

Junior Speedway NSW Winter Series Round 7

Report by David Lamont

The Central Coast Junior Motorcycle Club hosted round seven of the Junior Speedway Winter Series on the 30th of July.

Eleven riders competed over five rounds followed by semi finals and final. Jack Miles, James Pearson and Maurice Brown all had fairly straightforward first round wins.

The track was not holding together and had to be graded and packed after each round. Aiden Phillips made the most of the track conditions in round two by using the rut in turns 3 & 4 like a berm to ride under Miles on lap 4 to take an exciting win. The two had swapped the lead several times during the race.

Other round two winners were Brown again and Harrison Ryan.

Lex Tracey had a carefully crafted win in round three. He shadowed Pearson throughout the race then got enough drive out of the turns at the start of lap four to move ahead for the win. Phillips and Brown also scored wins in round three.

Miles had scored a couple of second place finishes in the previous rounds and then proved in round four that he could come from behind. On lap two he muscled his way past Brown in a very close move. Brown lost momentum and could not catch up to challenge for the lead.

Ryan and Phillips had a very close race. Ryan took the lead and held it to the end but had to contend with Phillips trying every which way to get past. A last lap look down the inside by Phillips was covered and Ryan held on for the win. Tracey finished the round with another win.

The final round of heats lacked the urgency of earlier rounds. Once the tapes went up whoever made the best start went on to win. The only excitement was when Brown had a tank slapper moment after hitting a rut and then fell. He was excluded but was unhurt and had enough point to qualify for the semi finals.

In the first semi final were Miles, Tracey, Harrison and Bradley Page. Miles made the best start and opened a gap on Tracey and Harrison who battled over second place. Ryan had the edge early before Tracey came back and demoted him to third. A surge by Ryan late on lap two brought him back to second which he held until the end. Miles and Harrison through to the final.

The riders for the second semi final were Phillips, Brown, Pearson and Nate Simpson. They charged off the line in a bunch when the tapes rose. Simpson dropped back and Pearson was edged wide and also fell behind. Phillips and Brown raced closely for a couple of laps. The bumpy track got the better of Phillips allowing Brown to take the win. Brown and Phillips were through to the final.

When the tapes went up on the final Brown and Miles went together leaving Harrison and Phillips behind. Brown was marginally ahead until on lap two Miles went past on the inside. The close pass caused Brown to momentarily change his line and lose momentum allowing Phillips to take second. Brown attacked on the next lap but again lost ground in the challenge and slipped to last place as Ryan went past.

Ahead Phillips closed on Miles but could not get close enough to try a pass.

Jack Miles won the final in one of the most exciting and competitive race meetings this year. After a year of sparsely attended race meetings rider numbers are on the rise again. The club is looking forward to the Redloh Cup in early November and is expecting a full field of sixteen riders.