

SPORTSMONDAY

MOTOCROSS TRAINING COURSE

So you want to be a racer



Hilton Cook of Rangeview station, St Lawrence checks out his bike and how the thing works.. JENNIFER TRELOAR 050108/098

Eager kids take bumpy road of theory on their way to getting their motocross licences

By **JIM MULCAIR**
jim.mulcair@dailymercury.com.au

SO you want to be a motocross bike racer. Lots of little kids love the idea. The speed, the noise, the racing the adrenalin.

But hold on, it's not as simple as stepping on a bike and roaring around the track as a dozen potential dirt track demons found out on Saturday.

The 10 juniors faced the reality of five hours of Kick-start coaching at the Mackay Motocross Club's track before they can apply to Motorcycling Queensland for a licence to learn to race.

The kids discovered the world of safety, safety, safety and that meant lots of, yuk, theory - body armour, helmet, nylon pants (with lining), shatterproof goggles, top grade gloves and boots that protect the legs.

"And then they learnt about the rules and regulations applying to racing," motocross coach Shona Eden said yesterday.

"It's a long way from the excitement of riding but safety and the rules are just as important," Mrs Eden said.

So the kids learnt about the code of conduct they must comply with and the code of conduct that parents must abide by.

And the paperwork they had to fill out to send off to Motorcycling Queensland when applying for their licence.



Blake Dahms, of Sarina, looked cool and confident at the training session on Saturday.

PETER HOLT 050108/091

Then came the bike. That each bike must meet strict standards and be subject to scrutineering (that's a big word if you're only seven) before each race.

Handle bar plugs, auto return throttles, braking power control, how to get off the start gate. After five hours of coaching the kids knew more than they could possibly imagine was involved in becoming a racer.

For the record all kids met the standard and have completed their paperwork.

All Queensland junior motocross riders between 7-15 must complete the training to obtain a racing licence.

Shona Eden can put your kids on the right track. Call her on 0407637 201.

QUEENSLAND WIZARD CUP



Dave Nixon wants to be part of Cutters' 'backbone'.
AMANDA BALMER 181207/679

Nixon keen to nail down Cutters spot

By **Jim Mulcair**
jim.mulcair@dailymercury.com.au

DAVE Nixon brings 30 Wizard Cup matches experience to the Mackay Cutters and aims at being in the team for the season.

The 23-year-old Mackay product, who played all his junior football with Souths, was a member of the victorious Brethren in the MDRL last year.

It had been a smart move to the Brethren.

They were completing a rebuilding stage after coping a lot of beatings in the previous few years.

It all came together when they barnstormed the comp and accounted for his team Souths 26-24 in the grand final.

Brothers had played 17 games, winning 16.

Nixon had played for the Central Queensland Comets

at Rockhampton in 2005 and 2006.

He was highly rated at the local club level being a favourite for the Bill Paten best and fairest medal last year.

At 92kg and 187cm tall, Nixon has made the transition from the centres to the second row/lock over the years.

Ask him his strengths and he says simply: "I'm a workhorse."

And of his weaknesses, again he simply said: "I like beer a lot."

Like many of the Cutters he is a part time pro footballer.

His "real" job is that of a glazier with Mackay company B and N Glass on Harbour Road.

"I want to be considered part of the backbone of this team. I want to play high standard and consistent football."