Moto Trials Newsletter Aug 2013

To all involved in Moto Trials

If you have received this it is probable that my expectation is that you will read and pass on to others in your area to read also! I don't think there has ever been a time where we have had so many exciting events on the horizon. I doubt if I will see anyone shouting from the roof tops but it is commendable that there are those among you who are doing the 'ground work' for these coming attractions.

First I congratulate Warren Laugesen, who with the help of Vicky Fox, has been proactive in getting a Trials des Nations team from NZ to France for the international competition on 7/8 September. The team consisting Warren, Blake Fox, John Haynes, Matt Foster, Stef Downes and Gabby Gundry is without the afore published Jake Whitaker and has a youthful look to it. Warren appealed to get a development team to Europe many months ago and has succeeded. A total MNZ funding of $11000 was much appreciated. May the project achieve all that is expected and the skills gained are NZ's gain also.

Blake and Stef, who will be in France earlier than other team members, have a chance of training with Iris Kramer the week before. We have had an indication that Iris is coming to NZ a short time later but this is so far unconfirmed. Jack Challoner is also expected to be coming to NZ. This promoted by Karl and Debbie Clark. This is another great opportunity for high > performance coaching.

While talking about coaching I want to promote the FREE MNZ initiative of coaching coaches. ALL riders who are at present imparting knowledge to our new and existing riders should consider up taking this offer. Not only will it give you insight into teaching methods but you may well gain advantage in your future career with "Level1 [or more] sports coach" on your CV. Contact MNZ to register your interest. It is all well and good to speak of developing our existing riders but more than anything our sport needs NEW riders. This will not happen without time and effort [and money] spent away from our bikes. One such person who is driving an idea with exciting potential is Merv

George. I am sure you have all read of Mervs appeal to put Trials Bikes experience in front of 3500 scouts at their Jamboree at the end of year. Have you ever thought of your club owning a bike for such a purpose? The most impressionable among us are children. Imagine if your club had a $3300 electric bike at every event where a child could 'have a go'.....! Most clubs would have between 10 and 20 core members. A club bike would work out at $200 to $300 each. Is this a price that you would consider as an investment in our future or would you rather buy some more bling for your bike?

Another initiative that has crossed my desk is an offer by Pete Haynes, through his contacts Dennis and Barbara Phillips, to facilitate a Moto Trials competition at the next school MX champs. This, once again, is an opportunity for our sport to be showcased in front of many and in the case of MX champs they will all be motorcyclists. Bikes ridden here will be any type of bike that the riders have available and I think that "Trials" should be able to cash in on some positive opinion that seems prevalent at present. That is; it is perceived that some of the fast guys are winning because they have the added benefit of some Trials skills.

NZ Champs are open for online entry and the Tauranga MCC would like to see entries in before 6th October. This year, at the NZ Champs, we will also be competing against Australia for the Oceania challenge shield. While I have only had limited info from across the Tasman the first suggestion was that we meet as a team of 3 v 3 open solo men. If we do happen to see Iris Kramer for women's coaching at around this time [which has been mooted] I would imagine there will be Australian women in NZ who would be able and capable of adding a women contingent to the teams….

Watch this space!

The year is whizzing by and the NI rounds completed. I take the time to thank all of those involved with making both NI and SI rounds the fun and success I deem them to have been. As I travel around and listen I get 'vibes' that perhaps it is not as easy as it used to be to 'make the budget work' for these events. Next year we will be considering the reintroduction of rider levies to cover the Ravo administration/scoring regime. This was covered by clubs this year but was not as tidy as when previously covered by levy. I am sure you all agree that John's system is well worth the miserly amount we pay for it. Thank you John.

If you want a couple of good ideas for keeping your costs down at events try: Applying for funds to cover your first aid/ambulance. It is not difficult to get. Also I do believe we spend too much on trophies. The two days that you host is only part of a larger competition yet clubs can fork out $300 - $400 for trophies and over the 5 weekends this cost could be $1750 [per year]. To me this would be better spent toward a small bike that some kid could have a go on and get excited about the sport. If we must have some form of award other than certificate I would suggest moving toward a $5 medal.

I would like to thank all of those who have made the effort to attend officials training. I know it has not suited some of you but you went the extra mile. Now that we have more qualified officials we are less reliant on the few that have done the job for years.

Lastly I would like to thank coordinators Colin Kelland and Paul McLeod. They have done many years of unselfish and unbiased work for your sport. I have asked for names of anyone who would follow in their shoes. So far I have no takers. Please consider this role.

Jim Henderson for Moto Trials