

## St George Flatrack Team Debut

Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> saw the Nepean Raceway host the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the inaugural 'Hard N Fast Flatrack Teams Challenge'. The St George Club team sponsored by Alltrades ASAP took on the Kenma sponsored Bankstown Wiley Park Blue Diamonds. The Alltrades ASAP Dragons put in a fine effort and were leading the points score until mother nature decided to cause a premature end to the days racing with a heavy down pour of rain.

The concept of motorcycle teams racing has in the past provided this sport with many thrilling and exciting match ups and the creation of the Hard N Fast Flatrack Teams Challenge has indeed resurrected the 'Team' against 'Team' rivalry. Each team consists of up to 16 riders supporting all levels of riders with the creation of the Pro, Masters, Rookie and Junior classes.

Within the 'Dragons' Pro team Kieren Sproule was the stand out, returning from recent injury, the young rider was on maximum points and while missing his usual explosive starts Kieren did charge his way to the lead with some very entertaining passing manoeuvres. Another talented youngster Rick Garard displayed riding skills well above his age and is a rider to watch for the future. Justin Burdus and Lee Hunter completed the Pro team and maintained consistent finishes to reward his Dragons team with valuable points.



'Dragons' team mates Justin Burdus (378) and Kieren Sproule (111) challenge Blue Diamond rider Steve Coates (91) for the 'Hole shot'

The Masters class is a blend of experienced seasoned senior riders mixed with the youthful exuberance of up and coming younger riders. Peter Batkin and Peter Knight were the 2 experienced riders and were teamed with the young Clark brothers Morgan and Brodie. Peter Batkin just missed out on gaining maximum points and the two Clark boys certainly are quick learners as their lap times were getting better with each heat race.

The Junior riders (13-16years) put on a riding display well above their expected levels. Casey Heatley gated well but was unable to match the drive of the slider mounted Hunter Anderson of the Blue Diamonds. Matt Thorne rode exceptionally hard and had some great battles with young Jay Garard from the Bankstown Club. Shaun Heatley was not far behind the leading pack where he tried in earnest to score the best points he could for his Dragons Team and often traded place with his Blue Diamonds nemesis Lauren Coates.



Juniors Casey Heatley (28) & Matt Thorne (70) show how 'teams' riding works

Due to the late rain causing the cancelling of the final race heats both teams shared the available 2 points, so that each team now stands with 1 point apiece. The next round of the series will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May at the Nepean Raceway and the St George Club welcome any riders or supporters along who wish to join, or get behind their team to cheer it on to victory.

signed  
Flattrack Fan !!