

BIG CHILL 2014

Normally I would write this race report & include a section about what a great weekend I had racing my P4 Honda 350 against arch rivals Don Radke & Doug Baxter on those bloody Suzuki's but this year that was not to be. My Honda motor was still in pieces after the explosion at the Stanthorpe Test & Tune so it was no racing for me this year.

On the plus side one of really fantastic things about our club is the generosity shown by fellow club members when one of their own is having some bad luck with their bike. About a month before the Big Chill good mate Brett Chandler emailed me to ask if I had my motor fixed & was I going to make the race. The answer was no, mainly because I was away on holidays for most of the month leading up to the event. He then asked me if I would like his 1974 900SS Ducati to ride in Regularity. I had to think about it for about half a second before saying yes. I had not ridden a Duke for over 35 years since I sold my beloved 900SD Darmah to help fund our first house when I was married so riding a SS on a racetrack was a huge thrill.

As well as being given the SS to ride Ian Milton also offered a ride on his P5 RD400 he had just bought from WA but unfortunately it had an electrical fault & would not run. Again another indication of the tremendous generosity of fellow club members.

Saturdays weather was a bit variable with good conditions for the start of the proceedings at 11am but later in the afternoon a light shower put an early end to the days racing. Sunday started out cold & foggy but that soon burnt off to reveal a magnificent day for racing.

The racing as usual was hotly contested in all classes with Period 3 solos taken out by Bruce Marston from John Munns & Doug Aitchison. Graeme Osborne was again in his way to a top three finish until a crash in round 2 on Saturday put an end to his chances.

In Period 4 solos Geoffrey Martin came out on top with Donald Radke in second very closely followed by Brett Dugdale. Don seems to have picked up a

second or so a lap since last year which augers well for him at Lakeside later in the year.

Period 5 solos was again dominated by the flying moustache Bernie "Bummers" Summers even winning one round from the dummy grid. James Barclay finished second while Bob Garner came in third taking two wins off Bernie out of the eight rounds.

The newest historic category Period 6 solos was again dominated by Justin Hall with eight wins from as many starts. Gerard Purcell finished in second place overall with Simon Trott a close third.

Ray Skidmore, Dan May & Robert Heinrich took out the major placings in the Superlite/Stockers/Motolite event but due to reduce entries in the class the results are overall placings not by class.

The sidecar events as always delivered some exciting battles with Tony Jacobs & Dylan Dean taking five wins from six starts in Period 3. The only race they lost all weekend went to Ian Milton & Vicki Butler winning the last race on Sunday afternoon.

Period 4 sidecars was won by John Wormald & Daryl Skewes with a clean sweep of wins while David Buxton & Andrew Phillips duplicated that results in Period 6 sidecars.

Regularity slow was won by David Buxton with a margin of only 8.264 seconds between his fastest & slowest lap while Regularity fast was taken out by Ivan Aird with an incredible 1.782 seconds gap.

Another great weekend of racing with over 80 competitors & around 110 bikes on show.