

## Donington Park Track & Information Day



Seminar (from left), Honda's Simon Buckmaster & Michael Rutter with Jamie Gillespie & LA's Scott Richardson.

Upper limb amputees in the race.

Para-Rallying & T12 paraplegic, Dave Hawkins braves the pillion experience.

The Limbless Association's inaugural Amputee Motorcycle Track & Information Day was held at Donington Park on Monday 20th September and proved to be incredibly successful and rewarding day for the 300 plus attendees.

More than one hundred and twenty riders (including upper and lower limb amputees) spent the day riding around the Grand Prix circuit. Onlookers were amazed to see one-armed and one-legged bikers out braking and out pacing able-bodied riders.

In addition to the track action, twenty motorcycle/amputee related stands exhibited in the conference centre. These included prosthetics, adaptive technology (such as thumb operated gearshifters), tailor made motorcycle clothing, motorcycle support groups, road safety organisations, trike and quad manufacturers.

Honda Racing were very generous supporters of the event. They displayed two of their championship racing motorcycles, which were accompanied by their team racer Michael Rutter and Race Co-ordinator Simon Buckmaster (himself a below knee amputee) who signed autographs and answered questions all day. Recently crowned British Superbike champion John Reynolds was amongst numerous other celebrity motorsport guests who were genuinely astonished by what they saw, both in the conference centre and on the circuit.

Honda, along with Allan Jefferies Motorcycles, also provided motorcycles for the event's 'Amputee Pillion Laps', which proved to be incredibly popular. Amputees, paraplegics and

able-bodied volunteers took a chance in a lifetime series of laps as pillion passengers to international racers Niall Mackenzie, Mike Edwards and Dave Wood.

The delight and exhilaration on every pillionrider's face, as they completed their laps, was a sight to behold and an experience they will never forget. David Rose, an LA Vice President, was one such thrilled passenger who recommended it so highly that he persuaded his son to have a go too!

Prosthetist Jamie Gillespie gave a very informative and well received presentation to more than fifty attendees about prosthetics for motorsport and encouraged 'users' to build a good relationship with their Prosthetist, to achieve an appropriate specialist limb for motorsport (or any unusual activity).

The purpose of the day was 'sharing information', and to inspire others. All the prosthetic companies found the day incredibly beneficial, listening to 'users' talk about their needs and offering their support. Amputees also found it very informative to see what products, or possible solutions to their goals, were available.

Our thanks go out to all exhibitors and to the hard grafting volunteers including Sally Shelley and Tony Crowe, without whom this great day would not have been possible.

Throughout the day, event organiser Scott Richardson (LA's Outreach Officer) was inundated with enquiries as to when next year's one is, so it may very well become part of the LA's calendar...



The Pits

The Exhibition



The Track

Celebs: Niall MacKenzie (left) and John Reynolds.