

SMRA MotoGP Pool Funraiser 2007

Welcome. This will be a pool that follows MotoGP racing in 2007. Many who were involved in the Oh-Six! Pool will remember the spanking delivered by Angus "Agnes" MacNeil and "Thumpin'" Tom Ray at the top, just in front of a grueling 6-way melee for 3rd between Guy "Rapide" Hince, Lyle "number 2" Drysdale, Ryan "Great" Scott, Brent "hang a" Mooney, Dale "the wise one" Elder, and Bob "Jeeves" Butler. The stuff on the track was even more classic, with Nicky Hayden showing the doctor that he was no placebo by taking the championship in dramatic fashion at the last round from 5 points adrift. Best MotoGP season since Spencer & Roberts in '83? It was epic. No, no, it was *epique!*

Thank heaven it's Oh-Seven - the rocket powered dumptrucks that were the 990cc beasts have been crushed, pressed, and melted down into slag, only to be replaced by the nimble ground-to-ground sidewinder missiles known as "the 800's" (yes, the sidewinder is an air-to-air missile, but I'm taking literary license here). Despite 190 fewer cubes (centimeters, that is), the 800's are causing lap records to tumble like Mary-Lou Retton in a front-loading drier. All companies' bikes seem very evenly matched so far, Bridgestone is on equal footing with Michelin, and we have the deepest field that MotoGP has perhaps ever seen! Rossi, Hayden, Melandri, Elias, KrJr, Capirossi, Pedrosa, Barros, Tamada, and Checa have ALL won races in the premier class! This field is stacked, all are hungry, but none more so than recently dethroned demi-god, Valentino Rossi. This could be one of the best seasons ever in 2-wheeled racing history.

AND, if you join the pool, you'll also be supporting a great cause! It will be a 50/50 fundraiser for the **SMRA** (the Saskatchewan Mini Roadracing Association), with half the pot going to the top finishers in the pool (divided up thusly: winner – 50%, 2nd – 30%, 3rd – 15%, last place (the Jose Luis Cardoso award) - 5%) and the other half going to our mini roadracing club. One race on a mini-bike brings home the point that you don't need to be Valentino Rossi to experience heart-attack-serious roadracing action (or at least "nagging-indigestion-serious" – still, that's *pretty serious!*). Anyhow, we at the SMRA appreciate your support. Spread this pool info far and wide to all your friends and enemies. I'm expecting 30+ pool members this year, so it should be a great one!

A. Rules of the Pool

First of all, this is really easy. Seriously. You choose your racers according to rules in Part B below. Each of your racers will gather points for you throughout the racing season until the final point totals decide who wins. I (John) will keep track of all totals and email out reports after each race, so you can just pick your riders, send in your cheque, sit back, and enjoy.

Your riders can get points for you in 2 ways:

1. Qualifying - Riders who qualify in the top three grid positions receive:

Pole - 3 points **2nd** - 2 pts **3rd** - 1 pt

2. Races - The top ten racers in a race receive:

1st - 15 pts **2nd** - 12 pts **3rd** - 10 pts **4th** - 8 pts **5th** - 7 pts
6th - 5 pts **7th** - 4 pts **8th** - 3pts **9th** - 2pts **10th** - 1pt

B. CHOOSING YOUR RIDERS

The rules for rider selection are the same as last year's. You have **40 credits** to spend on picking your riders. Each rider is worth a specific number of credits (see below in Section C), depending on how I judge their potential for success in '07. Thus, for example, you could choose Valentino Rossi (4-time champion and close buddy with God) for your team, but he will cost you **17 credits!** Taking a mid-pack rider like Casey Stoner costs you **5 credits**, and an longshot like Makoto Tamada costs a measly **2 credits** to your account. You can spend your 40 credits in any way you like to make up your team. I've done all

the homework, so theoretically, any way that you spend your 40 points should give you an equal chance of winning the pool. Look below for more info on the riders and their “**credit ratings**”, so to speak.

C. The Racers:

Credit Rating

-Honda-

Nicky Hayden - Last year's champ. Honda is finally focusing on him.	12
Dani Pedrosa – a star in his first year in 06. Small Dani should fit the 800's well	11
Marco Melandri - a couple wins in 06, changed from Michelin to Bridgestones	8
Shinya Nakano - moved from Kawi. Fast guy, but has struggled with Hon/Mich so far	4
Carlos Checa - GP vet, could put in some decent results. Now on Hon/Mich	4
Tony Elias - Won race of life in Estoril, but pre-season has blown on Bridgestones	4

Yamaha -

Valentino Rossi - 4-time champ, now ex-champ, but still THE man	17
Colin Edwards – Strong in pre-season. The new Yammy is a good package	8
Makoto Tamada - seems to have lost his touch. On Dunlops, which are a bit behind	2

Ducati-

Loris Capirossi – Many wins in 06, contended for championship. He's as fast as ever	11
Alex Barros - The customer Ducks same as Factory. Alex fast in preseason	6
Casey Stoner - New to Duc and Bridgestone. Fast, but fell a lot last year	5
Alex Hoffman - Same bike as Barros. Seems pretty fast at tests (but he's still Hoffman)	2

Suzuki-

John Hopkins - 800 Suz near top in preseason. Just broke hand. Should be ready, though	7
Chris Vermeulen - Usually a tick behind Hopper, but could fight for wins	6

Kawasaki -

Olivier Jacques – Been a bit behind the others in preseason. Question mark	2
Randy DePuniet - Same as his teammate. Has potential, but who knows	2

Kenny Roberts Honda -

Kenny Roberts Jr - Got Honda motor, KrJr still has it. Couple podiums last yr	6
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Ilmor -

Andrew Pitt - Brand new bike. Quite off the pace. Pitt seems somewhat capable	1
Jeremy McWilliams - Wounded. GP vet could go fast, but bike way off	1

D. The Entry

To be a part of this pool, you **MUST** submit your picks by email by **March 8th, 2007** at the latest. The season begins in Qatar on March 9th, so the picks need to be in before they hit the track for practices. I would like the payment by race day, Mar 10th (make cheques payable to John Lenz). My email and mailing addresses are below:

- 1. Send \$20 to:** *John Lenz, 317 4th St E, Saskatoon, Sk, S7H 1J2*
- 2. Email your picks to:** *SMRAminirr@shaw.ca*

Note: Respond early to make sure you get your picks. I won't allow 2 members of the pool to have exactly the same roster of riders and there are only so many possible permutations and combinations. With over 30 pool members expected, make sure you act quickly. John will keep track of everyone's point totals

and send out updates after races. However, you are encouraged to keep your own records just in case John screws things up badly (never happen). If you want to do your own research into the various riders and their pre-season shenanigans, go to: www.superbikeplanet.com or www.motogp.com .