

BSA Shield Trial November 09

Another year, another BSA Shield (inter-club) Challenge against the Ixion Motorcycle Club and another win for Ixion. So that makes it something like nine years since the Manawatu Orion Club have held the shield, although I'm sure we will win it back again in the future. Our day will come.

It was MOMCC's turn to host this year's event, which we did on November 8th on Mr Coombes' farm on the Pohangina Valley East Road. We chose a venue far from Wellington to try and discourage the Ixion riders attending to better our chances - but it didn't work. Twenty riders competed, nine each from MOMCC and Ixion and one each from Taranaki and Hawkes Bay. There would have been two more Ixion riders competing had their bikes actually run properly when they arrived - perhaps reliability should still count as it did in the "old days".

Four laps of ten sections were ridden in hot sunny weather as only Manawatu can turn on - about once a month if lucky. We had some good sections with steep climbs, technical turns, loose rocks on hillsides and a few tree roots. The only thing we didn't have was large rocks or any creek sections, although a creek ran down the valley. It's just not a good trials creek - rocks are too small. Although some clown who shall remain nameless managed to drown his Sherco in the creek before the trial started.

All six of us competing in the A grade rode together and it was soon evident that Warrick George and myself would have our work cut out to beat Ixion's two best in this grade, Carl Robson and Stu Lawton. They were riding more consistently with Warrick and myself making too many mistakes that included a few silly fives that shouldn't have happened. We all enjoyed the end climb on section eight, a steep climb from a short run up that saw a few different approaches on the first lap with mixed results. Stu was best on one dab, Warrick and Shane had struggling three's and Carl, Matt and I fived it. By the last lap we'd all had at least one clean except for Shane and Warrick was the only rider not to take a five here.

As well as competing on the same team, Warrick George and myself were also competing against each other for the title of Manawatu Orion Trials Champion for 2009 and the right to have their name engraved on the Challenge Cup. Last month's trial was the final round of the club champs officially but Warrick was crook and couldn't ride so I suggested we carry the A grade final over to this event to give Warrick a sporting chance. We were both tied on equal points going into this event. It was a close battle all day between us, as it had been in the previous rounds and it could have gone either way. But luck (or was it superior skill) was on my side and I finished two points ahead of Warrick to take the win. So the Challenge Cup doesn't have a new name engraved on it for at least another year.

So as far as the inter club BSA Shield Challenge went, well the Ixion Club came out on top in all grades, so we just have to take it on the chin and hope for better luck next year.

We ended the day with a few sausages on the barby and a couple of cool ones.

Kevin Pinfold

Results BSA Shield Trial

A Grade

Carl Robson	Beta	49	Ixion	6
Stu Lawton	Beta	51	Ixion	5
Kevin Pinfold	Gas Gas	63	MOMCC	4
Warrick George	Gas Gas	65	MOMCC	3
Matt Foster	Beta	75	Taranaki	
Shane Clarke	Beta	86	Ixion	

Intermediate

Kevin Tither	Gas Gas	18	Ixion	6
Tony Smith	Sherco	20	MOMCC	5
Ralph Rackstraw	Beta	21	HBMCC	
John Lawton	Beta	24	Ixion	4
Roger Dunkley	Beta	47	Ixion	
Andy Anderson	Beta	61	MOMCC	3

Clubman

Jeff Hall	Beta	17	Ixion	6
Tony Ramshaw	Scorpa	32	MOMCC	5
Mike Quin	Gas Gas	42	Ixion	4
Phil Stephenson	Gas Gas	75	MOMCC	3
Steve Byers	Beta	81	MOMCC	2
Merv George	Gas Gas	83	MOMCC	
Chris Presto	Montesa	111	Ixion	1

Twin Shock/Junior/Social

Adrian Walcroft	Yamaha	50	MOMCC	(Twin Shock)
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BSA Shield Points

Ixion 32

Manawatu Orion 25