

Spokesman

St George Motorcycle Club Newsletter
October 2014



COMING UP @ the Club...

Sat 8th / Sun 9th November - Honda Rjays Road Race Series – Sydney Motorsport Park

Sunday 7th December - Club Presentation Day (all disciplines)

Saturday 11th July 2015 – 100 Year Anniversary Gala Dinner

With the last round of the Honda Rjays Road Race Club Championship almost upon us, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors and our volunteer officials for their support during 2014.....we can't do it without you!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday 8th November and Sunday 9th November - Sydney Motorsport Park Eastern Creek

No experience required! Training provided on the day!

Flag marshals, office helpers, lap scorers, bbq chefs, general runners ... we need them all!

Email: secretary@stgeorgemcc or call Jan 02 9521 3715 if you can help out either or both days

AND RIDERS, DON'T FORGET this is your LAST CHANCE to provide an official for the year.

CONTACT DETAILS

General Post - PO Box 249, Caringbah NSW 1495 / **General Email** - secretary@stgeorgemcc.com
Membership Post - PO Box 509, Penrith NSW 2751 / **Membership Email** - stgmembers@pnc.com.au
Phone - 02 9524 6456 (Bus. hours), 02 9540 5602 (After hours) ****PLEASE - NO CALLS AFTER 8PM****

CLUB MEETINGS – All Welcome!

GyMEA/Miranda Bowling Club at The Kingsway GyMEA – every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 8pm

Dirt Track Report

The final round of our 2014 dirt track club championship was held at Fairburn Park, Canberra on September 14th.....this report is for those who forgot it was on.

The club organised a couple of Toyota mini buses to transport some of the officials down to Canberra on Saturday afternoon. We stayed at the Golden Age Motel just a couple of k's from the circuit.

It was down to the local RSL for dinner, where we found a table big enough for all of us. A live band played some rock'n roll, and destroyed some Roy Orbison, while some of us got up and danced, the rest got stuck into their dinner. Then back to the motel for an earlyish night.

Breakfast was from 7am and we were the first to the restaurant right on 7am and just as well, because by 7.15 the place was packed with seniors going to Canberra's Annual Flower Show, although Syd and Chris would've fitted in nicely.

We arrived at the track before 8am, caught up with Greg Heatley (C of C) and with help from Steve Wyres, Anthony Ayres, Karen and David O'Regan, got stuck into scrutineering, while Peter Snow, Zara Griffin, Jenny Wyres looked after the sign on.

Tony Roberts took on the role of starter while Adam helped on the start line. Congratulations to Tony, we had no false starts all day! With Zara at flag 1, Steve at flag 2, Chris Batt at flag 3 and Chris Baker at flag 4 we were underway by 9.15. With 3 laps for practice on the long track for each class, it wasn't long before we were racing.

Chequered flag duties were handled by Dennis Griffin-Colls who did a great job, not missing a single last lap board or leader for the chequered flag.

With only 67 entries and a fine group of experienced and novice officials, we had completed three full rounds of racing by 3pm. Shortly after trophy presentation we were on our way home after a successful event. Thanks again to the ACTMCC.

Crispy Bacon

Yellow Means STOP?!?

The annual St George MCC Go Kart night was held recently at the indoor kart complex at Villawood. We had 16 competitors on the night with the help of Michael Rookes' blended family and their friends.

With 16 starters we broke up into 2 groups of 8. The first group, which included 10 year old Troy, were given the drivers' briefing and sent on their way. The second group were given the briefing notes to read themselves. All we really had to remember that was the yellow lights means "stop".

Pat, Callum, Aaron and Shane set the early pace with Stephanie, Shantel and Tarnie all going flat out negotiating young Troy having his first run in a go kart. The second session had all the usual guns setting some impressive times, with Rob, Tom, Robbie, Tim, Michael, Greg and even Peter, while Chris who was having his first drive in three years due to his own G.F.C., was by far the slowest.

Everyone's times improved during their next two outings although the outright lap record was never under threat. Chris' times improved greatly after Peter gave some set-up hints. After round 2, Troy decided that the pool table was calling, Chris also sat out the next session, giving Steve a drive.

Overall times were difficult to decipher as the printout given out by the Go Kart Centre was not clear, so they will all have to share the award!

Crispy Bacon

CLUB PRESENTATION DAY – Sunday 7th DECEMBER

GyMEA / Miranda Bowls Club, The Kingsway, GyMEA

11am – 2pm, Lunch provided

Come and celebrate the successes of our riders and acknowledge the work our wonderful volunteers have put into the Club in 2014.

RSVP by email secretary@stgeorgemcc.com or call Jan on 02 9521 3715 advising numbers.

Broadford Bound... *a race report from rider Russ #15*

The race weekend started much earlier than usual, packing up at the office at 1630 hours and jumping in the van with my mate/team boss Scotty to start the road trip, complete with his two ZX6's and his older R6 which I would be riding. A beautifully smooth run down the drone-way, with only essential stops for salty fast food and diesel, had us arrive in Seymour at 2310 hours. Kudos to the Highland Caravan Park who had our cabin lit up and air-con set to 24 degrees 😊

An early start on a very fresh, but clear, Friday morning gave us time to grab some average McCafe breaky and high octane petrol before punching the State Motorcycling Complex into the TomTom and heading trackside. The Friday was a public rideday, run by Champions Ride Days, although it was choc-a-block with racers prep'ing for the weekend. I felt it was run and organised well, adding to the enjoyment of the day.

As the first session started I rolled up the "bike path" (unique circuit access road) and onto the grippiest surface I have ever experienced. Within 10 mins of first seeing the place I was slicing off chunks of knee scraper and having an absolute ball! I felt so comfortable I had a real dip into turn one... and flew off into the grass... I pulled it up easily in the ample run off and returned to the track no damage done.

The rest of the day involved only tarmac riding, and heaps of fun. I "got" the circuit quite quickly, so was able even before lunch to start looking at specific technique and places to make up time, and I even had Scotty scared that he wouldn't be able to keep up (although I'm sure he was sandbagging just to make me feel better). We packed up by 1600 hours and off into Kilmore where our accommodation for the next three nights awaited us, and, as it turned out, a fantastic Honey Chicken at the local Chinese Restaurant! Oh, did I mention that the track is just unbelievably cool and fun and awesome and cool?

Saturday would again prove perfect weather for motorcycle riding, and the usual logistical shenanigans of sign on, scrutineering and garage set up were accounted for particularly quickly, given the relatively low entry numbers. When qualifying was called for Clubsport 600 (for any 600cc bike older than 5 years) I was still full of confidence and flew out onto the circuit. I did an out lap, a hot lap, and then came in - in true MotoGP style, as my hot lap felt really fast! Of course, like most laps that feel fast it wasn't.....a 1:07.2 putting me 18th of the 26 runners.

Races one and two I enjoyed, although I was struggling a little for drive, and I still wasn't 10,000% confident getting alongside people down the back straight, which is anything other than straight. So

all things considered, finishing 17th, then 13th and running consistent mid 1:05's was pleasing. I then pretended to know what the clickers on the shock do, and took a swing with rear comp for the 3rd and final race of the day. This improved grip a little, and got me up to 12th outright, but still stuck in the mid 1:05's. Scotty by this stage had worked the place out and had his two ZX6's singing (into the 1:03's); and going about as fast as a ZX6 will with factory oil in the forks and a factory shock!!! A surprisingly good feed at a surprisingly weird, run down pub in Kilmore finished a great day.

Sunday's warm sunny start signalled the weekend would finish, weather wise, as good as it started, which made everyone smile. After another quite respectable coffee from the trackside canteen I headed out for a 10 min warm up session, and I used every single second I could. It was a great way to loosen the lactic acid, and in fact had me feeling better, physically, than I had the day before. Obviously I was growing accustomed to the laughably small cockpit on the R6, and some of the previous months training was actually coming to the fore. I also used the session to scrub in a brand new rear tyre. The Pirelli Supersport tyres Scotty and I are using are phenomenally good, but, eventually, putting 110hp to the ground under my ample frame takes it's toll...

Sunday's three races were again great fun, I was still enjoying riding the 2.2k's of undulations, let alone the great competition - and increased drive of the new rear bag. Unfortunately in race one I was boxed in off the start and lost a bunch of spots. I got some of them back, but could only manage 14th position, and another mid 1:05 was more an indication that I had zero clear track over the course of the 5 lapper than anything else.

Sunday's second race was better, I made up three positions on track, and with a DNF from one of the class front runners Stuart, I ended up 10th overall. I was super stoked with that, a top 10 outright in a tough St George club field was a little box ticked for me. Especially when the borrowed R6 still has forks set up for Scotty's 65kg frame, and a shock that for no known reason is actually too stiff for my 87 odd kg's....

Sunday's last race was an absolute ball. Starting a little further forward I missed much of the mid pack messiness on lap one, and was able to get into a rhythm. Although, my rhythm was still constantly interrupted by those around me... I seemed to be feeling more and more confident every session, and some of those around me were getting slower and slower...

Anyway, a great dice with Stuart, who was determined to get back up the front after his DNF, and a few other St George regulars had me grinning from ear to ear. A great way to end the weekend. The grin got much bigger though, as I was presented with the results sheet in the garage... 8th outright, 3rd in C grade and a 1:04.9 on the last lap of the last race of the weekend! What a way to finish!

The results surpassed any expectations I had of the weekend, or in fact any expectations I have ever had of myself in that sort of competitive field. However, I am a racer... So pondered for a while where I might have finished for the weekend if I'd quali'd inside the 10 and not spent 4 races getting through the mid pack... Oh well, next time! And, I am pretty certain there will be a next time. The Broadford road race facility is just too much fun to leave to the Victorians! And the whole layout and facilities are so well thought out and maintained it makes competing so easy. I will be back!!

And, another chance here to thank Scotty for the use of his R6, and the Teeing up of transport and accommodation planning for the weekend. Quite simply I wouldn't have been at the meeting without his input, both financial and logistical.

Russ #15