

// FEATURE ARTICLE

HUTCHY - ALL REVVED UP FOR THE TAS-K

16-TIME TT WINNER READY FOR MORE SUCCESS WITH TAS RACING & SYNETIQ BMW

Jim Steinman penned the famous song and lyrics, 'All Revved up and No Place to Go' for that iconic Meat Loaf album, Bat Out of Hell. Possibly a satirical way of describing the return to TAS Racing – and the all-new SYNETIQ BMW team – for 16-time Isle of Man TT winner Ian Hutchinson in the current climate.

A deal secured, a shiny new set of RST leathers; flights booked to join his new team in Northern Ireland for a mid-week March test, followed by a chat show with his new young teammates Brad Ray and Taylor Mackenzie in front of a sell out audience of adoring Irish fans.

Then boom! We were all hit with the Covid-19 lockdown and Hutchy's return had to be put on ice alongside all other plans. The potential of any International Road Racing taking place in 2020, took a major dent, when the jewel in the crown – the Isle of Man TT – was subsequently cancelled. Other events are still scrambling to secure dates, which as we publish, are yet unknown. But one thing is for sure, Hutchy is delighted to be back in the TAS Racing fold and the new SYNETIQ BMW set-up for a road racing campaign, either now or in the future.

And as he explained, he's never been better prepared for a racing season. "I'd decided that I wanted to do some riding in January and even though it was all up in the air, with what I was going to be doing this season – Shaun Muir converted an S1000RR road bike that I'd been riding before Macau last year for him, into pretty much a full Superstock bike for me to take to Spain."

"I did 10 or 12 days at Almeria in different stints and was cycling in between from my base at my Dad's place, just above Alicante. It was a really good January and February as I was also out on my Supersport bike. Almeria is a circuit where I've ridden a lot in the past, so I know where I'm at lap time wise and I was able to ride with people like Richard Cooper and Jason O'Halloran – so yeah I know I'm in the right place," he added positively.



Attention to detail is a speciality of Hutchy's and for anyone who has visited his house, or worked with him in the past, will know what we mean. No stone is left unturned, no question left unanswered, which with respect, leaves little or no ambiguity when agreeing a deal with the Bingley lad.

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"I honestly thought our racing days with Ian had come to an end after our successful partnership through 2016/17. However we are clearly delighted that Ian was not only available but extremely keen on a return to TAS Racing. People may differ in their opinions on the various riders but one thing everyone can agree on, is the utter determination shown by Hutchy time and time again. It never ceases to amaze me the amount of dedication and effort the man puts into his preparation for racing, and for that reason he is the perfect man to lead SYNETIQ BMW into this new chapter of our racing journey. We can only hope there is an opportunity available to celebrate the partnership during 2020."

Philip Neill, SYNETIQ BMW Team Principal



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ABOVE: TAS Racing has the #4 SYNETIQ BMW S1000RR Superbike ready and waiting for Hutchinson.

BELOW: Hutchy observing the stay at home rules for now but is itching to go racing.

Road Racing, which surprised many, was not originally pencilled in as part of the racing curriculum for TAS Racing in 2020, but with the encouragement of new title partner SYNETIQ, and the support of BMW Motorrad in Germany, team principal Philip Neill was quick to map out a plan with his former race-winning rider.

“The deal coming together with Philip and SYNETIQ BMW was perfect for me really,” was Hutchy’s honest response about the team where he enjoyed North West 200, Isle of Man TT and Ulster Grand Prix wins during his tenure in 2016 and 2017.

“I was secretly hoping that would be the case all winter if I’m honest,” he smiled. “Alongside that I’ve been able to put together my own team to do the British Superstock series with Shaun Muir, which means I’ll be getting plenty of track time prior to riding the SYNETIQ BMW on the roads, while also looking to be as competitive as I was in 2016 when I just missed out on the [British Superstock] title.”

That title went to new team-mate Taylor Mackenzie, whom Hutchy had hoped to join in the aforementioned March test week, which was abruptly curt short. So what of the future?

“Yeah I had flights booked for the test and RST had turned around my leathers in just two weeks, then all the restrictions were put in place with the current problems. I was looking forward to testing at Kirkistown with the boys and getting to see everyone again. The last time I rode with the team in 2016 and 2017, before the accident, we had great results and so much fun; so it was pretty devastating not be getting things up and running again.”

Concluding he added somewhat positively: “I’d still like to think that something is going to go ahead. Mervyn [Whyte] is still talking about trying to run the North West 200, but if BSB gets going as well, everyone will want to be racing at the same time. But racing of some sort would be good for sure.”

That positivity and his desire to be ‘out on the prowl down by the edge of the track’ as the song lyrics profess, may well include a trip to Macau in November. But for now it really is a case of, ‘All revved up with no place to go’.

