

Track n Trail

Heaven and Hell:- Portland Style

Photo's courtesy of Warren Slevin, Denise Amos and Ben Harvey

Words by Warren Slevin

The grand finale to Track n Trail's 2011 season - **Destination Portland** - a stand alone, extreme event. And what a corker it turned out to be in what would best be described, as 'Disneyland' for dirt bikes.

This superb venue offered everything you could ever wish for to challenge your riding skills and with some riders coming back to the pits looking very worried after walking the course there was certainly a degree of trepidation in the air before the start.

The course turned out to be a fantastic blend of fast flowing, greasy tracks leading into huge boulder fields and winding rocky trails, long and short climbs with several near vertical sections, plus a bit of water thrown in with good measure. It proved to be a tough challenge for all competitors and certainly no time to rest as one natural obstacle after another tested every rider to the limit.

Champ/Expert had their own hard route with a fearsome thirty foot drop into a gulley followed by the infamous 'Mike's Diner' a long section of settee size rocks, leading to a twenty foot vertical step up back to the end of the section - as if the rest of the course wasn't enough.

Start was delayed so that riders could pay their respects for two minute silence in honour of servicemen.

A stacked with talent Championship class saw early leader Aaron Smith first into 'Mike's Diner' followed by Daryl Bolter who had handicapped himself by setting off last, but was soon slicing through the pack closely followed by the popular and ever strong Phil Studley. On lap three David Biles moved into second then took the lead on lap eight only to have Bolter take it back a lap later. Phil Studley was a fine third and Chris Curtis fourth, all with eleven laps. Aaron Smith got tangled in ropes in the finish area and then smashed his pipe flat on his new bike to end with a DNF. Jack Twentyman was also a non finisher, he high sided one of the easier parts of the course snapping one side of his bars off.



*Championship class,
David Biles, in
control and on his
way to 2nd place.*

Trials ace Phil Wiffen took a fine win and really controlled the expert class and was the only rider to made ten laps, second place going to Karl Langford and third to Luke Stringer with these guys swapping places quite a few times during the two and half hours.

*5th place Expert
Mark Copeland not
quite exiting Mikes
Diner.*



Expert over 40s Charlie Richards took a great win with Jerry Box, Andy Scudamore, and Wayne Player all fighting for the same place and finishing with nine laps each.



*1st place Over 40's
Expert, Charlie
Richards controlling
the class throughout!*

In the Clubman 2st class early leaders Geoff Brigden and then Drew Slevin got beaten into submission by the Portland terrain to a DNF, leaving Harvey Dark to take the lead on lap six which is where he stayed to the finish - a great ride, the only one with ten laps. Another early



leader Mark Mealham finished with a strong second and Malcolm Coles a third.

Clubman 2St 5th 106, Shane Newman, His first enduro for many years...what a one to choose to return on!

An excellent ride for Olly Ford, moving up from sixth in the first lap in the Clubman 4st to take the lead on lap 4. Giles Richard took second and third was David Brown both moving up the order as the race went on.

The over 40s saw Hannes Tanzer take first and second, Mike Owen after moving up and down the order with third going to Dave Kirtley.

A dominant win for Mitch Frost , in Sportsman, with nine laps, followed by Luke Gustar, in his first adult race and Leighton Ormerod with five laps.

The over 50s had Steve Taylor first with Colin Paddy in second and four laps down in third place Richard Strawbridge.



Over 50's winner Steve Taylor negotiating the rocks!

The Trials guys toughed it out for two and half hours with no chance to sit down, first Steve Davey, second Rob Sheppard and third Finlay Davey.

*Father & Son Trials riders
Finlay and Steve Davey making
light work of Mike's Crazy
Frog Hill!*



In the Youth 125 Class Jake Morgan took a fine win from early leader, the ever smooth Charlie Frost with Dylan Bayton in hot pursuit, all with eleven laps.



*Jake Morgan winner of the
125cc Class,*

Big wheel 85 Todd Kellett was in complete control and absolutely blitzed his class, in fact he won the youths' out right. Well done mate I hope this is some consolation for your family as older brother Ty broke his wrist on the sighting lap of the adult race (get well soon Ty). Second went to Ben Green after a poor start and third was one solid campaigner Nathan Baggott.



85BW 2nd Place Ben Green.

SW, Jordan Ridgeway dominated the class and looks to be following in big bro's footsteps. Conner Smith and Josh Player chased hard trying to catch him.



*"On top of the world" -
3rd Place 85Sw Josh Player.*

In the 65 class it was Matthew Martin with a great win, three laps in front of Thomas Appleyard and poor Ben Harvey went out with a clutch problem while in the lead.

Youth Trials, Bradley Copeland was the winner with nine laps.

A big thank you must go to Neil Hawker, for marshalling on the biggest descent on the track, and riding numerous bikes down the hill for them.

While done to Mike and Sue and all the Track'n'Trail crew for a brilliant event and what should prove to be a future classic. This was a really great way to round off the year after the great variety of venues that this season's championship has had to offer. The team have a few things up their sleeves for next year!