

## **WDTC TWINSHOCK MASTERS & BREAKUP WEEKEND**

With a week of storms and heavy rainfall leading up to the much anticipated WDTC Twin Shock Masters, one had to wonder what mother nature might have in store for us. Trials riders are a hardy bunch not easily deterred by the chance of getting wet so there was never any doubt as the week wore on that competitors were making their annual pilgrimage to Conondale. This year would see the 23<sup>rd</sup> trial overall but it also marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of hosting the event at the iconic Green Park, located in Queensland's stunning Sunshine Coast Hinterland. As always the event incorporated two days of festivities with the end of year activities taking place on Saturday before the institution that the Twin Shock Masters has become got underway on Sunday. Any fears that the weather would put a dampener on our celebrations proved unfounded with mother nature smiling upon us and providing a perfect weekend.

Early risers on Sunday morning who witnessed dawn breaking over the hills of Maleny could sense we were in for a great day. Campsites came alive as the sun rose higher in the sky and preparations were made for the day ahead. Thoughts of the Saturday afternoon games watching the enjoyment of our new generation of riders and the enjoyment of the "bigger kids" who joined in the fun had to be pushed to the back of the mind. The serious business of deciding the Twin Shock Masters Champion was finally here. This year's trial upheld the long standing tradition of having a manufacturer theme and Suzuki was the bike of the day. Unfortunately, out of a field of 95 riders, 44 of which were twin shock mounted, only 4 RL's made the entry list. I don't like to point fingers but maybe Captain Risky's treatment of the brand is having an impact on the Suzuki population. Not that anyone was too bothered by the low number, the paddock was abuzz with excitement and good natured bantering in the lead up to the start.

In contrast to the low water level of last year the riders were faced with a much wetter outlook when they reached the riverbed this time around. The rain had ensured the section setters plenty of scope to provide an assortment of sections and they made the most of the opportunity. Wet drum brakes and downhills in sections never fails to provide riders with an interesting day and this time was no exception. It also provided an interesting variety of braking displays for the spectators who ventured up the hill behind the river. With the Open Twin Shock class featuring numerous past winners it was a closely

contested affair. Last years winner Ruben Chadwick had returned to defend his title on a Bultaco but after an unfortunate 5 on the first lap he could not repeat his success and had to settle for third. Former two time champion Mitch Green riding a Honda narrowly missed out on making it three taking second place after a countback of cleans. Much to the delight of the twin shock diehards a new name was added to the trophy and Bradley Bryant riding a TY 175 was crowned the 2015 champion. In other parts of the park some epic battles were also taking place. Classic B competitors Bill Aland and Robert Eyres stayed clean all day and forced each other into a ride off. Well, everyone believed it was a ride off until the truth came out and we learned they actually tossed a coin to decide the result. Some of the other riders had no interest in the scoreboard. David Lahey and Rob Wager decided to use a few of the machines from Davids stable of twin shocks and indulged in a bike swapping party.

There is no end to the stories that came out of the weekend but I have to cut it off somewhere so I will finish by saying what a pleasure it was to be involved. Every minute of preparation that went into the event was repaid by the smiles on the faces of kids and adults alike. We will be back next year to celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> party at Green Park.

### **Photo Credits**

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