

Spokesman

St George Motorcycle Club Newsletter

July 2014



Hibernation?

Us? Not quite!! Not even close!!

So what's been happening at your Club?

Dirt Track

Our next Dirt Track event is coming up very soon, on Sunday 20th July at the Nepean track.

Entries will be open shortly and you are encouraged to enter before the day to speed up the sign on process on the day (you won't lose your money if it's rained out so there is no risk).

WE NEED VOLUNTEER HELPERS FOR THIS EVENT. PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU CAN ASSIST ON THE DAY ☺

Our next Dirt Track outing after this will be on 14th September at Fairburn Park in Canberra.

Road Racing

After our little calendar hiatus we are now in full swing preparing for what is arguably the busiest weekend on our calendar - Wakefield Park in August.

Entries are open and filling fast for:

- Saturday 2nd August - Round 3, Sprint Round
- Sunday 3rd August - Round 4, RB Endurance 4 Hour Race

~ ENTRY FORMS ON THE WEBSITE NOW ~

Some VERY IMPORTANT reminders for this event:

- No one day licenses available for this event
- Participants in the 4 hour must have previously raced in a St George event this can be the day before the 4 hour
- We encourage you to bring generators for your auxiliary power needs such as kettles, coolers, etc as power issues are common at Wakefield

***After the Wakefield event in August we are off to Broadford in Victoria on 8th and 9th September
.....entries are already open and being received!***

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****NO CALLS AFTER 8PM****

CONTACT US – Membership

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CLUB MEETINGS

– All Welcome!

Held at 8pm on the 2nd and 4th
Wednesday of each month at
Gymea/Miranda Bowling Club at
The Kingsway Gymea
(Except State of Origin nights!)

ST GEORGE MCC TURNS 100NEARLY!



Next year we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary - an amazing achievement in anyone's book!

Plans are underway for a HUGE celebration on either the 4th or 11th of July 2015, with the date and venue to be confirmed very shortly.

Please keep these dates in mind and perhaps pencil them in your diary ready for ticket sales which will be released later this year.....spread the word to club members old and new!

Flaggies and other Officials

Letters will be going out shortly asking for Volunteer Officials for our two day Road Racing event at Wakefield Park in August. Please feel free to contact us anytime to volunteer yourself (or dob in a friend!) to be a Flag Marshal or help out in another way at our events. No experience is needed and we will train you on the day.

It's not just Flaggies that we need, with helpers also needed for jobs such as; runner, recovery, catering, lap scoring, timing, BBQ prep, general helpers, etc. If you are more of a behind the scenes type of person and don't particularly want to be out on a flag point then let us know and we will do our best to find a job to suit your skills and preferences.

A very special member of our Club celebrates 60 years of involvement as an official in motorcycling next year. In this edition we ask Jan Blizzard.....

What does a Race Secretary do?

I have been asked to describe what is required for the job of a Race Secretary.

I don't know if anyone will believe me when I say this job is almost non stop throughout the year. Many seem to think it is only what they see being done at a race meeting. However, that is only 5% of the job. The other 95% is done prior to arriving at the meeting and finishing off after the meeting.

This article will deal with road racing in particular because of the necessity to start 12 months in advance. This is due to the lack of circuit availability (unlike motocross and dirt track).

1. You need to discuss with your club committee how many meetings they want, where they want them and approximately when they want them. You then write to the circuit owners – yes 1 year in advance – requesting dates. Always nominate 2nd and sometimes 3rd alternatives. Don't be surprized if you get something totally different to what you have requested. Also request consideration that your dates be several weeks clear of any other motorcycle bookings they may have.
2. Book Medical Services required as soon as possible. Usually December/January.
3. Your next job, usually around May or June, is to register the dates (for the following year) with Motorcycling NSW. These are then put onto their annual dates calendar. Hopefully, your circuit bookings have been confirmed by this time.
4. Book – approximate number of Timing Transponders required for each meeting.

You then continue on running the current year's race meetings as follows:-

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1. Three months prior to each meeting you draft up supplementary regulations and discuss with club committee. Make any corrections required.
2. When OK'd by committee forward with completed Permit Application form to Motorcycling NSW . This must be done a minimum of 8 weeks prior to each meeting or 3 months if the meeting is an Australian Championship.
3. Order approximate trophies needed. Confirming later when entries are finalised.
4. Book Radios – quantities will differ to suit each circuits requirements.
5. Contact MNSW (or whatever LCB) requesting permit number so that Supplementary Regulations and Entry Form can be printed and/or electronically distributed.
6. Write to all officials requesting their assistance.
7. Update computer database ready for compilation of entries.
8. Get Admission tickets, car passes, etc printed ready for mailing out.
9. By this time entries should be coming in.
10. Once entries are all compiled you can then prepare Final Instructions and discuss them with you club committee.
11. Reconfirm Medical services are OK. **Do not forget to do this. No Medical means no racing.**
12. Print and mail Final Instructions to competitors, Steward, Officials and Sponsors. (Allow about 4 hours to do this) Mailing should be a full 7-10 days prior to meeting. Send off Programme to printer.

By this time you will have an invoice for Circuit Hire Fee which has to be paid **prior** to the meeting in most cases.

13. Confirm Trophy and engraving with trophy supplier.
14. Forward entry list to Chief Timekeeper.
15. Prepare and print Scrutineering sheets and stickers for bikes and helmets.
16. Prepare Lapscoreing and Pointscore sheets.
17. Prepare Riders Sign On sheets.
18. Advise caterer number of officials lunches required (including any specials diets).
19. Arrange pick up of Transponders so that they can be charged up for meeting.
20. Prepare Riders Briefing sign on sheets / Grid Sheets / Result (Trophy winners) Sheets
21. Pick Up Trophies / Pick up Programmes from printer.
22. Purchase Copy Paper (box) and all stationery required during meeting.
23. Arrange BBQ supplies – and someone to pick them up .
24. Arrange Drinks and nibbles etc for officials esky's.
25. Arrange pick up and delivery of Radios.

NOW YOU ARE READY FOR RACE DAY

26. Display Permit in Office
27. Check all facilities and equipment are ready to distribute eg.Extinguishers, brooms, etc
28. Set up Sign on sheets for Riders and Officials
29. Set up Transponders ready for riders to pick up.
30. Make any amendments to programme if necessary
31. Prepare grid sheets after qualifying.
32. Check with Chief Marshal that we have enough flaggies etc. to be able to start meeting.
33. Give Clerk of Course riders briefing sign on sheets.
34. Hopefully, practice/qualifying has begun
35. Copy and post results and times after each event.
36. (Keep a minimum 3 full sets of results aside (2 must go to Steward for MNSW)

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.....cont ...YEP, there's **MORE!!!**

37. Prepare and distribute new grid sheets for following races.
38. Hopefully, Caterer has arrived with Officials lunches.
39. Set up Trophies ready for presentation.
40. Prepare final results for day.
41. Check Gate Takings (if any) – especially if sharing with circuit owner.

AT HOME AFTER MEETING

42. Send off Rider Levy List and cheque to Motorcycling NSW.
43. Pay any bills – trophies, radios, medical, timing, caterer or any other expenses.
44. Mail programme and results to sponsors
45. File away all paperwork from meeting.
46. Replenish any stationery required – eg window faced envelopes, stickers, paper and pens.

By now you should have already started on the next round!!!

Hopefully, anyone who would like to do this job has an equally enthusiastic or very understanding partner during all this. I hope I haven't frightened too many people away!! I must say I have really enjoyed my 59 years as an official.....although I really started many years before that. My father was a speedway rider for 20 years and it all started back then, when as a 10 year old, I was filling in the results in the speedway programmes for him.

I later met Arthur who rode scrambles (now motocross) and short circuit (now dirt track) in those days, joined St. George club in 1955, and I started out as a lapscorer. During this time our club conducted motocross, dirt track and sporting trials. We introduced the Bert Bayliss Reliability Trial and conducted the Mick Andrew Trial. This is where I started out as a Race Secretary. I continued as a race secretary when Amaroo Park and Oran Park opened in 1962 and 1963 our club started to run Interclub Road Racing.

I also worked as Race Secretary at Nepean Dirt Track meetings for a couple of years and that included a couple of six hour races. Along the way I was also working with Willoughby MCC and Northern Districts MCC as a lapscorer at their Road Race meetings.

I was then helping the ACU with the organising of the Bathurst Road Race meetings between 1959 and 1968. The when Arthur took over the role of Event Director at Bathurst I became fully responsible as the race secretary until the end in 1988.

Things developed from there. Arthur and I were involved in the organising of the first ever International meeting to be held in Australia. That was the International Motocross at Oran Park in 1972 where Roger De Costa and several other International riders competed. We then conducted the first two World Superbike Championships ever held in Australia – again at Oran Park in 1988 and 1989.

This all sounds like a lot of hard work. Perhaps it was and still is. But there has also been lots of fun. Even at the busiest times at race meetings after them we have all had some fantastic times together. This is, and always will be, the very good side to all of this.

I've met and have made lots of great friends. I have lots of wonderful memories.

Over the years I have seen so many ups and downs in this sport but friendships made have been kept though it all. The pleasure in seeing people achieve their goals both competitors and officials alike has been great. The only time I know it's been so long is when I come face to face with second and third generations of families who have or are competing and the first person of that generation comes up and reminds me that my name still appears in the List of Officials of that meeting.

Jan Blizzard.



**THANKS JAN, from all of us at
St George MCC!**

Enjoy your 60th year!!