

HISTORIC RACING IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

Firstly I must point out these are my observations & opinions & in no way should be taken as the official line from QEMSC or anyone on the QEMSC committee.

I have been involved in historic racing in QLD for approx 8 years & have been the clubs webmaster for 4 years & the organizer of the Stanthorpe race meeting for 2 years so I believe I have enough experience to offer some insights into the state of historic racing in the area.

I believe the club at the moment is in quite a strong position with new members coming on board at a regular rate over recent years. I believe this has been achieved by a positive & proactive club leadership over the last few years & also some positive club promotions including a small role played by the clubs website.

I believe one of our major problems is a lack of local historic specific events to engage our regular members & also those many club members that we don't see competing on a regular basis. If members don't have enough local events to attend each year they won't take the time, effort & dollars required to get their ageing machines to the starting line, hence our push in the last 18 months or so to get a second event at Stanthorpe which may become a reality in the coming months. This second event would at least give our members two local historic specific events per year to aim for. If the second event does become a reality it would not be a duplicate of the July event as I don't believe we will get the numbers we do in July each year. The NCRR will not support a second event at Stanthorpe to the degree they do in July as they already have seven of their own events that they need to concentrate on. This alone will reduce entry numbers but it will allow us the opportunity to again run extra events that we find difficult to fit into our busy July program. Capacity events up to 350cc historic & over 350cc regardless of the period & also the QEMSC quarter hour could again be revived. I know Graham Barker will be extremely happy about this as the last time we ran one I beat him by a whisker!!!!.

Even if we do score a second event at Stanthorpe I firmly believe most of our members still wish to race at Morgan Park at least once a year so this is where the Masters of Morgan Park comes in. This years event is not a state title race as the titles are being held at Townsville in August which I hope many of our club members will support. It is however our one & only chance this year to get a good number of us at Warwick on the same weekend & at least have one race there a year which is all historics. The solo classes this year for historics are Formula 4: Period 3 all powers, Period 4,5 & 6 up to 500cc, Formula 5: sidecars & Formula 6: P4,5 & 6 unlimited. If we take last years state title figures that would mean a grid total of 45 machines in Formula 4. The reality is that because it's not a state title we might only get a field of approx 20-30 but that is still better than no race at all. Sporty's run a great race weekend but without the thousands of dollars our club spent last year promoting the state titles interstate & here at home the numbers are going to be down. If too many of us in south east QLD decide we don't want to race with newer classes in the same field than you can kiss the Masters of Morgan Park goodbye as an historic event.

It's very simple, either we all support the Masters of Morgan Park this year or any dedicated historic classes at Warwick are gone!!!!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any thoughts on this email.

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