

SOUTH AUSTRALIA WRAPS UP ITS MAJOR 2014 EVENT IN STYLE;
2014 GRO (GLOBAL RACING OIL)
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MOTO TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIPS



The 2014 'Global Racing Oil' South Australian Moto Trials Championships were run, this year, by the Keyneton Motorcycle Club who sourced a brand new venue for the event, with the Collingrove Hill Climb, and the paddock behind being used for a moto trial for the first time.

The GRO agents for SA, Team (Brenton & Tyler) Hogan were more than happy to put their brand to the naming of the event and their input was most welcomed, and along with the Truro Primary School who catered, K-Biz Promotions for the trophies, The Sporting Car Club of SA and Mr Robert Broad for the venue, as well as Peter Arnold and his Trialsport scoring system and Greg Knight and his Sherco Moto SA crew for support, the 2014 Championships were ready to go!

Beautiful Spring weather welcomed the 60 strong field on the Saturday morning as 4 time Australian Hillclimb Champion, and former Keyneton MCC member, Kym Rohrlach, was welcomed as the 'guest starter' and as he waved the Keyneton MCC flag at 10.00am to signal the start of the Championships, the field, led by Kym's nephew, Hugh Evans, streamed up the hillclimb circuit and off towards the sections. A 'cooler' way to start a moto trial has yet to be seen!



(Left) Waving away the field of the 2014 GRO SA Championships is 4 time Australian Hillclimb Champion, Kym Rohrlach, with the riders being led up the circuit by Hugh Evans, Kym's nephew, and (right) Adrian Harry and Andrew Tarrant cresting the first hill on their way to the sections.

4 laps of 12 sections waited for the riders, with the sections varying from rocks, to logs, to a number of creek sections and it didn't take long for a couple of them, particularly number 9, the logs, and number 3, the mud, to bite the riders, and especially those riding the white lines in the logs, with a double log to get over, and the mud, which just got deeper as the day went on!

After day 1 the scoreboard looked pretty much as was expected across the classes, although it was noted that outstanding SA junior rider, Connor Hogan, was a lot closer to former TdN rider and Aussie #2, Adrian Harry, than was thought, and that Cameron Gerhardy had opened up a good lead in Junior B with the Oset mounted Haydon Eardley his nearest challenger, as a couple of the more fancied riders had an off day!

Another outstanding SA junior in Dale Riddington had also opened up a potentially winning lead in the Clubbies on his 'Brian Lang Historics' Honda Post Classic, whilst in the Veterans Class Brenton Hogan and Rob White were locked together in the lead and at this stage would need a ride off to separate them!

10 girls also started the Championships and at the halfway mark Sofie Kraft led the Open Women from Anna Rogers and rookie, Kait Pascoe, whilst Jasmine Tarrant led the Juniors from the fast improving Bec Rees and the small wheeled bikes of Charlotte Cowan and Tess Warnest. Also right in amongst it in A Grade Sidecar was Melissa Rogers, swinging for Steve Rees

A special mention must be made to the kids riding the small wheeled bikes in these sections, with the little Betas and Gassas struggling somewhat in the sections, but the riders, Ryan Tarrant, Charlotte and Tess, never stopped smiling and trying each and every lap.



(Left) Adrian Harry on his way to another South Australian Open Solo Championship, but the challengers are coming up fast, and, (right) Junior A runner-up Alex Cowan plays minder for his younger cousin, Ryan Tarrant, on one of the tougher sections for the little bikes.

After an awesome dinner served by the Truro Primary School on the Saturday evening, Sunday dawned clear and fine for day 2, again with 4 laps of 12 sections, with some reversed and/or reconfigured for day 2, including the infamous logs from day 1, now section 9 and in reverse!

C Grade was where most of the action took place on day 2 as Sherco Moto SA took on Beta Trialsport in an old fashioned shootout, and with 3 guns to 1, the boys from Sherco slowly wore down the lone Beta rider! Overnight leader Greg Rogers led all the way to lead home Todd and Joel Knight who overtook Peter Arnold (2nd overnight) on day 2 to record a Sherco podium!



The Junior B podium for 2014 (from left) the 'clean on day 2' and Champion Cameron Gerhardy, Haydon Eardley (2nd) and Coan Linke (3rd)

The other outstanding performance on day 2 was in Junior B as Cameron Gerhardy stepped it up to another level on day 2 to 'go clean' for the day (the only rider to do it

over the weekend!) and easily win his first SA Championship, leading home the Oset mounted Haydon Eardley (arguably the 2nd best ride of the weekend behind Camo) and rookie rider Coan Linke, who was riding his first SA Championship event.

Junior A was a case, in part, of the 125cc bikes verses the 80cc bikes and being able to get over the logs, as the lads on the 80's struggled somewhat on the bigger obstacles! What wasn't in doubt though, was the runaway winner in Haydon Ahrens! Having only been in the sport for 18 months and after a near miss last year, 'Haydos' wasn't going to let it slip this year and led from the start and made the class his own on his way to an almost 40 point win over Alex Cowan (still a Junior 7-12), with rookie trials rider, Caden Rogers, just 1 point behind in 3rd.

In Open Solo, Adrian Harry kept the young charger in Connor Hogan at bay for another year to record another SA Championship, but the gap is narrowing and it may not be that long until Adrian has a real fight on his hands, and maybe not just from Connor the way the rest of the SA juniors are developing in numbers!



(from left) Open Sidecar Champions Chris Schultz & Stuart Gerhardy, Open Women's Champion Sofie Kraft and Junior A's Haydon Ahrens

Open Sidecar also saw the Aussie #2 team of Chris Schultz & Stuart Gerhardy record another win, but the ever improving team of Steve Rees and Melissa Rogers (Mel's first year in A Grade) will look to close the gap after an excellent first year together, with 3rd place the Classic Sidecar Team of Alex Turner and Damien Nash on the 'famous' Blue Bully!



(from left) Junior Women's Champion Jasmine Tarrant, joined by the C Grade and Clubman Champions, Greg Rogers and Dale Riddington

In B Grade the ride of the weekend went to Bradley Hunter who hadn't ridden since the Aussies last year (Post Classic) and not on a modern solo for 3 years as he went about finishing 3rd behind the lone interstater in Victorian John Rees (1st) and Andrew Tarrant in 2nd, with Dale Riddington romping home in Clubman after only dropping a single

point on day 2 (on the last lap) to win comfortably from rookie Brenton Rogers and last year's Champion, Mike Brown, and Brenton Hogan finally got the better of Rob White (just) on day 2 to win the Veterans Class.

In the Women's Classes, Aussie #6 and Motorcycling SA Elite Rider, Sofie Kraft, recorded her first SA Open Women's Championship after a tough 2 days on bigger than usual C Grade sections, a result that would have had her in the top 5 of C Grade, and she led home Anna Rogers who struggled on day 2 from a big lack of energy, but toughed it out with a huge effort, and the rookie trials rider, Kait Pascoe in 3rd in her first ever foray into the world of trials, and on a borrowed bike!

In Junior Women's Jasmine Tarrant kept her overnight lead and led home Bec Rees, a rookie with only about 6 events to her name who will be one to watch out for in future years, and Charlotte Cowan 3rd, who Kristie McKinnon has suggested may be a Trials des Nations rider in about 10-12 years – and never stops smiling!

The Keyneton Motorcycle Club would like to congratulate all of the winners and placegetters at the 2014 GRO SA Championships and also pay a special tribute and thanks to all those who observed on the weekend and especially those who put their hands up at the last minute – the event would not have been possible without any of you!

The KMCC also thank **GRO** (*Global Racing Oil*) and Team Hogan for their support of this event, as well as all who helped make this event the success it was; the officials, scorers and volunteer first aid team, the caterers from Truro Primary School, the landowner, Robert Broad, the Sporting Car Club of SA, Kym Rohrlach and everyone else – SALUTE'!



(left) Sherco Moto SA line up for a group pic of their team success with – rear from left – Stuart Gerhardy, Greg Rogers, Joel Knight, Mr Sherco Moto SA Greg Knight, Brenton Rogers and Todd Knight – and front – Chris Schultz, Rob White, Sofie Kraft and Caden Rogers, whilst (right) the Junior & Open Women's Champions, Jasmine Tarrant and Sofie Kraft were all smiles after the presentation of the awesome trophies from K-Biz!



With the hill climb circuit being used the riders had 4 runs each day up the circuit, plus a few more for some once they had finished their days riding, and all had fun riding it, like Alex Turner & Damien Nash, Rob White, Charlotte Cowan and Chris Schultz & Stuart Gerhardy.

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