

Editorial

Last month I wrote that I was just about overwhelmed with articles. Now this month that couldn't be farther from the truth! A few days ago I just had nothing but thanks to Mick Brown and Tracey I have been able to produce a newsletter albeit four pages smaller than usual.

I do rely on your help in producing this magazine which I understand is quite popular and is read from cover to cover but without your help it will fail! I am not able to get about as much as I would like and therefore am unable to keep up to date with all the things that are happening in EFA land.

Does anyone know of the whereabouts of one Derek Hewson, believed to live in this centre or perhaps the South Eastern centre? Why? Gordon Francis of CCM fame is trying to find him so if you know of his

whereabouts please contact me and I will forward the details.

Yes, it is fast drawing near, the Trials season - mind you for some of us the trials season lasts all year, but for those of you with caravans and/or scramblers, 'tis time to put them away and get out the trials iron. Why not give Mike Harden's Plonkaround a visit to clear the cobwebs out of your and the bike's system.

Regs for the Snaque Pit trial should be stapled to the centre of this issue. This event has historically, whether at Raydon or Snaque Pit, been the trial to introduce the new season especially to those new to the sport and those returning after a lay off. I believe this to be the case again this year but no doubt Ted will have had his say at clubnight before many of you will have read this.

What I do hope is that the Eastern Centre haven't messed up the Pit or its availability but more of that later on. I



Your editor and John Kendall watch Centre Chairman, Sidge Kenny on his Suzuki

The August Plonkaround

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

Saturday 11th September 2004

Start 12 noon

Trials practice for:

Pre 65 solos • Pre 65 sidecars • Twin Shocks

Youths • Twin Shock sidecars

find their involvement in Snaque Pit to be very scary and in my mind unwanted.

Whilst writing about the start of our trials season, I must mention the problem of obtaining observers for our trials. We have almost twice as many members as we get enter even our best attended club trial but Ted or whoever is charged with giving out the observer boards is still finding it almost an impossibility so to do. Many of the regular observers have been doing it for this club on a very regular basis right from the day the club ran its first event and before that were observing at events held by other clubs. Please, think about the future of the sport which I assume you enjoy - if you don't intend to ride at a trial why not come along and observe. This IS a club. It is NOT a professional organisation and we rely on club members like yourself to enable us to continue. Think on it, no help forthcoming - no trials - not a very nice vision of the future especially to those of us who have given a lifetime of help and assistance to motorcycle sport.

Geoff Daw, Tracey and myself were hoping to have got something up and running at Chappell, a venue that we have not used for a few years now but I am afraid that things have had to be put on the back burner due to the landowner, John Baines, being very seriously ill. I am sure we all wish John all the best in what could prove to be a long struggle - I am sure Geoff Daw will pass our best wishes on to him.

From what people have been telling me there is some concern over the severity of the easy route in our trials. Is this a general feeling? I know from my own observations at our events that the easy route appears to be no harder than it was several years ago. Have you any views? If so, then please inform a member of the Revolutionary Council and we will see what can be done.

May I finish by giving the many club members who are currently 'suffering' at the hands of the NHS, our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Jim

Pre 70 Inter Centre Team Trial

19th September 2004

Eastern Centre ACU



It might have escaped your knowledge (or notice) that the Eastern Centre is organising this years edition of the Pre65 Inter Centre Team Trial on Sunday 19th September starting from White Colne at 9.30 am. Well I still recognise it as being the Pre65 version but apparently within the past year it has changed its title. I wonder whether it will revert to its original name in the future?

It may come as no surprise to you that the direct involvement of the EFA in the organising of this, what should be a very prestigious event, has been ignored. Come to that, involvement by members of the Competitions Committee with a special interest and experience in the organisation of 'classic' trials (don't know whether it is Pre70 or Pre65!) have also been overlooked. A shame as this event could have provided a great shop window for Pre65 events within the centre but it is beginning to look as if it could do the opposite. So far, from the centres that I have talked to, they have all got their own idea of how to field a team that complies with the regs! I find the publication of regs with blatant anomalies in them and

followed up by the refusal to clarify the anomalies to be most disappointing and a kick in the teeth for those of us who care and want the event to be a success. From my experience it is no good attempting to get an answer from the Competitions Committee because they themselves are similarly being treated with contempt by the organiser in chief.

I am led to believe that the Centre will be using the Snaque Pit as part of a single lap which is, or so I believe, following the Phil King course. I ask the question - is any land safe? My understanding is that the Snaque Pit had been out of regular trials use for many years before being rescued by ex Sudbury members and with the approval of the Sudbury club. The EFA has carried out much work there and spent a considerable amount of money on securing and protecting this land for future events and as such, has not unreasonably refused access to the land for use by other clubs, both ACU and AMCA. However, it is my understanding that the Eastern Centre ACU has now ridden rough shod over the EFA with regard to the anticipated use of the Snaque Pit. I

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Please Note:

The closing date by which all articles and adverts to be included in the August issue of Trials & Tribulations should reach the editorial office is Monday 27th September. 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.

appreciate that the Eastern Centre through its main officers, the Secretary included, won't be able to tell me, or us, why and how this has come about but I do believe that the officers of the centre should seriously consider what has in the past been known as land poaching - something that always was treated seriously. If the centre fails to investigate or come to a satisfactory conclusion I would suggest the flood gates could be opened and the EFA would have perfect right to use Covenbrook Hall without Braintree's permission or even use Blaxhall without the permission of the Woodbridge club being gained. You can hear the earthquake already can't you - about 9 on the Richter scale I would guess!

Now to hopefully more interesting things. I have duly entered a team for this event hopefully complying with the regs as published - not the regs as propounded verbally by the clerk of the course or published in JD's column of T+MX. The entries for the solos were to consist of :

Group 'A' - two machines from classes 1 and 2 of the Sammy Miller Championship - namely pre-unit rigid and pre-unit springer both of which will be required to ride the **easier route**. My selection for this grouping is Clive Dopson on his Norton and Sam Appleton on his 350 Royal Enfield.

Group 'B' - four machines from classes 3, 4 and 7 of the Sammy Miller Championship - two strokes, units and what is jokingly called British Specials. Riders of these machines will be required to ride the harder route. I have selected John Kendall and Matthew Neale, both on Triumphs, and Dave Spurgeon and Mike Smith, both on Greeves to satisfy this class.

Have you spotted the 'problem'?

Group 'A' which contains pre-unit springers is required, according to quite specific statements in the regs, and confirmed by Tim Fairbrother, to ride the easier route intended for rigids and sidecars! When I first read it I just could not believe it but it would appear that it is the avowed intention of the clerk of the course that this is the way the trial will be run. Not surprisingly, Andrew Arden was not too keen and I am not sure that anyone has dared to inform Len Hutty that he is going to be riding the easy route for the South Eastern centre. Of course, they may determine not to ride the easy route but that would I believe nullify any desires they may have of winning the event for a third time. This didn't make life too easy in team selection as my hands have been very severely tied. Other teams would appear to have entered teams with a 'sod the regs', if necessary we will argue our case. I believe it to have been a unanimous decision that 'we' are going the right way about it - we may not get anywhere near the lowest number of marks lost but I think after the £50 notes have stopped flying about we might get a result that satisfies us. I don't envy the two stewards from the centre or the National ACU steward. Well I have already warned him (Tim Fairbrother) of the problems he is likely to get but I don't think he either cares or is interested. A shame really as he was instrumental in the re-introduction of this event to the calendar.

Oh, by the way if you would like to support the team, we would very much like to see you there. I hope that first aid skills will not be required!

Jim

*This page has
remained blank
because we
haven't received
your article for
inclusion in this
magazine*



We are bringing the curtain down with the last of our jaunts which will take place on Saturday the 11th September (sorry its Netley Marsh Auto Jumble weekend) departing from The Bells pub in Bures at 3 pm.

The route has been jointly conceived by Geoff Daw and Doug King. Distance will be approximately 40 miles and will finish at a Hadleigh Chippy.

See you there,

By Order Of The Management

FOR SALE

BSA C15 250

£800 ono

Lewis Allen

01787 371795

Arbuthnot Team News . . .

As reported last month, two teams have been entered into the Arbuthnot Trial which is being held in the Salisbury area on September 12th.

I am sure we all wish them every success and hope they can emulate the success of the Eastern Plonkers in the recent Timber Woods Trial, reports of which appeared in profusion in the last issue of Trials & Tribs.

'Eastern Promise' - Colonial Route
Mick Brown 350 Royal Enfield
Dick Hobart 350 Matchless
Pete Sigournay 350 Ariel

'Spirit of the East' - Comp Route
Keith Fitz-John 500 Norton
Stuart Penfold 500 Norton
Andrew Prill 480 Matchless

Mick Brown

Team Manager!

Horsmonden Trial - 29th August 2004

Last Sunday 29th August, Jim and I went to a trial run by Ilford MCC, the reason being that I was the ACU Steward for the event. The trial is held at Horsmunden in Kent on a piece of land owned by Joan Westbrook's Sister-in-Law. The land has a very wide selection of sections and I'm sure that the EFA could even run the Thumpers there were it to be somewhat nearer.

Horsmunden is about an hour's drive for us - about 64 miles in total. However, this year we went a different way than the obvious way and it seems we did the right thing as others were caught out by road works including blocked roads and had to find a way around them. Nevertheless, most arrived by the start which was 10:30am.

Amongst the entry were a number from the Eastern Centre although, as you would expect most were from the South-Eastern Centre and one or two were from the Southern Centre. Those from the EFA numbered just three, namely Andy Spreadbridge who retired, Doug Theobald and Dave Kenward. There were some others from the Eastern Centre namely Richard and Stuart Penfold, and Chris Cook from Braintree and Claude Crowder from West Essex. John Kendall and Andy Hay, the Centre Treasurer had entered but were non-starters. There were a number of riders from the South-Eastern Centre that it was good to renew acquaintances with. One such was Malcolm Simmons and his partner June. Malcolm will be entering the Thumpers as usual this year and in fact he seems to think of the Thumpers as THE trial of his year - he loves it and looks forward to it each year.

The trial started on time and Jim and I started on our way around the 12 sections which are all ranged around a field. The field apparently is some 12.5 acres and the woodland surrounding it, another 12.5 acres. I believe that it would make Ted green with envy to see the options for sections that are available in the woodland (there are no sections in the field at all). It has hills plenty of nadgery of course and, in wet periods, streams. I should also add that we have seen the venue at its worst in very wet weather, if anything it can be worse than Broomfield and with the hills and streams etc it can be very testing indeed. Unfortunately, in spite of all the rain we've had this year, the streams were all dry. In fact the whole place seemed to be very dry. Nevertheless the sections available to sections layers are seemingly endless. They can be made as hard or easy as you want and I'm sure can be laid out in a manner that would give any rider of whatever ability a good ride around.

Of the heroes from the Eastern Centre that turned up the results scored were:

Claude Crowder (easy route)	4	Doug Theobald	2
Stuart Penfold	42	Chris Cook	48
Dave Kenward	52	Richard Penfold	53
Andy Spreadbridge	retired		

So how did things go from my perspective as ACU Steward? Well I thought that overall it went very well and I believe that congratulations should go to the club and Joan Westbrook who was Clerk of the Course, for a well run event. Was there anything that anyone wasn't happy about? Well, yes actually! Not that it was anything to do with this trial mind you. No, it was more to do with the Eastern Centre running the Pre-70 Inter-Centre Trial this year - but that, as they say, is another story.

Tracey

People over 35 should be dead.

Here's why

According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 40's, 50's, 60's, or even maybe the early 70's probably shouldn't have survived.

Our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paint.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, . . .

and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets.

(Not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.)

As children, we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. Horrors!

We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then rode down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes

- after running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on. No one was able to reach us all day.

NO MOBILE PHONES!!!!

- Unthinkable!

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal mobile phones, personal computers, or Internet chat rooms.

We had friends! - we went outside and found them.

We played dodge ball, and sometimes, the ball would really hurt.

We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents

- they were accidents. No one was to blame but us - remember accidents?



FOR SALE - Centre Lift Stand £20

Ted Smith 01206 841519

We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rang the bell or just walked in and talked to them.

School houses had sports teams and not everyone made the team
- those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

Some students weren't as smart as others, so they failed a the end of year exam and were held back to repeat the same grade. Horrors!

Tests were not adjusted for any reason.

Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected - the idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of - they actually sided with the law. Imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever.

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

And you're one of them!

Congratulations!

BONKERS BOOKS

I have received some more entries into the Bonkers Books list of titles never to be missed. Can you come up with any to give us a chuckle?

A few 'Bonkers Books' titles I thought of:

'Over the Cliff' by Hugo First

'The Joy of Breastfeeding' by Nora Tit

'The Problems with Kilt Wearing' by One Hung-Lo

'The Alternative Highland Games' by Hoo Flung-Dung

Carol Franklyn

Hi Jim,

Three more Bonkers Books for you,

'The Panther Owners Handbook' by P.M. Sloper.

'The Comet' by Arfur Vincent

'TV Trials' by Dot Cotton

Mick Brown



DABBERS DIARY

First of all let me apologise for this piece of nonsense which was prompted by our editor bewailing the fact that he was desperately short of copy for the September issue of Trials & Tribulations. Now come on you riders! You must have news of all those new specials you have been sweating over during the summer months and be able to compose some super technical reports for the mag.

No? Well lets turn this column into a biker's Dempsters Diary - you know the sort of thing, who's riding who, sorry, who's riding what, e.g. Don Daly's 500T Norton is being ridden in the Arbuthnot by Stuart Penfold.

Get the idea? Or tell us about any other biking experiences like my recent visit to a large Motorcycle Emporium in Clacton. The purpose of the visit was to get the old Enfield an MOT certificate. Now I think this is the first time I have ever had a motorcycle MOT tested, when did they start testing bikes? So having booked in I arrived rather early, announced my arrival and stood outside in the sunshine chatting to a young man about the Enfield and what I used it for, his scooter was also being tested. Whilst this pleasant conversation was going on another young man arrived on a 125 Derbi street scrambler, with a rather bald back tyre. He turned out to be in front of me in the MOT queue. Just then a rather stern gentleman in immaculate red overalls, wearing white surgical gloves and clutching an official form to his chest came out of the front of the shop, he beckoned my new mate over and announced that his machine had failed as his assistant wheeled the doomed machine to the front of the emporium. Having explained the faults to my scooter mate, the lad with the bald tyre was summoned to the workshop.

I must tell you, I am now getting jittery and start feverishly checking the old bike over, spokes, chain, lights, brakes, sh*t the brake lights not working! Out with the screwdriver and off with the rear lens, out with the bulb, poke the fitting, fiddle with the brake light switch, great it's working! Lens back on, just in time, he's back, another failure. Yes, rear tyre and another couple of faults, lad gets a lecture and is last seen pushing the Derbi dejectedly around the corner. My turn



The Wit of Tommy Cooper R.I.P.

Tommy Cooperisms. to brighten up the day.

Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands.
Police say that he topped himself.



*Now, that's what I call the start of a real dab!
(no apologies presented for re-printing this photo!)*

next, Oh! No! brew up time, so another ten minutes prowling around the showroom before the Enfield is wheeled into the test bay. He of the white gloves is almost immediately straight out after me 'would you like me to rewire your rear light' he asked as the wrong filaments were coming on! Fool, I had put the bulb back in upside down, as the Enfield rear bulbs are twin filament but with parallel pins (note, in future mark the bulbs). Once corrected, I'm back out in the showroom, then the toilet, I tell you, this is not doing my blood pressure any good at all. Here comes old 'white gloves' again, but this time bearing a plastic envelope containing the treasured certificate! What a relief, he takes off his gloves, shakes my hand and congratulates me on a fine machine.

Finally whilst pacing the show room I saw a brand new couple of machines bearing the label of AJS. These machines, imported from China, are custom style with forward footrests and controls and are called 'Regal Raptors' available as 98cc and a slightly larger model, Yuk! Mr A. J. Stevens must be revolving at a great rate of knots six foot down somewhere. Fluff Brown of Cotton fame, who I believe now owns the AJS trademark must also be suffering some sleepless nights!

Dabber

End Thought . . .

There are three kinds of people: those who can count and those who can't. .