



GRO TROY Series SA 2015

The South Australian 'Trials Rider of the Year' Series

THE HALFTIME REPORT!

The GRO TROY Series SA 2015 has now just passed the halfway mark with the running of round 3 (of 5 rounds) at the Mungereee Homestead, home of Team Hogan. With 2 rounds still to come, but with round 4 still some 4 weeks away, it is now time to draw breath and review what has, so far, been a hotly contested series!

With the Series backed this year for the first time by **Global Racing Oil (GRO)** and the SA distributors, Brenton & Tyler Hogan, 2 of South Australia's great trials clubs, Juventus & AJS, along with Team Hogan (and their band of helpers) have so far run rounds, with great event sponsorship also gained from **Scarpantoni Wines** (round 2 at Victor Harbor) and **Gas Gas Motos Australia** (round 3 at Mungereee), with the Gawler and Velocette MCC's to finish things off in July & August, just in time for the Australian Championships.

All 3 rounds have offered the riders something different so far, from the dry conditions of Rockleigh, with its sharp, and loose, rocks, to Victor with its slippery rocks and creeks, to Mungereee, with the logs, and logs, and logs, around the creeks and hills, all the riders have, so far been more than impressed with what has been served up!



Round 1 action from Rockleigh, with a number of debuts, including junior Haydon Barwick in C Grade, another 3rd generation rider in Alisha Harry, and a brand new sidecar team in Andrew Earl & Steve Fraser!

Round 1 was preceded by a Gas Gas Motos Junior Development Camp on Saturday, which warmed all up for a great start to TROY for 2015, although a couple big names were missing in Connor & Brenton Hogan, who were in Italy for Connor to ride the first round of the European Championship (and he scored a 13th and Championship points!), but there was still a field of 50, with a number of new faces to be welcomed to the Moto Trials SA family!

Round 2, which was on ANZAC weekend was preceded by a practise day as the event dropped back to a 1 day event so those who wished to go to dawn services could do so, but by Saturday arvo most had arrived and were taking advantage of the wet conditions to get some good practise in, especially Connor, who had returned from Europe! Round 2 also saw a few more newbies make their debuts, and for the first time in many years a SA event hit double figures in girls riding (outside the Women's Cup) which is a great achievement!



The awesome trials girls on a wet and windy Sunday at Victor (Clockwise from back left) Livi, Anna, Sofie, Jasmine, Bec, Mel, Sasha, Alisha, Tess & Charlotte; and, Livi talks tactics and lines with dad, Brian during the day!



Yes, it was a tad damp at Victor, Sasha was a keen debutant and Liam streaked the field to record his maiden Junior A win!

Round 3 was at the, now, famous, home of Team Hogan, Mungeree, regarded by many as the premier trials venue in SA, comparable to Glenmaggie in Victoria! Like Rockleigh, it was preceded by a Gas Gas Motos JDP Coaching Day on the Mungeree logs and hills, as well as a Tyler Hogan inspired woolshed dinner on the Saturday evening (which is the reason many even go!). The course was another Hoges special, a long loop with a great mix of sections, including the widow-maker hill climb! Also like the first 2 rounds, entries numbered over 50, with double figure numbers in more than one class, which is huge for SA trials, and all had perfect weather conditions for Sunday!



Mungeree under a brilliant Saturday night sky – dining in front of the woolshed and looking across the campground!

SO - WHO SITS WHERE AFTER ROUND 3?

CLASS RED

Class Red, or those in A Grade or higher, has suffered a little this year due to injury, minding duties and other event commitments, so that at the half way stage only Connor Hogan (*Gas Gas Motos Australia, The Hell Team, Global Racing Oil, Motorcycling SA Elite Rider Program*) has ridden more than 1 round, and so leads the Class by a handy margin, but as he is likely to miss another round, or even 2 rounds due to returning to Europe, this leaves the door open for Adrian Harry (*Sherco, Dunlop, Ipone*) and Jarrod Barwick (*Sherco Moto SA*) to reel him in.

CLASS YELLOW

Junior rider Alex Yiatrou (*Beta Trialsport*) jumped out to a handy lead after round 1 when his competition fell away due to having to attend to injured siblings, or were missing overseas, and while the competition has returned, he continues to lead by a handy margin from Brenton Hogan (*Gas Gas Motos Australia, The Hell Team, Global Racing Oil*) and Andrew Tarrant (*Beta Trialsport*), but with Hoges likely to miss at least another 1 round, Andrew looks the likely challenger to Alex's lead!

CLASS BLUE

One of the battle grounds of 2015 as the young upstarts try and knock off the old stagers, and thanks in part to illness and a rare DNF, the upstarts are flexing their muscles as just out of juniors, Haydon Ahrens (*Sherco Moto SA*) has taken a strong lead with Rob White (*Montesa*) MIA from Mungereer due to illness. Fellow 'old stager', Greg Rogers (*Sherco Moto SA*) has now moved into 2nd as Rob drops to 3rd, but with PA parking it early, junior gun (and Aussie #3) Alex Cowan (*Mum & Dad Racing Gas Gas*) has moved into 4th place, with fellow junior 7-12 hopeful, Haydon Barwick (*Sherco Moto SA*) snapping at PA's heels in 6th!

This is one class that will likely go down to the wire!



Locked in a huge battle for White honours are Caden Rogers & Liam Warnest, Steve Rees & Melissa Rogers hold a very slender lead in the outfits, while Connor continues to be SA's leading junior rider as he leads Class Red!

CLASS WHITE

The junior class is a battle between Junior A's Liam Warnest (*Gas Gas*) and Caden Rogers (*Get Displays, Sherco Moto SA*) & Junior B's Haydon Eardley (*Oset Bikes Downunder*) and Coan Linke (*A & K Engineering, KMCC*), with Liam the slight leader after 3 rounds, from Coan, Caden & Haydon, with only 7 points separating the 4 of them.

This will also probably go down to the wire as all 4 continue to lift their game, with Liam, Caden & Haydon all having won a round each, with Coan playing the consistent game, plus, it would not do well to forget about Cameron Gerhardy (*Lower North Hire & Civil Gas Gas*) & Josh Rees (*Beta Trialsport, www.inmotiontrials.com*), who are both well poised to pounce should the top 4 falter!!

CLASS PINK

Class Pink is for junior & senior girls, but when one girl is riding a far higher grade than the rest, it makes it harder for her to place well in TROY, which is scored on points lost, but as Sofie

Kraft (*Trial Central, Sherco Moto SA, Wulfsport Aust, Kraft Family Vineyards*) continues to take her riding to the next level as she chases Australian Championship and Trials des Nations goals, it does open up the class for the other girls – and has it ever!

Round 3 at Mungereer saw the 'kitten' very much in amongst the pigeons as 8 year old Charlotte Cowan (*Mum & Dad Racing Gas Gas*) recorded the lowest points score of the day to record her first TROY Series round win and move into 2nd position as she leapfrogged Sofie & Anna Rogers (Beta) as she continues to chase her older cousin Jasmine Tarrant (Beta Trialsport), who up until this round had looked like not being challenged in 2015!

With Sofie dropping to 4th overall Anna stays on the podium, but faces challenges from the ever improving Olivia Lang (*Sherco*) who finished 3rd for the first time at Mungereer, and Rebecca Rees (*www.inmotiontrials.com Gas Gas*), who has still just 12 months riding to her name!



Everybody else continues to chase Alex Yiatrou in Yellow, as Jasmine Tarrant is starting to look over her shoulder for her younger cousin, while Haydon Eardley takes it up to the older juniors as dad, Mark leads the Clubbie Battle Royale – just!

CLASS RED & WHITE

As always the sidecars suffer somewhat from lack of numbers, but this year has seen the emergence of a new team in Andrew Earl & Steve Fraser (*Sherco Moto SA*) and riding in B Grade their scores have got them to the top of the pile after 2 rounds, thanks also to a DNF at round 1 from new leaders, after round 3, A Graders Steve Rees & Melissa Rogers (*inmotiontrials.com, Integrity Clothing Beta*), but with the return of Chris Schultz and Stuart Gerhardy (*Sherco Moto SA*) after family additions, look out for them to try and make up for lost ground as quick as possible!

CLASS BLACK & WHITE

The Clubbies and the Historics has been the other melting pot of fierce rivalry this year with the class dominated by no-one! 3 different round winners in Shane Kraft (*Sherco Moto SA, Kraft Family Vineyards*) sitting 2nd, Mark Eardley (*Oset Bikes Downunder Gas Gas*) leading the class and Mike Brown (*Compass Ridge Electrical*) back in 5th, with no rider having finished on the podium more than twice in the 3 rounds, it means there is as little as 12 points separating the top 5, with Craig Ahrens (*Beta*) and Brenton Rogers (*Get Marketing, Sherco Moto SA*) well within striking distance, and with the Series points changing so much with just one bad round, this will go down to the wire as well!



Haydon Ahrens leads Blue after taking it right up to the established riders in his rookie senior year, Sofie Kraft continues to break through women's barriers in SA, giving up the TROY chase for higher honours, and nice to see Chris Schultz & Stuart Gerhardy back on it after a late start to the season!

SO - WHATS STILL TO COME??

TROY RETURNS,

ROUND 4, JULY 26TH @ TUNGKILLO (GAWLER MCC)

ROUND 5, AUGUST 16 @ MOUNT PLEASANT (VELOCETTE MCC)

Look for all the details for these 2 rounds, including the Saturday practise/coaching days and the Team SA shirt presentations in the lead up to the Australian Championships at all the regular websites and Facebook pages in the coming weeks!

BUT BEFORE THAT.....

With 2 months off now between rounds 3 & 4 SA serves up its 'Special Event Month', with the 40th running of the **Peter Sparkes Sidecar Trophy** this Sunday, May 31st at Tungkillo, then the **Sherco SA Women's Cup** and **Barossa Unique Tours Diener/Holmes Sidecar Trophy** on June 14th in the Barossa Valley, before heading to Eden Valley on June 28th for the **Vanitone Classic Trial**.

Entries for all these events can be found on the Motorcycling SA website, www.motorcyclingsa.org.au, with online entries for most events available at www.aja.asn.au/entries



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GAS GAS

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AND FINALLY

MANY THANKS TO LEANNE KRAFT & TRENTINO PRIORI FOR THEIR AWESOME WORK BEHIND THE LENSE SO FAR IN 2015!

