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PRESS RELEASE

SEASON CLOSES WITH SIDECAR MASTERS

A historic Mildura speedway season will draw to a close this Saturday night at Olympic Park with the conduct of the “Atlas Sheds – 2011 Sidecar Masters” event which will feature the “newest” Sidecar sensations in the land as Chris Pascoe and the often flamboyant, Simon Cohrs, head the bill as the newest and most successful Sidecar combination going around.

Local rider and former passenger Cohrs, answered a call from the Adelaide based Pascoe, just early last week after the Pascoe brothers had had a bad smash at the Title venue and the passenger, Adam had been severely injured, putting him out of the Title Qualifying meeting.

Cohrs, who is well regarded as a passenger, would have probably just been a spectator at the Title if not for the call from Pascoe.

They came to an agreement and Simon set off for Adelaide on Friday morning and met Pascoe for the first time at 3:00pm on race day. It must have been a “meant to be,” as the pair gelled right from the start and began discussing operational matters before turning to race tactics. It was obvious, as relayed from observers that Pascoe hung on virtually every word from Cohrs, who was the most experienced of the pair.

Cohrs had a number of years swinging with Jason Bradshaw and, for this season, has ridden his own machine with brother, Mark on the side. The Cohrs boys progress has been successful, although it was generally agreed that they were not of Australian Championship standard as yet.

On Friday the new pair moved successfully through the “Qualifying” meeting for the Title and on Saturday set themselves to do as well as they could for the Title itself. They had nothing to lose.

WELL ! . . . they did better than that, they top scored the meeting with twelve points and consequently were able to take first pick at the gates for starting position in the Championship Final.

A wonderful effort from two guys who had not met until the day before and by the end of the Title meeting they could place a 4th place sash over their shoulder – a wonderful result.

The Pascoe and Cohrs team now head up the field in the “Atlas Sheds – Sidecar Masters” event in the knowledge they now have much work ahead as their Australian Title result also qualifies them for a start in the 2012 World Speedway Sidecar Championship to be held in Australia in November of this year. How exciting is that ?

Regular candidates in the Mildura field will be Mildura’s two representative teams in the Title in Warren Monson / Deven Gates and Byren Gates / Mick O’Loughlin along with Rick Stephens / Dean Hobbs and Andy O’Rourke / Jason Mayes and Jason Bradshaw / Steve Behsmann.

The local riders will be wanting to establish some “bragging” rights to take into the winter, which for some of the teams, will involve re-building and trying to steal some more horsepower for their machine.

Racing, as always will be keen, with any of the teams a chance to take the major prize money. As often happens, opportunities will need to be taken when offered, as we saw with the Pascoe / Cohrs combination last weekend.

These local teams will be joined by first time Mildura visitors in the SA team of Michael Hoogland / Andy Menz and Victorian visitors, Mark Radford / Matt Putkins, with new youngsters in Lindsay McGregor / Mitch Duncan along with Chris Holmes / Neale Hancock, Scott Munro / Reece Yettman and Corey Gates / Adon Pearce. Hoogland is the son of a seasoned Sidecar exponent in Peiter, who rode and kept alive motorcycle speedway in Tasmania for many years after leaving Adelaide for the Apple Isle.

Passenger, Menz will also team up in the Classic Sidecars in the support events when he jumps in board with his more famous father, Peter Menz, who started his speedway career many years ago as passenger for the great Deane Taylor who rode one of the very early two stroke race machines which was powered by a TZ Yamaha road race engine, straight from the Yamaha factory in Japan. Menz then completed his senior career on the throttle and now has decided to start again with his son as swinger. Classics are the guys who have all the fun back riding and will include Sunraysia’s hot shots in Roly Paver and Rex Byrne against Rex’s son Tim with Mick Powell. Brodie Gebhart and Adon Pearce.

Solos again will feature as support events with a solid five man list. Robbie Medson returns from Adelaide to ride against Brenton Barnfield, Chris Ferguson, Brock Gates and Tom Hedley, who returns after a long lay off from the sport. Family duties and engine issues have caused the Hedley hiatus, but Tom is sure to show his skills trackside along with the other local boys.

Next meeting at Olympic Park will be the Victorian Speedway Quad Cup, which will be held on Saturday 16th April. The Quad meeting, whilst outside the regularly advertised Mildura Speedway season will be an interesting adjunct to the Olympic Park season. Local Quad riders have been prepared to travel to get competition and some of those riders who regularly compete at away venues will come to Mildura to get a taste of real speedway on the tighter confines of Olympic Park. Quad riders have been used as support events at many speedway meetings over the last couple of years and it is thought that the time is right to introduce a Title of their own.

This weekend gates open at 5:00pm, with senior Practice set to begin at 5:50. A Junior meeting will commence after the senior practice at 6:30, with the “Atlas Sheds – Sidecar Masters” to commence at 7:30 sharp. A parade of riders and an introduction of the fourth place getters in last week’s Australian Championship, Chris Pascoe and Simon Cohrs will take place prior to racing.

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