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***Press Release re***

## **NEW NAMES ON HONOUR ROLL AT CENTRAL COAST CUP**

***For immediate Release***

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Two new names have been added to the honour roll of winners after the 2024 staging of the Honda /Coastal Motorcycle Centre and The Construction Team Central Coast Cup long track meeting staged at the Allen Park track at Somersby last weekend (May 25 and 26).

There was always going to be a new winner of the Junior Cup and it was Forbes 14 year old Hugh Hope-Hodgetts who claimed the win before Cody Lewis scored his first victory in the Senior Cup despite the presence of two previous winners.

Lewis has already two Australian Championship wins to his credit in the two years since he entered the senior ranks and he has now put his name alongside the list of previous winners of the Cup which was first staged in 2005.

Last weekend would have been the 20<sup>th</sup> staging of the Cup, but for a wash-out in 2011 and Covid in 2020.

The win did not come easy for Lewis in what was an eventful race that only completed its eight lap journey at the third attempt.

Firstly Lewis led from 2022 winner Luke Bush, four-time winner David Smith and Brayden Gay – arguably the top quartet of fancies – but the race was stopped when Gay fell and could not clear the track.

Next Bush led away from Lewis when Smith fell heavily, suffering a broken wrist, causing the next stop.

Finally Lewis led all the way with Bush coming from eighth after a poor start to finish second ahead of Mitchell Watson, Talon Cardinale and James Wood.

Before the Cup races the seniors had contested the MX Open and Pro 450 classes with David Smith triumphant in both.

The MX Open was decided over five rounds with four wins and a third giving Smith a clear advantage over Cody Lewis, Brayden Gay and Thoren Openshaw who is still in his first year in the seniors.

Next up Smith won the Pro 450 final, after being top qualifier, with Luke Bush, Brayden Gay and Cody Lewis chasing him home.

After a recent birthday there was a 'bonus' victory for Smith winning all rounds of the Over 35s class to outpoint Josh McCosker and Ian Carpenter.

The Pro 250 class had only three riders, but only point separated Talon Cardinale and James Wood after the five rounds.

By the time the Junior Cup was raced Hugh Hope-Hodgetts had emerged as a hot favorite by winning the 2-stroke class on points, then taking out the final of the 4-stroke class after being top qualifier.

Albury rider Gage Gower, Jaiden Trembath from Gunnedah and locals Zac Brady and Bodie Cardinale were all very competitive, culminating with Gower and Trembath chasing Hope-Hodgetts home in the Cup final.

Hugh was not the only Hope-Hodgetts to have success as his sister Holly won the Girls class.

The only junior rider to win two classes came in the 7 to Under 9s with local Braxsen Anderson fending off some strong opposition.

Kempsey rider Riley Holder won the race of the day in the 9 to Under 13s final to deny Queenslander Theo Afeaki a second class win, while Jaiden Trembath, Preston Craft and Jake Strainey also had class wins.

Behind them Cohen McCosker, Hayden Duggan and Kru Tulloch all turned in eye-catching displays.

The Central Coast Junior Motorcycle Club was again thankful for the effort of all the volunteers including members of the Gosford District Motorcycle Club who did all the corner flagging duties over the weekend. Without all those volunteers meetings like this could not happen.

Everyone sends their best wishes to the riders who were injured over the two days, in particular junior rider Amelia Kotze who was airlifted to Westmead Childrens Hospital.

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***On behalf of Central Coast Junior Motor Cycle Club***