



PHILIP NEILL - TEAM PRINCIPAL:

“ 2003 was Adrian’s first year with TAS Racing, but with the team now into the third season with Suzuki, we had a solid set-up with the bike and the GSX-R1000 K3. It was arguably the leading bike in Superstock specification throughout this period. The 2003 K3 GSX-R1000 was an evolution of the class-leading K1 and K2 model, albeit with a more compact layout, lighter weight and increased BHP – making the bike more than a match for its competitors in 2003.

After a strong winter of preparation and some early season BSB events, Adrian was ready for the challenge. He immediately repaid us at TAS Racing with his win in the North West 200 Production 1000cc class, which we didn’t know at the time, but would end up being his only career win at the event.

2003

# GSX-R1000 [K3] SUZUKI

Adrian will always be better remembered for his double TT Superbike and Senior TT wins [2003] after the loss of his team-mate David Jefferies, but he rode a smart race in difficult conditions at the North West 200 – collecting his solitary International North West 200 win aboard this machine in the Production class. The event was punctuated with inclement weather and controversy but Adrian’s Production 1000cc win on the GSX-R1000 for TAS Racing was celebrated by the local fans and set him up well for the TT that year.

Adrian’s NW200 win was over local rival Ryan Farquhar by just 0.26sec and in doing so, broke the old lap record with a speed of 115.022mph. However, team-mate Jefferies, who finished third only 0.68sec behind Archie, went slightly quicker and set a new lap record of 115.566mph.

Adrian had to settle for second place at the Ulster Grand Prix in the Production class later that year at Dundrod, to a man who would become his team-mate the following season in Bruce Anstey. The Kiwi recorded his maiden victory at the UGP in that Production race, just 0.11sec ahead of Archibald. The Ballymoney man lapped at 127.307mph but Anstey set the lap record with a 127.955mph effort. Adrian would make amends later in the day taking victory in the Superbike race, raising the lap record to an incredible 128.2012mph on TAS Racing’s GSX-R1000 Superbike.

ABOVE  
Adrian in action at the Ulster Grand Prix

## // SPECIFICATION

- ▶▶ RIDER  
Adrian Archibald [NIR]
- ▶▶ SPECIFICATION:  
Production
- ▶▶ BHP:  
180 [Akrapovič exhaust system]
- ▶▶ TYRES:  
Pirelli tyres
- ▶▶ SUSPENSION:  
PLR/K-tech front & Techno-Flex rear
- ▶▶ MAIN SPONSORS:  
Suzuki  
Beacon Security  
Temple Auto Salvage  
Putoline Oils
- ▶▶ RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS:  
2003 International North West 200 Production Race: winner  
2003 Ulster Grand Prix Production Race: second place

