

## Motor Sport. by Laurie Fox.

JUDGING by the success of last weekend's seniors road races, one would have to think that the way to keep age at bay is to ride a racing motorcycle.

With some 105 riders and around 150 bikes taking to the McNamara Park track, the two day event was an outstanding promotion, the Mount Gambier Motor Cycle and Light Car Club the centre of accolades from competitors and spectators alike for continuing to stage this unique meeting for riders of 45 years of age and over.

With a busy program of races for various rider age groups and motorcycles of all ages ranging from pre World War One to the latest, competition was keen and anyone behind the safety fences would have to be forgiven for finding it hard to think that all on the track were senior contestants and not up and coming 20 year olds.

Aided by magnificent weather, the meeting attracted strong spectator following, enthusiasts enjoying checking out the variety of machinery, talking with competitors and enjoying the excellent catering as well as taking in all the excitement on the track.

The oldest bikes, periods one and two, ran concurrently with up to 125cc machines from all eras with separate awards for the various classes.

This group's first event was four lap scratch race where Mount Gambier clubman Stephen Arnel was first over the line on his modern 125, followed by Adelaide's Richard Rake on a period two 500cc Norton, David Morse with a 250cc Velocette, Victorian Graeme Lasslett from the Preston Club with a 125cc BSA Bantam and seven others with locals Allan Rigby on a Honda "Bucket" and Robert Day on a 50cc Kriedler enjoying a great duel ahead of Adelaide's Ian Corlett and his almost 100 year old 500cc belt drive Triumph.

Thereafter this group had four handicap races with the overall points from these deciding the handicap trophies.

The first handicap brought an exciting finish with limit man Corlett looking set for victory, leading around the last corner only to be headed by Rigby before the two were pipped on the post by Hartwell's Allan Wettenhall on a period five 125 RS Honda while Day held on for fourth just clear of local Andy Scott on a 125 Honda and Adelaide's Greg Frost on a similar model.

The next three handicaps were held on Sunday with a small number of extra starters including local veteran John Wilkinson who finished well back in the second day's first race on his veteran 350cc AJS while early starter Rigby squeezed a few more revs from his Honda to just score from Victorian David Gazley on a similar model, Arnel in a great ride from the scratch mark, Scott, Adelaide Bultaco enthusiast Trevor Henderson and

Rake.

More at home on his old machine after his virtual practice run, Wilkinson was never caught in the next handicap with Corlett making it a one-two for the veteran models ahead of Frost, Rigby, Scott and Henderson.

With a reduced start in the final event, Wilkinson held the front for three laps before being overwhelmed by Rake on his International Norton and Lasslett's BSA Bantam with Rigby fourth followed by Corlett, David Morris on a period two 350cc AJS and Henderson in another consistent performance.

The period three (classic) 350s, where riders also raced for the John Keogh Memorial Trophies, had one scratch race each day as with most other bike and age classes.

Riding his immaculate 7R AJS 350, Adelaide's Richard Metcalf was never headed in race one, leading throughout from Ian Glover on a Ducati while local Adrian Wright and Adelaide's Tony Tildesley had an almost race long duel on their Hondas, Tildesley finally finishing third when Wright's machine dropped out on the last lap while Hartwell's Peter Ross was fourth just clear of Hamilton's Les Toohey on his Gold Star BSA and David Wain on a similar machine.

Metcalf repeated the dose in Sunday's race, again holding Glover at bay while local Robert Day did well to be third on his Honda ahead of Wright, Ross, Toohey and Wain.

The combined periods four and five brought big fields to the line on both days.

Although hard pressed by Adelaide's Simon Cook on a CB1000 Honda, Rick Zakelj held on to just win Saturday's race with his 905 Ducati, followed closely by Hartwell's James Key on a 1000 Honda who was second into lap three.

Out on his GSX1100 Suzuki, Peter Ross was fourth followed by local Ducati pilot Andy Baird and clubmate Jeff Feast with a Honda 750.

Showing plenty of dash, Key was never headed in Sunday's race although Zakelj came through to be very close at the flag after working his way past Adelaide's Murray Johnson on an 880cc Triumph Trident, Baird, Ross, Cook, Feast and Mount Gambier's John Astbury on a 750 H2 Kawasaki.

The over 350cc period three "classics" also had big fields and was very keenly contested.

Despite the efforts of Victorian Brendan O'Neill on a 500 Matchless, Sandringham's Russell Craddock was never headed in Saturday's race, keeping his 650 Triel special on the boil to score narrowly while Richard Metcalf was a consistent third on his 500cc Manx Norton, holding off Toohey's 500 BSA, Mac Park regular John Maher with a 700 Norton and Mount Gambier clubman Mark McKeown on a 750 Norton.

Craddock made another strong bid on Sunday, leading into the last lap only to be just headed by O'Neill with Metcalf again third followed by Maher, Toohey, McKeown and Victorian Graeme Wagland on a 650 Triton.

With a big field of nearly 30, the modern bike class included many top performers including current "Master of Mac Park" title holder, Mildura's Karl Schmidt on a 929 Honda.

Schmidt quickly showed his ability in Saturday's race, leading throughout from Mount Gambier club member Howard Sabey on a 1000 Yamaha, Graham Snaith from the Adelaide Phoenix Club on another 1000 Yamaha, Hartwell's Paul Coleman on a GSXR 600 Suzuki and Victorian Dale Scott on an R6 Yamaha 600, all showing great pace and never far apart.

Although almost a repeat with the same top six place-getters in order, Sunday's race produced plenty of close racing with many keen tussles right back through the field of 26.

The solo action then turned to the five rider age group races, once again with one on each day.

The 69 years and over class was well supported and brought a first race victory for well known veteran and Mac Park supporter Hal Hutchesson from Adelaide, keeping his GSXR1000 Suzuki ahead of John Maher, John Cully from the Bears Club on a 900 Triumph, Tony Tildesley with a 350 Honda, Hartwell's Keith Jolly with a 500 Suzuki and Victorian Paul McGahan on a 500 Triton.

Sunday's race brought a repeat win for Hutchesson over Maher, Cully and Jolly with McGahan fifth ahead of Rob Kenna and Scott Seabrook from Tasmania.

In the 55 to 59 years section, Adelaide Cafe Racer Club rider John Snoad did well to win both the Saturday and Sunday events on his 1200 Suzuki despite a very strong challenge from Hartwell's James Key on a 600 Yamaha who led Sunday's race for two laps before finishing a close second again.

Mike Retallick was third on each occasion on his 675 Triumph while Richard Metcalf, Graeme Wagland and Ray Wilson were next on Saturday and Wilson, Wagland, Lyall Williamson and Kenna on Sunday.

The 45 to 54 years group was further sub-divided into three bike capacity classes, up to 500cc, 501 to 750cc and 751 to 1200cc.

Even so, the up to 500cc had a very big field but dominated on Saturday by Brendan O'Neill who led all the way to beat Les Toohey, Chris Hudson, Ian Glover, Robert Day and Brett Rose from the Melbourne Harley Club on a 500 Norton.

O'Neill repeated the dose on Sunday, again beating Toohey but with Day going well on

his 350 Honda third followed by Adelaide's Chris Pash on a 500 Suzuki, Rose and Wally Ryan from Adelaide on a 250 Yamaha.

The 501 to 750 section brought a win for Hartwell's Coleman on Saturday, clear of a battling pair in Adelaide's Steve Kerr on a 600 Triumph and his clubmate Kym Davey with a 600 Honda, then coming Andy Baird, Neil Macartney on a 750 Ducati and Jerry Kushnir on a 750 Kawasaki.

Although pushed right to the finish by Dale Scott, Coleman scored again on Sunday while Davey did well to steal third from Kerr at the last minute, then coming Macartney and Baird.

Karl Schmidt showed his class to win Saturday's 751 to 1200cc race while Howard Sabey just held Graham Snaith at bay for second and, in another race long duel, Simon Cook narrowly headed Rick Zakelj for fourth.

Looking set for another first on Sunday, Schmidt made a rare last lap error when leading to let Sabey through to score from Snaith and Stephen Millar on a 1000 Suzuki, Schmidt restarting for fourth ahead of Zakelj, Mick Engberg from Mount Gambier on an 850 Yamaha TRX and Phillip Wilson.

Winding up the solo action, the groups where the combined ages of rider and machine set the classes were again well supported..

The 45 plus Cup saw Schmidt atone for his error, winning clearly from Sabey, Snaith, Dale Scott and Millar while the 65 plus Cup went to Zakelj from Hal Hutchesson and John Snod in a tight finish, Andy Baird and Peter Ross.

James Key got his reward in the 90 plus Cup, breaking clear of Russell Craddock on the last lap while Mark McKeown, Robert Day and Ian Glover were next.

Richard Metcalf had no problems in the 100 plus Cup, safely heading Les Toohey, Graeme Wagland and Brett Rose, but, in the 110 plus Cup, Metcalf found veteran John Maher just a fraction too good, Maher making a nice finish to his weekend while third went to Paul McGahan ahead of a tight trio in Bob McDonough, Wagland and John Imrie on his 250 Bultaco.

Turning to the sidecars, there were two groups for separate scratch races, periods four and five and modern, and periods two and three.

Each group had two scratch races before all ran together for three handicaps where the overall placings were decided on points.

The first faster class scratch race went to Bill Stoyel with Greg Pound, beating Mount Gambier's Alan Smith and Craig Lawson with Max Hooper and Kevin Burns third ahead of Adrian Van Uitert with Peter Caldicott and Tasmanian Scott Seabrook with Lesley

Lancaster.

While Smith and Stoyel were first and second in race two, Hooper pulled out while Van Uitert lost his passenger spectacularly when his rear tyre suddenly deflated and the outfit grounded, leaving Seabrook for third.

In the older bike class, James Gilbert with Mick Jones finished streets ahead of David Wain and Greg Ditchfield in race one with Graham Rowley and Terry Hutchesson a close third while Terry McBride and Bob Glynn failed to finish.

Only two lined up for race two, Gilbert winning easily from Wain.

Spoiled by a timing instrument failure, the first handicap went to Wain from a close up Gilbert while the faster models had no hope but finished well back in the order of Seabrook, Stoyel, Smith and Hooper.

Better organised, the second handicap went to Van Uitert from Hooper, Stoyel, Smith, Gilbert, Wain and Seabrook while the third event brought a dashing ride by Wain on his Tri-Ariel, overcoming a reduced start to just hold on and score from Hooper, Stoyel, Smith, Van Uitert, Seabrook and Gilbert.

Taken all round, a truly wonderful meeting in superb weather, thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

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SENIORS road races, detailed results.

Period one scratch: Ian Corlett (Triumph TT 500)

Period two scratch: Richard Rake (500 Norton), David Morse (250 Velocette).

Period three 125cc: Graeme Lasslett (125 BSA)

Period four 125cc: Greg Frost (125 Honda)

Modern 125: Stephen Arnel (Honda RS125)

Period three 250cc: Graeme Wagland (Velocette)

Period three 350cc: Richard Metcalf (AJS 7R), Ian Glover (Ducati), Peter Ross (AJS 7R).  
These riders also won the John Keogh Memorial trophies.

Period three 500cc: Brendan O'Neill (500 Matchless), Richard Metcalf (500 Norton), Les Toohey (500 BSA)

Period three over 500cc: Russell Craddock (650 Ariel), John Maher (700 Norton), Mark

McKeown (750 Norton).

Period four 250cc: Scott Seabrook (250 Suzuki).

Period four 500cc: Chris Pash (500 Suzuki).

Period four over 500cc: James Key (1000 Honda), Simon Cook (1000 Honda), Jeff Feast (750 Honda).

Period five 250cc: Wally Ryan (Yamaha), Craig Lawson (Yamaha).

Period five over 500cc: Rick Zakelj (905 Ducati), Andy Baird (900 Ducati), Peter Ross (1100 Suzuki)

Modern Super mono-motard: Rodney Martlew (600 Honda-Suz)

Modern 600cc: Paul Coleman (600 Suzuki), Scott Dale (600 Yamaha), Steve Kerr (600 Triumph).

Modern over 600cc: Karl Schmidt (929 Honda), Howard Sabey (1000 Yamaha), Graham Snaith (1000 Yamaha).

60 years and over: Hal Hutchesson (1100 Suzuki), John Maher (700 Norton), John Cully (900 Triumph).

55 to 59 years: John Snoad (1200 Suzuki), James Key (600 Yamaha), Mike Retallick (675 Triumph).

45 to 54 years up to 500cc: Brendan O'Neill (500 Matchless), Les Toohey (500 BSA), Robert Day (350 Honda).

45 to 54 years 501 to 750cc: Paul Coleman (600 Suzuki), Steve Kerr (600 Triumph), Kym Davey (600 Honda).

45 to 54 years 751 to 1200cc: Howard Sabey (1000 Yamaha), Karl Schmidt (929 Honda), Graham Snaith (1000 Yamaha)

45 plus cup: Karl Schmidt (929 Honda), Howard Sabey (1000 Yamaha), Graham Snaith (1000 Yamaha).

65 plus cup: Rick Zakelj (905 Ducati), Hal Hutchesson (1100 Suzuki), John Snoad (1200 Suzuki).

90 plus cup: James Key (1000 Honda), Russell Craddock (650 Triumph), Mark McKeown (750 Norton).

100 plus cup: Richard Metcalf (500 Norton), Les Toohey (500 BSA), Graeme Wagland

(650 Triton)'

110 plus cup: John Maher (700 Norton), Richard Metcalf (350 AJS), Paul McGahan (500 Triton).

Period one and two and 125cc handicap overall: Allan Rigby (125 Honda), Andrew Scott (125 Honda), Trevor Henderson (125 Bultaco).

Sidecar scratch overall: Period three, James Gilbert (730 Triumph), David Wain (650 Tri-Ariel).

Period four, Bill Stoyel (1000 Honda).

Modern, Alan Smith (1127 Suzuki).

Sidecar handicap overall: David Wain (650 Tri-Ariel), Max Hooper (1100 Suzuki), Bill Stoyel (1000 Honda).

Highest combined ages of bike and rider trophy: John Wilkinson (350 AJS) 175 years

Kieselbach Ambassador Trophy: Richard Rake (500 Norton).

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