



# JEFF GOUGH MEMORIAL

15 MAY 2011

Where do you start writing a report on an event like this? There are just too many things to mention and too many superlatives to list but here goes anyway. Any doubts regarding Jeff's significance and standing within the Australian Moto Trials community were dispelled on Sunday with 120 riders, many of whom he personally introduced into the sport in the first place, attending his memorial to bid their final farewells to one of Queensland's, and Australia's, finest trials riders. It was incredibly comforting, I'm sure, for the Gough family to see so many old and familiar faces in the crowd making the effort to come and share their loss with them and pay their final respects together.

The day began with an emotional memorial ceremony attended by close on 200 people, including close Gough family and friends, who listened to some anecdotes on Jeff's life and achievements made throughout his 4 decade long riding career. His influence on Trials in this country was immeasurable being our first professional rider and being personally chosen by the then world champion himself, Mick Andrews, to ride a fully sponsored Annand & Thompson TY250A back in the mid 70's. He singlehandedly helped to raise the infantile profile of the sport over the years that followed in nearly every State of Australia, including New Zealand, being paid to fly to events all over the country to compete on local distributor supplied and prepared TY's making him the unquestionable fledgling sports trail blazer. Once his involvement with the Yamaha TY came to an end he continued on successfully riding many other sponsored bikes from the Kawasaki KT250 through to an assortment of Spanish bikes. He eventually gave the sport away in the early 90's after achieving just about all there was to achieve and ending a stellar career, at least until SQTA came along and enticed him back out of retirement late last year.

Although he wasn't with us long enough to have become a member, of which he was assured, SQTA has proudly made him an honorary member of the club, and like our late good friend and foundation member before him, Barry Jeffery, we have issued him with his own personal name plate and riding number and retired both from use as a mark of our respect. He left a lasting legacy on trials in this country and for that he shouldn't nor will be forgotten in a hurry. May you now rest in peace Jeff?

This event was very much a voyage into uncharted waters for us with a field of riders far surpassing our average of 50 per event but a voyage taken, none the less, with great pride and anticipation considering the unexpected but grateful return of Queensland's premier trials property, thanks to the generosity of the Daniel's family. That said we were also anxious regarding the amount of work that now presented itself after 5 years of inactivity but with an enthusiastic crew of hard working volunteers, we had the property knocked into shape over four labour intensive weekends removing hundreds of metres of dreaded lantana resulting in it looking like a well manicured park for the event, in no small part thanks to lawnmower man Russ Vectorsen and his trusty John Deer. This allowed us to effortlessly set 22 Sections all within easy walking distance from our Park Ferme making it all that much easier for the dozens of spectators that showed up for the day to watch all the action.

With 22 Sections came the inevitable question, "How are you going to get 22 Observers?" Easy, just ask! The enthusiasm of our Observer's to observe for us is becoming legendary and this event took it to a new level with our numbers fully subscribed weeks out from the event and all of them performing admirably, as usual.

We were understandably a little nervous leading up to this event, thinking that we may have been punching way above our weight, to coin a phrase, and at the same time concerned about section queues, and purposely split the Upper Division's 1, 2 & 3 from the Lower Division's 4, 5 & 6 as a result. Well if there was ever any doubt about the efficiency of our card less rider number scoring system then they are now well and truly dispelled with 80% of all the riders finishing their 3 laps by noon. After some angst amongst the Executive it was decided to stick to our guns which in the end allowed everyone a free ride and plenty of time to get ready for the three pigs to cook and presentations making it a very relaxed day for everyone involved, as it was meant to be.

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"The Innovator's, not the Imitator's"

Speaking of pigs, a big thank you has to go to James for manually turning the spit for 6 hours, and apart from the major equipment malfunction halfway in, served up some sensationally succulent meat, not to mention the mouth watering crackling.

Robert & Justin need a special mention also for creating the eye catching glass sprocket shaped trophies that were on offer and cut by their newly acquired water blaster at Logan Glass. These were presented to the winners and runners up by Jeff's daughter Elise, wife Vicki, Veronica and Justin and to ensure that no one went home empty handed, participation awards were handed out to all riders and special quests creating a unique memento of the day.

It's not easy to summarise a weekend like this that so many lucky individuals had the opportunity to experience, which included folk from as far afield as Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Maryborough & Gladstone, so I will leave it to Jeff's brother Robert to sum it up in his words, and I quote:

*"Jeff was not a wooden god, he was just one of the great riders of his era. In the sport of trials the most important thing is to be a winner as there are three types of individuals, Champions, Winners and Losers. There are champions who are not winners and winners who are not champions but all I see here today are winners and I thank each and every one of you for taking part in such a memorable day."*

The following is list of Jeff's Achievements compiled from 181 boxed trophies stored at Logan Glass.

Australian Champion 1  
Queensland Champion 4  
9 top 10 Australia Championship placings  
North Queensland Champion 5  
New South Wales Champion 4  
Thunder Bolt Shield (New England Champion) 1  
Trans Tasman out right winner 1  
156 "A" grade placings

Along with these trophies, Jeff gave away another 300 some time ago and there are another 200 in his attic not yet itemised of which the Gough Family doesn't see the point in unpacking.

Speaks for itself, doesn't it?

**SQTA**

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