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TEAM NORBAR TAKES THE TITLE



In a thrilling weekend finish to the race season, Team Norbar's Andy Ball sealed the Yamaha Past Masters Racing Club (YPMRC) championship with two podium finishes on the Saturday and some intelligent racing on the Sunday.

Held over the weekend of 29th and 30th September, on the Brands Hatch Indy circuit, the final meeting of this season's Yamaha Past Masters Racing Club (YPMRC) closed with a new champion, Team Norbar's Andy (Bally) Ball.

Going into the four-race programme, Andy was a strong second in the championship table behind Pat Herron. A slide of the bike in qualifying on Saturday fortunately did very little damage to the Yamaha TZR250, but it set Andy's resolve and he battled to finish first and second in the day's two races and also moved up to first in the championship table.

Sunday morning saw the sun shining on Kent's famous short circuit, and Andy Ball waking to a 32-point advantage. With 25 points available for a win at each of the two races scheduled for the day, the pressure was mounting and Andy knew he could not afford a DNF (Did Not Finish). As he says: "Team Norbar always races to win, but I realised that getting caught up in any mishaps on the track could cost me the championship title. The rest of the team were very supportive and willing to give me good advice."

A great start in the first race of the day and determination on the track saw Andy cross the line in fifth place. An equally good result in the afternoon's race sealed the championship for Andy and Team Norbar, with 679 points.

Having started work with Norbar as an engineering apprentice some 15 years ago, Andy is now a very experienced engineer with the company and there is a lot he can do to a TZR – both in terms of riding and maintenance. This quality is recognised across the whole YPMRC paddock, along with the benefits of using world-renowned Norbar torque wrenches.