



BMW racer Ian Hutchinson sums up 2016: “A terrific year.”

Success in international road racing and in the Superstock class of the British Superbike Championship: Ian Hutchinson can look back on a great year with the Tyco BMW team. In an interview, he sums up the 2016 season, compares road and circuit racing and speaks about his best moments so far on the BMW S 1000 RR.

Munich (DE), 17th November 2016. No matter if in road racing or on the circuits of the British Superbike Championship: in 2016 Ian Hutchinson (GB) rode from success to success on his Tyco BMW S 1000 RR. At the major road races, including the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy, the 37-year old raced to wins and new records. In the Superstock class of the British Superbike Championship (BSB STK) he finished the season as runner-up.

Hutchinson started the road racing season with a win, a second place and a new lap record at the North West 200. At the iconic Isle of Man Tourist Trophy he extended his impressive tally by another win, two second places and a new lap record. At the Ulster Grand Prix he proved to be unbeatable. Hutchinson not only won all three races in the 1000 cc category, but also set a new world record on his RR: with an average speed of 134.089 mph (215.795 km/h), he took the honours of being the world's fastest road racer. So far this season he has finished every road race he has contested on the podium. And there could be more to come: this Saturday, Hutchinson competes in the legendary Macau GP (CN) on his Tyco BMW S 1000 RR.

In circuit racing, “Hutchy” was no less successful. In the BSB STK he celebrated two wins and a total of nine podium finishes. Hutchinson was one of the title contenders, despite the fact that he sat out one race due to his road racing commitments.

In an interview Hutchinson sums up his 2016 season, speaks about his good feeling on the RR, the support of BMW Motorrad Motorsport and his best moments on the bike so far.

Ian, how would you describe your 2016 season in three words?

Ian Hutchinson: “Fun, successful – and long.”

How do you like the BMW S 1000 RR?

Hutchinson: “I like the RR just from the ride-ability of it. Since I first got on it, the bike has just been very natural for me to ride. It is a comfortable bike to ride hard. I just clicked with the bike. I think at a point in everybody's career they have one bike they click with, and this is the bike I have clicked with for now.”

This season you have been successful in road racing as well as in circuit racing. What are the main differences for a rider between these two disciplines?

Hutchinson: “I ride in different classes. On circuits I race with the Superstock version of the RR, while in road races I compete in the Superstock, the Superbike and also in the Supersport classes. So the biggest difference is swapping bikes and getting used to three different bikes on the road. For me personally, at the moment I ride very similarly on both short circuit and the road racing, because I don't really try to push past the limit on the short circuit. I am always within myself. So I have a very similar style for both racing now.”

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What is the fascination about road racing?

Hutchinson: "It is just a kind of racing that I enjoy and get success out of. Obviously, when you get the success you have the fun. There is a lot of good racing around the Isle of Man. The place is spectacular to race around, and that also goes for the Ulster Grand Prix and the North West 200."

You also had a really great season in the Superstock class of the British Superbike Championship. You finished nearly every race on the podium and ended the season as runner-up. Did you expect before the season started that it would be that successful?

Hutchinson: "No. Obviously, I wanted to get myself back to the point of being able to fight for wins on the short circuit – and it was possible. I did not expect to be as strong as I was and for sure to be fighting for the championship. I thought I would maybe be in the top-five. And to finish nearly every single race on the podium was a terrific year."

How important was the support from the experts from BMW Motorrad Motorsport?

Hutchinson: "Without the support we would have never been able to be as consistent as we are. It was great to ride onto the podium in every road race and in nearly every race on the circuit this year."

You experienced many successful moments on the RR this year – what has been your best one so far?

Hutchinson: "One of them for sure was the victory in the North West 200. It is a hard place to win, and so it was a great feeling to win on the BMW at the North West. And then also the Isle of Man TT. You know: every win at the TT is a great feeling. And then to go to the Ulster Grand Prix and win three races there with the BMW. I also want to name my race wins in the BSB. The one at Cadwell Park felt like a great victory for me, because I had not been to Cadwell Park for six years. It is probably one of the toughest tracks to ride around in the UK, and I won the race there. So they have all been very great wins in their own way."

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