these racers doing so great and having lots of fun is what it is all about.

Not only the clinic statistics but to enjoy the sport and friendships that will emerge trough this and that can last for a lifetime. International friends and the season is getting on again hopefully accident free and strong runs to be made by all,

And guess what happend there is another lady racing but not in Super Street Bike but in 8.50 and she is the daughter of Chris "BOIS" Reed who himself is a long time Dragbike Racer in various classes and for many years in Super Street Bike.

Stacy Reed did the amazing task of beating all the "blokes" in the 8.50 class and won the event!

That is just great and to see over the years the Ladies stepping up is great and shows that this Dragrace Sport is for all genders. Just look at TOP FUEL DRAGSTER a Female dominating class.

Is there allready a genderneutral racer out there? Time will tell but the future of Dragracing getting another comeback after the Pandemic and also here in Holland it is getting the upperhand as since years there will again a race at our local DRACHTEN Dragstrip in Holland that is well known for decades and many UK racers loved attending our Dragstrip at The Knobben.

DHRA will be there for the Timing and Mediawork as I will provide.

So you know it will be held on 11 & 12 June 2022 here is the link to the vent:

<https://www.dragracemadness.com/>



FUEL FUNNY CAR RACER just before start up sitting behind a 10.000BHP NITRO SUPERCHARGED V8

All the results can also found about the festival of Power at Eurodragster.com were I also provide work for. www.eurodragstereventcoverage.com/santapod/live/2022festivalofpower/default.asp

This Report is written and made by Mike Kraaij Photojournalist and Editor of DHRA Drag Racing Holland All rights are reserved in this report as same as for Eurodragster.com and Santa Pod Race Way.

I like to thank the Santa Pod staff for their hospitality and great crew to make this event happen.

www.dhra.nl

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See you at the track!