

Highland Enduro Club John Little Memorial Enduro 2021

Those of you who knew John Little were privileged, although personally at the time I never realised it. Many times, John would question my manhood if I moaned about being knackered, injured, the track too hard or too slippery.

John was himself a rider of considerable ability having ridden the SSdT many times and the ISDE three times once on a factory Laverda!



It was this wealth of experience that made him special, and although somewhat glad to be rude to myself he would encourage other riders not to give up. He would explain that no matter how valid your reason for stopping was at the time, on your way home and for many days afterwards you would feel that you let yourself down. John was always there to help because he loved the bikes.

Although not a mechanic to trade, John was an ace at bike preparation and his son Derek's Yamaha's was turned out always in a condition that left nothing to chance and indeed he went on to restore old British bikes for a hobby some of them winning the highest awards for restoration standard.

Although Derek was a top class Enduro rider winning several ISDE awards including a gold, John would claim his success was down to the bike, always a Yamaha, he would insist that Yamaha translated from Japanese meant excellence!



Many of us had not got the same eye for detail in preparing our bikes for racing and John loved to home in on the friends that were bodgers when something broke and his comment always was the same 'races are won in the workshop'. Many times he came close to being the target of a hammer launched in his direction. In reality though, his banter at the poor unfortunate was not just fun but he really hoped that his ill timed stinging remark would raise the bar in preparation in future.

Another gift he had was at our regular stubble park meetings during the winter months John had a keen eye for the start jumper. Any suggestion of jumping the start would be spotted by John the flag man and the rider despite any amount of protestations would be made to face the other way.

I believe John would for every race make Alan Davidson face backwards as a matter of procedure for he knew Alan's game too well.

John was an Enduro man and this event and trophy is in his memorial. John was instrumental along with Kevin Gauld in organising the first ever Lossiemouth Enduro back in 2003, which attracted over 100 riders. John would be at every Lossiemouth event from then on and was grateful to Barry Hamilton who came along during John's advancing years to partner with Kevin organising many truly top class events.



The trophy that the club has had made will be awarded to the best rider over the two days, but unusually will be awarded to a different class each year. We feel this is in John's spirit as he loved the sport and knew without all abilities competing it is nothing. I have heard him explain to casual observers many times how the riders at the back are trying just as hard as the leaders and deserve the same respect.

We hope that for many years to come John's spirit shines on this event.

Highland Enduro Club.