

PCRA Newsletter November 2018

A spin of the rear wheel and a scatter of points of interest, news and updates, issues and views of the future. From the Office of the President

Club Championship Point Score

While some classes have sewn up the championship already, many hangs in the balance of just a few points. Some stats are:

Highest point score so far has been collected by Brad Lumb 350, Alex Morrissey 315, and Walter Murphy 310

Most competitive classes include P6 250 GP -37, P6 250 Production and P6 500cc – 36, Pre-Modern F2, -31 entrants, Pre-Modern F1, -26 different entrants over the season.

In the classes, the Commuterlites will go down to the last round to see a champion as first and second are separated by just one point. Pre-modern F2 is separated only by a few points, P5 750 and P5 250 have ties for first, 250 Production sees just 8 points difference, so there's going to be some good racing there, with the important thing being a finish in each round to ensure points.

Wakefield in November: The Round 6 and Enduro

Round 6 is going to be really interesting. Over two days. That's going to make for really interesting racing. In some classes the championships are hanging about a few points, so finishes are going to be important. The two-day format means that blow ups and machine issues will play less part, as we will have more time for repairs and maintenance. To be frank, I'm looking forward to it.

Plus...

Despite the issues of the last 1 Hour - red flag, storm - we've put the Enduro races on again this year from a plan presented to the committee, so we're really hoping for a good response from members. At the time of writing the garages are filling but enrolments are still coming in. Unfortunately, the closing date has to be firm, so we can organise our resources and the trophies. Looking forward to it!

Rules is Rules

"But Daddy do I have to take off my belly pan??!" "Yes, Sonny, you do!"

When we did a survey of IFOS 2018 competitors, we found something so obvious and important that it had been underestimated. Nearly everyone said the most important thing for them was value for money. Sure, legends and stands are great, but the heart of the matter is value for money.

We figured this has two components. One is quantity: time on track per dollar. The second is quality: good racing against peers, mates on good bikes. Ideally, no red flags, delays or hassles, i.e. good racing discipline.

Sticking to the rules and insisting on good scrutineering sets the tone for each race meeting. No slackness, favouritism or poor preparation. No bad behaviour on or off track. Clean and focused racing, ideally, will lead to better timetables, and reduced yellow or red flags: better value for your money.

Think about it. Say we lose a half hour red flagged. That's 2 races worth. Say 40 riders per grid so its 80 rides lost, and if you enter two classes at say \$380 that's about \$60 for each rider and about \$5,000 total race fees thrown down the track. Plus, the pain and cost to whoever crashed. Not value for money.

That's why we're tight on scrutineering and we stick to the MoMs rules. It's not about making race mornings such a hassle. It's about your racing, your value for money. And we'll keep doing this in 2019!

Tyres

We never get tired of tyres.
We shred them on every race day.
But we can't really throw them on fires
Or dump them just any old way.

And we don't leave them out at the track
Because then it's our club has to pay
So, thanks all for taking them back
To wherever they came each race day.
- Banjo Bolt, aged 79

Lions BBQ's

Thanks to the Rachel, Rebel and friends of Blacktown City Lions for their BBQ service. Members report happiness at the end of the day with snag sandwiches second to none, and knowing their money always goes to a good cause. Your snags helped the people in hospital at Mt. Druitt and farmers fighting the drought. And it's one less task your hard-working club officials don't have to do! That's a Win Win Win!

Task Force 2019: enrolments opening.

It takes a lot of time and a lot of talent to run the PCRA. It's nearly all volunteer time and its very diverse. From highly qualified roles in the tower and around the track to the specifics of Committee work, sports management, and race day volunteering.

There's a lot of tasks, both between race meetings and on the day. We have IFoS in March, the round of club races over the year. Publicity, sponsorship, trophies, race class issues, scrutineering, flagging... it's a big list.

And remember: no volunteers, no racing!

As some people move on, we need new people to come in and help get things done. Consider putting in a year in an additional role. You've joined the club. Try your hand at joining our Task Force for 2019. Email secretary@pcra.com.au and put your name down for the year. You'll be glad you did. So, will your mates!

AGM, Annual Presentation, Constitution: Dates for your Calendar.

Official notices and invitations will go out soon, but here are some dates to put in your calendar.

AGM

The 2018 AGM will be held at the Boardroom, Club Marconi, 1230, Sunday December 2.

All financial members are welcome. Official notice will go out mid-November and nominations for Committee and Officeholders will have to be received by the Secretary no later than November 24.

Constitution

The 2018 Committee has spent a lot of time on a new Constitution because of the changes to the Associations Act 2009, Regulations and Model Constitution in 2016. Many members have added their comments and the 6th draft is now approved by the Committee.

The Committee wishes to thank all who put in time to help make the best Constitution for the PCRA heading into the future, in particular Warwick Biggs and John Olip.

A Special Meeting will be held at 11am December 2, just before the AGM, to discuss the recommended model, agree on any last changes, and vote on it. Copies of the draft and a summary of the changes from the standard 2016 Model will be included with official notice to go out in early November. Note members must be financial to vote.

Presentations

The timing of the November meeting and the AGM has meant we need to hold the annual presentations in January.

We will use this occasion to make it a more family-friendly occasion by holding a buffet lunch at Revesby Workers Club from 1200 on Saturday January 19. Partners and children are welcome in the Club, which has kindly hosted committee meetings over 2018. We'll be celebrating winners and place getters in the annual competition. We'll be thanking all our members and volunteers for making it a great year. We'll be thanking our families for their tolerance! Plus, we'll talk about upcoming 2019 events!

It's a change of venue, style and program. Bring the family! It'll be about \$50 per person, kids up to 12 half prices.

GO PRO footage wanted: got any great footage from 2018 you can show us at the Preso: send a video file to secretary@pcra.com.au and we'll compile the highlights for the Presentation lunch!

RACE DATES 2019

Round 1	February 9	Wakefield Park
IFoS	March 14 -17	SMSP
Round 2	May 4	SMSP GP
Round 3	June 2	SMSP North
Round 4	August October	22-23 Wakefield Park
Round 5	November 23	SMSP GP

It's not clear at this stage whether an Enduro will run in 2019, pending an evaluation of the 2018 event. Note SMSP are firm but WP dates may change.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a very very busy year! We came to 2018 with a program of changes that needed to happen, and I'm pleased to report on progress made, and of course much to still do! Here are some highlights.

A New Constitution

The PCRA came about in the mid-1980s and was incorporated as an association in 1989 and adopted the then Model Constitution, with one change. Thirty years later the laws have changed, technology plays a greater part in management and the new Model Constitution has significant differences. We needed to update.

So, we took the 2016 Model Constitution as legally obliged to do, and started adapting it to PCRA specifics, as we are entitled to do. Many matters were simple - e.g. we are not forming a new association, so we ditched that provision. Others anticipate the future needs, e.g. expanding the committee to 7. We'll take the latest version to a Special Meeting and discuss it, make any last-minute amendments, then we can vote on it. All members are encouraged to attend, and it will be followed by the AGM.

New and better admin and systems

The main focus here has been on a new accounting system. Our Treasurer instituted MYOB 7 years ago as a then-state of the art program. It has limitations and we've taken our Auditor's advice and begun to replace it with Xero, an Internet-based system which has lots of add-ons and updates that enable greater secure access. For example, we can now 'send' our accounts to the Auditor by giving them an access key. It gets nightly reconciliation data from the bank. And we will be better able to analyse different costs and incomes over the years. With internet access an assistant can help the Treasurer enter data and do analysis, while an authorised person, say the President, can view accounts to add to the transparency.

We have also instituted electronic signatures to update the frayed old chequebook. This means the Treasurer can make a payment which the committee has authorised by having a designated online co-signature from the President. No more chasing signatures, it's a secure and instantaneous digital signature with full tracking.

The next steps will be to look at our other systems - membership, race entries and programs - to see how much of this workload can be linked to Xero so it's done automatically. This may be able to save our volunteers a lot of time and give us a more secure system for the future. It will be a major effort in 2019.

Meetings

We've upgraded and streamlined meeting procedures to stress the best use of our time and increase the clarity of decisions. We've stuck with one venue which has been donated. Committee members can now attend by laptop or phone. We've looked at tighter meeting procedures to get through the workload... all a work in progress. We publish meetings on the PCRA website and all members are invited to attend, except the odd one that involves confidential matters.

People stuff

Over 2018 we looked at a few issues around how we could improve the people side of the club.

Racing skills: we looked at how to reduce red flags by increasing racing skills for incoming members. The committee took the view that this was an individual's responsibility and the more important issue is the discipline of race days. So, for example scrutineering should be strict and morning briefings should stress care on the track.

Women in racing: the committee discussed whether we should set up any measures to attract more female riders. The prevailing view was that this was up to individuals and not a policy matter. Some committee members feel developments in other sports should be watched as this issue develops.

Membership: Rod Muir as our membership Secretary is doing a terrific job keeping our electronic records up to date. We have databases of old members which have more than double the numbers now racing so we will be looking at what we can do with these in the future, e.g. for potential volunteers: watch this space.

Volunteers: We're a non-profit and we survive on volunteer time and skills. It's our greatest asset but we don't yet have ideal numbers, induction or investment. Our Officials Co-ordinator Loraine Bunt does great work with our race day officials and other volunteers. For off-track tasks we'll also need to look more broadly into the future. What can we do to grow the volunteer force we need? An important task for 2019.

Online entries have been working better each round. Thanks to Matt Hanna and Janet MacMillan for many hours work on race entries.

An additional race secretary in training has been recruited.

Storage of the club's assets including the trailers, records and other material has been transferred from club members homes to the MNSW facility at Smithfield. Thanks to Dave Cooke and MNSW: great move!

Some race classes have shown good growth in entries. Lots more P6 250s for example! Thanks to the Watson's, Ken and Keo, for this initiative.

Marshalls and key officials have continued to volunteer their time and is extremely appreciated

Race day procedures have been working well. Thanks to our Clerk of Course, our Timing crew... all those who make it work!

Challenges: a few issues:

Pre-event and event non-official assistance – we really need more help to get the events to the start line. A list of jobs is to be put to members

Complaints about the management of race days – some negative comments about race days do not take into account that all officials and helpers are volunteers and we're very stretched in what we can get done on any given day.

Red flag events can knock a big hole in our program: ride well guys, don't do it!!

Some areas of progress on club management has been slower than we'd like.

Ouch! Its 2019 already!

A BIG THANKS TO MARSHALS, OFFICIALS, FLAGGIES, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Once again, it's necessary to give a big vote of thanks to all those who make our racing possible.

To Loraine Bunt for organising officials and flaggies every race day. And to all those who work on or around the track to keep the program safe and running.

To the officials in the tower running the races, often making split second decisions that impact on everyone.

To the scrutineering teams who check that gear and bikes meet MA specs.

To the people who organise the race program, and especially Jan MacMillan who has been our Race Secretary this year.

You know who you are and thanks for what you do.

Oh... and to the riders who take care to race well and not crash, for they shall not make red flags to f***k up the program!

IoM team(s)

You may have noticed over the last few years a number of club members have travelled to the Isle of Man for what is truly the greatest road race in the world.

Sidecar star Mr Darryl Rayner (Dags) has had a few goes, this year with the help of swinger Wendy Campbell. They struggled through all the issues the island regulations threw at them, not the least is the new issue of competitors ages. Darryl was fine as he had raced before. Fortunately, Wendy got through as she has the results and she is awesome on a sidecar. So, they got a start. Mission done!

Mick and Chrissy Alton also had another start. I gotta hand it to these guys as they put absolutely everything they've got to get there and get a start.

Next Year club member Ian Smith looks like getting a start and will enter the Manx TT 350 Classic on a Honda 350 four-cylinder special built up here in Australia. There's lots to do to get a start. Six finishes in the last twelve months, Results within 10% of each event's winner. A bike that matches the rules, a team that can get you to the start line. Heaps to do but it's going to happen. As a side interest, the team will be using the event to raise funds for the Steven Walters Children's Cancer Foundation. This goes back to the Snowy Mountains and the Snowy Ride. Talk to Ian in the pits if you're interested. Kawasaki H1R #36

IFoS 2019

Dates/theme/planning/help

The International festival of Speed is booked again for the weekend 15-17 March 2019, a week earlier than last year. The theme has been targeted **around Isle of Man TT legends** and you may have seen that we are in the final steps of negotiating with John McGuinness and a whole gaggle of the classic bikes from the UK, with some pretty special riders. 2019 won't see any "parading", the visitors will be racing! The popular spectator parade laps will be back with a whole bunch of activities of the weekend. The popular legends dinner will again be held at Marconi Club and is a highly recommended event if you are interested in hearing from the world's best riders and their teams.

Changes with MNSW

The MNSW Strategic plan is available to download from their website. It is quite an instructive plan as it nears its final phases. Like all clubs, MNSW has faced its challenges –the Nowra Motorsports Complex and the Head office and buildings being just two.

One positive outcome from the move is the space there that has been made available to the PCRA for storage. Not only the two trailers we own, but also the records and materials we have accumulated over time. There will be a working bee shortly to produce shelving and secure storage of our “stuff”, which is much better there than in club members garages and back yards. There is now a vacant job available for a suitable volunteer to collect and deliver the club trailer to club meetings. Let us know if you can help.