

BIG THAW 2013

The first Historic only race meeting we have held in a very long time went off on the weekend at Carnell raceway Stanthorpe without a hitch. Seventy five entries over four solo & two sidecar classes was a great roll up for our inaugural event. Warmer than normal weather for Stanthorpe made it a little uncomfortable at times but the predicted showers did not eventuate making for a great weekend of fast & safe racing.

Our major officials, Clerk of the Course Ian Milton again did a great job of keeping the program of events moving along ably assisted by race Steward Ralph Freeman & race secretary/announcer extraordinaire Rex Dell who also kept us all up to date with the goings on in GP land over the weekend. Gary Baker, Ray Clacher & Doug Aitchison again looked after scrutineering duties while new volunteer & Stanthorpe local Andrew Jamieson filled in at the last minute after dummy grid marshal Ray Clacher had to change roles & take up starter duties. Ray caught a few of us out on Saturday morning with his quick fire starting technique but we soon got used to his no nonsense approach as it speeded up race starts & got us away racing in record time.

Assistant race secretary Jann Murray was again on hand to assist Rex with registration while also doubling as ticket seller for our cleaning products raffle kindly donated by long time club supporter David Chown. Ralph Freeman won the raffle & as he was at the meeting on his bike Rex had to deliver it to his place in Brisbane on his way home.

Graham & Nancy Castledine handled the timing with their usual expertise with none of the transponders issues we had experience at the Big Chill. At this meeting Nancy handed out notes to anyone running multiple machines to try to ensure that they were fitted to the right bikes which she believed caused most of the problems at the previous meeting.

Another group of "officials" that most would not know about was the group of three guys camped right at the front gate. Steve Smithwick, Glen & Riley Hunt came all the way from Rockhampton for Steve to compete in period 5 for the very first time. They arrived early on Friday, gave me a hand to set up my camp before we opened the gates & then manned the gate giving us some level of vehicle entry security over the weekend.

My Stanthorpe mate Rusty Pierini again cleaned the track with the tractor sweeper on Friday so only a very small amount of hand sweeping was required. Rusty was also on hand to help pack up all the clubs equipment along with Andrew Jamieson, Doug Aitchison, Keiron Horey, Graeme Barker & his trusty offsider Barry. Rex, Jann, Ralph, Gary & Gary's

wife packed up the registration area while Carnell raceway committee president Ian Rigg was on hand as always to remove all the rubbish & close up the track.

The Ducati owners Club Of Queensland (DOCQ) again provided the bulk of the flaggies for the weekend & again did a great job in warm conditions. They are a great bunch of “guys & gals” & there clubs continued support of our events is vital to our success & for that we are eternally grateful.

The weekend racing was largely incident free with only some minor spills & the ambulance was not required to treat anyone over the whole weekend. Full results will be published on our web site in the coming days but a quick list of class winners is listed below.

Period 2 was again won by “mister bloody incredible” Phil Ariel on his 500 Ariel while period 3 winner John O’Neill notched up a perfect 4 race wins for the weekend while also winning the British solos event. Period 4 was won by the equally amazing 72 year old Graeme “Ozzie” Osborne who recorded a win & four seconds over the four rounds. Russell Bentley would most likely have won Period 4 after 2 wins on Saturday but sadly his immaculately presented 350 Bultaco expired after winning the first round of the Continental solo class on Saturday afternoon.

Period 5 winner Trevor Liversidge battled hard with Guy Vickerman all weekend with only 4 points separating them at the end of the weekend while Guy did manage a class win of his own in the Continental solos division. Period 6 winner Justin Hall was in a league of his own easily winning all four rounds plus the Japanese solo class & the QEMSC quarter hour & setting blistering lap times in the 36 second range. The up to 350cc capacity class was won by James Barclay on his Honda RS125 while the over 350cc class was again won by Ozzie.

Period 3 sidecar champs Tony Jacobs & Nathan May gave the crowd some thrills on turn 5 coming onto the main straight while Damien Deane & Greg Brillus were victorious in Period 4 with Damien also taking out the Regularity slow event with a time difference of only 3.621 seconds. Barry Martin won the Period 5 sidecar class while Lee Menzies & Graham Schulz emerged as champions in the modern sidecar class. Last but certainly not least John Waller took out the Regularity fast event with an amazing time difference of only 1.699 seconds between his slowest & fastest laps over the four rounds.

All in all a great weekend of racing which will hopefully further promote historic racing in our region. Dave

