

## **THE PERFECT PARTNERSHIP**

**From 2002, back when RL360° was Scottish Life, right through to 2014 as we celebrate our management-led buyout and rebrand to RL360°, there's no doubt we have enjoyed a successful partnership with the TT.**

**But our association with the thrilling event is not only on the sponsorship side. RL360°'s Finance and Commercial Director Mike Crellin enjoyed a successful TT career, from which he retired in 2008. At that point, he had completed 14 TT races, ranking 44<sup>th</sup> in the all time number of finishes (one ahead of Giacomo Agostini).**

**Here we take a look at the TT stories which have made the headlines over the past 13 years.**

### **2002**

We began our long association with the TT as the event was held for the first time in two years. It was back to business as usual following the disastrous UK foot-and-mouth outbreak of 2001, which led the Isle of Man Government to cancel the event in an effort to protect Manx livestock. Organisers celebrated with a one-off cash injection of around £200,000 plus a bonus of £5,000 to each race winner. On the track, David Jeffries led from start to finish in the Formula One race, while Richard 'Milky' Quayle was crowned a local hero when he became the first Manxman to win a solo TT since 1967 with victory in the Lightweight 400cc.

### **2003**

The death of lap record holder David Jefferies during practice on Thursday 29 May cast a shadow over this year's event. Adrian Archibald dedicated his emotional victory in the Formula One to his TAS Suzuki team mate. Chris Palmer, now a Manx resident, took his first TT win in the Ultra Lightweight event while John McGuinness, who only got hold of his bike on the eve of the race, won the Lightweight 400cc TT.

### **2004**

It was all change this year as the Auto-Cycle Union signed a 20 year agreement to hand over control of the TT to the Isle of Man Government, and for the Manx Motor Cycle Club to organise the races. John McGuinness celebrated a hat-trick of wins in the Formula One, the Junior and the Lightweight 400.

- Mike Crellin had a big altercation with a Manx stone wall in practice and subsequently (ie once out of rehab) announced his retirement.

### **2005**

The Superstock race saw victory for Bruce Anstey while John McGuinness scored a double with the newly named Superbike and Senior TTs. There were also wins for Ryan Farquhar and Ian Lougher in the Supersport races while the Manx crews of Dave Molyneux/Dan Sayle and Nick Crowe/Darren Hope shared the sidecar wins.

- Mike's swansong year – "one last time".

### **2006**

John McGuinness was in record breaking form with another double in the Superbike and Senior and he added the Supersport for good measure as well. Anstey retained the Superstock title while Manx pair Nick Crowe and Darren Hope completed a sidecar double.

- A slight case of unfinished business for Mike, but this was “definitely” going to be the final year.

## **2007**

The Centenary TT and John McGuinness didn't disappoint with a new lap record of 130.354mph in the Senior TT, having also won the Superbike race at the beginning of the week. Anstey completed a hat-trick of Superstock wins with his third victory in three years while Ian Hutchinson won his first TT in the Supersport class.

- It was the Centenary year and couldn't be missed, but that was, once again, “definitely” the last time for Mike.

## **2008**

Cameron Donald wins his first TT with victory in the opening Superbike race and followed it up by ending Anstey's domination of the Superstock class. Steve Plater won his first TT race, the Supersport, in only his second year after Anstey was disqualified but the Kiwi fought back to win the second Supersport race. John McGuinness finally recorded a race win in the last race, the Senior TT, while Nick Crowe and new passenger Mark Cox were double winners in the sidecar class.

- Ok, now married, this definitely was the last time Mike competed, and so he decided he may as well do every solo race (all 5) on the programme. That really was it.

## **2009**

With Honda celebrating their 50th anniversary of racing, it was appropriate that John McGuinness won the opening Superbike race, under the watchful eye of MotoGP legend Valentino Rossi, moving ahead of Mike Hailwood's 14 wins in the process. Ian Hutchinson clocked two wins in a day with victory in the first Supersport race, now sponsored by the newly named Royal London 360° (following the merger of Scottish Life International and Scottish Provident International). The second Supersport race saw Michael Dunlop add his name to the list of Dunlop winners at the TT while Dave Molyneux won the only sidecar race. History was made at the TT with the introduction of electric bikes and Rob Barber and Team Agni won the inaugural race.

## **2010**

Ian Hutchinson swept the board with victory in all five races, becoming the first man to win an historic five wins in a week, a feat that was immortalised in the TT3D: Closer to the Edge film. Ex sidecar world Champion Klaus Klaffenbock, with passenger Dan Sayle, won a popular double in the sidecar race after six years of trying, becoming the first Austrian to win a TT. Mark Miller took the TT Zero electric bike race honours for American team Motoczysz

## **2011**

As the Isle of Man celebrated the Mountain Course Centenary, John McGuinness was back on the top step with wins in the Superbike and Senior races. Michael Dunlop added to his race wins with Superstock victory while Bruce Anstey and Gary Johnson, with his first TT victory, won the two Supersport races. Klaus Klaffenbock, again with passenger Dan Sayle, took his third consecutive TT victory but in the second sidecar race veteran crew John Holden and passenger Andy Winkle came

home to win their first TT after over 20 years of racing at the TT with Holden the oldest ever TT race winner at 54 years of age.

## **2012**

John McGuinness again won the opening Superbike TT and followed it up with his first win in the Superstock class. Bruce Anstey and Michael Dunlop shared the Supersport honours and Ryan Farquhar took the inaugural Lightweight race for SuperTwins machines. The meeting was notable both for the first ever cancellation of the Senior TT, due to bad weather, and the historic first 100mph lap on an electric bike by Michael Rutter on the MotoCzysz machine.

## **2013**

Michael Dunlop set the Mountain Course alight with four race wins in the Superbike, Superstock and both Supersport races, although John McGuinness signalled that he would battle all the way to prevent him winning five with a new lap record on the last lap of the Superbike race - 131.671mph. And McGuinness duly took the Senior from runner up Dunlop in a thrilling final day's racing. It was McGuinness's 41st TT podium, beating the record of the great Joey Dunlop. James Hillier also won his first race with victory in the Lightweight TT. The sidecar races see two new winning teams to the honours board with ex world champion Tim Reeves and perennial winning passenger Dan Sayle taking the first race and the Birchall brothers Ben and Tom winning the second.

## **2014**

A management-led buyout will see new company name RL360° attached to the Superstock race and with all of the leading contenders returning to the Mountain Course, 2014 promises to be one of the most competitive series of races in TT history.