

Editorial

Firstly I must wish you all a Happy New Year. 2005 looks as if it will bring in some changes, one of which is a new venue for the Frating Trial.

As most of you are aware, or at least should be, we have lost the use of the land at Frating Hall Farm or to be more precise what could be called the important bit, the parking and start area together with the sections adjoining the start area. Well, last year we were given permission to use Poplars Chase Farm on a one off stop gap basis but a new venue would have to be found for this year's event. Mick Brown has come up trumps! (Must be the training he received in his youth from one R. G. Venables!). We didn't move too far from Frating last year and we shan't be moving much further this year, in fact the same watercourse is involved in this year's trial. However, I understand the name of the water course is different at each venue. From now on the trial will be known as "The Bromley Brook Trial" so you can guess the area that will be used. To the best of anyone's knowledge it has never been used for trials so there will be a lot of cutting out and groundwork to be done and I am sure that Ted will be looking for effort at Club Night.

Sadly, I haven't been fit enough to visit much in the way of trials recently

and have, to a very great extent, been housebound over the past month. I must admit that I do feel disgusted that Ted felt it necessary to give up his ride at Boxford because none of the 'club members' present who were not riding felt that they could put something back into the sport and help out by observing. Come to that, there are some other 'club members' who have NEVER given up a ride to observe. Believe it or not, the EFA is a club, not a professionally run business. If you are not willing to put something back into the club then I feel that the time has come for you to go and find another club, if they will have you, or take up a sport where everything is laid on by paid professionals. Listening to what people say about the different venues used by the club throughout the year, it becomes obvious that most people have one venue where they don't fancy riding. Why, oh why not come along and hold a board at that meeting. I know that several of our members do just that and I applaud it. I don't know the exact membership of the club but what I do know is that I print 150 copies of this newsletter for Heather to distribute and on top of that is the complementary copies that I send out. So, wouldn't you expect from that number we could find 10 observers for a trial?

Once again we have a 'Very Lite' issue of the magazine and I must pass my

*EFA Sweatshirts - latest styles - get yours
for the New Year from*

EeDee Tailoring

sole concessionaires for EFA regalia

Tel: 01206 841519

The January Plonkatound

Raydon Pit, Wades Lane, Raydon, Suffolk

Saturday 15th January 2005

From 12 noon

Trials practise for:

Pre 65 solos • Pre 65 sidecars • Twin Shocks

Youths/Juniors • Twin Shock sidecars

thanks on to those who have contributed. From what I am told, the magazine is very much appreciated by its readership but once again I must harp back to the fact that it is produced for 'our' club and as such relies to a very great extent on getting articles for inclusion from its membership. A few years ago I was in the position of being able to attend more events but sadly this would appear to be no longer the case so I am more and more reliant on articles and items from YOU, the members.

I gather that the people 'locked in' at Raydon finally managed to escape before Christmas! Seems that several of the 'worthies' of this esteemed club were gathered just outside the locked gate when a vehicle appeared before them the wrong side of the Pearly Gates. I understand that Saint Peter (aka El Presidente) was to be seen on his hands and knees praying whilst holding a hammer and drift calling to a superior being to open up these gates.

This coming weekend sees our first visit of the year to Wivenhoe. I understand that we will be having a 'new' crew undertaking the section laying. I am

sure they will do their best to provide us with a good days sport and you never know, they may well come up with some new sections as I do believe that with a little bit of work there are some sections of the embankment that could provide us with some welcome variations. One thing that I do hope to see is enough Observers so that the likes of Ted do not feel obliged to give up their ride.

I hope you don't feel that I have been too hard in my editorial this month regarding the observing issue but there are a number of people in the club who, as they are getting older feel, and quite rightly so, that after a lifetime of organising, observing and helping that the time has come for some of the younger members to do their bit. Perhaps you don't agree with what I have written. If so, then may I suggest that rather than moaning behind my back, you put pen to paper and tell us why you shouldn't be expected to put something into the club.

Best wishes,

Jim

Secretarys Scribblings

Happy New Year to you all, hope you're fully recovered by now.

Looking back to December, our trial at Boxford went off very well, attracting a lot of riders but unfortunately not enough observers. Thanks must go to everyone who helped set out the event, all those who did observe, especially Chairman Ted who gave up his ride to man a section. For the first time in the club's history we had two sidecar routes which seemed to keep everyone happy. Results are available tonite for those who haven't had any.

We had planned to ride the outfit again at The Plonkers Trial on Sunday 19th but I went down with a really bad throat and cold so Rog went on his own, thinking he'd be riding solo. Before he had time to take the sidecar off, good old Jim Patey had offered his services as passenger. Jim had already entered on his solo and rode that as well. Talking about it afterwards, Rog counted up that Jim had ridden 120 sections altogether that day! Anyway he had a much better day than riding solo - thanks Jim.

Having entered the Woodbridge Trial at Tunstall on the Triumph as a solo, a bit of secret training was required so we went to the Plonkers Practice during the week after Christmas only to find Mike Harden had the dreaded cold/flu. Despite not feeling very well at all, Mike produced sherry, mince pies, crisps and soft drinks for everyone.

This made a for a really sociable afternoon and was much appreciated - thanks Mike, hope you're feeling a whole lot better now.

If you've been on the receiving end of an award (for whatever reason!) we'd be pleased to have it back so that it can be engraved for the AGM/ Presentation Evening at the beginning of March. We'll be at Wivenhoe on Sunday 9th January, Clubnite on Tuesday 1st February or Snaque Pit on Sunday 13th February. If you can't get to any of those please give me a ring - 01621 892606 - and we'll see if we can come to some other arrangement.

See you at Wivenhoe

Heather

The Love Birds Next Door

One evening, a wife drew her husband's attention to the couple next door and said, "Do you see that couple? How devoted they are? He kisses her every time they meet. Why don't you do that?"

"I would love to," replied the husband, "but I don't know her that well."





The Ol' Lady Next Door

Worried that they hadn't heard anything for days from the widow in the apartment next door, the mother said to her son, "Tony, would you go next door and see how Old Mrs Pierpoint is?" A few minutes later, Tony returned.

"Well, is she all right?" asked the mother.

"She's fine, but she's rather annoyed with you," remarked Tony.

"At me?" the mother exclaimed. "Whatever for?"

Tony replied, "Mrs. Pierpoint said its none of your business how old she is."



Please Note:

The closing date by which all articles and adverts to be included in the next issue of Trials & Tribulations should reach the editorial office is the 25th of the month preceding publication.

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.

Pretty Bikes. Ugly Men ..

One hundred and three lumps of gleaming heavy metal (in the form of British Trials Bikes) were entered in the 2004 "Jack Thompson British Bikes Trial". As in previous years the event was held on a great piece of trials ground known as 'Canada Heights'. The dedicated members of the 'Sidcup & District Motorcycle Club' care for this Kentish venue.

The weather leading up to the trial had not been wet enough for the usual mud sections to get any muddier. Consequently a few of the sections had to be a bit tighter than in previous events. One test involved a couple of trees that had been planted too close together by our very own 'Mother Nature'. But! If you knew how to 'wiggle' your handlebars and shake your 'wotsit' through the gap, this posed no problem to most riders. Variety over the 40 sections was good and a credit to the 'Clerks of the Course'.

The winner of the coveted "Jack Thompson Trophy" was Dave Shave riding his 500 Ariel springer. His was an impeccable ride with a clean score! Dave who has in the past mainly ridden modern bikes, recently took up the 'old iron' (as you sometimes do) and proves what a capable and versatile rider he is. Nice one!

Also riding the harder white route for a unit 'joint win' was Chris Anderson on his snappy little Cub. His equal on the day was Darren Snell riding a B40. Both of these gladiators were also on a clean score!

Due most probably to the dry going, the two stroke white route also had joint winners. Graham Braybrook on a Bantam and Laurie Bird on a similar BSA 175 cleaned all the tight sections with confidence and skill.

The only 'tele rigid' rider to attempt the harder white route was young Sam Appleton from the friendly Eastern Four Stroke Association situated in 'muddiest' East Anglia. He rode a BSA C10 sidevalve! Yes I know. Who on earth would dream of developing one of those contraptions for highly competitive events? But the Beezer (called 'Little Eric') has obviously had the steroid injections that were left over from a time long ago when BSA could do no wrong in 'world wide' competition. It's a little beauty! Not to be left in the shadows by his outstanding little bike young Sam Appleton turned on the style to do the 40 sections for a loss of just one unfortunate 5. Yes! You've already guessed it; section 13 was the culprit. The cause? I'm not sure, but 'Old fashioned Gremlins' are a distinct possibility. Sam takes home 'The Vinall Trophy'.

In the pre-unit rear sprung class riding the red route, Colin Mote took a comfortable win on 1 lost.

On the same route but in the 'daintier' unit construction class, it was another win for the EFA invasion force in the shape of Richard Challis. He rode a BSA 250 for a loss of 5. Mick Holloway who was riding the same sections as Colin and Richard but on his more ancient 500 Tele Rigid Matchless, lost 5 points for his class win. Well ridden, them men!

The 'Charioteers' of the event were Bob Miles and passenger Ray Taylor. They had a fairly comfortable win with 7 marks lost. Their sections had some necessary deviations to allow the outfits to get through.

The 'Dinosaur Class' of 'Girder Fork Bikes' obviously ride the red route. This class was blitzed by an out of practice Bob Onley on his 'museum specification' Velocette 350. He had an outstanding ride indeed, losing just 18 marks for a very deserved win. Well done old flower!

Two strokes were never my cup of tea in the past but that is all changing since seeing Graham Mitchell's superb little Butler 250. No, it wasn't Reg Varney from 'On the Buses' that designed it but a man named Chris Butler. Chris was a talented trials rider from the sixties and made his living manufacturing fibreglass motorcycle accessories. He eventually built his own frame with square tubes and a Villiers engine as the motivation. He incorporated his own fibreglass accessories to complete a very nice little package. Pressure from other trials riders wanting the same saw him go into production with a complete trials bike built at his London premises. I was so keen on looking at the construction of the Butler that I didn't realise how well Graham was riding. He did the red route for just a dab at section 16 on his last lap. So he gets the win on the Two Stroke red route. He did tell me he was just out for a little bit of exercise but looking at his performance he needs something much meatier to tax his energy a bit more. So if you want to have a loan of my Girderfork Ariel Graham, it will help you get very fit in the shortest possible time. Great ride though mate!

Karen Shave rode another of Graham's excellent rebuilds. Another lovely little two stroke (did I really say that) a 250 Cotton. I spoke to Karen and it was her first ride on the bike. So as soon as she found out that second gear was not first gear the bike slowed down a bit in the tight sections. To prove an excellent point she did the last lap for two dabs. A great effort I thought and some of husband Dave's style was showing through in Karen's riding. Their philosophy seems to be 'it matters not that you have never ridden them before, just jump on and go'. A great attitude, I wished I had some of it.

At the end of a great day another very good lady rider had a try out on my Old Ariel. Joan Westbrook was ecstatic at riding my bike. When she came back from her test ride she was all flushed with emotion and excitement. She jokingly said to me, "It's an animal! Take it back quick!" I know you didn't mean it kind lady and I know you wouldn't have offered me that much money for it if you weren't keen to own the old girl. By the way, how much is half a crown? I am too young to know about that old currency stuff but I am sure its a lot, isn't it? Sorry Joan, its not for sale at any price because I remain an avid 'Animal Lover'.

Many thanks Sidcup Club,

Dave Blanchard.



The Wit of Tommy Cooper R.I.P.

Tommy Cooperisms. to brighten up the day.

A girl phoned me the other day and said,

"Come on over . . . nobody's home" -

So I went over . . . nobody was home!

Bromley Brook Trial

MEMO

Following full permission being obtained from landowners the EFA event in March will now be held at Great Bromley. Two senior members of the Revolutionary Committee, Messers Smith and Fletcher accompanied by their lackeys Brown and Appleton walked the new land on New Year's Eve and approved of it's use. There is potential for many varied sections and a lap of approx. three miles is anticipated. This, however, will require working parties and the chairman will be announcing a date in January at the next clubnight.

MB

Editors Comment:

You will see from the above that we have now made the Frating trial a thing of history - I can now have a little bit of faith in my spell checker for the new event!

Interestingly, this event will be utilising the same water course as has been used so often by the Frating Trial and runs so close to the Thorington venue.

As usual this event will be regional restricted, a round of the Eastern Centre Pre 70 championship and open to sidecars and twin shocks.

It was hoped that we would have been able to have held a 'trial run' at the venue before putting on our 'second' trial of the year but that isn't to be.

Regs for 'non-championship' riders will be in next month's T&T - championship riders must enter on the forms in the Gazette as usual. Also, as usual it will be an enter before the event trial.

MY NEW INVENTIONS . . .

I've been to the London Patent Office trying to register some of my inventions. I went to the main desk to sign in and the lady at the desk had a form that had to be filled out.

She wrote down my personal information and then asked me what I had invented.

I said, "A folding bottle."

She said, "Okay, what do you call it?"

"A Fottle"

"What else do you have?"

"A folding carton."

"What do you call it?"

"A Farton."

She sniggered and said, "Those are silly names for products and one of them sounds a bit crude."

I was so upset by her comment that I grabbed the form and left the office without telling her about my folding bucket.

2004 Readie Karting Challenge

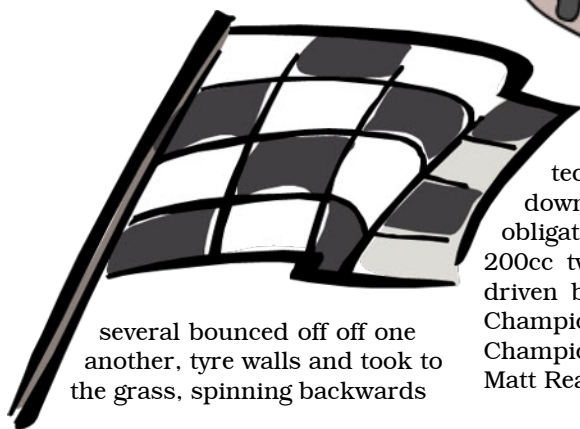
Buckmore Park, Kent
4th December '04

Thirty six, three or four person teams contesting a two hour endurance race. The aim was to be 'up front', have fun and raise cash for a damaged long track racer, Matt Read, now home from France and undergoing specialist treatment.

With a serious absence of enthusiasm to raise a team from the EFA ranks, I managed the 'Village Windows Team', comprising Gary Eaves (resting trials rider), Danny Williams (40 years plus enduro rider) and Roger Barker (OAP ex-trials rider). All of them have karting experience and lots of enthusiasm which got them third on the grid after timed practice. Looking good!

From the start 'our' man slotted into seventh. Inevitably, with 36 karts,

etc. What a spectacle, four and five karts abreast coming up the hill, spectators were laughing, cheering, great!!!



several bounced off off one another, tyre walls and took to the grass, spinning backwards

In todays terms, a technical, drivers track, up and down, a mix of bends. Seven obligatory stops, one refuel for the 200cc twin Pro Karts. They were driven by Speedway National Champions, Grass Track World Champions, past 'names', wannabees, Matt Read's family. It was quick!

Bumper Stickers

What has four legs and an arm? A happy pit bull

Our kart went out of tune and was changed, unfortunately for another that was equally sick. In again, change to a decent one.

The race director gave a warning at the drivers meeting that drivers bumping, boring, or grasstrackin' would incur a black flag penalty which both Gary and Danny duly did - oops!!

Roger begged to drive the last half hour which he did in style and with stamina clocking our fastest lap on lap 130 - lap time of 0:54.852 giving an average speed of 48.9 mph!! We finished 13th completing 132 laps - the winners completed 134.

The appropriately name 'World Champions' won - Mitch Godden, Ian Curley (touring car driver) and Tommy Palmer with "Air Sight" Dean Barker, Scott Sullivan, Jimmy the

Pimp and A.N. Other being in second just seconds behind, having been in front until the last few laps.

Terrific day. Everyone had a smile, great atmosphere, no aggro. The presentation was conducted very professionally by the race director and the day ended up with there being a contribution from Buckmore Park, proceeds from a raffle, the prizes having been donated by business enthusiasts and friends. A total on the day of £3,500 raised for a lad who is obviously respected.

It was good to be a little involved.

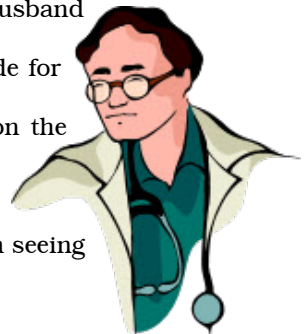


Pedro E

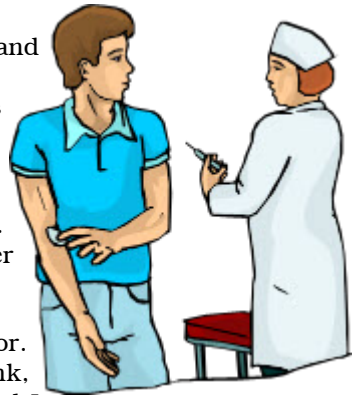
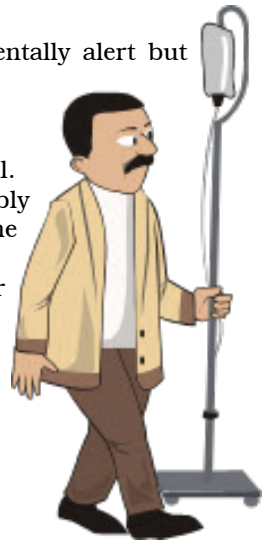
ACTUAL DOCTORS NOTES ON HOSPITAL CHARTS

(Makes you wonder where they got their medical degree!)

- 1 She has no rigours or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.
- 2 Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
- 3 On the second day the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.
- 4 The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
- 5 The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.



- 6 Discharge status: Alive but without my permission.
- 7 Healthy appearing decrepit 69 year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.
- 8 The patient refused autopsy.
- 9 The patient has no previous history of suicides.
- 10 Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.
- 11 Patient's medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the past three days.
- 12 Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
- 13 She is numb from her toes down.
- 14 While in ER, she was examined, x-rated and sent home.
- 15 The skin was moist and dry.
- 16 Occasional, constant infrequent headaches.
- 17 Patient was alert and unresponsive.
- 18 Rectal examination revealed a normal size thyroid.
- 19 She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life, until she got a divorce.
- 20 I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.
- 21 Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.
- 22 Examination of genitalia reveals that he is circus sized.
- 23 The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.
- 24 The patient was to have a bowel resection. However, he took a job as a stock broker instead.
- 25 Skin: somewhat pale but present.
- 26 The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor.
- 27 Patient was seen in consultation by Dr. Blank, who felt we should sit on the abdomen and I agree.
- 28 Large brown stool ambulating in the hall.
- 29 Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.



Better late than never . . .

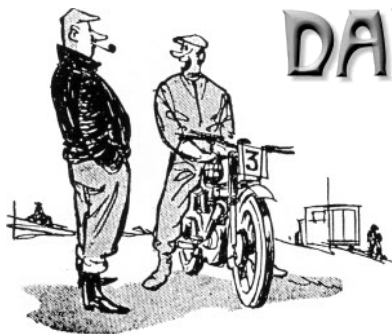
Had an email from Paul and Molly <gamep@otenet.gr> which somehow missed the last issue of the magazine.

Hello Tracey/Jim

so it seems another thumpers has successfully come & gone an thanks for the results which I am reviewing here in our new home in Corfu, Greece.

Could you please put a Happy Christmas & New Year note in Trials & tribs from me & molly

many thanks



DABBERS DIARY

Got over Christmas? No ill affects or disasters? Good! Happy New Year!

We in our house-hold nearly had a repeat episode of a near disaster from a couple of years ago. My daughter, who lives in Wivenhoe, was going to entertain us all on Christmas Day, with my wife preparing the turkey and all the trimmings before hand.

This was duly done and delivered from

Thorrington to Wivenhoe by yours truly on Christmas Eve. Sometime on Christmas morning we received a panic call from Wivenhoe 'The Oven's blown up!' 'Don't panic' shouts the wife down the phone 'Dad will come and get it and we will cook it here'. I put the bottle I was about to open down and go on bird rescue. Well, to cut a long story short we did get a Christmas lunch eventually, but not before discovering that the turkey would not fit in our oven, so quickly round to my Dad's where it did fit. By the time I had taxied Dad, Turkey and good lady to Wivenhoe and two of them back again I was ready to open that bottle!

Oh yes! the repeat episode. Well my daughter had bought a brand new cooker this year, and guess what? It was faulty and she didn't get a replacement until a week before the Christmas Feast.



What a great day out at the Boxford Bash, I hadn't ridden this trial for sometime and nearly forgot what a super little venue this is. Apart from the absence of an effective back brake on the Cub the only thing that marred the day for me was the address made by

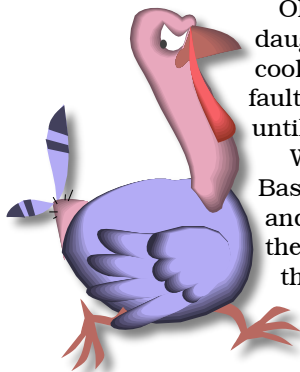
our Chairman, Ted Smith, at the start. Now come on lads, Ted should not have to do this! Ted and a small but willing band of helpers keep this club going, but I

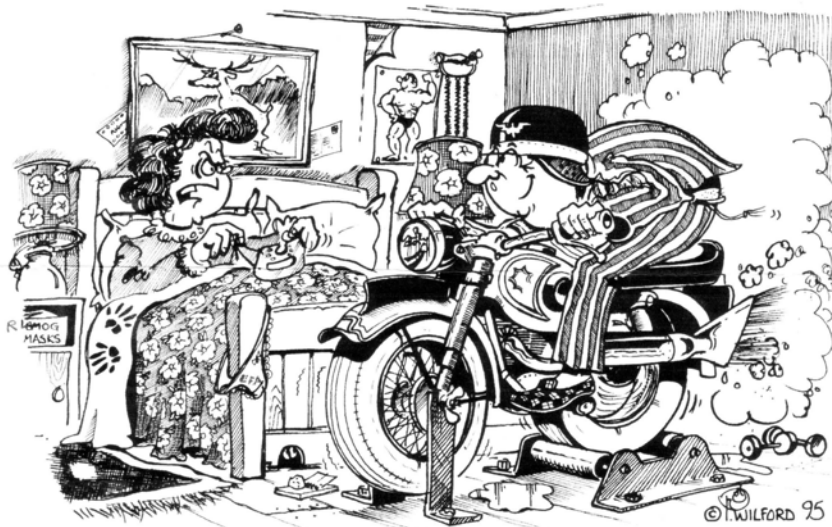
sense that some of them are getting a bit feed up! Our Chairman should not have to give up his ride, he should not have go around the car park cajoling wives out of their cars to observe, especially as there were one or two younger able bodied members simply spectating at the start.

The next club event is the 'Crab & Winkle' at Wivenhoe, marked out by a new organising team of regular riders. So if you do not intend to ride this event, on January 9th, please come along and OBSERVE!

Another hard working member of the club, is our 'Trials & Tribulations' editor Jim, who is always hard up for stories, that is why you are having to read this drivel.

He is also, as many of you know, editor of the Eastern Centre Gazette and I think doing a good job in his own style. However, Jim has been on the





WHY CAN'T YOU HAVE A PROPER EXERCISE BIKE LIKE A NORMAL PERSON?

receiving end of some critical brickbats from around the centre, from, I assume, people who did not want the job of editor when it became vacant. One criticism seems to be that some readers cannot match up regulation with entry forms, just because they are not on the same or adjoining page. Makes sense to me as now you do not have to cut up your gazette, you simply remove the appropriate entry form from the centre pages.

I compared our current Gazette with one from the Southern Centre dated December 1953 and the obvious difference was the advertisements from manufactures like Avon, BSA, James and OEC. The most striking similarity were the entry forms, guess where they were, yep! Centre Pages.

I reckon that's enough drivel for this month, but I must tell about a trial I rode in over the Christmas Holiday. As I entered the first section I was hit in the eye by a mince pie. Ho! Ho! I thought, some drunken reveller. Second section, just about to clean it, and a Christmas pudding hits the bike! Third section, a bag of nuts in the face. Ouch! that smarts! And so it goes on until in the last section of the first lap, when I am floored by a flying frozen turkey! That's it, back to the start and seek out the Steward and Clerk of the Course. I wish to Protest! I shout, waving my cheque book at them. On what grounds ask's the pipe smoking steward. On what grounds? I replied -

On the grounds that I have been severely HAMPERED!

Dabber

End Thought . . .

Everyone has a photographic memory, some just don't have film!