TROY Series SA 2011

The South Australian Moto Trials rider of the Year Series

THE HALFTIME REPORT!

TROY Series SA is off to a wonderful start in 2011, with over 50 entries received for the first 2 rounds, and good fields in most classes, something that has been struggling to happen in SA for many a year. With the Series now taking a break until the Mountain Man on June 19th, it is time to take a breath and see who is doing what at the halfway point of the Series.

TROY started its second year trimmed down to a four round series for 2011, with one round to be run by each moto trials club in SA, and the year kicked off with round 1, run by the AJS Club at Victor Harbour, with the 52 entries being welcomed by mild weather and 10 sections for all, plus a couple added for the A & B Graders, which included the A Grade only Victor waterfall!

The AJS Club worked very hard to make this an event worthy of TROY status and were rewarded with such a large field and great feedback from riders, all of whom enjoyed the day and felt the long drive south (for some) was worth it.

For the first time in many a year all the classes had the benefit of increased entries, no more than A Grade (RED Class), up from the usual 2 to 5 entries, and Jarrod Barwick wasn't riding! Leading the way all day and taking an early TROY lead was Adrian Harry on his new Scorpa, to comfortably lead home Monty mounted Steven Rees, with Gas Gas mounted Grant Stephen just leading home former pushy trials champ Steve Marsh on his Beta for third.



Round 1 action, from left – Joel Cramond, Rob White & Steve Rees (pics from Claire Rees)

The B Grade (YELLOW) class also had an increase in numbers with 7 fronting the starter at Victor and included the current Motorcycling SA Rising Star, Connor Hogan, who was out to test himself against the senior, and especially his father, Brenton. At the end of the day it was a Hogan on top of the leader board, but it was the elder Hogan still holding sway in the class, with Connor coming home in 3rd in his B Grade debut, not bad for an 11 year old! Rob White, on his Sherco completed the B Grade podium, the meat in a Hogan, and Gas Gas sandwich in finishing second!

C Grade (BLUE Class), with the joining of C Grade & Veterans for 2011 saw the largest field of the day with 16 riders to tackle the sections, and included a number of new faces to moto trials in SA. However, it was a couple of 'old' faces who dominated proceedings on the day with Peter Arnold leading home Colin

'Ted' Redway, with Tony Baughan 3rd, in what was a Beta cleansweep of the podium! Arguably one of the rides of the day went to moto trials rookie, and SA enduro 'gun', Nick Throup, who borrowed Roger Greenhalgh's Gassa for the day and ended up 4th, and only 2 points off the podium. Reckon we may see Nick back in trials on a semi regular basis after that effort!

The BLACK & WHITE TROY Class combines Post Classic and Clubperson and as there were no 'Posties' entered it was a Clubperson affair, with Elyse Arnold recording the only clean score sheet of the day on her Beta, with Montesa mounted Doug Phillips a point behind. In 3rd was another rookie, Sherco mounted Joel Knight, in what was another great rookie ride on the day, with Joel leading home the evergreen Joe Tarabini (Beta) and 'Supercoach', Mal McKenzie (Gas Gas).

In both Junior Classes (WHITE) numbers were also up on previous years and in Junior A, the returning MacKenzie Norton (Gas Gas) led home Heather Button (Beta) and Jasmine Tarrant (Gas Gas), with Ethan Hogan (Gas Gas) leading home rookie Cameron Gerhardy (Beta) in Junior B, with Haydon Barwick & Ethan Cramond (both Gas Gas) still on Mini Licences and not eligible for placings. In the TROY overall it was Ethan leading MacKenzie by a point (36 to 37) after round 1 from Cameron Gerhardy in 3rd.

Leading the PINK Class for the girls and women riders after TROY 1, with Elyse choosing to be scored in the BLACK & WHITE Class, is Heather from Jasmine, with trials rookie, Gwen Blesing (Sherco) holding 3rd from the all girl sidecar team of Kristy Schultz & Lara Wedge (Yamaha).

And speaking of sidecars, 5 entered for Victor, and if the rumour mill is to be believed more will follow as the season unfolds, which is great for the sport, and sidecars in Australia!

Chris Schultz & Stuey Gerhardy, being the only entry, won A Grade but in the B Grade it was 2 rookie teams that upset an experienced campaigner! Mark Launer & Tyson Rohrlach (Gas Gas, and the reigning 24 Hour Trial & Reliability Trials Champs) had a first up win from the rookie pairing of Adam Brook & Shane Beckmann (Sherco), to lead home Duncan Greenhalgh & Dave Ramsey (Gas Gas). However, in the RED & WHITE TROY Class it is the team of Launer & Rohrlach that lead from Brook & Beckmann, with Schultz & Gerhardy in 3rd.

With no extra trial in between Rounds one & two, it was straight to Rockleigh for the Juventus round of TROY in mid April, and once again a field of over 50 riders took up the challenge. With all the early rains in 2011 many riders commented that they had never seen Rockleigh as green as it was, although there was still a mountain of box-thorn bushes around to catch out the unwary. 10 sections greeted the riders and as an added twist the A graders were given an extra lap in the morning, making their trial longer than the other grades, something that is usually, due to the difficulty of A Grade sections, the other way round.

Adrian Harry bolted away from the pack and was never headed to comfortably win round 2, and retain his overall lead in TROY, 2nd however was a 3 way tussle between the returning Jarrod Barwick (Beta), Steve Marsh and Stephen Rees, with Jarrod getting the nod by 2 points from Marsh, with Rees a further 4 points back at days end.

The same riders from round 1 also dominated the top 2 positions YELLOW and BLUE Classes, with Brenton Hogan leading home Rob White and Peter Arnold leading home Ted Redway respectively. 3rd however saw some new faces added to the 2011 podiums with Scorpa mounted Joel Cramond dropping back down from A Grade to grab 3rd in B Grade from Andrew Tarrant (Beta) on a countback, and Greg Rogers knocking Tony Baughan off the C Grade podium to continue the Beta dominance there.

Elyse Arnold also continued on her way in Clubperson, but with Doug Phillips missing, it was left to Mal Mckenzie to chase her down, which he very nearly did, with the returning Dominic Brissoni (Beta) in 3rd. Rockleigh also saw a Post Classic entered for the first time in 2011, with Peter Cunningham on his 'Bully', and in overall TROY points for the BLACK & WHITE CLASS he will fill 3rd place behind Elyse & Mal.

One of the best things about Rockleigh was the number of Juniors entered, with 6 in Junior A and 7 in Junior B for a total of 13, taking the number into double figures for the first time in about 5 years!

The Junior A Class saw Matt Cunningham (Beta) win in only his 3rd start, followed home by trials first timer Dale Riddington (Honda), leaving the experienced MacKenzie Norton and Jasmine Tarrant trailing in 3rd & 4th. It should also be noted that if not for being on a Rec Licence James Scarpantoni (Beta) would have figured very high on the podium in the class.

Junior B was also dominated by the rookies, with Beta mounted sisters Melissa & Anna Rogers going 1-2 in their maiden rides, with Cameron Gerhardy filling the podium. Once again Rec & Mini Licences play a part here and the excellent rides from rookie Liam Warnest (Beta) and Haydon Barwick (Gas Gas) should also be applauded. In the wash out of the Junior B class on the day it was noted that the sections had been set a bit too hard, especially for the riders on the small wheel bikes who struggled through all day, and that Melissa Rogers may well start giving the Junior A riders some worry if she decides to promote herself to help with her riding.

In the WHITE TROY Class Matt will take the points from Dale, with MacKenzie getting the nod for 3rd from Cameron Gerhardy.

In the PINK Class the Rogers girls will come out with the points from Gwen Blesing and Jasmine Tarrant The sidecars were missing the A Grade team of Schultz & Gerhardy at the last moment, so all the TROY points were up for grabs among the 3 B Graders, and the results ended up a complete backflip from Victor with a first up win going to the team of Adam Brook & Shane Beckmann, in only their second ride, with the experienced Duncan Greenhalgh & Dave Ramsey fighting back amongst the rookies to snare second from the round 1 winners of Mark Launer & Tyson Rohralch.





First up winners at TROY round 2, Adam Brook & Shane Beckmann (B Grade Sidecar) and Melissa Rogers (Junior B)
Pics courtesy of Steve Fraser & Greg Cramond

TROY POINTS AFTER ROUND 2 (OF 4) – THE HALFWAY POINT!

RED CLASS	YELLOW CLASS	BLUE CLASS	WHITE CLASS
ADRIAN HARRY – 50	BRENTON HOGAN - 50	PETER ARNOLD – 50	MACKENZIE NORTON (JA) – 44
STEPHEN REES - 40	ROB WHITE – 44	COLIN REDWAY – 44	ETHAN HOGAN (JB) – 41
STEVE MARSH – 38	CONNOR HOGAN – 36=	TONY BAUGHAN – 38	CAMERON GERHARDY (JB) – 38
GRANT STEPHEN - 36	ANDREW TARRANT – 36=	DAVID MARTIN – 27	MATT CUNNINGHAM (JA) – 25
JARROD BARWICK – 22	JOEL CRAMOND - 20	TODD KNIGHT – 26	DALE RIDDINGTON (JA) – 22
BLACK & WHITE CLASS	PINK CLASS	RED & WHITE RIDERS	RED & WHITE PASSENGERS
ELYSE ARNOLD (CP) - 50	JASMINE TARRANT (JW) - 40=	ADAM BROOK (B) – 47	SHANE BECKMANN (B) – 47
MALCOLM McKENZIE (CP) – 36	GWEN BLESING (SW) - 40=	MARK LAUNER (B) – 45	TYSON ROHRLACH (B) - 45
JOE TARABINI (CP) – 34	HEATHER BUTTON (JW) – 25=	DUNC GREENHALGH (B) - 40	DAVE RAMSEY (B) - 40
PAUL WRIGHT (CP) – 29	MELISSA ROGERS (JB) – 25=	CHRIS SCHULTZ (A) - 20	STUART GERHARDY (A) - 20
DOUG PHILLIPS (CP) - 22	ANNA ROGERS (JB) – 22		

As can be seen, classes are still relatively close and it will only take a non-finish to, maybe, ruin someone's TROY for 2011! And while we are talking a ruined TROY, spare a thought for Dan McKenzie, who, after a promising start to his trials career in 2010 when he won the C Grade SA Title he moved up to B Grade in 2011 to ready himself for a tilt at the Youth Title at the Aussies, only to have mechanical woes at round 1 and a crash at round 2 see him with 2 DNF's to his name to start 2011! Not the ideal way to start an Aussie Title chasing year, but we hope it gets better for Dan as the year goes on!

Well, there you have it, the 'Halftime Report' of TROY 2011, but don't think for a minute that SA's moto trials riders are taking a break before Round 3! No rest is allowed as they tackle the 'cliff-hanger' that is Mount Barker on May 1st and the 'rocky ravines' of Moculta on May 15th before heading to SA's other major trials event for 2011 (outside of Trials Week & TROY), the 2011 Peter Sparkes Sidecar Trophy, to he held, as always, on the rolling hills and huge moss rocks at Tungkillo!

All the details on what will be another fantastic Peter Sparkes Sidecar Trophy should be out soon, and with the second of the Moto trials SA Coaching Clinics on the day before, there may be a chance for a camp out – conformation on this will happen ASAP!

For entry forms for these events, and all the goings on in moto trials in SA, head to the new Moto Trials SA website at samototrials.ridenet.com.au. Likewise, if you have any stories, or photos that you would like posted, send them to the webmaster, Tyler Hogan, mungeree@activ8.net.au.











Exciting SA junior talent on show at the first 2 rounds of TROY Series SA (clockwise from top left) – Tyrin Wundenberg,
MacKenzie Norton, Dale Riddington, Matt Cunningham & Cameron Gerhardy.

(pics courtesy of Greg Cramond - http://picasaweb.google.com/TrialsPhotos)