

AMA Interclub Trials Series Rd 4 Hinchcliffs B - Ferny Glen, Qld October 2020



On Sunday 18th October, SQTA had the privilege of hosting the 4th and final round of the AMA Qld Interclub Series. For those that may not know, this was the first ever AMA Trials Interclub Series which kicked off back in March with Rd 1 hosted by Logan River Motorcycle Trials Club. Round 2 was hosted by Trials Club of Qld. Rounds 3 & 4 were planned to be hosted by Central Qld Trials Club but unfortunately the covid situation made that not possible. The 3 clubs in LRMTC, TCQ and SQTA joined forces to then co-host Round 3 on behalf of CQTC.

It was only a few months ago that SQTA held an event at John Hinchcliffe's property on the B side, but it was an ideal property to run this event. The only thing missing from this little piece of trials paradise is a bit of water and mud. It's been so dry, the powdery surface made getting traction in some sections a bit tricky for the not so skilled participants. Probably fair to say it took some points of a few upper grade riders as well.

The Friday beforehand saw a small group of volunteers get a head start by setting 6 sections close to the camping area. Saturday there was an impressive turnout to set the last 6 sections, making a nice loop of 12 sections. Grades T2 down to T4 rode all 12 sections, while a couple of the sections were thought to be a bit challenging for T5 & T6 so their course was reduced to 10 sections. As it was expected to be quite a warm day and with a field of 60+ riders, the event was run over 3 laps. After an observer briefing and then a riders briefing, riding got under way just prior to 10am with a planned finish by 4pm, or sooner if everyone gets their 3 laps finished. The riders at this event were treated to an observer on every section, putting the "observed" back into observed trials, something we haven't seen for a little while. As the day went on and the temperature reached the mid 20's, it was quite comfortable in the shade but any time spent in the sun soon had you sweating. Riding was all wrapped around 2.30ish and after sections were pulled in and some packing up was done, the complimentary sqtadogs were ready to serve. After a quick feed and a drink it on to the presentations for both the day and the overall series place getters.



As this was the final round of the AMA Interclub Series, there was quite a bit of bling on display for the riders to see what they were competing for. There were medallions on offer for the first 1st to 3rd on the day in each grade, with some very nice trophies up for grabs for those in a position to take out a series podium with a good ride on the day.

As for the scoring, I won't give too much detail here as there are full result sheets for both the final round and overall scores with this report. There are some things worth a mention though. T2 Red plate had 6 riders with Kale Reed taking out the day almost 50pts clear of 2nd place. T3 Yellow plate there was only 1pt between 1st and 2nd place with Justin Gough just pipping Richard Kent. T5 White plate was the largest field with 24 riders with Mark Hall pipping Cliff Ludhe by just 1pt and just 13pts separating the top ten places. The ride of the day would have to be Harry Laun riding T5

Junior Small Wheel on just 9 pts for the day (yes you read correctly, 9pts!) which was a good enough score to not only win T5 Junior Large Wheel but also take 1st in T5 Senior, Harry you're a little legend but stop it, your embarrassing us grown ups 😊😊😊 Mason Pugh and Dylan Long riding T5 Junior Large Wheel also had outstanding rides with Mason taking the lollies by just 2 pts over Dylan and both on scores that would have seen them get 1st in T5 Senior. There were some excellent rides by all the junior riders so trials in Qld is looking very healthy indeed. Kudos to all the section setters for setting a course to take points off even the best in each grade yet allow the field to keep scores pretty close.

For the overall series results, a couple of points worthy of a mention. T2 Red plate 1st and 2nd place are both young guns of the sport in Billy Gough and Jake Long respectively, we're sure you two will have many battles in the years to come, well done fellas. T4 Blue plate after 4 rounds there were two riders level on series points, with Eden Feehely taking 1st place over Gareth Teale in 2nd place by countback, any unnecessary dabs come to mind now Gareth 😊😊

The scoring for the day, as well as the series points were handled by Cherie Pugh and Shaylene Clark. The ladies did a fantastic job making presentation a smooth affair. SQTA and I'm sure the other clubs would concur in saying a massive thanks to you both for doing such a great job, it's really appreciated.

As mentioned previously, this event was fully observed. SQTA and I'm sure along with every rider, would like to thank Marg and Clarry Cunliffe, Bob Anderson, Anthony Edds along with his son Jackson, Roger Galpin, Evan Hunter, Jessie Hopgood, Mick Ikin, Christine Reed, Mary Lynn Reed, Tong Wong, Patrick Whitfield, Alik Whitfield, John Barwick and Rob Austin for giving up their time on Sunday and in some cases their days ride to observe and score for the participants. It wouldn't be the same event without you all and we can't thank you enough.

There are also a few more people that we want to thank because without all these people doing the little things we just couldn't put on such good events. A huge thank you to John Hinchcliffe for the use of his property. All the section setters from both Friday and Saturday, awesome job. Owen for doing section bag and drink duties, Kale for collecting bread rolls, Denys for assisting with the toilets. Richard, John and Denys for assisting with observer lunches and the committee for keeping the SQTA show going. Also thank you to Andrew McDonald-Smith for arranging medallions and trophies and all of the hard work put in by all the Qld trials clubs over the 4 rounds to make it such a great series first time round in difficult times. These events and the series can only get bigger and better next year.

SQTA's next event is a cub event on November 8th in the Toowoomba region. Open to all club members and visitors welcome by prior arrangement, just get in touch with Harry harry.vandijk@hotmail.com a week prior to the event so he knows you're coming.

See you there.