

Beaule repeats

KTM rider takes over Enduro points lead



A consistent Patrick Beaule repeated as Masters victor; two dropped points on Sunday proved costly to Michel Metcalfe (below).

Story and photos by Bill O'Neill

KINMOUNT, ON – The weather reports were promising for the Sept. 16 weekend. No rain predicted with highs in the low 20s and lows around 10. Not bad weather for enduro racing, and a race there was.

The race was none other than Canada's premier off-road event, the Corduroy. The CMA/NAMU-sanctioned event drew about 90 starters this year, down a bit from previous years, but the nearly inch of rain the Wednesday before the event might have had a hand in that.

As in the last few years, the Steel City Riders and British Empire Motor Club did the organizing along with various members of the Ontario enduro community. Ontario Federation of Trail Riders executive director Ken Hoeverman also made a return engagement as trail master. Hoeverman is a great ambassador for the sport. His boundless energy and considerable abilities have been brought to bear on a number of issues facing the sport of off-road motorcycling

this year with terrific results, not the least of which was his hand in making this edition of the Cord happen.

While the turnout was a bit off from last year, most of the usual suspects were out to run the event. The current champ, KTM Stoneridge-sponsored Patrick Beaule, was back to defend his title along with the rest of the KTM team. Many folks were surprised to see Shot MX Racing Gear / KTM-backed rider Chris Van Hove back on a bike at this year's event. They were expecting him to

be still out with the injuries he sustained at the WEC in July.

Van Hove had actually made his return two weeks earlier at the CMA Hare Scrambles event in Wiberforce, ON. He was certainly in good spirits and seemed full of spunk. Having won the season opening Beagle Bash in the spring, even a mid pack finish here would keep Van Hove's championship hopes alive with two more races left in the season.

Saturday's course was similar to last year's, running northeast of Kinmount at a tad over 125km. A few of the sections were run in different directions, and the special test was moved from the fairgrounds, but other than that most of the star attractions were there.

With the rain and cool weather the week before the Cord, there was a lot of excess water in some areas. The Burnt River crossing was in good form, running a healthy 40cm or more deeper than last year. Visibility into the water was limited and picking a decent line was tricky. Even some of the Master class riders had to work to get across. It was so deep in a few spots, it was possible to drown a bike without falling over.

The abundant moisture was especially evident on Green's Mountain. If one side of this monumental, granite hill can be said to be more difficult than the other, it is the side they chose for the ascent this year. The organizers were aware of the difficulty and made that section strictly a Masters-Expert section. Even so, a bunch of riders lost a lot of time on this section. In a few cases, it ended their race.

Allan Lachapelle, who was riding in the top three up to check 6, dropped 20 min-





Although dry on race weekend, rainy weather the week before the Cord meant swollen streams. Intermediate winner John Haloftis (left) and Vet Expert champ Doug Post (right) tackle the muck.

utes on the hill, essentially putting him out of the running. There were just too many riders stuck there to find his way around. Now that's a tough section.

There were a couple of Intermediate riders that misread the split and unnecessarily spent the rest of the day stuck on the hill. All in all Saturday's ride was quite a bit more challenging than in most past years but a few riders in particular seemed to take the day in stride.

Although running 10 minutes apart, KTM teammates Beaulé and Michel Metcalfe ran a tight ship and both dropped only nine points on the day. John Burgard also had a good run and finished just two points back.

The best scorecard handed in on Saturday was from Super Vet rider Kelly Goreski, who dropped only seven points on the day. Even though he did not have to face the Green Monster, that was still a darn good run.

The racing got started early on Sunday morning with a key time of 0800. The riders got 10 minutes between the impound and the start to make any last minute adjustments, then they were away into the 195km loop. This loop too, shared quite a bit with

last year's. However, there were some notable differences. First, the single-track section known as Arnie's Place was no longer available. In its place was a new section through the Burnt River Off-Road Park. This 6.8km run was tougher. The best run through was by Metcalfe, who dropped six points.

There were some other new sections that changed the layout a bit to make it more interesting for the experienced riders, while making it easier for the Novice, Vet and Women's classes. The idea here was to attract more new riders to the event.

As might be expected, Beaulé ran a pretty tight ship. No doubt he was eager to defend his title from last year and he was on his game. Metcalfe was also running well, staying within a point of Beaulé right up until he earlied check 7. Those two points ended up being costly and were all that separated him back from Beaulé in the end.

Craig Kennedy, always a strong rider, netted the third spot in the Masters class.

Van Hove's strategy paid off for him. His sixth place finish kept his championship hopes alive by giving him second spot in the standings, just behind Beaulé and two points ahead of Lachapelle.

The best overall score went to Goreski. He only dropped four points on day two to end up with a total of 11. Another spectacular run went to John Stevens in the Novice class with only 14 points total. Both Goreski and Stevens were significantly ahead of the other riders in their respective classes. **IM**

RESULTS

Masters

1. Patrick Beaulé, Ste-Julie, QC (KTM); 2. Michel Metcalfe, Hudson, QC (KTM); 3. Craig Kennedy, Vienna, ON (Suz); 4. Matt Spigelmeyer, Spring Mills, PA (KTM); 5. Allan Lachapelle, Bolton Centre, QC (KTM)

Expert

1. Kevin Cockayne, Kincardine, ON (KTM); 2. Denis Liberson, Alfred, ON (Hon); 3. Misha Subotincic, Etobicoke, ON (Hon)

Intermediate

John Haloftis, Mississauga, ON (KTM); 2. Rob Hewitt, Strathroy, ON (Yam); 3. Thierry Lacombe, Beloeil, QC (ATK)

Veteran Expert

1. Doug Post, Caledon, ON (Hon); 2. Mike McCormick, Princeton, ON (KTM); 3. Hal Judd, Toronto, ON (Yam)

Veteran

1. Kurt Ward, Cowlesville, NY; 2. Barry Billings, Cambridge, ON (Suz); 3. Gilles Bussiere, Montreal, QC (Kaw)

Super Veteran

1. Kelly Goreski, Port Perry, ON (KTM); 2. Paul Langford, Millgrove, ON (Yam); 3. Dan Clark, Bayfield, ON (KTM)

Novice A

1. John Stevens, Orangeville, ON (KTM); 2. Barry Armstrong, Markham, ON (KTM); 3. Alexandre Roy, La Prairie, QC (KTM)

Women

1. Sue Cannel, Scarborough, ON (Hon)