

## **BIG CHILL 2013**

What a weekend!!!!. A record number of entries, heavy rain, massive spectator numbers on Sunday, cold, fog, clear sunny skies, delays, crashes, collapsed marques, it had it all. A very trying weekend for myself & the crew but in the end considering the conditions I think we did a reasonable job.

I must thank my hard working major officials. First time Big Chill Clerk of the Course Ian Milton did an amazing job as did "mister organized" Rex Dell our new race secretary ably assisted by his 2IC Jann Murray. The registration process was superb & the race bags with the shirts & all the other goodies organized by promotions officer Keiron Rees were a huge hit. The merchandise tent was a busy place all weekend ably manned by Sandy Summers & Carole Rees & surprise!!! surprise!!! they sold out of bennies. Scrutineers Gary Baker & Ray Clacher did a terrific job checking out around 160 machines with Ray starting on Friday afternoon helping to ease the pressure on Saturday morning. Thanks must also go to our long time race starter Glynn Leitch & also for his assistance with organizing the Regularity events. The Ducati Owners Club of Queensland ( DOCQ ) were again invaluable to the events success supplying all the weekends flaggies plus several of their other members competed in one of our Regularity events. Photographer Vicky Saunders was again on hand to snap lots of great pics over the weekend with some of them already posted on our facebook page & lots more to come on our web in coming week or so.

Sitting in my tent in the pouring rain on Saturday morning I really did not think we would get in any racing for the day. Squeezing in 2 rounds on Saturday between the morning & afternoon downpours was a definite bonus. The sand based Carnell Raceway pit area stands up to a lot of rain without bogging up too much & certainly dried out quickly once the rain finally stopped.

I have never in my 5 years of organizing this event had to deal with this amount of rain & learnt a lot as a race organizer about what "not" to do at a rain affected race meeting. Milto & I quickly discussed whether to re run the practice session after the first session was extremely wet & "I" decided we should press on with racing. In hindsight this was a mistake as with so few venturing out in that first practice & a lot of riders going out in the wrong practice the grid allocations were a mess. This put timekeepers Graham & Nancy Casteldine under huge pressure with Nancy even going to the extent of working out some of the grids manually to help out. If this ever occurs at any future meetings the practice session will be re run once the weather clears & sidecars will always be the first classes at the start of each days racing. The Castledines had some technical problems with transponders & timing on Saturday but sorted things out overnight to again deliver the goods in Sunday.

One a more positive note the numbers of entries we had this year were just amazing & the distance some people travelled to attend our event bloody!!! incredible. Western Australia, Victoria & as far north as Airlie Beach is testament we must be doing something right. The number of spectators is just amazing but did lead to some safety concerns in pit lane which will have to be addressed at future meetings. Fitting in the incredible 21 sidecars was a major task & did lead to the dropping of the centre chute to the rear of the pits which again in hindsight I should have kept.

Thanks must also go to the catering staff for keeping as well fed all weekend & to the members of the SDSCC particularly Rob Brown & Ian & Janet Rigg for their unwavering support of our club.

Other notable efforts by Doug & Darin Aitchison looking after the pit area security on Friday & Saturday night & also helping with the pack up on Sunday afternoon. Milto & Damian Deane were also there right to the end packing up. My personal thanks to my good mate Rusty Pierini & his two mates Keith Wenban & Andrew Jamieson for their assistance with packing up all my own gear on Sunday afternoon. Also Brisbane mate Brett Chandler helped me out all weekend manning the spectator crossing on pit lane in between some fun on his Ducati in the Regularity fast event. President Gene Lopeman & club secretary Vicky Butler have given me unwavering support in my efforts to build the Big Chill into the event it is today & for that I thank them sincerely.

All in all a great weekend of racing which will hopefully further promote historic racing in our region. Dave