

Buchanan crests the log

Yamaha rider finally finds Cord success

By Meg Thorburn

BOBCAYGEON, ON – Glenn Buchanan ended years of frustration by scoring his first victory in the daunting Corduroy Enduro Sept. 22-23. A timing error by Matt Spigelmyer on the final stage gave Buchanan the win by two points.

Many a rider - from Master to Novice - has spent time stuck in the Cord, possibly Canada's toughest, and certainly our most prestigious Enduro. Staged on a portion of the Canadian Shield, rain water sits on the trails, forming deep muddy pools that hide treacherous logs and slippery stones. With heavy rain the night before this year's two-day grind, the 48th edition of the fabled event looked likely to serve up its customary helping of treacherous riding.

The first of 92 riders left at noon on Saturday in a light rain, which persisted all day. Once into the first trail section - the lower Galloway - muddy branches and sweat-induced fog turned goggles into blinders.

It was impossible to pick a good line and the Cord had its first casualty, Masters rider and former Cord champion, Craig Kennedy, who separated his

shoulder in a nasty spill.

The course split after the first gas, with the Masters and Experts heading into the River trail and the other riders heading off to the Pencil Lake trail.

Reports from the River trail indicated event co-ordinator Graham Henry (who took over the reins from Steel City icon Larry Bastedo this year) and his crew had cut new trail around a huge swamp. Apparently, it was a pretty challenging section.

The woods were filled with the sickening sound of bikes sliding back down rock faces and the sorry sight of the few riders who missed the arrows and followed American Dan Nicoloff into the swamp.

Nicoloff actually made it through, only to find that his front tire was flat. The others, including well-known motocrosser Glen Nicholson, whose CR500 was immersed in muck over its seat, finally managed to pull their bikes free, turn around and re-find the trail.

Meanwhile, the Junior classes were riding through a fairly wet Pencil Lake trail. Some watered out but most made it through and rejoined the Senior riders at the second gas. The ride out was uneventful.

At the end of the first day, after 133 km, American Spigelmyer, another previous winner of the Cord, was leading with 14 penalty points followed by Buchanan with 16 points.

Eighty racers (including a handful who had DNF'd the day before) took off in the fog on Sunday. It warmed into a perfect fall riding day - cool, blue sky, leaves just starting to turn.

The Cord is all about rock - rock ledges, stone staircases, trail-blocking boulders - and the worst rocks of all are the little rib-cracking ones that you don't see.

Shortly after first gas there was a fabulous gnarly new section on Arnie Buchanan's property - tight, rooty and off-

camber. Even several of the top riders dropped seven to eight minutes on this 10-km section.

From there the course continued by road until it entered the Miserable Lake trail. This was the first time the organizers had run the Junior classes through this section, and all made it through unscathed, save for a couple of riders who watered out in the river crossing at the end of the section.

The second gas and special test followed.

At this point Spigelmyer was leading by one point but Buchanan posted the fastest special test time (5:45.02), leaving Spigelmyer little room for error in the remaining 100 km.

Clark Peters had the second fastest special test time at 5:47.50.

By the end of the Donald and St. Croix trails Buchanan had dropped three more points and Spigelmyer four, tying them in overall points but giving Buchanan the lead, due to his better special test time.

Spigelmyer made a time-keeping error on the final (very nasty) short trail section, causing him two early penalty points and clinching the win for Buchanan with a score of 24.

Although he has won many national enduros the Cord had previously eluded Buchanan. His name will now at last be added to the long illustrious list of winners of the Corduroy log.

Honourary Canadian Spigelmyer placed second with 26 points. He was followed by Rob McGlashan with 31 points. McGlashan, who just started racing enduros three years ago is definitely a force to be reckoned with.

The always-cheerful Peters came in fourth with 34 points. This meant the Lloyd Howell Memorial trophy (the Can-Am Challenge), given each year to the country whose top three riders have the lowest total score, went to Canada.

Randy Zuest won the Expert 300 class with a total score of 42 (sixth overall), followed by Doug Post with 48.

Nicholson, riding his first Enduro won the Expert Other class with 59 points while, as usual, Filip Svoboda won the Expert 4-Stroke class with 41 points (fifth overall).

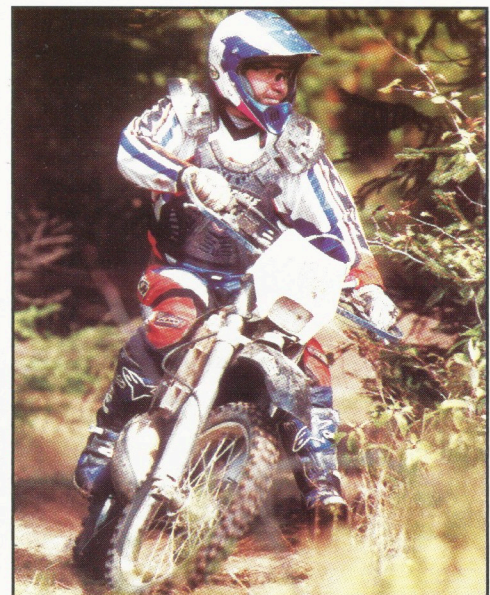
Other class winners were Charles Niederrite (Other 4-Stroke), Eric Bock (Intermediate 300), Ed Schleihauf (Intermediate Other), Michael Bond (Novice A 300), Ron Golden (Novice A Other), Kelly Goreski (Veteran), Wilson (Super Veteran), Sean Wisner (Vintage) and Meg Thorburn (Women).

The 17-year-old Bond also won the Bert Irwin award as the youngest rider to finish.

The transition to a new co-ordinator has gone very smoothly. The event, which is a massive volunteer undertaking, was extremely well run. The same stalwart Steel City members and others have stayed on to help the new leaders organize, arrow, pre-ride, sweep, work checks and special tests, tally scores, etc. Henry had spent every weekend this summer cutting new trail, with Hal Judd

and others at his side. Bruce Moffat had put in countless long hours on the organizational front.

It was particularly rewarding to see members (some in their 70s) of the British Empire Motor Club, which started the race 48 years ago, working checks.



For much of the event there was little to choose between Buchanan and Matt Spigelmyer (above)

Results

Masters

1. Glenn Buchanan (Yamaha) 24; 2. Matt Spigelmyer (KTM) 26; 3. Rob McGlashan (Yamaha) 31; 4. Clarke Peters (Yamaha) 34; 5. Kevin Passmore (KTM) 42; 6. Randy Griffith (KTM) 46; 7. John Nelson (Honda) 47; 8. Jonathon Head (KTM) 53; 9. Scott Coulas (Yamaha) DNF; 10. Dan Nicoloff (KTM) DNF; 11. Andy Acott (KTM) DNF; 12. Craig Kennedy (Yamaha) DNF; 13. Allan Lachapelle (KTM) DNF

Expert 300

1. Randy Zuest (Yamaha) 42; 2. Doug Post (KTM) 48; 3. Gilles Bussiere (Kawasaki) 56; 4. Ross Iennos (Kawasaki) 57; 5. Dave Wrack (KTM) 59

Expert Other

1. Glen Nicholson (Honda) 59; 2. Dean Mayke (KTM) 70; 3. Jim Jervis (KTM) DNF

Expert 4-Stroke

1. Filip Svoboda (Yamaha) 41; 2. John Walter (Yamaha) 46; 3. James Farrington (Yamaha) 53; 4. Peter Kief (KTM) 55; 5. Jon Cornwell (KTM) 63

Intermediate 300

1. Eric Bock (Kawasaki) 23; 2. Michel Metcalfe (Kawasaki) 25; 3. Jon Hudson (Yamaha) 25; 4. Steve Lister (Kawasaki) 27; 5. Denis Aumais (Kawasaki) 28

Intermediate Other

1. Ed Schleihauf (Honda) DNF; 2. Rei Alejandro (KTM) DNF

Novice A 300

1. Michael Bond (Honda) 29; 2. John Rose (Kawasaki) 39; 3. William Dainty (Kawasaki) 46; 4. Scott Arnott (Kawasaki) 54; 5. Rob Bergman (Yamaha) 57

Novice A Other

1. Ron Golden (KTM) 53; 2. Maxime Champagne (Suzuki) 66; 3. Mike Porter (KTM) 104; 4. Chris Trinkwon (Kawasaki) 106; 5. Kirk Potter (KTM) 117

Novice B

1. Frank Imeson (Suzuki) DNF

Veteran

1. Kelly Goreski (KTM) 19; 2. Yves Ebacher (Kawasaki) 20; 3. John Farrar (Yamaha) 21; 4. Brian Loach (KTM) 37; 5. Andy Stone (Suzuki) 38

Super Veteran

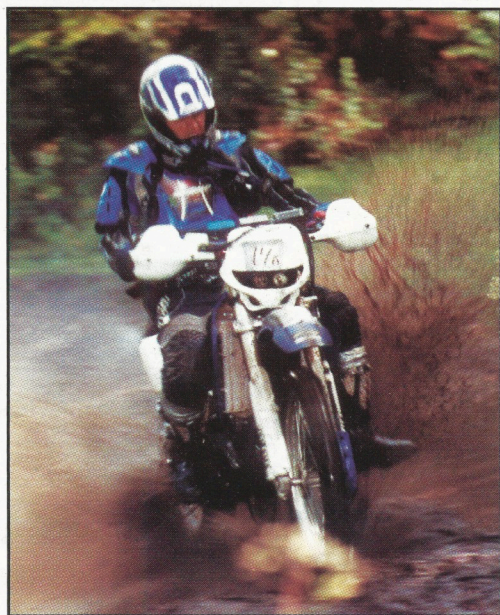
1. Steve Wilson (KTM) 31; 2. Rick Day (KTM) 40; 3. John Trinkwon (Kawasaki) 54; 4. Tom Kelly (Suzuki) 77; 5. Chris Ellis (KTM) 78

Vintage

1. Sean Wisner (Husaberg) 78

Women

1. Meg Thorburn (Honda) DNF



Glenn Buchanan ended years of frustration on the Corduroy Enduro with his first ever victory at the event

PHOTOS BY ED GATNER