

● AFTER last week's news about the Virtual TT between riders and gamers, Nacon and KT Racing are launching TT Ride On The Edge 2020 competition with a trip to the

2021 race as a prize. It will run from June 13-25 with an open qualification round to find the top 50. The best 10 will race the TT Mountain Course to find the winner.

● MINECRAFT Dungeons may be the new kid on the block, but Mojang are already showing off the first DLC for the dungeon crawler. Jungle Awakens is the first of two

planned packs and offers three missions where you try to take down a "mysterious new power". Expect new weapons, armour and artefacts. It's out next month.



It's Jaws Droppin'

THINK killer beasts in games and you have to reckon a shark would be a winner.

Tripwire Interactive obviously do so they unleashed their inner Jaws with Maneater a game that pretty much does exactly what it says on the tin.

You get to be six tonnes of ocean-roaming eating machine...but with that expected gaming twist.

This particular selachimorpha has bigummy issues. Namely, she's out for revenge on the death of her mother. The loss has sent her over the edge and she is prepared to attack anything in, on or around the water.

The result is a stylish mix of Amity Island horror and David Attenborough documentary — with a shark tale thrown in.

See what we did there?

It is a game with a story running through it, presented like a reality TV show — think Sadest Catch, but about shark hunters.

Sadly, you are not a Great White. You are a little Shark that starts proceedings playing happily with Mummy.

But she is captured and killed by Scaly Pete although you do manage to bite his hand off before you escape into the deep. From there it

Maneater

Xbox One, PS4, Switch and PC £34.99

is all fairly simple — eat, grow and get revenge. The first few hours of this game are the most challenging — you are too small to really pick a fight with the likes of barracuda and crocodiles so you are bullied and hunted by them.

That means you have to pick your battles wisely but there are plenty of things to help you grow and level up. The higher you get, the deadlier you become.

To be fair, it is all very tongue in cheek. The guys at Tripwire Interactive have bent the rules a little and let you evolve your shark over your playthroughs.

You can add armoured skin, poison-tipped fins or even electric bites. Yes, it is silly but it adds to the fun factor. Your evolution bag of trick also includes the ability to go on land and hunt people.

And, once you get to a certain size, you become the big dog ruling the good-sized open world that is split into eight very different zones. They have their own feel, from run-down swamps to sun-kissed resorts and golf course retreats. Each zone comes with an Apex

predator that is top of the food chain and who you guess you have to battle. These serve as boss battles although you get to a point where they really become pushovers but the early ones will keep you on your toes.

But there is more than just a threat from the deep. If you eat too many people, the hunters will come for you. There are 10 threat levels which will have to climb each and take down a master hunter who thinks TNT and assault rifles are the way to go.

Visually, the game is a mixed bag. We were not great fans of the water effects especially in a game about the sea.

However, the creatures look good. And the shark is epic and wears her battle scars well.

Narrator Chris Parnell may be best known as Jerry from Rick and Morty, but he steals the show here with some really snappy one-liners and made-up shark facts.

So, if you can survive the first few hours — and we mean survive — this game comes to life when you become the predator.

The lack of mission options is a shame, but this is still a tonne of fun crammed with jokes and nods and winks to pop culture. And who doesn't want to be a shark? **★★★★**



BLACK LIVES MATTER

● THE Black Lives Matter protests across the United States have impacted the gaming world across the globe.

Edinburgh-based Rockstar North turned off the online side of Grand Theft Auto and Red Dead Redemption for two hours on Thursday to honour murdered George Floyd and "the many victims of America's racial injustices". Activision postponed

the new season in Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare, insisting: "Right now it's time for those speaking up for equality, justice and change to be seen and heard."

They also introduced in-game messaging, promoting the Black Lives Matter campaign.

Epic followed by postponing the Fortnite season 3 launch and also a live in-game event. They said: "We believe in equality and

justice, diversity and inclusion, and that these fundamentals are above politics. The team is eager to move Fortnite forward, but we need to balance the Season 3 launch with time for the team to focus on themselves, their families, and their communities."

We also would have seen E3 2020 kick off with a number of big livestreams planned like The Future Games Show. But it will

now be shown on June 13 in support of the protests. CD Projekt Red has pushed back plans to show more of Cyberpunk 2077 in a livestream.

And Sony decided not to reveal the PS5 console and games. A statement said: "While we understand gamers worldwide are excited to see PS5 games, we do not feel that right now is a time for celebration." No new date as yet.



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

STRANDED ASTRONAUT

WHO: Anurudh Dade (vocals/guitar/synth), Dylan Bahl (drums/synth/vocals)

WHERE: Glasgow
FOR FANS OF: The Chainsmokers, Disclosure, Lauv

JIM SAYS: This exciting new electro-pop duo are still in their teens but the boys have made music together for years.

Dylan, 18, explained: "We are cousins, so we've been doing it a long time. It's gone from doing covers of We Will Rock You when we were six or seven to playing and writing our own material."

When I first came across them in a previous band, they were going down an alt. rock route. With Stranded Astronaut they've embraced modern pop to create a blistering debut single in the shape of Night Alone.

Anurudh, 19, added: "We have been in a band together since we were just kids jumping around pretending. We have put in the hard work, playing gigs and events in various forms."

The lads have music running through their veins. Anurudh said: "Both our dads are involved in the industry. We have been going to gigs and hanging around venues all our lives. Our parents didn't exactly push us towards wanting a career in music, but they are really supportive and help out whenever we ask."

Dylan added: "Sometimes you just overhear conversations and take hints. Other times it's advice they give directly to us. There is definitely an element of letting us learn from our mistakes though."

Night Alone was written and recorded with producer Liam McCluskey whose credits include Gun, GBX and Hyfts. Dylan said: "The idea came from a phone voice recording which we had forgotten about. It just seemed to appear when we were looking for something else which was pure luck."

"We then wrote most of the song in the studio within the next few hours. Lyrically, we are pretty much talking about missing someone and feeling confused."

The band also feature on a tribute album to the legendary Scottish songwriter and storyteller Ivor Cutler. Return To Y-Hup reworks songs from the late surrealist performer with other contributors including Alex Kapranos from Franz Ferdinand and Belle & Sebastian's Stuart Murdoch. Stranded Astronaut recorded a cover of Shoplifters with Future Pilot AKA. Dylan said: "We were in the studio working on our own songs and got the offer to collaborate. The mix had to be sent three hours from when we got the offer. It was a challenge to put our spin on it in such a short period but a great experience."

Stranded Astronaut aim to hit the road in September, supporting rock heroes Hunter & The Bear. Scottish dates take in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness and Perth before venturing down south.

MORE: strandedastronaut.co.uk
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

See video of Stranded Astronaut at thescottishsun.co.uk