

Surface Mail



FLATCHAT January - February 2012

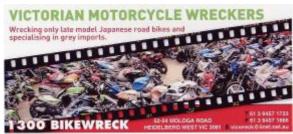
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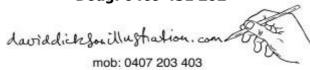


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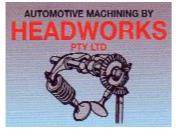








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The Committee

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Committee Members	Robert Todd	Glen Walsh	
Life Members	John Todd Mike Brudar Mick Large	Garth Rhodes Dave Large Graham Harder	Shirley Luke Robert Todd Marg Todd

Presidents Report

How are you all? Got through Christmas and New Year unscathed?

How are the New Years resolutions travelling.....still determinedly sticking to them or all of it in tatters? I reckon the best resolution is just to keep racing and living life to the full. Yep, that'll do me.

So, what has HMRAV got in store for 2012? Hopefully more of what you the club members want. The planning for the year has already started, with much discussion about events, classes, red plate bikes, trade support,

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Although Marchy wasn't racing there was plenty of Norton racing activity to keep him happy.

sponsors and promotion. We want to build on the success of 2011 and continue to grow the club and maintain our position as the number one historic racing club in Australia.

With the continued growth in popularity of the Come and Try day, we're looking into the feasibility of extra days or even combining them with another clubs introduction day. 104 entries at what is basically an open practice at Broadford, tells us that you like these events and you're happy to support them.

The Classic Sidecar Challenge is on again for 2012. The success of this series has

shown that with a little bit of organisation, you can create an event that sparks interest, camaraderie and a great deal of competition. It's a formula that can be applied to any class, (SA do something a bit similar with LC Yamaha's) and I'd be happy to talk to anyone out there who wants to do something along the same lines with their particular class.

My contact details are at the front of the newsletter. I'm just a clubby racer like you and I'm interested in your views and opinions. If you've got some ideas or you want to have a chat about something, give me a call or drop me an email.



Leanne and Emily March look on as Brian discusses the finer points of racing to Darren.

Cheers, Marchy.

Over the Fish Line

It's with much regret that we have lost two of our long standing members
Ross Foster and Bob Mc Donough . Ross was indeed a true Motorcycle enthusiast. Bobs career spaded some
67 year in motorcycle racing competing on sidecar and solo's in every aspect of the sport.
They will be greatly missed, our thoughts are with their respective family's.

HMRAV PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2012 TO REMEMBER (subject to change!)

April 21 & 22 for Vic Titles May 26 & 27 Historic Winton 2 + 4 October 20 & 21 for Southern Classic



HMRAV Club meetings are conducted at the

Mitcham Angling Club 19 Brunswick Street, Mitcham



Meetings are (usually) held every 4th Monday of the month from 7pm SHARP:

26th March

16th April

Come along, and join us!

January - February 2012

14th May

27th February

Mac Park New Year's meeting 2011/2012.

Round Three of the Classic Sidecar Challenge

As promised after last year's event, a group of HMRAV members made their way down to Mt.Gambier to compete at the HMCRRSA's SA titles over the New Year weekend. Mac Park is just such a great complex, with terrific camping and pit facilities and my personal favourite track.

This meeting also hosted the final round of the inaugural "Classic Sidecar Challenge" and we knew the Queenslanders were coming down to try and scoop up the trophies. This series has been a great success with grids increasing by 50 to 100% and we were all hoping for a big show to help motivate some of the P3 sidecar guys in SA.

The forecast was for a boiler of a weekend with temperature's predicted as high 40c. We prepared our camp as best we could, by setting up a large area under the shade of a tarp and positioning it all away from the afternoon sun.

Our little group consisted of Butch and Wal with their P3 Triumph, Toddy and Dave Betteridge with Parker, Leanne and I with our Norton chair, plus Dave and I with our P3 Norton unlimited solos. Also present in the classic sidecar field were Ditchy and Tiny, Pete Large and Wayne Rowe and Garth Francis and Paul Kenny with their Tribsa. Down from Queensland

were Tony Jacobs and Nathan May with their Triumph outfit and Gene Lopeman and Vicki Butler with their Sporton. All up, 8 P3 outfits, a 100% increase on last year.

Saturday's practice and qualifying went well, with few issues and most of the sidecar teams adjusting well to Mac Parks many twists and turns. Even though the actual tower is gone, water tower corner still caused a few headaches as everyone played around with lines and passengers tried to get their timing right.

Saturday's heat was stifling with everyone struggling to cool down. Cold lunch time showers and wet cloth's around your neck were the order of the day, with copious bottles of water being drunk. I think it was one of the hottest day's I'd ever raced in and Sunday's forecast was for even hotter temperatures.



Unfortunately Dave and my solos called it quits with motor dramas. Mine expired in a big way down the back straight with what looks like a 3 piece crank that's now morphed into a six piece one. Dave's is a bit more of a mystery as it had just had a rebuild. A small crack in the drive side crankcase and what looks like pieces of piston in the sump does not look promising.

Sunday dawned and it looked like it was going to be a pretty tough day. We had 3 races, plus the handicap at the finish. It was hotter than the day before and the heat was starting to take its toll.



The first drama of the day was broken gearbox plates for Toddy. Luckily, Garth and Paul had brought welding equipment, (we'd used it the day before to fix my belt cover) and with Dave Betteridge on duty, this was soon sorted. I had a clutch cable call it quits, then Butch and Wal came in with a head stud that had backed out. We both got these issues sorted, when Toddy came in with no spark and adodgy oil pressure relief valve. Pete Large had brake issues and Gene had lost his muffler, (but found a few extra horses in the bargain). Toddy's gear box plates had cracked again and Butch's head gasket had blown, so unfortunately that was the end of the weekend for those teams. Garth and Paul had magneto and gearbox issues all day Saturday, but looked to be up and about on Sunday. Tony Jacobs thought his bike may have been overheating as it started every race

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well but seemed to lose power as the races wore on. Tiny and Ditchy were running strong, but the bad luck was waiting for them in the handicap.

The last race of the day was the sidecar handicap and the Sidecar Challenge points couldn't have been tighter. After three rounds, thousands of kilometres travelled and untold hours in the shed, it'd all come down to this final race. First away were Gene and Vicki and they held this spot for almost the entirerace until the infamous watertower. In a repeat of last year, Garth and Paul made their move and were first classic home. This last 100 metres actually decided third place in the Unlimited section of the Sidecar Challenge. I told you it was tight!



Brian March presents the inaugural Unlimited sidecar Challenge trophy to Tony Jacobs and Nathan May



Camp HMRAV, How's the Serenity!

the excitement wasn't over.....Ditchy and Tiny are well known for using all the track and a bit more when cornering their outfit. I've witnessed their off road excursions many times and they seem to do it without a care in the world. As is their norm, coming on to the straight for the last time, they ran wide and onto the dirt. However this time they went a bit wider and got into some really deep stuff which grabbed the front wheel and things went decidedly pear shaped. I'm told they flipped the outfit twice and when Leanne and I came through seconds later, there was just a huge dust cloud enveloping the start/finish line. There were some obvious concerns for the fella's but the current HMRAV Sidecar club champions are made of tough stuff and they both came out of it ok. There are some fairly amazing photos on Facebook if you want to see how it all unfolded.

The Trophy presentations are always a lot of fun at this meeting and I was honoured to be up on stage with the other two main supporters of the series, Gene Lopeman and Danny Ahern, to hand out the Sidecar Challenge trophies and plaques. There were some great speeches and some very excited trophy winners. The enthusiasm surrounding classic sidecars at the moment is really growing and 2012 is looking like being even bigger again!

I honestly couldn't think of anywhere I'd prefer to be. Great racing, great track, great friends and a great finish to the Inaugural Sidecar Challenge.

Results of the "Classic Sidecar Challenge":

650 Class

1st Pete Large and Wayne Rowe 2nd David Wain and Greg Ditchfield 3rd Robert Todd/Lloyd Todd/Dave Betteridge

Unlimited Class

1st Tony Jacobs and Nathan May 2nd Garth Francis and Paul Kenny 3rd Brian and Leanne March



The beer stein trophies certainly came in handy at the end of a hot weekends racing. Cheers to all who competed and congratulations to the winners!

Cheers, Marchy.

(As a footnote, when I got home I found a couple of cracks in the outfits frame. Mac Park certainly took it's toll!)

Island Classic 2012

The Period 3 sidecar report, I believe there were other races on but have no idea what happened in any of them!

This year saw 4 HMRAV Period 3 sidecars enter the 19th Island Classic and with every one in the same pits it was bound to be a great weekend with Brian and Leanne March (Norton), Toddy and Lloyd (Triumph), Chris Large and Peter Heywood (Triumph) and Dave Betteridge and I (Norton) rounding out the HMRAV P3 sidecar team.

The Marchy's were a scratching before the event with Brian's broken frame unable to be repaired after cracks in both front frame tubes were discovered after Mac Park at the start of January.

Chris was almost a no show too. After building up a new "special motor" and putting it in the frame he discovered the chain would never line up! A big night Thursday had Chris pulling the new motor out and with Dad Dave's help a 650 was hastily assembled and bolted in ready to go.



Toddy and Lloyd try and figure out how to keep the platform attached to Parker!

Pic, Marg Todd

Plenty of work to be done in the pits, Steve Howe, Brian, Dave and Glen all working to sort out the new Norton.

Friday morning and I was very keen to get some track time on my Norton after breaking

the bike in the first race at the Southern Classic, but it seemed the gremlins were still being disruptive! After only a lap I was back in the pits with no _____ clutch.



Some valuable track time really helped the Norton

various things were looked at until we discovered that the nut on the main gearbox shaft had stripped and come loose. This isn't the sort of spare part that comes readily to hand but once again it was Rissole to the rescue.



Chloe, Charlotte and Lucy Dane, were very impressed with Tony Peters P4 Honda, Can't understand why?

Chris also had problems Friday afternoon after his sidecar tyre went flat. On closer inspection the scrutineers decided a new tyre was in order so off Chris went but after stoping at some of the closer bike shops he was still out of luck. It wasn't until he





Pete and Chris trying hard. (Photo courtesy AMCN)

reached Pablo's that Chris was able to source something suitable, a new tyre, that had white walls. Opinions varied as to how much of a performance advantage the whitewalls would be.

After 2 practice sessions and 2 qualifying sessions the grid had been decided and there was less than a



Why is there always something that needs adjustment when you're ready to go out!

second between the three of us. The sledging started and we were all looking forward to some close racing with Bryce

Davies and Brett Gilbert on the Gilbert Triumph and Bill Hargrave and Craig Mitchell from WA on Triumph making up the rest of the Period 3 field.

The first two races on Saturday were a huge amount of fun with lots of passing, some of it a little on the unorthodox side, Chris



went bush at Honda at the start of race two and Toddy spun out in sympathy. We were all trying pretty hard. The second race was red flagged after 3 laps cutting short some of the fun but it was a heaven sent reprieve for Chris and Pete.

Coming around the Southern Loop Chris's Triumph started playing up and after looking at some possible problems he realised that he'd run out of fuel even though he'd filled up. Sunday's races were also 5 laps instead of 4 so even more fuel would be needed. A call was made to Stuart Gorrie to bring an auxiliary tank.

Sunday morning arrived and for once the Phillip Island weather was consistent across all three days, hot! Pete and Chris waited anxiously for Stewie and as if scripted in Hollywood he arrived with just enough time to fit the tank in a mad frenzy. Unfortunately

all this effort came to nothing after a condenser failure put Chris and Pete out of the third race.

Toddy started the third race from pit lane and must have had two bowls of weeties for breaky! He was flying and on a mission

chasing down Bryce and Brett, who'd managed to find some extra pace, lapping much quicker than Saturday. Toddy caught and passed Bryce only to be passed again and relegated to second place.

The last race Sunday was all set to be the final showdown with all of us close on the

HMRAV was well represented at the presentations

Pic, Marg Todd

points table. But the day still had some dramas to unfold. Pete and Chris were sidelined on the warm-up lap with a broken distributor and Toddy and Lloyd went out on lap one with a broken pushrod. That left Bryce and Brett first, Dave and I second and Bill and Craig third for the final race and the final standings for the weekend.



Classic sidecar presentations, Craig, Brett, Bryce, Glen and Dave, and our support crews

But it wasn't all racing. In typical HMARV fashion our pit seemed more like a family holiday unit for much of the time with all our wives, kids, partners and

friends getting involved and being a major part of our racing weekend offering support, encouragements and the traditional Sunday buffet. A very big thanks to all for such a great weekend. Congratulations to all HMRAV members who competed.

The H.M.R.A.V. would like to welcome the following new members

Peter Whelan Barry Buhmann Steven Closter Michael Rigby Bruce Harrop Rocco Molluso Mark Jones Rob Warden Mathew Webb Carolyn Jenner

Minutes from HMRAV Meeting

Date: 23/01/2012 Time: 7:00pm Venue: Mitcham Angling Club



Present: John Daly, Doug Hicks, Kelly Spargo, Mick Chegwidden, Dave Philpots, Brian March,

Phil Watson.

Apologies: The Todds, Craig Anson, Glen Dane, Chris Large, Leanne March.

Meeting Commenced: 7:10 pm.

ITEM 1: Matters arising from previous minutes:

As read and accepted.

Moved: Kelly Seconded: Doug

ITEM 2: Presidents Report

S'Classic: Progressive grids and new colour program both really well accepted.

Race length to be changed from 6 laps to 5.

Scrutineering and general presentation of machines needs to be improved at Mt. Tarrengower. This will be spelt out and emphasised in Supp. Regs.

Come and Try day hugely popular. 104 entries a brilliant response. Club to look at making it a major event on the calendar.

Moved: Mick Seconded: Dave

ITEM 3: Secretary's Report

Emailed to committee prior to meeting. As read and accepted.

John spoke at length about the increased scrutiny of race meetings and club activities by Worksafe. John suggested the club draft a letter to a member of Parliament outlining our concerns.

Moved: Brian Seconded: Doug

ITEM 4: Treasurers Report.

Chris not in attendance, however Kelly provided the following information:

Float: \$6221 Savings: \$58,240

2 new members have signed up since the last meeting.

Moved: Phil Seconded: Dave

ITEM 5: Delegates Report.

Delegates Report emailed to committee prior to meeting. As read and accepted.

John also provided the following – F2 sidecars to run the 1st leg of their Vic Championships at the Historic Vic Titles. The rest to be run under auspices of IEG.

Moved: Phil Seconded: Mick

ITEM 6: Race Secretaries report.

Kelly stated that entries for the Vic Titles were slowly coming in and that she needs the tickets asap.

Moved: Mick Seconded: Doug

ITEM 7: Vic Titles.

1. Flyers/program cover being put together by Sid Evans. Overall committee happy with draft. Suggestions/alterations to be provided to Sid.

2. Steward and C of C need to be appointed – Kelly to arrange.

3. Responsibilities:

Race Marshalls - Kelly

Volunteers/Helpers – Phil

Permit application - Kelly

Track hire - John....Forms to be sent

Timing - Kelly

Scrutineering – John to contact Dave & Barry Morgan

Trophies - Brian

Supp Regs - Toddy, Marg & Kelly

Programme - Marg

Track set up - Toddy, Marg, Brian & Leanne

Raffle and prizes – Glen and Dave (agreed that money raised to be donated to Cystic Fibrosis Research)

Merchandise - volunteers required for ordering, managing and selling

Catering – Phil Gate keepers - ?

Marquee - Chris

John queried where the Digital DVD projector was and if it could be available for the Vic Titles.

ITEM 8: Medical Providers

Lengthy discussion took place in regards to determining which Medical provider the club will engage for the whole of 2012. It had previously been determined that we wished to have the one provider for the year so as to simplify event preparations and to possibly negotiate a better deal.

Three companies had provided HMRAV with information/quotes for 2012. They were Race Solutions, Race Safe and Eventsmooth. Costs, level of service and promotional requirements discussed.

A vote was proposed but due to a number of committee members absent from the meeting, it was determined to take a vote via e-mail at a later date. This would also allow more information to be sought out.

Due to the increased level of Medical service being provided to competitors, a rise in entry fees may be required.

ITEM 9: General Business.

Due to the large amount of sales at the S'Classic, a review of merchandise articles may be timely. An article in the newsletter asking for assistance in this area may be worthwhile.

Doug Hicks: Three sheds booked at the Bonanza for HMRAV members. Cost to be shared by all who use the sheds. Doug also chasing up some sponsors for the Vic Titles. 2 ads in Just Bikes and Old Bike Australia promoting the Vic Titles. Phil Watson asked for an up to date membership list.

Dave Philpots – Thunder Road Brewery negotiations still continuing. Spectator numbers from S'Classic provided. John suggested a "Promotions Report" be submitted every month.

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Next meeting will be at

7:00pm

Monday, 27th February, 2012 Mitcham Angling Club 11 Brunswick Rd. Mitcham

Concerned for the New Year

Esteemed editor,

I feel it is necessary to re-visit a particular subject that I wrote to you about many months ago. After a period of decorum, the dress standards of certain high ranking HMRAV officials has once again been brought into question.

At the annual gathering of motorcycle speedster's at the picturesque McNamara Park circuit over the New Year period, two of HMRAV's committee members were spotted wearing shorts that could only be described as something a shearer wouldn't be seen dead in.

Robert Todd and Michael Chegwidden need to be aware that "cut off" pants that have holes in them large enough to put ones hand in, are not the sort of image that encourages people of taste to associate with the club.

At the recent Island Classic, you my good editor, also "put a foot wrong", so to speak. What drove you to cut out the toes of your perfectly good sandshoes, is anyone's guess.

I would like to go on record requesting that the HMRAV recruit someone knowledgeable in the area of male dress sense, (perhaps a salesman from a menswear boutique in Chapel Street?) that could attend race meetings and provide helpful hints and guidance. I'm sure they would be well received and remember "It is not only important to be good, one must look good doing it".

As always,

Concerned of Moonee Ponds.

I believe it is the prerogative of any "racer" to do as he or she see fit in the pits. Infact it is almost demanded that racers have their own unique sense of style that sets them apart from the mere mortals. Furthermore I don't believe it is a coincidence that after I started wearing my patented *racer runners*© that my performances improved!

Glen





Historic Practice Days 2012

Monday 16th January Monday 26th March Monday 23rd April
Monday 14th May Monday 9th July Monday 10th September
Monday 8th October Monday 12th November

Other Dates

- o Open Practice Day Saturday 21st January
- o Open Practice Day Sunday 29th January
- Open Practice Day Friday 3rd February
- o Open Practice Day Sunday 19th February

Entry fee \$120.00 ea \$25 One Day Licence & Insurance Levy

Enter on the day 8.30am Sign in/Track Activities from 9am
MV Medallion holders free entry
Canteen Open for Breakfast &b Lunch,
bacon and egg sandwich, hot tea and coffee

Call 03 5784 4163 for 24 Hour Information Service or e; broadford@motorcyclingvic.com.au

Stolen on 28/01/12

Triumph 1969 TR6R Club plate 0613H Frame # NC02674 TR6R Engine # T120R89626

I ask you blokes to watch out for bits and pieces offered for sale or for someone who turns up wherever with a previously unknown '69 Trophy / Tiger.

Please call Richard (0401778332) if you hear anything that can be forwarded to the Police.

Red Plate Riders at the Vic Titles

Attention all Red Plate bike owners!

The committee would like to invite Red Plate registered bikes to become part of Victorian Historic Titles.

This year we are hoping to see a lot more of the none racing members of our club get involved and get along to the race meetings. As part of this new initiative we would like to have a display of as many red plate registered bikes as we can.

A parking area will be set aside so your red plate bikes can form a static display and be admired by all the enthusiastic races fans.

If you like to get involved please contact Brian March or just turn up on the day.

We hope to see you there!

For Sale

Suzuki RGV Rear wheel \$125 excluding delivery costs Marked RGV K RR Size J18 x MT400 DOT Includes cush-drive rubbers Honda Comstar Rear Wheel ex CB1100RB \$125 excluding delivery costs Marked N18 x MT 2.15 1028 DOT Includes rear caliper mounting bracket with extension dust cover

Can take to Broadford HBBB or Vic Title meeting, Contact Keith Roberts 03 54 261 267 or keimag55@bigpond.com

FLATCHAT 11 January - February 2012



Presents the

Victorian Historic Road Race Titles. & F2 Sidecar Championship

Classes covering everything from pre war up to 1982 Solos and sidecars

Racing starts 9am both days



Victorian State Motorcycle Complex, Strath Creek Rd, Broadford Race Secretary - 0411 153 215 Club Secretary - 03 9888 4387



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