

SCOUT ASSOCIATION – ISLE OF MAN

SCOUTINGS GUIDE TO THE TT SCOREBOARDS

Each year Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (*Scouts*) operate the Scoreboards during both TT Week and MGP Week. The Scouts have been working on the Scoreboards since 1911 and 2011 marks one hundred years of both the TT Mountain Course and Scouts working on the Mountain Course Scoreboard. Below we explain how the Scoreboards provides information for both spectators in the Grandstand and crews in the Pit Lane, while the riders are out on the 37 ¾ mile course.

Clocks



The Clocks show that a bike has passed a particular checkpoint around the course. Now there are just four positions shown on the clock face, where in the past there were up to six. The face shows the letters 'O', 'G', 'R', and 'B'. When on 'O' this shows that the bike has passed the Grandstand. The 'G' shows the bike has passed Glen Helen. The 'R' shows the bike has reached Ramsey and the 'B' shows the bike has gone past the Bungalow, below Snaefell. The clocks are all hand operated by the Scouts who receive instruction by radio from 'Clock Control' to turn a particular number to a particular position.

Lights



Above each bike's number is a small light bulb. These are used to indicate when the bike has arrived at Cronk ny Mona and will be at the Grandstand in about two minutes. In the past, Scouts used to be located at Cronk ny Mona and would be connected by telephone to the 'Light Box'. Nowadays transponders send a signal to the 'Control Tower' and a Scout connected by telephone to the 'Light Box' calls out the numbers on the bikes as they appear on his computer screen. The Scouts in the 'Light Box' have a large metal box in front of them with over one hundred on/off buttons on it, one for each light bulb. Spotters with binoculars, also in the 'Light Box', call out as the bikes go past the start/finish line, so the lights can be turned off.

Non Starters



When the race starts as each bike leaves the start line Scouts rip off two sheets of paper below each bike's number, this shows that they are now on lap one. However if a bike fails to start the race for any reason they only rip off one sheet and the second sheet shows the letters 'N.S.' to indicate that the bike was a Non Starter.

Lap Numbers

These show the lap each bike is presently on. After they have completed the race the letter 'F' is shown to show that the bike has finished the race.

Lap Times



Lap Times for each rider are shown below the Lap Number. These are painted hardboard boards and are held in place by nails on the Scoreboard Frame. Lap Times are printed out behind the Scoreboard and the times are painted on two boards by professional painters. They are then handed to Scout Messengers who deliver one to the North Board and one to the South Board. They are checked with the printout and then placed in position. In a six lap race with say one hundred bikes taking part and as there are two identical Scoreboards, that means up to twelve hundred lap time boards could be used. This is however rarely the case due to non starters and bikes retiring beforehand.

Retirements



If a rider retires this is indicated by a letter 'R Board' being placed on the Lap number the rider retired on. White wooden pegs are also placed below the 'R Board'.

Leader Board



This shows information on the top six riders, for each lap of the race. The Board shows which number bike is placed from first to sixth place, what their lap times are, their average lap speed and what their average overall speed is. Painters mark directly onto hardboard boards which are held in place on the Leader Board with nails.



All Scouts who work on the Scoreboards for either TT Week or MGP Week are presented with a specially commissioned badge, which can be worn on the back of their Group Scarf for a twelve month period.

To find out more about
Scouting on the Isle of Man visit:
www.manxscouts.com