

The Coonabarabran Motorcycle Club finally got its 2011 season underway with a trial on Sunday 27th February. There were 17 starters, of which 13 finished the 40 section event, held at Glenleigh, 10km from Coona.

We were especially pleased to have Paul Arnott and the Hell Team up from Sydney, as well as riders from nearer home, Orange, Maitland and Armidale.

It was quite hard prising the riders away from their warm up on the man-made sections for the 10am start.

The event was open to all classes of machine, both twinshock and mono, and we set sections for B grade, C grade and Clubman.

Having little experience at setting A grade sections, we left Jack Kavanagh to make his own way through the sections, and his riding left spectators and riders alike looking on in admiration, and not a little envy. Darryl and Estelle Boorer made the trip from Orange, with Estelle ending the day as best clubman rider with a loss of 6 marks. Andy Hoddle brought his immaculate RTL Honda along, a bike too good to ride on the rocks, but he rode the day on the author's recently acquired Sherco.

C grade was taken out by Ross Brown on the ever faithful Bultaco, whilst the hotly contested B grade division was won by Darren Kavanagh, with a loss of 41 marks, just ahead of Paul on 47. Both riders had entered C grade but quickly changed their mind in search of a bigger challenge.

The local contingent, riding B grade because 'it was there' suffered somewhat from the pre-event party the night before, but acquitted themselves well. Jason Newton, a newcomer to trials, came in third with a loss of 100 marks and property owner, Rob Williams, was fourth, beating son Sam by 10 marks.

Observing was made much easier by the use of individual section cards, onto which the observer entered the marks for each rider over four laps in the morning and four in the afternoon.

This saves a lot of leg work on the part of the observer and also allows the riders to get on with the next section without having to go back and have their card marked. I know this because we were short of observers at the start so I spent the day trying out the system instead of riding.

I would like to thank Paul and the team for making the effort to come up and support us, and also for Paul's kind words at the start of the event. All have promised to return. Now we know we can do it, we will get together a calendar of dates for more trials and post them as soon as possible. In the meantime if anyone wants to visit the area for a bit of practice or just general sightseeing, please don't hesitate to get in contact.