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## PRESS RELEASE

### **MASTERS MEET FOR SIDECARS, SOLOS AND QUADS**

Olympic Park will host a fabulous Sidecars, Solos and Quads Masters meeting this Saturday night, with a great line up of talent all vying for the status of being the Mildura Master.

A return of Sidecar racing will have the crowd excited, as for the last few weeks, the Sidecars have ridden just as support events to the major Solo Championships conducted at Olympic Park.

Patrons will be pleased to see a top lineup of chairs, with some the top locals engaged in a titanic struggle for supremacy. Regular stars, Byren Gates / Mick O'Loughlin, Jason Bradshaw / Simon Cohrs, Clint Mayes / Jamie Knudsen and Chris Holmes / Neale Hancock plus Ouyen's Munro brothers, Scott and Kane, Melton based, Mark Radford / Steven Stagg and Simon Hartley / Nathan Chisholm, as well as Broken Hill's, Rick Stephens / Dean Hobbs, makes an electric eight team field to contest the "Masters" title.

All the top grade of Sidecars will be itching to get some good "set up" time on the track as those who rode as support for the Solo Title events knew prior to riding that none of the tracks were being prepared with Sidecar racing in mind. The Club is grateful to the local chair exponents that they had a ride, not on a tack prepared for them and yet, gave Title patrons some great entertainment along the way. The Victorian Sidecar Title, which will be held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, will be the immediate focus for the Sidecar fraternity so this weekend's Masters will be a great hit out for them all.

A smaller "B" grade will also support the main three wheeler action, with Broken Hill's Kel O'Neill / Peter Harvy and Joe and Mark Dougherty along with Adelaide's Tim Bichard / Adam Pfitzner looking to impress enough to gather a minor grade win and to put pressure on the Victorian selectors to name them in the Victorian Sidecar field.

The Solo Masters field is a solid one in that both Sedgmens and Brock Gates will ride against Albury visitor, Mark Jones, SA trio, Rob Branford, Ben Hatcliffe and Adam Briggers and one of Sunraysia's great all - round motorcyclists, Jason Stewart, who will be using this Masters meeting as a real tune up to sharpen his skills ready for a serious assault on the Australian Long Track Championships, to be held at Tamworth on the first weekend of February. Stewart is a seasoned speedway rider, finishing well in many Victorian Title meetings, but has always had a strong liking for the longer, and very much faster, form of speedway. Ridden on massive tracks, usually over 650 metres in length, riders attain speeds of well more than 130kph, when sending their machine hurtling into a slide to take the corners. Stewart is a Long Track specialist and certainly enjoys that way of going.

Mark Jones has come out of a two year recess and at the Australian Solo Title Qualifying meeting looked to have his previous form back, just requiring a little more match fitness. Jones may even be interested in trying to make it in the British League, as he has the talent and maturity to give any attempt at the big league a good shake. Rob Branford, Brock Gates and Ben Hatcliffe should have an interesting contest too, as all riders are of a similar standard.

Justin Sedgmen should start as Solo Masters favourite as his form in the past month has been excellent, both in the Australian senior Title and the Under 21 Title just last weekend, where he finished a great second place to the World Champion and secured a place for himself in the next rounds of the 2010 World Under 21 Championship once he gets back to Europe.

Supporting the field on Saturday night will be a good selection of Quad racers, racing in handicap events, which will make the on track action even more interesting. These fellows and girls have had some great competition and Olympic Park patrons are now seeing the results of some good set up selections on machinery, which had been gained over the last twelve months of serious racing by the bikers on four wheels. The handicap events will be for all seven riders in the field, which for many older Olympic Park fans, will be a welcome return to a format used extensively many years ago for all classes of competition.

Olympic Park gates will open at 5:00pm, with senior Practice conducted between 6:00pm and 6:30. A Junior support event will race from 6:30 until 7:15, with the Masters competition beginning at 7:30pm. The Club advises that Olympic Park has a full catering service and there must be No BYO by law.

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