

NSW Trials Forum - Saturday December 12th

Goulburn (venue to be confirmed)

Hey all you Trials enthusiasts,

Please take the time to read these few pages. The future of Trials in New South Wales may well depend on it.



In August the combined efforts from NSW Trials Clubs resulted in arguably the best ever Australian Trials Championships promoted in NSW. The success was definitely the result of so many individual talents combining seamlessly for a common goal.

The organising group, which included most of the members of the MNSW Trials Sports Committee, have agreed that the resultant profit should be used for the betterment of Trials across NSW.

Paul Arnott, and Trevor Bennett, each of whom contributed to the Aussie Title success, are the trials riders who are driving this Trials Forum initiative.

You're getting this email because your email address appeared in the large group of people we have collated in our effort to reach all Trials people throughout New South Wales.

If we have incorrectly included you, please accept our apologies and click on 'Unsubscribe' at the bottom of this document. Actually you may change your mind by reading on.....

We hope to have representatives of all NSW Clubs that organise Trials in attendance. In fact this will be critical for the outcomes to achieve what NSW Trials needs.

Daniel Gatt, CEO of Motorcycling NSW will be in attendance and may even bring along Jess Franklin the MNSW Officials Seminar co-ordinator. Importantly Daniel is fully supportive of this Trials Forum, and has confirmed that MNSW will cover the venue hire costs for both days.

Trials Forum Agenda Items.

With all Trials Clubs represented at the Forum we are in a position to formulate the 2016 NSW Trials Calendar. We will have dates for key Trials events being promoted in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia. The chief reason for this is purely practical. Trials rider numbers across Australia, like the rest of the world, are declining. For any Club promoting a Trial at Club level, National Open level, State Championship level or even Australian Championship level it is imperative to maximise your potential competitor base.

By avoiding clashes with key Interstate events we will maximise our potential participants for our major Trials events. The NSW Trials Championships, the NSW Classic and Post Classic Championships, the Sherco Womens Cup, and the Howard Wallace Masters Shield spring to mind. However what about additional events at Wollongong, Tamworth, and Coffs Harbour?

As a Motorcycling Australia affiliated Trials promoting Club you are legally insured. However for that insurance to be valid there are a number of conditions that must be met.

For Club Trials, all participants must be members of the promoting Club, all competitors must be appropriately Licenced, and all Key Officials must be appropriately Licenced. Any of these criteria not met effectively makes the event uninsured.

We all know that some of these criteria are not met with a number of Club Trials across NSW. We also all know that Insurance is a total waste of money..... right up to the time you need it. Many years ago an MCC of Canberra Dad's daughter fell off his bike at the end of the Trial and broke her wrist. As he commented to me sometime later, what if she'd broken her back and became a paraplegic? Mateship of many years can be forgotten under the pressure of a lifetime of financial burden. Even way back then we had Insurance via the ACU of NSW Permit. I've worked all my life for my house. I don't want to lose it all because I supported an uninsured event.

Am I exaggerating? The answer is that I don't think so. Thankfully in my 42 years of organising, riding in or officiating at Trials I've not been put in the position of having to find out. However I was a member of a Club where our President and Secretary had to attend a Coroners Court Inquest into the death of a young trailbike rider who died after running into a tree at our Moto Cross track. You can take it from me, you don't ever want to be in the position of those officials..

Here are a few real options.

We need to create a new MNSW affiliated Club called the Trials Club of New South Wales.

Membership fees will be \$2 per year. Basically whatever your current Club's membership fee is, plus \$2.

A pre-requisite of membership of TCNSW is that you must be a member of a MNSW affiliated Trials organising Club.

The TCNSW will never be granted a Permit by MNSW to conduct anything.

All Trials organising clubs who sign up to this idea will then organise Inter Club Trials instead of Club Trials.

The Permit application will list the invited Clubs as the organising Club eg Pacific Park Trials Club, and the Trials Club of NSW.

When the Queensland Trials community held a similar Forum earlier this year they put a few proposals to the MAQ manager who attended.

As a result of this discussion, and the logical approach taken by all, Queensland Club and Inter Club Trials can now be conducted with one Key Official.

They have just about finalised the wording on their sign-on sheet that will allow self scrutineering.

Andrew Warnest is the Trials Administrator for Motorcycling South Australia. Anyone who has ridden in SA always comments on how good their Programs are. Andrew may well be the designer but by being proactive in his association with MSA, he gets all the colour printing done in their office.

**The topics for discussion at the Forum are definitely not closed.
Please email me with any serious suggestions you would like included.**

The examples I've quoted above are a result of me asking Trials mates in other states about what they were up to. You are all capable of talking with fellow Trials enthusiasts and entitled to email me your ideas.

I was a member of the NSW Trials Committee for 15 years, and I was Chairman of MA's Trials Committee for 4 years. I've never met an Executive member of any of those Motorcycling organisations who was any more positive than Daniel Gatt is.

Take the opportunity to attend the Trials Forum, and to put your serious Trials options to Daniel.

One issue that has been dogging the NSW Trials community for a number of years is the lack of Licenced Officials.

A couple of northern NSW clubs were very keen to run a NSW Title Round but didn't have any Level 3 Officials. Well folks I can tell you this for sure. You'll never get to be a Level 3 Official until you start at Level 1.

I have a telephone directory size book of excuses as to why **you** couldn't possibly attend a Licenced Official seminar, so please don't think you have an original excuse.

The bottom line is that our sport cannot continue to function legally if more of you can't be bothered to become a Licenced Official.

"We are Trials, we are different" has been my catchcry at MNSW meetings in Sydney, and MA meetings in Melbourne. Some Executive level personnel listen and some are so stuck in the way they've always done it that it's almost a waste of time. Almost !

Perhaps we could have just two levels of Officials in Trials. First Level that can conduct Club and Interclub Trials events, and Second Level that can conduct National Open, and State Championship level Trials.

Another excuse is 'we can't get Observers". Well folks, on the October long weekend Cheryl and I travelled over to South Australia for me to have a ride in their Scottish 2-Day Trial. One Lap of 45 sections each day. 2 fuel stops, a compulsory 30 minute 'lunch break', and not one Observer in attendance. We were divided up into pairs. The first pair left at 9.30am. They had a scorepunch between them and 5 hours plus the lunchbreak to complete the course. That was the only mention of the time limit. Subsequently pairs started every 2 minutes. Day two had the lap, the sections and the starting order reversed. I have now ridden 514 Trials events across all Australian states and on both islands of New Zealand. The SA Scottish 2-Day was definitely in my top 5.

Come along and bring your positive thoughts on how we might move our wonderful sport forward without having to do it "the way it's always been done".

It takes less than 15 minutes to complete the on-line Officials application on the MNSW website. You can answer the 20 question multiple choice assessment on line. The answers are all available on the same website. You are all invited to contact me and I'll talk you

through the questions and explain the correct answers. The Trials Club of Canberra is now able to run Social Rides at our Fairbairn Trials Park as a result of a liaison between our club and the ACT Motorcycle Club. The catch was that we need two Level One Licenced Officials as a minimum to meet the insurance requirements. I have personally assisted four members during the past week with them getting their Officials Licence application submitted.

Trials Clerk of Course seminar - Sunday December 13th

Here's the clincher. I will be presenting a Trials specific Clerk of Course seminar at the same venue in Goulburn the day after the Trials Forum. This seminar will concentrate on Trials issues and challenges. Discussion on Flags, Starting Grids, Prizemoney bonds etc will be almost non-existent.

Those of you who've attended any of my Officials Seminars will know that they can be both informative, and entertaining.

We really need as many of you as possible to attend the Clerk of Course seminar. Jess Franklin has been devastated over the last month when three seminars that I was down to present have all been Cancelled due to lack of numbers. I've assured Jess that a Trials specific Clerk of Course seminar will attract plenty of nominees. Don't let our sport down. We need you to contact me asap so that I can advise Jess of the numbers.

In fact we need you all to contact me to advise that you're attending the NSW Trials Forum. In this way Jess will be able to book us a suitably sized venue.

For representatives of the Clubs who have a serious travel commitment to attend both Forum, and Clerk of Course seminar, you can apply to us for some financial assistance.

We really do need you there.

Regards

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