



A hard weekend in QLD for round 2 of ASBK at a new track for me, Queensland Raceway near Ipswich. Typical QLD weather being hot and humid. I had never ridden there before

and had to learn the track with three 25min practise sessions on Friday. It didn't take me long to learn the basic track which has 8 corners only two being left. Very heavy braking after long straights with stop and go corners, and probably the bumpiest tracks I've ridden. The lap times were already close in practise with 16 riders covered by 3 seconds. I ended up 7th overall knowing where I had to make up time for qualifying on Saturday.

With track temps reaching over 50 degrees the morning session was going to be the fastest as grip levels would drop later in the day. Going out with a clear track I was able to go quicker straight away with a small change made to the bike with a 1min12.835. After 6 laps, come back into pits to see where I was and being in 9th wasn't what I wanted. Knowing I needed to drop 0.5secs to get onto the second row I started dropping time and ended up with a 1min12.427. This landed me 7th on the grid after three laps of identical times trying to get another 0.1 of a second to move to 6th. I still didn't feel super comfortable on the track and felt I could have done better. The times are so close I felt confident to find my feet and move up in the race.



We still had another qualifying session later that afternoon but on old tyres I knew it was going to be harder to go much faster. I used it as a good opportunity to focus on getting fine tuning the track to put in smooth laps. I was able to do consistent lap times but not any faster. I stayed in 7th as no one else went quicker.

Sunday is where our weekend took a turn downhill. With two 14 lap races scheduled I only ended up completing 7 laps. After a bad start dropping back to 9th I started pushing through the field and was up to 5th by lap 4 and feeling the best I had all weekend. With the front 4 having pulled a gap I knew it would be hard to catch them. So, I focused on getting a gap to the rider behind me. After pushing for two laps I started getting a gap and then on lap 7 I ran slightly wide on exit of turn 1 and tipped in a little late for the fast 3rd gear turn 2. Being off the race line by a meter and on the dirty part of the track I lost the front before even getting pass the corner entry. I came off fine but the bike, not so much. This meant the end of our weekend as we currently only have one bike and didn't have the parts to fix it. To say I was disappointed is an understatement as I had been struggling all weekend, then just as I found some pace it got thrown back at me. It's part of racing and I know what happened so have moved on from it. We'll regroup and come back stronger for the next round in Goulburn 22-24th April at Wakefield Park which is one of my favourite tracks.

Can't thank dad and Bill enough for the trip up and back and making sure the bike was in top condition. All of our great sponsors that back us and allow me to chase my dreams doing what I love, I wouldn't be able to do it without you:

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