



ISLE OF MAN TT RACES 2006

MAY 27th-JUNE 9th

A GUIDE TO THIS YEAR'S SOLO AND SIDECAR TT STARS





Bruce Anstey en route to victory in the 2005 Superstock TT.



Adrian Archibald has the talent and experience to win in 2006.



Nigel Beattie has already tasted success this season on the Island.



Australian Cameron Donald is sure to impress again this year.



Ryan Farquhar is out for that big bike win.

Rider: **Bruce Anstey**
Age: 36
From: Wellington, New Zealand
Number of TT wins: 4
Number of TT podiums: 13
Fastest TT Lap: 126.52mph (5th)
Team for 2006: TAS Suzuki

A man of few words, the quietly spoken Kiwi does his talking out there on the road and with 4 TT wins and 13 podiums since 2000, he delivers where it matters. Bruce didn't have a great 2005 as he was blighted by mechanical problems, illness and a few crashes but he still added another TT win to his collection and is sure to be there or thereabouts in all of his races this year. Now in his third year with TAS Suzuki, Anstey is a hard charging rider and an incredibly fierce competitor.

Rider: **Adrian Archibald**
Age: 36
From: Ballymoney, Northern Ireland
Number of TT wins: 3
Number of TT podiums: 7
Fastest TT Lap: 126.78mph (4th)
Team for 2006: Team Racing Yamaha

A man with a point to prove, Adrian left TAS Suzuki after a disappointing year in 2005, compounded by running out of fuel whilst comfortably leading the Superstock race. With five podiums in the last six Superbike races, the Ballymoney ace was also on lap record pace in last year's Senior so it's clear that he's a potential race winner in 2006. The new Yamaha machinery won't prove any problem for one of the most experienced riders on the grid and the switch to Team Racing will ensure he's fully motivated.

Rider: **Nigel Beattie**
Age: 27
From: Laxey, Isle of Man
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 1
Fastest TT Lap: 122.52mph (32nd=)
Team for 2006: Team Evomoto Yamaha

One of the younger riders in the field but also one of the most mature, Nigel is a model professional and has been steadily increasing his speeds around the Mountain Course, consequently improving his results. Now a regular fixture in the top ten, the quietly spoken Laxey rider is one of the neatest riders currently plying their trade on the Mountain Course and few would bet against him making it into the top five in 2006. His one podium finish came in 2004, in the now defunct 125cc class.

Rider: **Cameron Donald**
Age: 27
From: Warrandyte, Australia
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 0
Fastest TT Lap: 119.67mph (67th)
Team for 2006: Uel Duncan Racing Honda

Arguably the sensation of TT2005, Donald left with the much coveted Newcomers Trophy and only just missed out on a top ten finish on his debut, also lapping a whisker under 120mph. A two-time winner of the 600cc Macau Grand Prix, Cameron went on to excel at the Ulster Grand Prix and comes to this year's TT as part of the formidable Uel Duncan Racing squad. One of the most exciting road racing prospects to emerge in recent times, he now has top class machinery at his disposal so expect to see the likeable Australian shine even further.

Rider: **Ryan Farquhar**
Age: 30
From: Dungannon, Northern Ireland
Number of TT wins: 2
Number of TT podiums: 6
Fastest TT Lap: 125.74mph (10th)
Team for 2006: TAS Suzuki

One of the most determined riders on the grid, Farquhar has always excelled on the 600cc and Production-based machines but success has so far eluded him in the Superbike category. Now part of the formidable and very successful TAS Suzuki squad he now has the chance to put that right and it will be interesting to see if he can deliver on his promises. The 600cc Suzuki isn't the most competitive so it could well be the bigger capacity classes that give him his best chance of success this time around.



Martin Finnegan picked up his first podium in 2005 and posted a best lap of 127.01 mph.

Rider:	Martin Finnegan
Age:	25
From:	Lusk, Southern Ireland
Number of TT wins:	0
Number of TT podiums:	1
Fastest TT Lap:	127.01 mph (3 rd)
Team for 2006:	Alpha Boilers Klaffi Honda

Finnegan has been carrying the mantle of 'the great young hope' around his neck for the last few years but his professional and mature approach paid dividends in 2005 when he scored his first ever TT podium. However, it was his final lap in the Senior race that caused a stir with a speed of 127.01 mph making him the 2nd fastest rider still competing on the Island. With factory support coming from Klaffi Honda, the big Lusk man has another year's experience under his belt and has all the talent and support to make it onto the top step of the podium in June.



Ramsey based Welshman Jason Griffiths starts the climb over the mountain.

Rider:	Jason Griffiths
Age:	35
Lives:	Ramsey, Isle of Man
Number of TT wins:	0
Number of TT podiums:	11
Fastest TT Lap:	125.95 mph (9 th)
Team for 2006:	Yamaha UK

One of the most consistent and stylish riders on the grid, Griffiths is also one of the most deserving of a TT win, the only major accolade missing from his CV. The Ramsey-based Welshman shows no sign of slowing down despite a high profile job for Yamaha UK, and he cannot be ruled out of honours in any of the classes. Rode exceptionally well in 2005 on his way to winning the overall Junior prize.



Big H will be looking for that elusive podium come June.

Rider:	Paul Hunt
Age:	44
From:	Braddan, Isle of Man
Number of TT wins:	0
Number of TT podiums:	0
Fastest TT Lap:	123.98 mph (14 th)
Team for 2006:	Cringle Construction/Nagor

In a career now spanning 25 years, the Braddan fireman gets better with age and on equal machinery is more than a match for anyone. A former Senior Manx Grand Prix winner, Big H is the fastest Manxman ever to have lapped the Mountain Course, a record he will be looking to consolidate in 2006 and having just missed out on a podium in last year's Superstock race, he will be keen to go one step further this time around. A competitive Superbike will also ensure he features in each and every race.



Ian Hutchinson will feature strongly on the McAdoo Kawasaki.

Rider:	Ian Hutchinson
Age:	25
From:	Bingley, England
Number of TT wins:	0
Number of TT podiums:	0
Fastest TT Lap:	122.90 mph (28 th)
Team for 2006:	McAdoo Kawasaki Racing

Another one of the current crop of exciting youngsters on the real road-racing scene, Hutchinson comes to this year's TT with the returning McAdoo Kawasaki squad, who have enjoyed considerable success in the past. The Yorkshireman fully deserves his chance and it will be interesting to see how far up the leaderboard he can progress now he has competitive machinery in all of the classes. Having scored top ten finishes already, the 25-year old could well prove to be one of the stars of the fortnight.



7 times TT winner Ian Lougher

Rider:	Ian Lougher
Age:	42
Lives:	Dromara, Northern Ireland
Number of TT wins:	7
Number of TT podiums:	24
Fastest TT Lap:	126.49 mph (6 th)
Team for 2006:	Stobart Honda/Blackhorse Finance Honda Racing

The most experienced rider in the field and, without doubt, one of the greatest road racers ever to have graced the public roads, what Ian doesn't know about the sport isn't worth knowing. The Ulster-based Welshman enjoyed a highly successful 2005 and is the chosen rider for the returning Paul Bird Motorsport team and is a potential race winner in all of his races. He craves a big bike TT win more than anything else as it is the only accolade he has left to achieve in his distinguished career – 2006 could well be the year he achieves that final dream.



Japanese rider Jun Meada turns on the style during last year's Junior TT.



Guy Martin - exhuberant as ever!



The current King of the Mountain - 8 times winner John McGuinness.



Chris Palmer will campaign the factory backed MV Augusta.



Ray Porter sweeps through Bedstead.

Rider: Jun Maeda
Age: 38
From: Kyoto, Japan
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 0
Fastest TT Lap: 124.78mph (12th)
Team for 2006: Aiming Sport Honda

Having made his TT debut in 1997, it may have taken Maeda longer than he would have liked to make a serious impression on the TT results but when he did, he did it in style. Four top ten finishes came his way in 2005 and a lap of 124.78mph in the Senior has elevated him to the 12th fastest man in the history of the event. Always armed with immaculate and fast Honda machinery, the Japanese ace will be rewarded in 2006 with better start numbers and could go even further than his two 6th place finishes last year.

Rider: Guy Martin
Age: 24
From: Kirmington, England
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 1
Fastest TT Lap: 126.48mph (7th)
Team for 2006: AIM Racing Yamaha

Arguably the most talented rider appearing at this year's TT, 24-year old Martin finished on the podium and lapped in excess of 126mph in only his second year of racing at the TT, a staggering achievement and one that earned him the respect of the whole paddock. He was the only rider to finish in the top six in all of his races in 2005 and he has made no secret of his desire to win a TT race. Now with the official Yamaha team, Martin will benefit from the expertise of the Steve Mellor-run squad and he now has the opportunity to realise his dream.

Rider: John McGuinness
Age: 33
From: Morecambe, England
Number of TT wins: 8
Number of TT podiums: 18
Fastest TT Lap: 127.68mph (1st)
Team for 2006: HM Plant Honda Racing

With 3 Superbike wins in the last four races and 5 wins in two years, McGuinness is the man they all have to beat. The Island's current Number 1, the former British Champion also holds a clutch of lap records, including the outright lap speed, and his smooth style suits the rigours of the Mountain Course down to the ground. He has an incredible knack of putting in scintillating speeds from a standing start, particularly over the first 9 miles and has, essentially, had the races won as early as the end of lap one. Now a member of the official HM Plant Honda, 'Flint' could well walk away with all four victories to his name.

Rider: Chris Palmer
Age: 42
Lives: Castletown, Isle of Man
Number of TT wins: 2 (plus 2 class wins)
Number of TT podiums: 4
Fastest TT Lap: 121.37mph (49th)
Team for 2006: FCL Racing/Solway Slate & Tile/Robinson & Tonge

Small in stature but big in ability, the Castletown-based Englishman is no longer considered as just a small bike rider. Two-time winner of the 125cc class, where he holds the lap record, Palmer finished in the top ten in both the Junior and Senior races last year and will be riding a factory MV Augusta at this year's event, a truly exotic machine. The bike will suit Palmer and should enable him to lap quicker and climb further up the results sheets. One of the friendliest riders in the paddock, Chris is sure to feature prominently in 2006.

Rider: Raymond Porter
Age: 28
From: Lifford, Southern Ireland
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 1
Fastest TT Lap: 124.23mph (13th)
Team for 2006: JD's Motorcycles Yamaha

A former winner of the Newcomers Manx Grand Prix, Porter will be competing in only his third TT but is a definite contender for victory, especially in the Junior race. It will also be just his second time on a Superbike and having already lapped in excess of 124mph, expect the Irishman to add considerably to that and seriously challenge the factory-backed riders. Part of the impressive JD's squad, Porter always raises his game at the International meetings and his progress in 2006 will be watched with interest.



Carl Rennie and Hawk Kawasaki will feature amongst the front runners.



The best Sidecar race in the world!



Moly and Hallam in record breaking action.



Crowe and Hope aim to challenge Moly for more TT wins.



Norbury and Parnell are out to break the manx domination.

Rider: Carl Rennie
Age: 35
From: Burscough, England
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 0
Fastest TT Lap: 120.20mph (61st)
Team for 2006: Hawk Kawasaki

Carl has achieved considerable TT success in the past despite competing on underpowered and under financed machinery. The Lancastrian put together a string of impressive results last year and has been rewarded for his efforts as the official rider for Hawk Kawasaki. The Stuart Hicken-run outfit has proved to be one of the most professional and most competitive teams in the BSB paddock and will provide Rennie with machines that could propel him into the top ten once more. The involvement of such a high profile BSB team is a welcome addition to the entry and Rennie is sure to benefit.

SIDECARS

Driver: Dave Molyneux
Ages: 42
From: Regaby, Isle of Man
Number of TT wins: 11
Number of TT podiums: 18
Fastest TT Lap: 116.04mph (1st)
Team for 2006: HM Plant Honda Racing
Passenger: Craig Hallam

Quite simply, the greatest sidecar driver ever to have competed at the Isle of Man TT Races. Now in his 20th year of competing at the TT, Moly just keeps on getting quicker and quicker and the speeds he continues to produce defy belief. Not only is he an awesome driver, he's also one of the most technically gifted and builds his own outfits, using modern technology and innovation to create a missile. Fully deserving of the support of the HM Plant Honda team, it would take an incredibly brave, or foolish, man to bet against Moly taking a double victory.

Driver: Nick Crowe
Age: 35
From: Jurby, Isle of Man
Number of TT wins: 1
Number of TT podiums: 6
Fastest TT Lap: 112.83mph (2nd)
Team for 2006: A&J Groundworks Honda
Passenger: Darren Hope

A podium finisher as a passenger, Crowe only started competing as a driver at the TT in 2002 but made an impression immediately and has put together a remarkable run of results. With one win and five runner-up spots in the last six races to be run on the Mountain Course, only a certain Dave Molyneux is depriving the Jurby man of greatness but his results speak for themselves and he continues to push his fellow Manxman onto new heights. Ecstatic with his debut win in 2005, Nick is the most likely challenger to Molyneux and he is ideally placed to become the second sub-20 minute driver.

Driver: Steve Norbury / Scott Parnell
Age: 35
From: Castleford, England
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 7
Fastest TT Lap: 110.93mph (4th)
Team for 2006: Lockside Engineering Yamaha
Passenger: Scott Parnell

Norbury is the third member of the current 'Big 3' and was unlucky to have missed out on his first TT win in 2005 but with four podiums in the last four races, he's getting ever closer to achieving that dream. Coming from a family steeped in motorcycling history, Steve is one of the smoothest F2 Sidecar drivers and continues to be a model of consistency. With Scott Parnell back in the chair, after being forced to miss TT2005 with injury, expect to see the amiable Yorkshireman back on the podium, on at least one occasion.



Neary and Bond sweep through Signpost.



Former World Champion Klaus Klaffenbock is also out for podiums.



World Sidecar Contenders Tom Hanks and Phil Biggs return to the TT.



Also returning are top pairing Andy Laidlow and Patrick Farrance.



Driver: **Simon Neary / Stuart Bond**
Age: 26
From: Leeds, England
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 0
Fastest TT Lap: 110.06mph (6th)
Team for 2006: Tee Bee Yamaha
Passenger: Stuart Bond

One of the younger generation of sidecar drivers, Neary only made his TT debut in 2002, when he was the best newcomer; but since then has progressed each and every year and was one of the stars of 2005, when he became only the 6th driver ever to have lapped in excess of 110mph. Runner-up in the British F2 Sidecar Championship for the last two years, Neary has the talent, and now the experience, to push for honours in 2006 and although a win is probably out of reach, he could be the driver to get in amongst the 'Big 3'.

Driver: **Roy Hanks**
Age: 57
From: Erdington, England
Number of TT wins: 1
Number of TT podiums: 9
Fastest TT Lap: 109.55mph (8th)
Team for 2006: Rose Hanks Racing
Passenger: Dave Wells

The most experienced man in the field, Hanks is approaching his 40th TT appearance but still gets quicker and quicker. A race winner in 1997, Hanks continues to get top five finishes and with Dave Wells in the chair, the pairing are model professionals. Dedicated to the sidecar cause, wins and podium places may be out of reach but this won't deter Hanks and he will continue to give 100% and gain results of the highest order.

Driver: **Tom Hanks / Phil Biggs**
Age: 37
From: Erdington, England
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 3
Fastest TT Lap: 108.84mph (9th)
Team for 2006: Hani Racing Team
Passenger: Phil Biggs

Overall winner in 1997, Hanks competed for a number of years as a passenger to Uncle Roy, but switched to the controls and had immediate success. Three podiums in three years followed before he moved into the World Championship scene where he became one of the leading lights, scoring numerous podiums and top 5 championship positions. His last TT appearance was in 1999 but he is still the 9th fastest driver to have lapped the 37 ¾ mile course and is undoubtedly a world class act. Once he re-acquaints himself with the Mountain Course he will be challenging for top five positions and his return is a huge boost to the entry.

Driver: **Andy Laidlow**
Age: 33
From: Appleby, England
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 0
Fastest TT Lap: 108.41mph (11th)
Team for 2006: Team LFR
Passenger: Patrick Farrance

Another returnee to the Island, Laidlow last competed in 2003 when he finished 2nd overall with Farrance in the chair for the first time. Switched his attentions to the World Championship for the last two years, finishing in an excellent 5th overall in 2005 but returns to the TT in 2006 armed with one of the all-new LCR chassis'. Laidlow is the 11th fastest driver ever and has the expertise of multiple World Champion Steve Webster in his corner to help manage his efforts this year.



Former World Champion Klaus Klaffenbock is also out for podiums.



Glyn Jones and Ivan Murray putting in another eye catching performance.



William Dunlop in action at the Southern 100 Road Races.



Talented teenager Conor Cummins is a star of the future.



Tim Poole - star of the 2005 Southern 100.

Driver: Klaus Klaffenbock
Age: 37
From: Austria
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 0
Fastest TT Lap: 107.21mph (26th)
Team for 2006: Klaffi Honda
Passenger: Christian Parzer

World Sidecar Champion in 2001, Klaffenbock has been one of the world's finest sidecar drivers for over a decade, something he has proved in just two years of competing at the TT. A top ten finisher at just his second attempt, Klaffi is a huge fan of the Island and has improved his speeds considerably since that first, tentative lap in 2004. With a team infrastructure good enough to rival anyone, in both solos and sidecars, 2006 could be the year when he makes the step up onto the podium.

Driver: Glyn Jones
From: Regaby, Isle of Man
Number of TT wins: 0
Number of TT podiums: 0
Fastest TT Lap: 104.18mph (61st)
Team for 2006: DSC Honda
Passenger: Ivan Murray

Manxman Jones first competed on the Mountain Course as a solo competitor, finishing 2nd in the 1998 Senior Newcomers Manx GP. He switched to the sidecars in 2002 where he has now lapped in excess of 104mph, thus becoming the only man to lap on a solo above 110mph and a sidecar above 100mph. His best result in the F2 class came in 2002 when he finished 12th but he was running inside the top ten in 2005 until machine problems on the final lap dropped him to 15th. He has also been heavily involved as a sponsor supporting a number of local riders and with the experienced Murray in his new Molyneux outfit, another strong week can be expected.

NEWCOMERS

Mark Miller: A two-time podium finisher at Macau, American Miller is a star around the Chinese colony and a regular top ten finisher in AMA Championship races. Miller has been preparing for his TT debut since last year and is an exciting talent who has the potential to be one of the stars of the week

Jeremy Toye: Like Miller, Toye has been a consistent performer in AMA Superbike races over the last few seasons regularly finishing in the top 12. Two appearances at Macau have seen him finish 7th and 9th so another quick American who is sure to feature prominently.

William Dunlop: Son of TT legend Robert, William makes his long awaited TT debut in the Junior and Senior races. Has already proved himself on the roads back home and his neat, smooth style is sure to suit the Mountain Course. A lot of pressure on him but he is mature enough to handle it and do his own thing.

Mark Buckley: With top ten finishes already achieved at the North West 200 and Ulster Grand Prix, Buckley is part of the Blackhorse Finance Honda team and with Ian Lougher providing expert tutelage, the Scotsman is sure to be one of highest placed newcomers at the end of race week.

Conor Cummins: At just 19 years of age, Ramsey resident Cummins will be the youngest rider in this year's TT but he already has a wealth of experience on the short circuits. He has been brought up on the TT and although on a steep learning curve, he has a lot of potential and in years to come could be a real star.

James Edmeades: Like Cummins, Edmeades has two years experience of the Virgin Mobile Yamaha R6 Cup under his belt but he has also been riding Superstock machines for the last 18 months. Young and talented, 2006 will be very much a learning year but he has the credentials to be a TT star of the future.

Tim Poole: A star performer at the Southern 100, Poole was a regular top ten finisher in the British Supersport Championship in recent years and has been studying the TT Course in great depth for his debut. A very fast and talented rider who is sure to impress.

Sandor Bitter: Hungarian rider Bitter has a strong CV which includes top ten results in the World Endurance Championship and strong performances in the Daytona 200. A Red Bull athlete, Sandor's ambition is to compete successfully at the TT and with a strong team behind him, he is sure to excel in June this year.

Words by Phil Wain.

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