

Editorial

I'm back! Well at least for the time being. It looks as if I shall be making some more visits to Broomfield Hospital where I have been kept locked up a couple of times in the last month or so. As you might appreciate I do not like hospitals!

I should like to start by thanking you all for the wonderful cards I received when I was in hospital the first time around, especially those of you who sent me a card personally, they were all much appreciated. I would also like to thank Peter Eaves and Pompous Norman for the loan/supply of reading matter which helped in a great way to remove the boredom.

I hope that I haven't ruffled too many feathers in the E.F.A. hierarchy but at last months club night Tracey asked whether a bumper issue of the newsletter would be in order for this issue and the idea wasn't put down so here it is. I hope you like it.

As many of you are aware I haven't been able to do any getting around so that I can pick up much in the way of scandal but thankfully my spies do pass on the odd snippet - more blackmail info is always welcome of course!

Congratulations are in order with regard to Arkwrights first attempt at the National Rally. Many of us gave that idea up years ago but it is nice to hear of someone having a bash after exceeding the OAP limit. For those of you who are scared of these 'puter things, I must add that we received a few lines in an email relating to his success on the Guzzi.

"... have struck gold, but have been left with a stiff neck and a few aches and pains, what can I expect at my age?. I covered 777.5 miles in 28 hours including 4 hours rest Will tell you all about it later but I really did enjoy it The hardest part was the ride home from Uttoxeter."

Well we look forward to hearing about it. I know that it is quite a challenge having competed in it a few times, sometimes successfully, sometimes decidedly less so. Back in the seventies when I rode, it was obvious that those of us riding 'classic' machinery were in for a hard time compared to those riding the then state of the art Japanes machinery (with lights that didn't fall into a black hole about three feet before the first cats eye!). Later attempts were made much easier with the electrics converted to 12volt together with a Cibié light unit and halogen bulb.

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The August Plonkatound

Raydon Pit, Wades Lane, Raydon, Nr Ipswich, Suffolk

Saturday 16th August 2003

Start: 12.00 noon

Trials practise for:

Pre 65 solos • Pre 65 sidecars • Twin Shocks

Youths • Twin Shock sidecars

Tracey and I seem to be fated with regard to visiting the festivities at the Seven Rivers Leonard Cheshire home. I understand that once again it was a roaring success even though one Mustaffah Brown Camel would appear to have been creating more than a few groans amongst the assembled masses - well that is what my infomants tell me.

A shame about the smallish entry but it is my understanding that there were quite a few conflicts of interest on the Saturday afternoon/evening.

I gather that the Belly Dancing had an adverse effect on some of our members. Rumour has it that Roger Birch used up all his oxygen supply and then had to be cooled down with the fire hose. Well that is what I have been told! A certain Chelmsford resident was reported to have been a bit warm about collar after the dancing - but then I wasn't there - I can only report what has been related to me!

Sorry there isn't a report or any photos in this issue of the magazine but I am promised something in time for the next issue.

A small entry made their way to the Snaque Pit for the recent Plonkers. If you entered then please accept my apologies for the late arrival of the results but I am afraid that the facilities at Broomfield Hospital do not (as yet) permit working from ones hospital bed. However, things look as if they might be about to change in some respects. Between my 'visits' the new PatientLine system was installed and this now permits direct telephone dialling to and from one's hospital bed, individual television and 'coming soon' - internet and email access - yes - each bed is provided with its own mini keyboard etc - the mind boggles!

Back to the Plonkers. Is it a case of it being Summer months, holidays and all that involves, 'er indoors wanting the gardening done - mind you that doesn't apply to me - I don't think she would notice if we replaced the grass and flower beds with rough concrete!

But being serious, I do feel that we as a club owe a great deal to Mike Harden and his merry men for putting on these events. We have ALL made good use of

them at one time and another - yes there aren't many of our number who haven't availed themselves of the hospitality of Mike, Pedro, Bob and Ian. I do feel that it is a case of use it or lose it if the entries do not improve.

Of course I had to miss the French Connection trip courtesy of Tim's Tours.



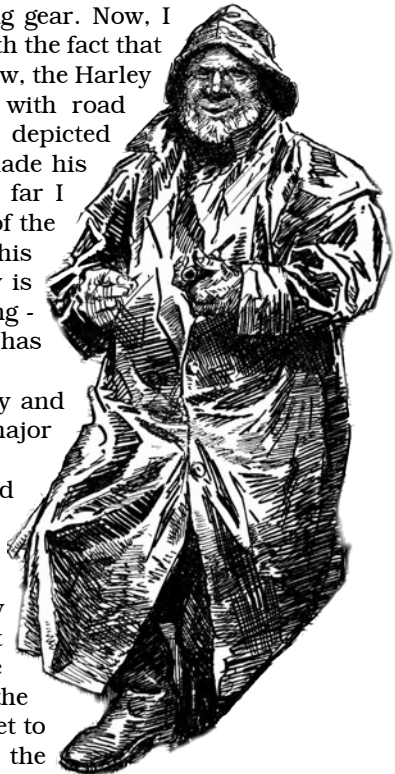
THE FRENCH CONNECTION

I had wanted to visit the collection of machinery for many years and I was hoping that this was going to be the occasion that I would see one of the best non-concours collections in the country. Although I can appreciate the work and skill involved in preparing machines to concours condition, I do feel that restoration projects where the machinery is prepared to resemble the way the machine left the manufacturers premises are far more to my liking - I suppose a bit like my lack of appreciation (even loathing) for people who ruin classic cars by putting ludicrous engine transplants and wide wheels on an otherwise valuable part of our motoring heritage. In no way can the French family be accused of this - their idea of restoration revolves around the need for the machinery to be ridden if at all possible. Very laudable.

Most of the visit was carried out with the weather being what could be called clement. However, as the time came to return homewards, the heavens would appear to have opened, and there is always one who turns out without any semblance of wet weather riding gear. Now, I suppose it must have had something to do with the fact that the Harley was being ridden and as we all know, the Harley is NOT supposed to get wet or spattered with road grime. But it rained! I understand our hero, depicted here in the clothing kindly loaned to him, made his way home to Boxford rather sheepishly. So far I haven't heard whether the Boxford Chapter of the Harley Owners has applied any restraints to his membership. Rumour has it that the Harley is up for sale - road soiled - i.e. it needs cleaning - all the muck thrown up following the rain has made the machinery very second hand!

Went to Kent to celebrate Joan's birthday and yer aktuil Ray Gibb came away with the major trophy - more of that later in the magazine.

Our chairman, Ted 'imself, has returned from his hols on the most southerly outpost of the A-C.U. dominion, the island of Jersey, enthusing about the availability of motor cycle sporting venues on the island. A funny thing this island business. Why is it we can't have decent venues on mainland Britain? We have superb venues for most disciplines on the Isle of Man which costs an arm and a leg to get to via the Steam Racket Co, and now of course the



Isle of Wight seems to be the place to go but that would appear to be even more expensive to get to unless you know differently.

This year saw the second running of the Pre-65 Inter Centre Team Trial in its re-introduced form and once again I was lucky enough to have been selected to act as Team Manager. However, I was unable to fulfil my duties due to the problems previously mentioned, so I handed the reins over to Terry Sewell to act as Team Manager on the day and I am very grateful for his efforts. Ten teams were entered and we, the Eastern Centre team, came third. I have included a report with pictures elsewhere in the magazine.

Make a note in your diary! The last Tim's Tour of the year takes place on Saturday 6th September, starting from the Alma at 5.00 pm. Now, which chippie you will be eating at is not known to me but I am sure the fish and chips will be superb.

Er indoors, in one of her official capacities receives communications from Rugby that are intended for onward transmission to clubs etc. Well, there is one thing that is continually worrying the Trials and Enduro committee and that is the insistence of clubs and individuals to undertake 'scrutineering' of machines prior to a trial. Please can we remind everyone that the rules REQUIRE that machine examination be carried out to ensure that the machine complies with the requirements as defined in the current handbook. Under no circumstances must scrutineering be carried out - the safety of the machine being at all times, before and during the event, the responsibility of the rider.

I gather that we have a team known as 'Eastern Promise' entered in the Arbuthnot. My informant tells me that Mark 'RNLI' Wilson, Don Daley and Mick Brown have entered themselves as a team. With a team name like that, it makes one wonder whether they are entering to ride the trial or to be the entertainment following the trial - belly dancing could become an essential part of trials you know!

Mike Harden informs me that he is organising another Plonkaround at Raydon on Saturday 16th August starting at noon. Well you all know the rest don't you.

A design for the E.F.A. hat is underway - hope to have a design ready soon - then look out all you Harley owners, you will be stuck for choice - should I look like a member of the Village People or a Pillock?

Best wishes,

Jim

Things that happen when the proof-reader is on holiday

There will be one or two red faces over this!

Powergen (The largest Electrical Power-Generation firm in Europe) have increased their global presence -and moved into Italy.

Guess what the website is

<http://www.powergenitalia.com>

honest - try it!!!

Secretarys Scribblings

As you can see from the copy of the letter (should be found elsewhere in this newsletter) from Gill Sleightholm, Seven Rivers Manager, the Leonard Cheshire Home were very pleased with most of Mick (or should it be Mustafah) Brown's efforts on their behalf. Think everyone enjoyed themselves in whatever capacity they were involved. Hopefully we can all do it again next year.



Yet another great weekend took place at the Weeting Steam Engine Rally but boy was it hot, glad I wasn't done up in a boiler suit stoking up a steam engine. Even an overnight thunderstorm did nothing to cool things down. The sunshine certainly drew in the crowds, especially on the Sunday, making for a good atmosphere. Thanks to Chris Bater and family for inviting us there.

At the risk of repeating what has been said by The Management, must mention the last Tim's Tour to the home of Ann and Don French. Having never been there before, Rog and I didn't know what to expect and were amazed at the number and variety of bikes in their collection. Most were in immaculate condition and worked (as demonstrated by Roger French) but some were waiting to be renovated. Ann (helped by Hayley and "Mrs Pots") did us proud with the refreshments and I think we would have stayed a lot longer if it hadn't come on to rain rather heavily. By the time we left, only Roger Birch and EIP were left there, having taken shelter in the workshop. EIP had rather rashly come out on the Harley and without any wet weather gear. However, we have it on good authority that Roger was kind enough to lend him a pair of bright yellow overtrousers - you know, the sort Grimsby trawlermen wear, so that he didn't get his credentials wet on the trip home. Unfortunately EIP's street cred took a sharp nosedive as soon as he put these overtrousers on - does this mean he will be banished from the Suffolk Harley Chapter? Thanks to everyone who put a donation into the collecting pot. Don't know what the total was but it was tipped out for Ann to give to a charity of her choice.

S'pect Jim will mention this elsewhere but must congratulate the Eastern Centre Team on coming third with a loss of 97 marks (only 3 marks behind the second place Team who were Yorkshire) in the Pre-65 Inter-Centre Team Trial held recently in Surrey - well done lads.

For those of you who would prefer to ride trials instead of joining Tim's Tours, the Woodbridge club have an evening fun trial starting at 4:00pm on Saturday 6th September at their Blaxhall Circuit. Pre-70 and Twinshock classes are catered for.

Heather

Harley Girls



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MacDonald Cup Trial 2003

Due to the success of the 'last' MacDonald Cup Trial which was in fact only 19 years ago, the 'Ilford Motorcycle and Light Car Club' had decided that it was about time for another one! This ancient sounding club name will immediately tell you that this is a club in the 'old tradition' and this year they will have the pleasure of celebrating their eightieth anniversary. So congratulations to them and long may they continue!

Due to the busy trials sporting calendar this event was deemed to fall on Saturday the 14th June 2003. The weather turned out to be typical flaming June sunshine, which is never ideal trials weather at any time of the year. But! Just a few weeks earlier there had been torrential rain and an abundance of mud, which could have spoilt some of those lovely big climbs at 'Jacksons Wood' which is a great piece of trials ground situated in that fresh and leafy green village of Horsmonden.

The organisers of motorcycle trials all realise how hard it is to get volunteers for their events and because the 'MacDonald Cup' was held on a Saturday this sometimes makes things virtually impossible for club members to come out and help. So, it cannot be over emphasised what a fantastic bunch of guys the 'Ilford Club Members' are because they had one hundred per cent! I repeat 100% membership out on the day helping in one capacity or another. Now that is one for the Guinness Book of Records without a shadow of doubt! Well done that 'Old Motorcycle Club'!

Some of the classes were a little depleted on the day, which was probably due to the event being held on the Saturday as previously mentioned. Also that enormous traffic jamming shopping centre on the south side of the Dartford Tunnel known as 'The Blues Water'; may have deterred many a hardy enthusiast. Nevertheless plenty of riders turned out for an excellent days riding and some really keen competition was the order of the day.

Class C for the Pre 65s was won by Graham Bridger on his Triumph Tiger Cub losing 'just the one' point, which he dropped on section 8 during his third lap. Runner up to him for a first class award was Malcolm Simmonds on a BSA 350 losing 4 points. He had a dab on section 4 and 8 on his first lap and followed this with another dab at 8 on lap 3. He was to have one more mark against him on section 4 of lap 4.

Chris Anderson managed to lose one more mark than Malcolm for a second class award on his high revving Tiger Cub. But! Chris lost all his marks in one go on section 7 of the first lap! This was due to gremlins in the engine as the little Cub coughed and then stopped for a rest. Bad luck mate, but can you ever forgive Edward Turner for designing the little Cub in the first place? I would eventually!

In the novice class it was Gary Morgan on his Montesa 250 who became the victor with one mark lost on section 4 of the 2nd lap. A superb ride that man!

The over fifties class is always interesting for many reasons and Colin Morgan was credited with the much deserved win with just 4 marks blotting his day. Section 9 cost him all 4 spread over the first 3 laps.

Other outstanding rides were recorded on the day although there were no awards due to depleted numbers riding in that class. Chris Dark in the twin-shocks went round for just 2 lost. The charioteer team of Dave Larkin and passenger Suzanne Rawlings were riding the same course as the solos beating many of them to boot with a loss of 29 marks. An outstanding ride indeed. But to top all the others Dave Spurgeon went round clean! Unfortunately he was riding for no award but what a great effort on the day.

The programme for the event was very well put together and it incorporated a quiz in the form of a photograph on the back of it. A mystery prize for the man or woman who could identify the location was to be awarded with honours on Burns night. Ray Gibb had the correct answer and this was the 'Devils Staircase'.

Oh! And I purposely forgot to mention Rays prize, but mainly because of the embarrassment and partly because it was a very sorry, second hand looking, 'Haggis'! But why a 'Haggis' you must be thinking? It was because it was there, just lying on the ground halfway up Pipeline in the Pre 67 Scottish. Joan Westbrook takes full credit for finding it under her spinning rear wheel, she then quickly closed the throttle to save it from a fate worse than death. Only later during the Scottish did she realise that this could be an unusual prize for the 'MacDonald Cup' quiz due to its spooky and nostalgic origins. Aye! The Noo. A runners up prize for the quiz had also been planned, but the chemists were closed on the day of the trial, so poor old Ray Gibb had to buy his own Alka Seltzers, but I think he's recovered now anyway. Serve you right Ray for being a 'know all' and winning the 'Haggis'.

Dave Blanchard



Pest Control



A woman was having a passionate affair with an inspector from a pest-control company.

One afternoon they were carrying on in the bedroom together when her husband arrived home unexpectedly.

"Quick," said the woman to her lover, "get into the wardrobe!", and she pushed him in the wardrobe, stark naked.

The husband, however, became suspicious and after a search of the bedroom discovered the man in the wardrobe. "Who are you?" he asked him.

"I'm an inspector from Bugs-B-Gone," said the exterminator.

"What are you doing in there?" the husband asked.

"I'm investigating a complaint about an infestation of moths," the man replied.

"And where are your clothes?" asked the husband.

The man looked down at his naked body and said, . . .

"Those little bastards."

Tractor Boy Logic . . .

Two tractor boys decided that they weren't going anywhere in life and thought they should go to college to get ahead. The first goes in to see the tutor, who tells him to take Maths, History, and Logic. "What's Logic?" the first tractor boy asks.

The tutor answers by saying, "Let me give you an example. Do you own a grass trimmer?"

"Yes, I certainly do."

"Then I can assume, using logic, that you have a garden," replied the tutor.

"That's real good!" says the tractor boy.

The tutor continues, "Logic will also tell me that since you have a garden, you also have a house."

Impressed, the tractor boy says, "Amazin'!"

"And since you have a house, logic dictates that you have a wife."

"That's Betty! This is incredible!"

The tractor boy is obviously catching on.

"Finally, since you have a wife, logically I can assume that you are heterosexual," said the tutor.

"You're absolutely right! Why that's the most fascinatin' thing I ever heard! I can't wait to take that logic class!!"

The tractor boy, proud of the new world opening up to him, walks back into the hallway, where his friend is still waiting.

"So what classes are ya takin'?" asks the friend.

"Maths, History, and Logic!" replies the first tractor boy.

"What in tarnation is logic???" asked his friend.

"Let me give you an example. Do ya own a grass trimmer?" asked the first tractor boy.

"No," his friend replied.

"You're gay ain't ya?"

QUICKIE:

Married men are advised to quickly forget all of their mistakes -

there's no sense in two people remembering them forever!

As many of you will be aware, the 2003 running of the Pre-65 Inter Centre Team trial took place on 27th July in the Dunsfold area of Surrey.

Once again I was in the fortunate position of being selected by the centre to act as Team Manager but as you will appreciate I was in no way fit and able to carry out my responsibilities on the day of the event. To this end I am very grateful to Terry Sewell for undertaking the job of deputy/acting team manager.



*Clive Dopson - Dave Spurgeon - Sam Appleton - Terry Sewell
Darrel Glover - Matthew Neale - Roger Higgs*

A mid-summer event does not lend itself to selecting a team for the event when holidays, other commitments, and desires to not be a team member are taken into account and then of course there is the requirement that all machinery must be road legal as the event is held over a 'road course'.

The requirements for the team were for two 'rigids' and four 'springers' in South East speak with the best four (including a minimum of one rigid) providing the team total.

From the comments made previously you will appreciate that the team would not be made up of all the likely contenders. Sadly I was unable to call upon the services of two of our top runners namely Andrew Arden and John Kendall, Andrew having a clash of interests as the event clashed with a round of the Classic Trials Championship in which Andrew is the reigning champion and also in the lead of this years competition so there was no doubt where his allegiance should lay.

Thankfully I was able to come up with a team, all of whom leapt at the chance to represent their centre and proved to be good team members.

Road legal 'rigids' are a bit like hens teeth but I feel that Clive Dopson on his 500T Norton together with Darrel Glover on the redoubtable Duggie were a very satisfactory pairing.

The 'springers' were made up of Matthew Neale on the Cub, Dave Spurgeon on 'guess what', Roger Higgs on his Dads 350 AJS, and Sam Appleton on the ONLY Henfield in the entry list. Roger who I hear you ask? Yes, Roger Higgs - I appreciate that not many of you will be familiar with that name but Roger moved to Rayleigh in Essex some five years ago after serving his trials apprenticeship in the Southern and South Eastern Centres and rides his Dad's 350 Ajay in Pre-65 events south of the great divide. In fact, to understand his abilities, look at the Talmag results!

Well, didn't they do well!

We came third!

Never! Never in the field of team trial conflict have so few, done so well in furthering the position and status of Pre-65 within the Eastern Centre.

Yes, third! I understand that previously the highest placed Eastern Centre solo team was fifth and that was some years ago. So didn't they do well.

Overall winners were the South Eastern Centre with what must just about be a dream team on 46 ml, whilst second was the Yorkshire team on 94 ml with us on 97 ml. If only!



Clive Dopson 490 Norton



Darrel Glover 350 Douglas

Our four scorers were Clive, Darrel, Matthew and Dave. Yes the Duggie in the capable hands of Darrel scored for the centre.

Special mention must be made of the ride of Matthew Neale. He did the impossible! He was best on the day - he beat Len Huddy on Len's home ground! Now that is something to be proud of.

As I commented previously, Terry Sewell shouldered the responsibilities of team management on the day and my thanks and those of the centre must go out to him.



Matthew Neale 200 Triumph



Sam Appleton 350 Royal Enfield



Dave Spurgeon 250 Greeves



Roger Higgs 350 A.J.S.

Results were taken care of using the dreaded punch cards and the results were available soon after the trail finished. The top three teams were presented (temporarily) with their medals and will have them sent on duly engraved. Yes, we have the bronze medal.



The Award Presentation

I must mention another unsung official member of the team, Margaret Spurgeon, who was our nominated observer and I think that we must also congratulate her on winning a prize in the observers raffle which will, I understand, assist with the stocks of the Southend Wine Bar (Benfleet branch).

Lastly I must thank Tony Appleton for his help and back up throughout the day and to thank Tony and Sam for the photographs of the event which were created from screen captures of the video taken by Tony on the day.

A couple of comments:

I wish that some centres (who shall be nameless) would appreciate that Miikuni carburetors are neither period pieces, or of British or European manufacture.

I feel that a more central location for the event such as the Craven Arms/Church Stretton area or the Derbyshire Peak District would give a fairer source of sections.

Jim Woodmason

July 2003



Margaret Spurgeon

OLD TEXAS FARMER

An old farmer in Texas had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back, fixed up nice; picnic tables, horseshoe courts, basketball court, etc. The pond was properly shaped and fixed up for swimming when it was built.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny dipping in his pond.



He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end of the pond.

One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man replied, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim or make you get out of the pond naked."

He paused and then spoke again.

"I'm just here to feed the alligator."



Moral: Old age and cunning will triumph over youth and enthusiasm every time.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT

The management team of Tim's Tours would like to bring to your notice details of the concluding event of the current season'

This will take place on Saturday 6th September and leave the Alma at 5 pm.

The Management

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Twenty four machines plus riders and passengers left the Alma to travel by a route (devised by Roger Finch) which finished at the home of Don and Anne French, the purpose of the visit being to see the wonderful display of machinery collected by Don, his father, and son Roger. Three generations worth of collecting and examples covering most of the history of motor cycles from the early 'clip on' engines attached to bicycles at the turn of the 20th century right up to competition machinery of the eighties.

Thanks must be given to Roger Birch for ensuring that all the riders who departed the Alma found their way to Dons.

On arrival it was found that there was a contingent of 'four wheeled' members and friends already in attendance including Chris Bater and Jeremy Doncaster, the speedway and 'long track' rider.

All those who attended were plied with cups of tea and eats by Anne which made for a very pleasant afternoon. She estimated that throughout the afternoon there were about 100 people who made a visit. This was quite likely as people were coming and going throughout the afternoon.

The collection is in no way a 'concours' exhibition - these machines have been restored or kept in an as new condition and are for riding. Many of the machines were started by Roger and it was a delight to hear them running.

The E.F.A. would like to thank Don, Anne and Roger for inviting us to see this unique collection of machinery and for the hospitality and welcome shown to us.

Dear EFA Members,

This year was a great success as a fund raising event that was enjoyed, I think, by all attending. The funds raised for our patio project is much appreciated and will be enjoyed by our residents, I hope you will be able to see the results next year!

I hope you enjoyed the dancers! But we will definitely not be booking the comedian next year! And I am looking for a new member of Staff!

Thank you once again for your support the total raised on the day is likely to exceed £1700! Thank you!

Yours sincerely



Gill Sleightholm
Seven Rivers Manager

P. S. from Mick Brown

Pity about the comedian, but thanks for your help in clearing up, very little to do on Sunday.

Thanks for the riders turning up and observers volunteering and making it a worthwhile day for both our sport and for the residents of the home.

What a fantastic achievement even though the festivities were blighted by the presence of Mr Mustaffah 'Brown' Camel! Whether we shall be able to exceed the sum raised next year I don't know but I think that everybody involved - including the aforementioned 'comedian' should be more than satisfied with their efforts.

Jim.

Learn to love your Computer...

by Tracey



Well here we are again . . . and him who WILL be obeyed is home again. Never mind, I'm actively working on getting him in again. No, seriously, it has been a worry but snag is he WILL have to go in again, this time for an operation. Don't yet know when but we're not anticipating a particularly long wait. The best that can be said is that at least I'll have time to save up for my car parking fee. Yes, it costs me £2 every time I go and visit Jim just once per day, that's £14 per week, £28 per week if I visit him in both sessions!!!

Anyway, what do I write about this month? Once again I'm not really sure, there are so many topics I could pick from and yet I'm not really sure what the casual user really needs to know. However, one thing I have noticed is that on occasions you may need to copy a document and even though you have a computer complete with scanner, you go to a copy bureau, the library or wherever to get a copy. I don't, I simply use my computer and scanner.

Most computers these days come with a scanner and just about ALL scanners come with software incorporating a copying facility. I admit that I have recently bought a new scanner albeit one that is no longer produced (see below). Nevertheless, it is more than a half decent one - but even my old scanner purchased ten years or more ago had a copying facility.

If you look at your scanner software, I'm sure that somewhere you'll find a copy feature. However, without having the software in front of me, it is largely up to you to find out how it works - unless you want me to come and work it out for you! Whatever, there should be a help facility associated with the software and just pressing F1 at the top-left of the keyboard should bring up the help. This will then give you information on the facilities available with your software.

NOTE: the F1 key should display the help for ANY program and in particular, help for the area of the program you are on at the time you press the key - this is called context sensitive help. A help option should also be available from the current screen but if there isn't - and there isn't always, then you have nothing to lose by pressing F1.

Back to copying a document. If you are worried that by copying a document you are going to waste paper and ink, then there is a way around that. Just lately I've been using a small program that really does seem to be a mini-wonder, my only reservation being that some of the files it creates can be large. I'm sure you may recall that I am an advocate of Adobe Acrobat files, i.e. .PDF files. Very recently, I found a small, FREE program on the internet called CutePDF which installs itself as a printer and I've started using it for testing documents I've been creating recently and it does seem to work.

As Centre Secretary, I get documentation from Rugby that I have to copy and send out to Comps Committee members and I have used this program quite a lot in the copying process. Essentially, you tell the scanner to copy the required document to this printer and the printer does the rest once the scanner has done its job - the only thing left is tell it where to save the .PDF file. On completion, you can open the created .PDF in your copy of Acrobat Reader and check how well your scanner has done its job. In this way you can test features of your scanner thus

saving ink and paper. I should also add that CutePDF also works with any program from which you can print, i.e. Word, Excel, Ventura, Pageplus, Wordpro, Wordperfect etc, thus providing the ability to create your own PDF files without having the full version of Adobe Acrobat.

If you want a little more control over the way the PDFs are created, there are other programs available from the same site although these are not free, CutePDF IS! Have a look at the web site if you're interested and download a copy of CutePDF. All it'll cost is a few minutes on line (the size of the download is 4.17Mb). The web address is:

<http://www.acrossoftware.com/Products/CutePDF/Printer.asp>

or to go straight to the download page

<http://www.acrossoftware.com/Download.htm>

NOTE: the web site says it will only work with Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher. However, I use version 4 and it works fine. I would suggest you 'suck it and see'; if it doesn't work then you can always uninstall it.

The fact that CutePDF installs as a printer brings me to another point. Just because you have only one printer connected to your system doesn't mean you cannot have more than one printer installed - you can have as many as you wish. For instance I have one printer attached to my own PC and I have further access to another two on our home network. However, I have 12 printers installed on my PC, each used for a different purpose, but only five printers can actually produce a hard-copy printout - all the rest except one, print to a file and are used for creating .PDF files of one sort or another depending on my requirements at the time.

The one exception is a fax printer which allows me to send faxes. When I want to send a fax, I simply type my document and when finished, I select that particular printer to print to. The printer then prints the document to my fax software which opens, allowing me to enter the name and phone number the fax is to go to. On pressing Send, away goes my fax of however many pages - I think the largest I've sent is about 20 or so pages. In this way I can also fax paper documents (as I did only a few days ago), again by using my scanner to copy the document to the fax printer.

Yes, your scanner can be a very powerful and useful friend - but ONLY if you take the trouble to find out how to use it!!!

P.S. If you don't have a scanner and you are interested, I advise you have a look at the following web site:

<http://www.morgancomputers.co.uk/Shop/detail.asp?ProductID=602>

At present, the scanner I purchased from Morgan Computers is still on offer at £46.99 inc VAT but NOT postage which is about £10 more. However, before taking the plunge, make sure you have a USB hardware facility on your PC and that the USB software driver is installed.

The scanner is slim-line (about 32mm high) and is what was originally described as a semi-professional scanner - more than adequate for most including me. As long as you are happy with a refurbished scanner then from my experience, you can't go wrong. We've had a number of items from Morgans in the past and their equipment is not rubbish, its essentially refurbished and original redundant stock that they sell off at huge discounts in comparison with the original selling price. I believe my scanner was originally sold at somewhere between £200 and £250! Give 'em a try.

Timber Woods Long Distance Trial...

It was Sunday 20th July 2003, 6.30 am with a lovely sunny atmosphere dampened and fresh from the previous days rain. I had prepared my Ariel during the previous week so it was just a matter of tickling the carb to richen the mixture, throw a leg over the saddle, kick the bike into life and head for the Kent Gliding Club near Ashford.

As I was going down the Gravesend Road into Strood town centre the old engine was running really well in the cool damp air. It sounded like music to my ears so I decided to join in. So there we were in harmony together, "Oh what a beautiful morning", clatter clatter, "Oh what a beautiful day", clatter clatter, but by not having any mirrors on the bike I failed to see the 'early morning shift' police patrol car glide in alongside me. The young schoolboy in uniform wound down his window and said, "Excuse me sir, stop singing and concentrate on the road! Or I'll 'ave you for disturbing the peace"! Funny though, cos' he was the one doing all the shouting? "But Officer I'm on my way to the Timber Woods Trial and he was a policeman you know"! His expression changed immediately and he said, "OK sir, follow me". He switched on the blue flashing lights and the 'Nee Nahs' and went speeding ahead to clear the way for me. He escorted me up City Way and out of Rochester to the top of Blue Bell Hill, then with a cheery wave he peeler'ed off into a slip road.

I continued on down Blue Bell Hill almost flat out at about 28 mph, my vocals chords now silent. Several cars came rushing by me doing at least 80 mph. God! I thought, if they were to run into the back of the 'Old Ariel' they would be killed instantly! The mass and weight of those early malleable iron lugged frames is incalculable and by golly don't I know it! Anyhow, without any more incidents worthy of mention I arrived at the Gliding Club at 7.30 am. But! I was the only one there. Was it the wrong day? No, because I could here snoring coming from the caravans parked there. So there was life on earth after all.

Scrutineering was done, road book attached and off I went. Well it wasn't my fault I got lost in the first ten minutes. We couldn't find the first section anywhere, although to their credit some riders did. Going down the first track outside the Gliding Club I met two lady horse riders coming the other way. Stop immediately kill engine. "Good morning" I said "What a lovely morning and what beautiful horses you have". We exchanged some more pleasantries and they said they were sorry that I couldn't afford a new bike like the others. I carried on still unable to find the first section, so did an about turn and came upon the horse riders again. "Hello again" I said. "Look I'm ever so sorry about this but I'm having a little trouble with my eyes, they are quite old you know". I looked up at the beautiful horses once more and said; "Lovely graceful animals aren't they"? Off I went up to the main road doing several miles just to confirm I was going in the 'wrong' direction before turning back towards my horse riding friends once more. "Sorry" I said, repeating myself for the third time. But I just didn't know what else to say! "Beautiful creatures aren't they". Well they were! But by now the lead horse was blushing with my excessive compliments and the trailing horse had his right hoof in his mouth and was trying to puke. But I will never forget those graceful fetlocks, the superb firm silky flanks and the way

those saddles moved from side to side! Oh! If only I was 40 years younger, I could take up horse riding, or something?

At box number 105 in the road book I had to take on petrol. I pulled in behind many more riders who were already taking a break. Petrol tank brimming and I went in to pay my money with a 'Switch Card'. It was when I tried to sign my name that the trouble began. On taking off my trials glove a gnarled looking claw appeared! The cashier screamed and jumped back in fear! I thought quickly and reacted instantly by pulling my Belstaff sleeve up to my elbow (which was none too pretty) just to show the startled lady that the hand was still attached to my own arm. This calmed her a bit whilst I tried to grip the biro. But! I couldn't grip it properly and made futile attempts to match the signature on my 'Switch Card'. I then found myself apologising to the petrol lady for my disgusting scribble who had by now realised I was suffering from a bad dose of 'Trials Riders Arm'. She then did and said something funny that I am still puzzling over. Taking a long close scrutiny at the signature on my card and then my grubby little face, she said, "Well you look like your signature anyway so I guess it's OK". Many thanks kind lady, I think? Before firing up to get on with the trial I decided to have a bite of what the wife had packed for me? I picked out a small pack of biscuits wrapped in a bright red packaging. Yes, you've probably seen them in the shops labelled 'Blue Parrot'! Now I'm as confused as you readers are but its true, Blue Parrot biscuits come in red wrappers. The marketing mind just boggles these days doesn't it? Next job, use the claw, flex biceps and break biscuits in half, then devour in macho style. Start bike and take off under full acceleration, extending front forks by half an inch as the power band kicks in. I look down at my cycle computer speedometer and see 57mph! By jove! That was some petrol! Then just as quickly 43mph appeared then 28 and back to 57mph in the blink of an eye. My diagnostic brain went into overdrive as I realised that I had either a serious misfire, or my cycle computer had picked up some weird virus? After doing a melt down check on it (it's a trade term) I thought the battery might be going flat. Never mind, I had been lost many times during the day so this would be my excuse from now on. Old people like me are used to navigating by rule of thumb, only problem is I only have two bruised ones left.

Whilst queuing for one of the sections a younger rider asked if I had thought about getting a modern bike with springs on or "don't you like them", he said. "Oh yes I think they are really really lovely, but I haven't worn this one out yet"! I thriftily replied. When I eventually came to Margie Clarke's section I was telling her about the trouble I had trying to sign the petrol receipt. She told me that's what Motocrossers call 'arm pump'. "No Marge", I said, "I call it Arthritis". Anyway, last section done and back for the special test. Great test 'Sidcup Club' I enjoyed it. A quick fill up with petrol for the ride home, empty bladder on the way out in case of abnormal accidents (which I'm not insured for) and ride like hell for home. You know what? I didn't take one wrong turning on the way home. This just goes to show that practice makes perfect!

Many thanks Sidcup Club for running 'THE TIMBER WOODS LONG DISTANCE TRIAL'.

Dave Blanchard

For the followers of the Dukes of Hazzard (excluding those who just ogle Daisy Duke) I have included a very useful addition to your dictionary which will allow the translation of some well known 'Southern' phrases into everyday language. Those of you who are fans of Country & Western may also find this useful.

Ah - The things you see with.

Aig - Which came first, the chicken or the aig?

Arn - An electrical instrument used to remove wrinkles from clothing.

Ay-rab - The people who inhabit much of North Africa.

Bawl - What water does.

Bidness - The art of selling something for more than you paid for it.

Bobbycue - A delectable Southern sandwich of chopped pork, cole slaw, and a fiery sauce.

Bud - Small feathered creature that flies.

Cheer - A piece of furniture used for sitting.

Chekatawfarya - Heard at service stations in small Southern towns.

Co-Cola - Soft drink.

Crine - Weeping.

Doc - A condition caused by the absence of light.

Etlanna - The city General Sherman burned during the war for Southern independence.

Everthang - All-encompassing.

Far - A state of combustion that produces heat and light.

Foller - Spies and private detectives spend a lot of time doing this.

Git - To acquire.

Goff - A game played with clubs and a little white ball.

Gull - A young female.

Hale - Where General Sherman went for what he did to Etlanna.

Hep - To aid or benefit.

Idinit - "Mighty hot today, idinit?"

Keer - To be concerned.

Lieberry - A building containing thousands of literary works.

Moanin - Between daybreak and noon.

Motuhickle - A two-wheeled missile with a powerful engine.

Munts - The 12 units into which the calendar year is divided.

Nawth - Any part of the country outside of the South.

Nekkid - To be unclothed.

Ovair - In that direction.

Own - Instead of awf.

Phrasin - Very cold.

Pitcher - An image, either drawn or photographed.

Show - "It show is hot today."

Spearmint - Something scientist do.

Stow - Place where things are sold.

Tal - What you dry off with after you take a share.

Tar - Round inflatable object that sometimes goes flat.

Uhmukin - Someone who lives in the United States of Uhmurka.

Zackly - Precisely.

Essex Man goes to Kent for a MacDonalds

(and returns with a baggie!)



Do I really mean to have that as a title? Well, the answer is Yes! Just about everything is correct - no chance of the Press Complaints Commission coming down and rapping my knuckles.

July 14th saw a 'small' contingent of riders getting their passports aired by crossing the great divide, the River Thames, and attending the trial at Horsmonden in Kent. Big deal, I hear you cry. Well it WAS a big deal as far as some of us were concerned. Friday 13th July was the 60th birthday of one Joan Westbrook and as part of her birthday celebrations, she was organiser in chief (Clerk of the Course AND Secretary of the Meeting) of a celebratory trial.

Now, before you all go mad and decide that the roads of Ilford will be safe and a kerbside parker's heaven, I am sorry to have to inform you, that contrary to popular belief, Joan will not be foregoing her 'yellow streak' for the foreseeable future as she says that being an OAP would not provide her with enough readies to ride in the 2004 Scottish! So beware, you have been warned - parking rules still apply in Ilford!

Now what is all this about a MacDonalds? Well, Joan was running the first



event put on by the Ilford MC for almost two decades and it involved the resurrection of their MacDonald Cup Trial. As it turned out there seemed to be some doubt whether the aforementioned cup was still in captivity but I suppose that a coffee container from the nearest appropriately named burger establishment would have served as a suitable replacement. Yes, the Ilford MC were out in force - almost as if the years had not passed - Keith Price, Mick Read, Dave Austin, Clive Austin, Steve Turner and Martin Adams together with Joan and Peter making up an almost 100% club turn out! Sadly the 'father figure' of the club, Sid Austin, was unwell, recovering from the ravages of Scotland and the very wet Scottish.

The next thing that needs explaining is why does a respectable Eastern Centre club choose to put a trial on in darkest Kent? Simple! The land is owned by Mike Holloway, Joan's brother, or to be more precise in these matters, it belongs to Valerie, Mike's wife. Now this 25 acre site, 12.5 acres of meadow and 12.5 acres of woodland covering old workings makes very good trials country when the weather is clement but . . . if it rains, then - well it is something else! This piece of land in the heart of Kent is well used as a trials venue and also by the local villagers of Horsmonden. Valerie has ensured that trials and villager use go hand in hand and has provided a well enjoyed venue for both riders and villagers alike.

This could well have been the first Eastern Centre event to have taken place in the land of the Man of Kent (or is it Kentish Man) but if I am wrong then I am sure someone will tell me. Something tells me that a Kent/South Eastern club once ran an event at Kelvedon Hatch, back in the late 70s early 80s but I cannot be sure of that.



Did you know its my birthday?

Now who entered from our neck of the woods? Sadly there weren't that many, especially as it was in essence a Pre65 trial. Those who entered before the closing date were Bill Brooker, Graham Andrews and Dave Kenward whilst Andy Spreadbridge would appear to have had his entry delayed somewhat in the post and he joined the late entry list comprising Ray Gibb, Mark Gibb, Dave Spurgeon and Terry Sewell.

To the trial itself.

Four laps of twelve sections on a very hot day but thankfully the sections were all under the summer foliage and it was almost a sweatshirt or two cooler there than out in the sun.

One route, yes just one route, was plotted to satisfy the desires of the assembled riders - this being a route which was designed to cater for the abilities



The Wit of Tommy Cooper R.I.P.

Tommy Cooperisms. to brighten up the day.

A guy walks into the psychiatrist wearing only Clingfilm for shorts.

The shrink says, "Well, I can clearly see you're nuts."

of the entry. OK, so Dave Spurgeon went clean, but I would hazard a guess that in no way was Dave confident that he could remain clean. In fact I would go so far as to say it was almost the ideal 'middy' route. No section could be said to be just a ride through but everything was very rideable.

I was quite impressed by 'our' riders, they upheld the name of the Eastern Centre against the majority foreign opposition. I was particularly pleased with the riding of Andy Spreadbridge who was riding a route which I would consider to be harder than he would normally ride.

Didn't manage to see Bill Brooker ride as he underwent machine problems. Haven't had the opportunity to talk to him since but I don't know whether it was the hot weather making the Cub difficult to start but it would appear that Bill ran out of kickstrts for the little beast.

Family Gibb had brought their 'minder' with them. Very nice to see 'Sprinter Extraordinaire' Trevor Rumsey again.

Unfortunately I only managed one lap on foot before succumbing to the 'can't go any further' syndrome, so I wasn't able to see too much of 'our men'.

The main awards were quite sensibly presented or should I say made available to those who had entered 'on time' but there was one additional award for the provider of the first correct answer to the quiz question on the programme. The winner of this was Ray Gibb who went home with a haggis. Have you ever had haggis? Very nice I have found, but I can't get 'er indoors interested in things like that - even turns her nose up at black pudding! (*too right too - no way am going to eat stuff that is made of - Tracey*) There's no accounting for some peoples taste buds!

All in all, a very good trial and I hope that Joan and the Ilford club repeat the exercise next year. Perhaps by then they will have found the MacDonalds cup or if not, replaced it with one from Joan's local burger establishment! If next years trial is anything like this years event, then enter it, I'm sure you will enjoy it.

Now for a bit more explanation regarding the title of this article. It is not a well known fact but Ray Gibb is in effect an Essex Boy who has infiltrated the tractor boys up there in darkest Tunstall.



Dave Kenward

End Thought . . .

There are more important things in life than money -
but they won't go out with you if you are broke