

TT2011 | THE GREATEST RACE Miniature Sheet

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The Isle of Man Post Office is pleased to present this miniature sheet to celebrate the TT race voted the greatest ever by bike fans in the 100th anniversary year of the TT Mountain Course.

With so many memorable and truly awesome races in TT history, every bike fan has their own favourite ‘most exciting TT race ever’ and many a great debate on this important matter has ensued over a pint of ‘Bushey’s Brew’.

So, in anniversary year, the Isle of Man Post Office decided enough was enough - just which race do the fans think is ‘the Greatest TT Race ever?’

From a short list of ten races chosen by an eminent panel of TT experts we invited the fans to choose a winner. Over 2000 entries were received and of those entries the race voted number one - by a huge majority- was the 1992 Senior Race when the late Steve Hislop beat Carl Fogarty by just 4 seconds! A truly memorable race and a worthy winner.

We asked second-placed man on the day, Carl Fogarty, to recount the race and his exciting account forms the content of our issue text...

“The strange thing about the build up to the Senior race of the 1992 TT was that the two fastest guys there, me and Steve Hislop, had not won a race during the week. There were some other fast riders there, such as Joey and Robert Dunlop and Phil McCallen, but I knew that Steve was the man to beat. He was actually the fastest rider I have ever seen around the TT circuit and if everything clicked for him on the day, I was going to have my work cut out.

As ever we were staying at The Empress Hotel and it’s always an important moment for a rider to pull the curtains back and see what the weather has in store. It was a really nice day, so it was going to be a fast and dry race. I was in the lead from the start and I knew that it must have been Steve in second place. I was still in the lead at the end of the second lap by just two seconds. The Norton was a lot faster in a straight line. In fact my Yamaha was only in the top 10 in one of the three speed traps. I think that is part of the reason it was such a classic race – the fastest bike versus the best handling bike, even though I was already starting to experience major problems. The bike was making such a noise that I had a massive headache. “The faster I go, the sooner I can get off this bike,” I thought.

Steve had reversed the lead on the third lap and pulled into the lead by a few seconds on the fourth lap, despite the fact that I was pulling back time in the pits because the Norton took on more fuel. But somehow I managed to pull five seconds back on the final lap going over the Mountain section, where I was a bit stronger than Steve, even if my bike wasn’t that strong at that point. I had started number 4, with Steve number 19, so when I crossed the line I could hear the commentator counting down before Steve crossed the line to win by four seconds. I can honestly say that nobody could have ridden the Yamaha, in the state it was in, any faster on that day.

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I waited to tell him that I had got the lap record until we were on the rostrum. He was gutted because he always wanted to be the fastest man at the TT. That record stood for an amazing seven years, one of the proudest achievements of my career.”

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