

Editorial

The digital revolution has arrived in Thorrington or at least in the premises of the chemist. My correspondent, Mick Brown, has really gone up-market with his provision of photographs for this illustrious magazine - they have come on a photo CD! John Dickinson of T+MX has effectively zapped the article Mick was intending to write by beating him to print - never mind - but I still have a little bit to print - thanks Mick.

'Er indoors is undergoing PC withdrawal symptoms at the moment. The world is not a very pleasant place when her PC throws a wobbly. Last Wednesday it all started - a catastrophic failure of the internal workings which necessitated a visit to the local PC World for a transplant. Well, things still aren't back to normal even now so I am afraid that I haven't been able to get an article from her this month. Perhaps next month?

Last month's AGM went off alright. We had the usual good turn out. One day we must determine what it is that creates the huge turn out. The EFA is the only club of any sort that I have ever been involved with that can boast such a high percentage of its members attending the AGM. Could be something to do with the fact that people are very unlikely to be called upon to 'do' something or is it because of the food? Can't remember much about the meeting but the food was up to its normal high standard. I know that the chief timekeeper didn't run out of sand so the main business of the evening couldn't have taken too long.

The presentation of the awards went ahead with its usual efficiency, well until the distribution of the 'po' and the shield of valour. This year we had our first father and son recipients. Ray Gibb 'won' the po. I am not sure that any specific reason was given for Ray getting it - I don't really think that there is any reason to know, just make up your own reason and I'm sure that will be good enough.

Now, son Mark won the shield of valour reputedly for having to put up with his father for all these years, acting as minder, helmet retriever, security guard barrier, bearer of excuses for his fathers actions and behaviour.

The choice of Ray and Mark was met with just about 100% approval.

Something that did receive 100% approval and gave the recipient a great shock was the awarding of the position of Life Vice President to Wilf Braybrook.

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The April Plonkers

Snaque Pit, Belchamp, Nr Sudbury, Suffolk

Sunday 27th April 2003

Start: 10.30 am

A Trial for:

Pre 65 solos • Pre 65 sidecars • Twin Shocks
Youths • Twin Shock sidecars

Wilf becomes 80 years young this year and still enjoys his involvement in the sport. The club has also arranged for Graham and Jacqui to take his Mum and Dad out for a meal 'on the club' to celebrate his long association with the sport and his birthday.

What a wonderful day at Frating. The weather on the Saturday, although bright was very breezy and very very cold. Made you realise what is meant by wind chill! However, the Sunday was fantastic even down to the section manned by Arkwright being warm enough for him to fall asleep before the first man arrived. This was in direct contrast to the temperature and wind present on the Saturday.

Our apologies to any of you who were having difficulty with looking at the results on the internet. So far, all the problems seem to have been centred around the use of AOL. Now, we here in Seabrook Software land would earnestly advise the use of Internet Explorer or Netscape in preference to the AOL native browser. In our work we come across many instances of surfers having difficulty in viewing up to date web pages.

Please Note:

The closing date by which all articles and adverts to be included in the May issue of Trials & Tribulations should reach the editorial office is Monday 28th April.

Material for inclusion in the magazine may be supplied in the following forms:
handwritten • typed • computer hard copy • fax • email • floppy disc

If providing computer hard copy, a font size of 12pt minimum is preferred whilst articles supplied on floppy disc should be saved in text format.



*There - you knew that observing wasn't that onerous!
Roger Gulliver observing at Chattisham.*

I understand that the more experienced (older to you and me) members of the section laying out team were bemoaning the fact that in years gone by topics for conversation tended to include discussions on the best trials machines or best women currently in circulation but now the conversation has turned to water pills, blood pressure pills, the queues in the various hospital out patients and how co-operative the surgery receptionists were. How times change.

Seems that Frating took on a scene from an episode of Dukes of Hazzard. Didn't see Daisy Duke though! Yes, the Red Thunder distillery was open to view! We all thought it was brewed in Boxford but now we know the truth!

What can we do to ensure that more of the sections are damp or even wet? Even though we have had a wet winter the ground was very dry, other than section 12 of course!

Once again we were very lucky with the weather when we went to Chattisham. A really lovely spring day - well it was the first day of summer!

A shame we had to incur a visit from the Suffolk Paraffin Parrot but our sympathies go out to John Beet for his broken leg. I gather that he has suffered a broken tibia and damaged fibia. That hurts! Our best wishes for a speedy return to full health John and get back on that Ossa!

Well . . . Fancy That!

You know the world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy, The Swiss hold the America's Cup, France is accusing the US of arrogance, and Germany doesn't want to go to war."

April is Snaque Pit month! Both entry forms included with this magazine relate to the Snaque Pit. 'We' are there on 13th and Mike Harden and his merry men are holding their April Plonkers there a fortnight later. We shall be using the hills whilst for those of you who are put off by the hills, the Plonkers will be using the land surrounding the main 'pit'.

Jeff Fincham has had some notices made for putting around the perimeter of the Snaque Pit which should help to curb the enthusiasm of the pedalists for trespassing on the land. Let us hope they stay away and also the dreaded fridge dumpers also stay away!

Elsewhere you will find that Tims Tours are commencing another season of their very successful evening events. Please support Tim and his team of helpers in their efforts to provide you with a good trip around our beautiful countryside before finishing up at a choice chippie.

Best wishes,

Jim

A priest was driving along and saw a nun on the side of the road, he stopped and offered her a lift which she accepted. She got in and crossed her legs, forcing her gown to open and reveal a lovely leg.

The priest had a look and nearly had an accident. After controlling the car, he stealthily slid his hand up her leg.

The nun looked at him and immediately said, "Father, remember psalm 129?" The priest was flustered and apologized profusely. He forced himself to remove his hand.

However, he was unable to remove his eyes from her leg. Further on while changing gear, he let his hand slide up her leg again.

The nun once again said, "Father, remember psalm 129?" Once again the priest apologized. "Sorry sister but the flesh is weak."

Arriving at the convent, the nun got out gave him a meaningful glance and went on her way. On his arrival at the church, the priest rushed to retrieve a bible and looked up psalm 129.

It said, "Go forth and seek, further up, you will find glory."

Moral of the story:

Always be well informed in your job, or you might miss a great opportunity!

Secretarys Scribblings

Think you'd all agree that the Frating Trial was one of our best yet. Obviously the weather played a big part in the proceedings; it certainly brought out the spectators in force. The Mark 2 version of the Budweiser Bridge survived the day intact and we all had fun negotiating the makeshift version on the other stream crossing. Section 12 took the most marks (we were pleased it was changed for the sidecars after the first lap - s'pect you solos were too!) Chris Bater made quite a spectacular exit on this one, finding a bit of grip near the end of the section and standing the Matchless up on its back wheel. The gremlins got into the results as far as we were concerned - in our favour for a change - with a further 7 marks needing to be added to our score, bringing the total up to 30, perhaps I'll have to get some modern riding gear too! Thanks to everyone who observed enabling us to have three laps of 14 sections.

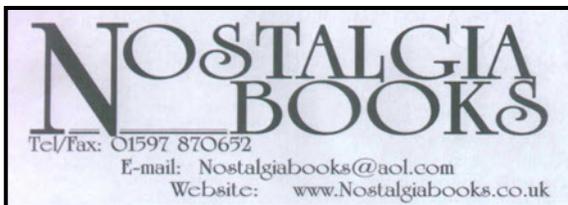
By the time you get this newsletter, Chattisham will have come and gone. It's another lovely piece of ground and hopefully we'll have enjoyed another sunny Sunday there.

Was sad to read that the Geeson brothers collection of bikes and memorabilia was being auctioned off by Bonhams. Their museum was always a place we were going to visit but never quite made it.

Looking ahead there's lots of things happening in April - the Pre-65 Moto-X Club are at Marks Tey on 6th April but if that's not your scene try the Hadleigh & District CMC Spring Show at Boxford Village Hall, Tel. 01473 719440 for more details on that one. If you fancy a trip to the Cotswolds there's the 3rd round of the Sammy Miller British Bike Championships also on the 6th. The following Sunday we have our trial at Snaque Pit on the 13th and then it'll be Easter with the Woodbridge Club trial at Blaxhall on Good Friday and the Ace Cafe Run to Southend on Easter Monday if you're into road biking. The Stafford Show takes place at the end of the month but if you want to stay closer to home, rumour has it, the first of Tim's Tours for 2003 will take place on Saturday 26th.

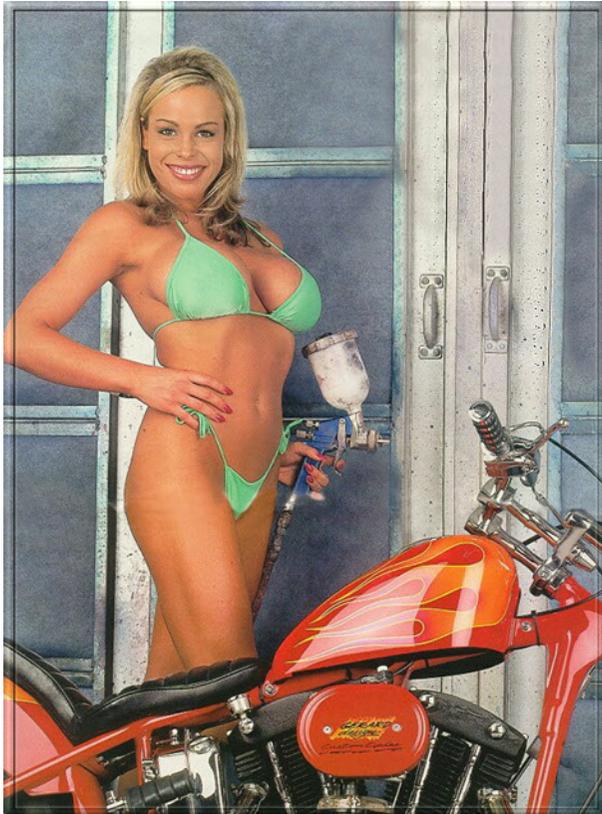
See you at Snaque Pit

Heather



Nostalgia Books, PO Box 4, Llandrindod Wells LD6 5WF

Harley Girls



Here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
3. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like.
Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

The Arbutnot Trial 2003

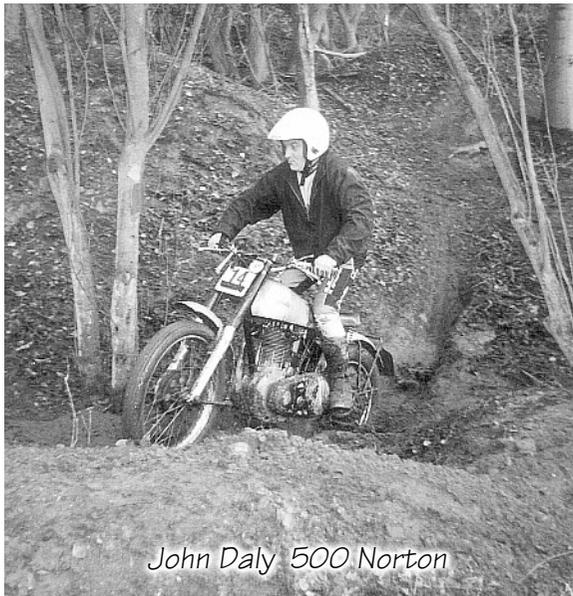
This event is organised by the Salisbury Club for Sunday 14th September 2003 with the aim of recapturing the carefree spirit of an earlier age. Revived in 1982 by Ian Rennie it has all the atmosphere of an event staged in the twenties or thirties.

The trial is for British machines manufactured prior to 1946 without rear springing and those pre-46 fitted with springing during manufacture, also pre-65 pre-unit construction four stroke, solo and sidecar. There are classes for competition and colonial solo and sidecar and also three wheelers (Morgans etc.). The solo classes are sub divided into girder and telefork classes. Colonial machines are defined as being normally used solely on the road and not fitted with off road tyres and this class is good for ex WD machines like the Norton 16H solo and sidecar.

The course comprises a marked route of approximately 75 miles of tracks and green lanes with a minimum of metaled roads. Around the course there are observed sections and special tests; the sections are laid out easier for the colonial classes.

Running between Salisbury and Shaftsbury, the course starts at Barford St Martin. For more information and to be put on the mailing list for regulations please contact Mike Rye at 22 Moot Gardens, Downton, Salisbury, SP5 3LF or telephone 01725 511131.

article supplied by Don Daly who wrote very favourably about his experiences in last years event.



John Daly 500 Norton

School Visit



George W. Bush is visiting a school in America. He enters the classroom surrounded by his regular "Secret Service" protectors and begins to lecture the students about America, the proud country, and it's mission to liberate the world, guided by the hand of God.....then he asks - "Does anyone have any doubts?"

In the back of the room a little boy gets up and says "I do sir - my name is Jimmy and I would like to ask 3 questions".

First: Why did you falsify the election results?

Second: Why didn't you prevent Sept. 11th?

Third: Why have you declared war against Iraq?

.....TTTTTRRRRIINGGG.....the bell sounds and all the kids go out for break-time to play.

After they return to class and resettle at their desks, President George W. Bush continues: "So, does anybody have any doubts about this?"

"I do sir" says another kid at the back of the class - "My name is Tommy and I would like to ask 5 questions".

First: Why did you falsify the election results?

Second: Why didn't you prevent Sept. 11th?

Third: Why have you declared war against Iraq?

Fourth: Why did the school bell ring 20 minutes early?

Fifth: Where's Jimmy?



A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT

We would like to announce the commencement of our new season with a jaunt to take place on Saturday 26th April (sorry it clashes with the Stafford Show) starting from the Alma at 4.30 pm. Distance approximately 40 miles.

Everyone welcome on whatever machine.

So come on you lot and get rid of the Winter Blues and be there.

FOR SALE

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John Ives 01440 705045

www.freespace.virgin.net/andrew.ives512/menu.htm

The following is an actual question given on a University of Washington chemistry mid term exam. The answer given by one student was so profound that the Professor shared it with colleagues, via the internet, which is, of course, why we now have the pleasure of enjoying it as well:

BONUS QUESTION: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)? Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law, (gas cools off when it expands and heats up when it is compressed) or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing over time. So we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that 'in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added.' This gives two possibilities:

1) If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.

2) Of course, if Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the postulation given to me by Karen during my Freshman year, ".....that it will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you.", and taking into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having relations with her, then #2 can not be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and will not freeze. The student received the only "A" given.

The Frating Trial

Has the furthest outpost on the Tendring peninsula obtained the sole rights to the use of Bultacos and Ossas? I know there are some 'purists' amongst us who aren't too keen on these 'new fangled' Spanish twin shocks but I do feel that they could form the long term future for the classic sport that we so enjoy.

'Er indoors has reminded me that there are some of you who may be wondering why you have not gained Eastern Centre championship points for your efforts at Frating - well the regs stated, quite clearly, that entries must be made on regs from the Eastern Centre Gazette in order to qualify for championship points. This applies to ALL EC Championship trials, not just those run by the E.F.A.

I don't know whether it was due to the weather but a minor miracle occurred. Roger Abbot finished the trial! I don't know quite why but he does seem to have great deal of success with our trials but he does so enjoy them.



Alan Farmer 350 Royal Enfield



Bob Spencer & Paul Gray 250 OFS

Heather makes comment about the errors in the results that have saved them a handful and more marks. Well, the morning following the publication of the results I received a phone call from the 'unnamed but teetotal' observer suggesting that I had made an error in the results. As it turns out it was not me who had made the mistake. I had studiously copied the results as entered. So what had caused the problem? It appears that Rog must have had a bit of an argument with Heather as he catapulted her into the branches of a tree before realising (too late) that the lack of 'ballast' was going to make life difficult. The observer then has to drop board and rush to the aid of the crew and it would appear that the sight of the new KTM riding gear blinded her so that an incorrect score was inserted. Well thats a possible reason!

Rumour has it that Black Adder, that well known personage who runs a close second to our Presidente for losing his way, did in fact lose hiw way whilst trying to get to the start of the Frating trial. Yes, Pompous Norman was seen travelling in the direction of Wivenhoe and it is rumoured that he did a lap of Poplars Chase Farm before accidentally finding his way to Frating! Anyone would think he had never been to the place!

Seems that much tuning has taken place on the Old F**t Special which is so ably campaigned by Bob Spencer and Paul Gray. Whether sponsor, Mark RNLI Wilson is keen on us knowing about it I don't know but I have heard that the engine now sports a reed valve! Do the rules allow this? All that rice pudding skin pulling capability that has now been brought to bear!

Chaffisham Chatter

As mentioned earlier, we had a visit from the Suffolk Air Ambulance which wasn't quite in the game plan but I fear that I must report the actions of our Presidente whilst John Beet was being attended to by the paramedic. El P, in the company of Little Eric was tackling the section when Little Eric decided to relinquish all thought of forward progress and began to descend, backwards, at an ever increasing velocity, with El P now safely protected by Little Eric laying on top of him, towards the assembled mass of humanity tending to the unfortunate John Beet. The lady paramedic was heard to admonish our Presidente for his actions as there was only room for one stretcher case in the helicopter. On further examination it would appear that the Henfield clutch (supposedly far superior to Beesa clutches) that had been grafted onto Little Eric had come detached due to the nut having 'come undone'. Something is ringing a bell or striking a chord about lack of maintenance!



Graham Braybrook 175 Small Chicken



Jeff Fincham 350 Rariefield

Once again it was nice to have no problem with finding observers for the event but let us not be too complacent - so far we are still using regular observers whether rider or not and of course the weather has been very favourable - shall have to wait and see what it is like if we get a wet and 'orrible day.

Didn't manage to put in a full lap of the course but I understand that the drop into the stream was once again used. WHY? It would appear to have resulted in several early baths over the handles before it was cut out.

I don't believe the gentlemen had to attempt this entry into the stream but it would appear that Chris Huxtable was seen attempting a passable impersonation of Captain Webb, he of cross-channel swimming fame, but the breast stroke didn't appear to be getting him any closer to the coast, sorry bank. It was then realised that his bike was nowhere to be seen and it was apparent that the reason for his 'splashing about' was due to the bike trapping him in the main/deep channel.

The Sparkford Celebration



Jim had asked me to write an account on the gathering at Haynes Motor Museum at Sparkford to celebrate the life of Ralph Venables, but I am sure that most of you will have read of this event in TMX, where John Dickinson appears to have 'pinched' most of his report from Mike Jackson's script. His big 'danger' however was the failure to mention the attendance of Ron Langston, surely one of most famous alirounders.

Now Gordon Jackson and the Ajay, it was definitely Gordon, but the bike was not one of his 'works' machines'. According to Don Morley, the machine was sold to RGV by Mick Wailer who received a degree of works support and enjoyed one of the final short stroke versions. RGV paid £80 in 1970 for this fine machine and it was restored by Roy Smith in Hampshire, himself a competent rider of an AJS and later a Cub.

Now one last tale from RGV, he didn't tell jokes, just true funny stories.

RGV was in Kinlocleven for the 'Scottish' in the 60's shortly after Hugh Viney's involvement at AMC.

Raffe went into a shop to buy some sweets, the shopkeeper said 'Good morning Mr. Viney' 'I'm not Mr. Viney' said Raffe and bought his sweets. Later in the week when he had eaten all his sweets, Raffe returned to the same shop for some more. 'Good morning Mr. Viney' said the shopkeeper. 'I'm not Hugh Viney' said Raffe 'He is not even in Scotland.' 'Ooch! he is you know!' said the shopkeeper 'He was in here the other day buying some sweets!'

Mick Brown

WANTED

Bantam

Preferably built for trials

Don Daly

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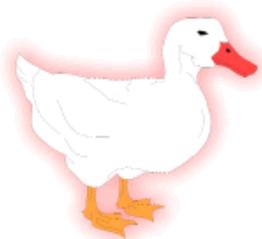
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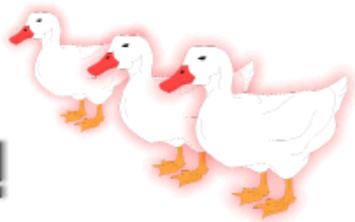
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Darn Ducks!



Three women die together in an accident and go to heaven.

When they get there, Saint Peter says, "We only have one rule here in heaven - don't step on the ducks!"

So they enter heaven, and sure enough, there are ducks all over the place. It is almost impossible not to step on a duck, and although they try their best to avoid them, the first woman accidentally steps on one.

Along comes Saint Peter with the ugliest man she ever saw. Saint Peter chains them together and says "Your punishment for stepping on a duck is to spend eternity chained to this ugly man!"

The next day, the second woman steps accidentally on a duck, and along comes Saint Peter, who doesn't miss a thing, and with him is another extremely ugly man. He chains them together with the same admonishment as for the first woman.

The third woman has observed all this and, not wanting to be chained for all eternity to an ugly man, is very, VERY careful where she steps. She manages to go months without stepping on any ducks, but one day Saint Peter comes up to her with the most handsome man she has ever laid eyes on . very tall, long eyelashes, muscular, and thin.

Saint Peter chains them together without saying a word. The woman remarks, "I wonder what I did to deserve being chained to you for all of eternity?"

The guy says, "I don't know about you . . . but I stepped on a duck!"

End Thought . . .

Hire Teenagers while they still know everything!