



Newsletter

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Portsmouth Motor Cycle Racing Club April Event Report

A warm welcome to all old and new members and wet spectators! I hope you have dried out by the time you receive this newsletter!

Well what an exciting day it was with a bumper 124 riders entering our first event of the year. There must be a lot of riders out there who like the mud, after all you do know that a few drops of rain on Woodberry Lane turns the track into a swamp right?! Much mud was also taken home too. It's worth mentioning that riders came from all over to attend, some as far afield as Swansea and Kent, so it wasn't just local mudlarks. I sincerely hope that the 65 new members return to check out the track on a drier day when I am sure you will find it an even more enjoyable experience.

So this year we have introduced a new class for the elite riders, **Championship**. This gives us a chance to watch them compete at a higher level and also provides an opportunity for other riders within the expert class to progress. Taking the first place on this occasion was Rob Carey, who completed an amazing 11 laps on his 250 KTM. Despite the conditions his fastest lap was 15 minutes and 33 seconds! In second place was Tim Hunt on his 550 Husaberg with 10 laps, the fastest of which was in 15.38. Scotty Coombes had an impressive return to the track in 3rd place with 8 laps and Lawrence Catt in 4th following unfortunate engine trouble. His fastest lap was just 10 seconds behind that of Rob Carey however, so we'll watch how the competition pans out during the year.

Experts saw Guy Chandler taking the top slot with 9 laps completed on his 250 Gas Gas with a fastest lap time of 15.52; in third place over all. He was closely followed by Andy Stevenson, second in his class and fourth overall. Andy said that the track conditions were very tricky in particular in the taped section where he admitted to spending almost as much time off the bike as on! Third place went to A Didey and fourth to Peter Stabb, both with 8 laps. You may have thought that you saw Mark Jordan spending some time chilling under a tree but actually he was unconscious after colliding with it! Hence did not clock up his usual number of laps.

Clubman A Well done to Robert Taylor in first place with 9 laps completed (6th over all) with 9 laps, ahead of Roger Frean and Elliott Beken (under 18) both with 8 laps. Joe Gordon was fourth with 6 laps completed. Graham Maunder had a particularly bad day with his KTM seizing up after just one lap.

Clubman B Alistar Gilmour came first with 9 laps and a fifth place overall. A very good performance was seen by Daniel Taylor (under 18) who took second place with 7 laps and 17th over all. Dennis Map and Marc Morris were 3rd and 4th respectively.

The **Sportsman** class was won by Neil Jenkinson with 8 laps completed on his 250 Honda, followed by son Dan Jenkinson in second place with 6 laps. David Ballard was in third place. Another of the under 18 entrants, Aaron Pearce, was in fourth place. Worthy of comment too were the performances seen from the other under 18 riders; Jacque Stevens 11th, Lewis Swash 19th, Jack Barwick 27th and Matt Bicker 32nd. Seems we have some young talent coming up through the ranks.

I have to mention the two sidecar teams who entered, an amazing effort was seen by husband and wife Alister and S Neville, who completed 4 laps and somehow they made it look like they were finding it relatively easy! Better luck next time to Nick and Tom Potter.

Well done to the lady entrants, Maria Brown and Jennifer Wright. I think Clare Taylor did the sensible thing and attended as a spectator! Just imagine though how easy you are going to find it on a dry day! Welcome to all newcomers including Daniel Rolfe. I hope you weren't completely deterred from the sport! Dave Machinek was heard singing "oh I do like to be beside the seaside, I do like to be beside the sea" as he clocked his final lap. It certainly seemed very appropriate for the conditions.

We were fortunate to have an experienced team of marshals and I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Colin Gordon and Neil Houghton. Their efforts helped to ensure a safe and smooth running event. The marshals also helped to return one rider to the pits who was stranded out on the track long after other had packed up, so I am sure he was grateful too!

Finally, I would like to mention the forthcoming club committee meeting which all are invited to attend. It gives new and existing club members the opportunity to have get more involved in how the club is run and put their ideas across. It is being held on Wednesday 14th May at 8pm the Seagull Pub in Portchester. I hope to see some of you there.