

## Christchurch “Mods and Rockers” Winter Rumble 2011, August 27<sup>th</sup>

By Dean

Considering what we have been going through here in Christchurch for the last year I thought the name of the event very appropriate – Winter Rumble! It was also appropriate to try and have a fun event and gathering to take our minds off recent events.

This year was the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Winter Rumble, kindly planned and organised by our “rocker” colleagues from Street and Sport Motorcycles. A Sean Fitzpatrick must be given to “Captain Phil” and his team ( all credit ) for all their work in organising and putting it together and raising money for charity . For our part we simply let all the Canscoot group know about the event through our website and a Google group emailing ( modern fancy fandangle technology eh ). Why is it a majority of scooterists are techno savvy yet ride 45 year old scooters?

We thought we would make the rockers sweat a bit by meeting at our local club “ club house” first – the Addington Coffee Company and then at the very last minute we would all roll up together . Canscoot are at our finest with the last minute stuff ! It seemed to work, as the greasers appeared relieved to see us – there is no “mods and rockers” without the Mods !

At this point special thanks should be given to two long distance travellers to the event, both of whom are I am sure well known to many. “Big Jim” from Invercargill and Matt Brookes from Wellington. Matt personifies a crazy ( and cheap ) scooterist, as he left Wellington at 8.30 pm, caught the last ferry and continued on down to Christchurch all night without a break. I’m told he ran out of petrol at Cheviot. He was seen at 5 am trying to beg petrol from any passerby and had to be rescued by an old man on a push bike, who cycled back to his farm to get the Benzene. So Matt arrived at our do blurry eyed and bushy tailed with no sleep .Although I am told this is fairly common for Matt ! Good on you Matt.

There was a great turn out at the start of the event with 30 Mods and 40 Rockers –It was great to meet new and old scooterists who don’t usually come out of the woodwork and see scoots that you didn’t know existed in Christchurch ( how many NZetas are there in ChCh ? ). The air was thick with 2-stroke perfume as the pack made its way through the back roads to the Tai Tapu pub , all vying for pole position at every round-about or light during the ride out. Let’s face it, how often do you get to beat a Triumph or Norton off the start! Isn’t it a great feeling to be riding in a large group of comrades marching off to war.

Christchurch put on a fantastically sunny and unseasonably warm 18 degree day for us .You really do sweat in Mod parkas ! It was perfectly timed in between a couple of weeks of 20cm of snow on the ground – about time we caught a break from mother nature. A number of Gymkhana team challenges took place on a perfect grassy knoll in the sun, all washed down with cool beer, banter, bravado, bangers and bulldung! At stake was the annual Winter Rumble trophy, currently lying at 1 win each.

Slow slaloms followed egg and spoon balancing races with boiled eggs and double sided sticky tape, water bucket filling relays all competing on your scooters or British twin

thumpers. Could this be the only time that 10 inch wheels are advantageous? Everyone participated, even those who didn't want to – no names. The highlight had to be the teams "plank" race, turning men into mice. Here four team members put their feet in loops attached to 2 long planks, and attempt to walk in unison for ten meters ( 33 feet for the older Mods ) while racing the rockers. Thrills and spills aplenty with sides left aching from laughter. The Mods performed outstandingly and were sure the trophy was in the satchel.

Finally we all rode off again 30 km over Gebbies pass , a local windy steep hill out towards Lyttleton ). Funny isn't it how a friendly ride turns into a sprint ! At the Wheat Sheaf Tavern Captain Phil presented prizes and proceeded to close events. However, he proclaimed that all the proceeding challenges were tied, and the trophy would be determined by a best of three tug-of-war. The Mods had clearly won all the challenges- your prerogative I guess if you've organised the event!

Now you would normally put your money on greasy rockers at this point, but here "Big Jims" trip from Invercargill wasn't in vain. Big Jim anchored the Mods to a 2 – 0 tug –of war thrashing ( we are the mods, we are the mods, we are we are ..... ). So now the tally lies at 2-1 to the mods although I don't recall the trophy actually being handed over to us ... Rockers eh!

A great fun day was had by all involved and now Canscoot can look forward to their annual Show weekend ride in November. 1200 km's from Christchurch up to Motueka and Golden bay and back via the west coast and Arthurs pass over 4 days. Anyone want to join us? Bring it on.

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