

MOTO TRIALS SA, COACHING CLINIC 1

SATURDAY APRIL 16TH @ ROCKLEIGH

Saturday April 16th, the day before TROY Series round 2 at Rockleigh, saw the very first Moto Trials SA Coaching Clinic held, in fine weather conditions, and with, what can only be described as a fantastic turnout of experienced, learning and new riders.

28 riders, and 1 passenger, fronted on Saturday morning to the assembled coaches, and big thanks should be given here to the coaching staff that made themselves available. After a quick briefing the riders all went off into their selected levels of coaching, with Brenton Hogan looking after the 'guns', Rob White & Stewy Gerhardy looking after the novices and juniors, Jim Haseldine the Kickstarters and newbies and Colin Jay the sidecar team.



After a solid morning of basic and not so basic teachings, the coaches and riders were all supplied with a BBQ lunch by Moto Trials SA (thanks to Sharon Riddington for her help), with a lot of the talk around the barby centering on all the new stuff everyone had learnt in the morning session.

With the arrival of 'Supercoach' Mal McKenzie at lunch the novices were split in the afternoon with Rob White taking the more experienced to throw them at some bigger challenges, with Mal & Stewy also pushing the novice and junior riders a bit more as well.



Near the end of the day it was plain to see from all who were watching that all the riders were now 'having a crack' at bigger obstacles, and for the most part were getting up, over, through or around them. About the only thing bigger than the obstacles now being thrown at the riders were the grins on the faces of these riders as they sailed over rocks, or up creek banks that they wouldn't have looked at a few hours before.

If results the following day are anything to go by, especially in the Junior grades, then Saturday was very well worth the effort, with Matt Cunningham (3rd trial) and Dale Riddington (1st trial) cleaning up Junior A, and the Rogers sisters, Melissa & Anna going 1-2 in Junior B, also in their first trial. It would surprise no-one if Melissa decided on her own to move up to Junior A, as staying in Junior B won't help her riding to improve in the long run.

Also doing well on the Sunday, after completing the Kickstart on Saturday with 'Coach of the Year' Jim Haseldine was Liam Warnest, who would have finished in the placings, if not on a Rec Licence in his first ever trial.



Expect to see Sofie Kraft in trials on a regular basis sooner rather than later after completing her Kickstart on Saturday on a borrowed bike. That bike now resides in her Dad's shed after it was seen leaving with them on Saturday, with, maybe, netball no longer the preferred sport in the Kraft house!

Colin Jay travelled down from Clare for the day to lend his many years of experience to any sidecar teams, with Dunc Greenhalgh and Dave Ramsey taking up the offer. By days end Dunc & Dave had tackled a lot of obstacles that they would have thought twice about, being a newish team that are still learning about each other, and as a team on a bike.



Brenton Hogan kept the 'guns' at it all day, some not even coming back for lunch, and as they disappeared for most of the day searching for big stuff to tackle, only Greg Cramond got some action shots (see below). Suffice to say all looked and said they were satisfied with the day's efforts, as was coach Hoges, who was pleased with the day's outcome.

As with all coaching and practise days there are bound to be a few 'offs' as riders push to conquer new things in a non competitive setting, and there were a couple of 'crackers' on Saturday! So, the early contenders for 'Crash of the Year' go to the sidecar team of Dunc & Dave for a brilliant, over the bars face plant into a creek bed! Dunc ended up with a sandy face, teeth and tongue, but of course with all sidecar crashes it was the passengers fault – good one Dave!!!! The second contender is Paul 'Smithy' Wright, also for going over the bars, but extra marks were added for the perfect hand stand that was executed mid roll, not unlike an Olympic gymnast, although a couple of points were deducted for breaking the gear lever off!

By days end there were a few weary bodies after the sunny weather started to take it's toll, but all the tired bodies did have smiles on them, and all were glad that they had attended. The evening was rounded off with a good chat around the bonfire before everyone headed off to their camps for a good sleep before the trial the next day.

Many thanks need to be said to the Juventus Club for organising with their landowner to run the Clinic on the Saturday, and also to allow overnight camping, especially those who travelled a fair distance to attend (the Hogan and Rogers families especially). Thanks also must go to the landowner, John Talbot, and his caretaker – much appreciated from all in trials.

Apologies were received from coaches Colin Behn and Rob Baumann, who wanted to attend, but couldn't due to work commitments, and Adrian Harry who was a late arrival due to other commitments. It is brilliant to see so many of SA's coaches who are willing to be, and want to be involved. There are also two other 'probie' coaches, Scott Irrgang (former A Grade SA Champ) and Matt Rosenzweig (former B Grade Champ s/car passenger), who are keen to join Stewy Gerhardy in getting their 30 hours up this year; so all bodes well for the remaining Clinics.

The next Coaching Clinic will be held on Saturday June 18th, the day before the Peter Sparkes Sidecar Trophy at Tungkillo, and Roger Greenhalgh is checking with the landowner regarding camping, and all will be notified asap! If you are attending as a rider please register with Andrew Warnest about a week before (June 11th – 12th at the latest) so he can arrange coaches and catering!



More photos from the day can be found at <http://picasaweb.google.com/TrialsPhotos>, in the album Rockleigh 2011 with thanks to Greg Cramond for taking them