

Todd Wiltshire Cup Kurri Kurri 3/9/2016

A field of 12 riders, including some down from Queensland, contested the 2016 Todd Wiltshire Cup for Junior 125cc at Kurri Kurri Speedway.

Maurice Brown from Cowra has been the form rider this year and opened his account with a straightforward win from Keynan Rew (QLD) and James Pearson. Bradley Page overdid it at the end of lap one and fell. Fortunately he was up quickly and got his bike off the track so the race was not stopped.

The round one heats were generally uneventful with the race winner being the rider who made it through the turns first. Jack Miles won from Cordell Rogerson (QLD), Jackson Harris and Lachlan Hayes. The next race was won by Aiden Phillip from Flynn Nicol, Joshua Watson and Nate Simpson,

Round two was when the action really started and the happiest rider of the day had to be James Pearson. He and his equipment are always immaculately turned out and he gives it everything on the track. This hasn't always been reflected in race results but today it was all about to change.

Following his third place in heat one he was again drawn against Brown in round two. From gate two Pearson made it to turn one ahead of Brown, Harris and Watson. Brown was all over Pearson looking for a way past. Lap three and Pearson was riding smoothly, holding his line and standing up to the pressure from Brown. At times Brown was able to draw level on the outside of Pearson but did not have the speed to continue around for a pass.

At the start of lap four Pearson was a little shakey through the turns and Brown closed right up but could not find a way past. Pearson took the chequered flag just ahead of Brown and threw his hands in the air in triumph. A great ride and a well deserved win over one of the best 125cc riders around today.

Other round 2 winners were Rew and Nicol.

Pearson again starred in his round 3 heat. A good start saw him into the turns first with Rogerson right behind. Rogerson shadowed him through the four laps drawing close a number of times. Pearson kept a tidy inside line meaning Rogerson had to try the long way around but could not get the drive to get by. Another hard fought win and hands in the air for Pearson.

Brown's third round heat went much the same way as his previous but this time it was Miles on the inside line. On lap 2 Brown went too wide looking for a way past and lost momentum. This gave Miles the break he needed to take the win.

Another win to Nicol concluded round three.

Brown began the round 4 heats with a win over Miles. A good start meant he had a small gap over Miles and was generally untroubled by any pressure.

Heat 2 was where all the action was. Rogerson made a good start to lead from Rew, Nicol and Pearson who, unlike his previous two heats languished at the rear. Rew was desperate to get by Rogerson and dived inside on lap two. The riders appeared to touch, go wide and lose momentum but Rew was past Rogerson. Nicol took the opportunity to get by both of them into the lead. It didn't last long as Rew rode hard, rounded him up and passed to take the lead on lap 4 and hold on for the win. A cracking race.

The last heat in the round was a bit anti-climactic with Watson excluded for touching the tapes and Hayes

losing power and not being able to finish. Harris won from Page.

The final round began with another great start from Pearson who was followed by Miles, Watson and Page. Miles was all over Pearson and finally got the room to pass on the inside at the start of lap three and continue for the win.

The second heat had to be restarted after Hayes fell and was excluded. Rew won from Harris and Simpson.

In the last heat Rogerson made the best start to lead from Brown, Nicol and Phillip. As the two leaders fought over first place Phillip moved ahead of Nicol on lap two. At the start of lap four Rogerson drifted wide allowing Brown through to take the lead and win.

The lineup for the B Final was Nicol, Pearson, Rogerson and Phillip. Nicol made the best start to lead and Pearson the worst to bring up the rear. In between Phillip and Rogerson battled over second place. While they did that Nicol was untroubled at the front and went on to win and secure a place in the A Final. He was followed home by Phillip, Rogerson and Pearson.

The A Final for the Todd Wiltshire Cup included Nicol, Brown, Rew and Miles. Brown went through the turns first followed by Miles, Nicol and Rew. On lap two Miles went wide allowing Nicol then a hard charging Rew to get past. Rew then threw everything at Nicol eventually taking second place on lap three. Brown had too much of a lead to be caught in the remaining lap and took a well deserved win.

Brown has been the rider to beat over the last year and must go in as a warm favourite for the NSW championship to be held at Kurri Kurri in October.