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NGK - GREG HANCOCK

NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd has helped Speedway star Greg Hancock race to the top of the individual World Championship standings.

The company sponsors the 41-year-old American who on Saturday (June 24) won the FIM Doodson British Grand Prix to sweep to the head of the leader board.

Greg went into the British GP one point behind Poland's Tomasz Gollob, but after notching up 20 points to take the crown for the third time now leads his rival by 12 points with six meetings left.

The British Grand Prix is the biggest Speedway meeting in the international calendar and the Californian raced to victory in front of 40,000-plus fans at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

He said after the race: "There are still six rounds left so I am not counting the chickens before they are hatched."

"It doesn't matter where I am until the last race goes off. Every point is going to count. I'm just going to keep focus and ride hard."

Greg, who was world champion in 1997, took the British crown after winning a fiercely contested final which was re-run after Russian Emil Sayfutdinov was excluded after crashing.

From the outside gate, he powered around the boards on the first bend to take charge of the race from runner-up Nicki Pedersen of Denmark and Australian Chris Holder.

Greg is extremely popular in the UK even though he doesn't race for a British team. He formerly rode for Cradley, Coventry, Oxford and Reading, but now rides for Zielona Gora in Poland and Piraterna in Sweden, where he is based with his wife and two children.



Greg Hancock with the FIM Doodson British Grand Prix winner's trophy

PRESS RELEASE

NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd has been sponsoring him for nearly three years, supplying a range of specialist Iridium racing plugs, for his bikes, which are powered by 500cc GM engines.

The sponsorship came about after John Money, of NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd, met up with Greg's manager Richard Child, who is a friend of NGK distributor Joe Hughes who runs Speedway parts distributor Joe Hughes International of Derby.



Greg Hancock (in the blue helmet) out in front in Cardiff

John said: "At the time Greg was using another company's spark plugs, but after meeting up with Richard I managed to persuade him to try NGK and we haven't looked back since then.

"Greg is well respected within the Speedway world and is very popular with British fans so the tie-up has been very worthwhile."

Greg said: "We use a range of spark plugs depending on the race conditions and atmosphere. The type of spark plugs that we use is very important when it comes to tuning and the air-fuel mixture.

"Everyone in the pit scene keeps an eye on what everyone else is using and NGK's have been the most popular plugs for quite a long time now."

Greg has been an ever-present in the World Championship series since its inception in 1995 and his latest GP win was his 13th.

The Grand Prix series now takes a month's break for the World Team Cup competition before resuming in Italy on July 30.

More information on NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd is available on the company's website www.ngkntk.co.uk and you can follow Greg's progress in the World Championship at www.greghancock.com

For more information visit www.ngkntk.co.uk

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