**Sidecar teams rev up**

**Nick Kosatch**

**SPEEDWAY**

SPEEDWAY vice-president and sidecar ace Garth Thompson says there will be plenty of action tomorrow night and excitement is mounting among the riders.

“It’s a 20 heat format and we’ve got 16 bikes,” he said.

“Through the 20 heats we all race each other once and that’s the fairest way to score — and then there’s a semi final then a main final.”

Thompson said there would be “a combination of everything” with four heats per round in the sidecars and five rounds of racing to make up the 20 heats.

Thompson said the quad bikes would also have a run at the end of each round, plus their own final.

Of the international riders that are competing, Thompson said: “There’s two bikes out of the UK and a bike out of New Zealand, two former world champions and a current Oceania champion — which took over from the world championships.

“There’s 12 interstate bikes coming in and any one of them could win. “It’s an awesome field.”

Thompson will team up with Brad Dunn and the pair are keen to perform strongly on the night. “Brad’s my swinger and he’s keen and he’s not shy on having a crack at all either,” Thompson said.

“We’ve got a bike that’s quick enough to be on the pace with them, but we’ve just got to see how the night goes,” he added.

Gold Cup action galloping full speed ahead

**RACING at Pioneer Park is building for this year’s Alice Springs XXXX Gold Cup Carnival with action on the track every week from this Sunday until Cup Day on May 5.**

Chief Executive Officer Des Friedrich said with previous Alice Springs Cup Carnivals being tremendously successful, the club is in full swing with this year’s planning to try and lift the bar even higher.

“Part of this process has been the reviewing of the flow of races,” Friedrich said.

“This means that Young Guns Day, which for the past two years has been on the Saturday before the Cup, moves back to the first day of the Carnival on Saturday, April 12, along with the rapidly developing Girls Day Out and High Tea functions.

“Day two on Saturday, April 19 is Family Day with a variety of entertainment for a younger generation while the more mature patrons can enjoy the quality, boofed-up racing and social interaction with their friends,” Friedrich said.

“Day three on Saturday, April 26 is Ladies Day. After last year’s roaring success the club has a real challenge to not only repeat this performance, but improve on it as well.”

Saturday, March 5 is Pioneer Speedt Day with six quality races leading up to the feature event.

The highlight of the Carnival is the XXXX Gold Alice Springs Cup Day on Monday, May 5.

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Statistics for the month of February

Average daily max temp: 35.1
Average daily min temp: 20.7
Record highest temp: 44.7c on 2 Feb 1998
Record lowest temp: 6.8c on 24 Feb 1949
Average monthly rainfall: 4.38
Highest monthly rainfall: 241.6l in 2000
Rainfall this month: 47.4mm
Total rainfall last month: 31.6mm
Total rainfall this year: 79 mm
Total rainfall last year: 176mm
Record annual rainfall: 782.5 in 1974
Sunrise: 6.28am Sunset: 7.06pm
Outlook issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for Friday:

- Mostly sunny