

Editorial

The time is fast approaching for what must be classed as the second most important event in the clubs calendar of events. I am not talking about the AGM but instead the 'Bromley Brook Trial'.

Working parties have taken place 'on site' and I understand that those who have attended speak highly of the scope for the sections. What must be emphasised though is that this will be a trial, the sort of event that was commonplace when pre 65s and Twinshock machinery was in its prime. In other words there will be mud!

Whilst trying not to let the side down or 'changing the habits of a lifetime', I understand that a well known resident of the Boxford area managed to plant the executive transport much to the amusement of the other members of the SAS raiding party.

Have received a most welcome offering from Don Daly regarding my rants on observing that made up quite a bit of my editorial last month. Don has attempted, and I believe succeeded, in putting forward the views of why one should undertake a bit of observing. Several of the reasons given by Don would appear to be a bit tongue in cheek but in reality there is an awful lot of truth in what he has written.

As you are well aware we have been looking to fill the position of membership secretary for the club. Initially this was to be a replacement secretary position but Heather agreed to stay on as long as someone could be found to undertake the membership duties. Well, I am pleased to report that June Kent has agreed to undertake the task of keeping tabs on you and ensuring you receive copies of the Centre Gazette and this, your favourite monthly. Elsewhere you will find a little write up on this new position and a plea for you to pay your subs for 2005. Yes, I am sorry, but subs are now very much due and June will no doubt be very keen to make your acquaintance. Also, please note the request that you supply suitably sized and stamped envelopes for forwarding your Gazettes and Newsletters - there is nothing worse than having to try and stuff things into envelopes that are too small. You know what arrives in the post from the club - please make the job of the membership secretary more acceptable. All their work is done on a voluntary basis - contrary to the belief in some quarters, club officials do their jobs on a voluntary basis.

Our correspondent who dabbles in things has written that the 'Eastern Arbuthnot' looks as if it is up and running following interest being shown from the Norton 500T fan club, namely messrs Daly, Penfold and Cook. I

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The February Plonkaround

Raydon Pit, Wades Lane, Raydon, Suffolk

Saturday 19th February 2005

Gates will be open at noon.

Trials practise for:

Pre 65 solos • Pre 65 sidecars • Twin Shocks

Youths/Juniors • Twin Shock sidecars

understand that a minor change of date is currently being negotiated but my spies tell me that it will still be in May. I am hoping that we can make this event a success and a permanent fixture on the Eastern Centre calendar. As many of us anticipated, the interest shown by responding to the circulated flier was a bit poor but it is believed that there is a hard core of interest.

Congratulations must go to the Tendring Team for putting on another enjoyable day playing on and alongside Brian Horrigan's very own railway embankment. Brian is very pleased to have us as long as we don't ruin his back garden cum orchard and we don't upset his birds. We are welcome again and it looks as if we shall be digging for crabs and winkles in the coming October and January.

Another visit to Snaque Pit will soon be with us. Heather will have the entry forms at club nite but, of course, if you don't intend to ride then why not hold a board - you never know, you might enjoy it!

Included with this T&T will be regs for the Southend 'do' at Royal Oak. If you

are entering the Pre 70 Championship then you must use the entry form from the Gazette otherwise you can use the form from this publication.

I gather that once again Jim Patey is occupying the 'jump seat' on the 'Millenium' Triumph. This past weekend saw Jim and Roger Gulliver taking part in the Talmag along with a goodly selection of other riders from the Eastern Centre. Don't know how they fared but no doubt Jim was inspiring Roger into giving it a good go if their ride together at the Christmas Plonkers is anything to go by.

Some of you may be intending to enter the Chelmsford trial at their new venue at Little Baddow. Sorry - its business as usual at Broomfield - the environmental police have 'discovered' the possibility of there being Badgers and Bluebells in the vicinity.'

Don't forget the AGM next month. Am looking forward to the Curry and Chili already!

Best wishes,

Jim

Secretarys Scribblings

First of all a BIG THANK YOU to June Kent for taking over the club Memberships (see separate note elsewhere in Newsletter for more details).

This brings us neatly to the subject of Membership Renewals - they're due now and we'll be pleased to relieve you of £9.00 for Club Membership + Newsletter or £16.50 for Club Membership + Newsletter + Eastern Centre Gazette

We spent an enjoyable morning at Wivenhoe recently. It was amazing how much wetter it had become since our last visit in October. Thanks to everyone who helped put this event on.

By the time you read this another Talmag Trial will have come and gone.

Don't know whether it's because there wasn't one last year but entries are down from previous years. Several EFA members rode, hope you all enjoyed the day.

There's quite a bit on the February calendar

Sunday 6th there's the Chelmsford Bike Jumble at Marconi Sports Centre, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford, starting at 10am, £2.50 admission charge.

Sunday 13th we hope to see you all at the Snaque Pit Trial, entry forms available tonite or enter on the day. Start time about 10.30am.

Sunday 20th Ipswich Old Bike Jumble, New Village Hall, Great Blakenham, starting at 10am, £2.00 admission charge. Vintage and Classic Bike bits only.

Friday 25th - Sunday 27th Historic Motorsport Show, Stoneleigh, Near Coventry. Classic and Historic Competition Bikes as well as cars. 9.30am-5.30pm Friday/Saturday and 9.30am-4.30pm Sunday. £15.00 admission charge on the day or £12.50 in advance

Sunday 27th Southend Club have their Trial at Danbury which includes a round of the Pre-70 Championship.

Don't forget next Club Nite, Tuesday 1st March, is our AGM and Presentation Evening so come early to make sure you get a seat.

See you at Snaque Pit on the 13th.

Heather

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.



DOG DON'T BITE

There was a hound dog laying in the yard. An old man in overalls was sitting on the porch.

"Excuse me, Sir, but does your dog bite?", the tourist asked.

The old man replied, "Nope."

So the tourist stepped out of his car. The dog ran over snarling and growling and bit him on his arms and legs.

As the dog was dragging him away the tourist was flailing around in the dust and yelled, "I thought you said your dog didn't bite!"

The old man replied, "Ain't my dog."



"In Place of Strife"

or

To quote my old friend, philosopher, and speedway star, Vic Gooden.

"You catch flies with Sugar NOT Vinegar"

I do believe a lot of people are losing out by not taking the opportunity to do a spot of observing now and again.

Consider the advantages.

- 1 You get to tell all sorts of EFA VIPs off if they get in your line of sight.
- 2 You have the right to the best viewing spot on the section.
- 3 You can always win any dispute with stropky riders over marks lost.
- 4 Spectators can be coerced to help clear away fallen bikes and riders, thus saving your own back for more important and enjoyable activities.
- 5 You can tell experts and far better riders than yourself the best way to ride sections.
- 6 The fresh air and twostroke fumes will combine to
 - (a) do your health the world of good, and,
 - (b) put you off twostrokes forever.
- 7 And, if you choose to do somewhere like the Snaque Pit, you can gain the moral high ground on others by remarks such as, "I would have loved to have ridden the 500T, iron engined B34, rigid Trophy. (choose your own one of these) up some of these hills but had to give up the ride because Ted asked me specially!"
Thereby getting a good excuse for not frightening yourself silly.
- 8 And you won't have to clean the bike that weekend.
- 9 Know that all uppitty youngsters will be far more wary of giving you hassle, as they know you'll slip in a '5' the next chance you get.
- 10 Tracey will ply you with various alcoholic beverages and exotic tit bits to try and get her way with you.



Don Daly

Actual Headlines from Newspapers in 2004!

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

[no, really?]

Bromley Brook Trial

Well for several years we in have had some very enjoyable trials at Frating. However, two years ago was our last time there. Unfortunately, the shooting and fishing people got in ahead of us and spiked our guns by offering more money than we have the ability to do.

Frating was a very popular venue with a wide range of sections which suited many many riders and bikes. I don't know how many years we used Frating before I became involved - but certainly, I have been Secretary of the Meeting there for as long as I can remember.

As well as being Secretary of the Meeting, I have also ridden there and enjoyed my ride. On one particular occasion I was riding although Jim did not ride because he wasn't feeling at the very well at all. Having completed one lap, I was approached by a puffing Norman Blakemore saying that Jim required

my presence. At this point, fortunately for Norman, I was at the sections bordering the lake otherwise he would have had a long journey. On returning to the car, Jim said that he felt very unwell and needed to go home. I therefore had to abandon my ride, get



Bromley Brook Working Party

the bike on the trailer, apologise to Ted who was Clerk of the Course, and take Jim home.

There have also been several other occasions that I can remember. However, since that occasion I'm not



The Wit of Tommy Cooper R.I.P.

Tommy Cooperisms. to brighten up the day.

My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli.

A strong currant pulled him in..

sure that I ever rode at Frating again which saddens me because Frating was such a wonderful ride around. I used to enjoy the sections as I am sure most riders did.

Frating was also very popular with certain members of the South-Eastern Centre riding sidecars. One notable person was Sam Archer who used to come up from Aldershot every year to ride at Frating. Sam has always enjoyed EFA trials because they are sensibly laid out and he can do them without risking life and limb. On one notable occasion at Frating, he stated that during the previous few weeks he had come second to Pete Pesterfield on around 150 marks lost; Pete had come in losing around 125 marks and he had won a good sidecar class!

As I am sure you will remember, last year the trial was held at Thorrington. However, this was on the understanding that it would be a one off to get us out of a hole as it was so near to the date of the trial; we had to find somewhere different for this year. This is where Mick Brown comes in.

Mick has found a new piece of land which is directly opposite the Leonard Cheshire Homes at Great Bromley. Mick has done a tremendous amount of work in liaising with the landowner and sorting out what sections are available at the venue. A number of you may well have been there with Mick and Ted and may know what is available to us. However, most of us have never been there and it will all be new ground to us.

I understand that there are quite a range of sections and it that they will be equal to the sections at Frating, i.e.

with plenty of water and mud. Certainly, it is to be hoped that the trial will be equally as testing as both Frating and Thorrington and that we may be able to use it for many years to come. However, time alone will tell.

As usual, this trial will be a Pre-70 Championship round. Also as usual, those wishing to enter the Championship class will be expected to enter on the entry form published in the Eastern Centre Gazette. Those wishing to enter on the Gentleman route can do so their using the entry form in the T&T.

Please remember that this trial is NOT AN ENTER ON THE DAY event as with most of our trials. This is an enter before the day event (it always has been) and entries for the Championship class will close on the 7th March. The club has reserved the right to accept late entries but this will be on a no-award basis, i.e. no points will be allocated to anyone entering the championship class after this date. Please also remember that THERE WILL BE NO ENTRIES ON THE DAY. I look forward to receiving your entry.

Being a new piece of land I would hope that we would have a very good entry. However, please remember that we do need observers for this trial as every trial and if the need arises we shall be looking to the entry for a observers. I stress though that this will only be if it is absolutely necessary. We would prefer not to call on the entry to a observe but if necessary, we will!

Tracey

Bumper Stickers

I DON'T SUFFER FROM INSANITY, I ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF IT



Crab & Winkle Trial

9th January 2005

"Hewthorn", Anglesea Road, Wivenhoe, Essex

Results

ACU Permit No: C32388

Harder Route

No.	Name	Machine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot
28	Dave Spurgeon	246 Greeves	00000	01100	01000	50000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	8
37	Graham Braybrook	175 B.S.A.	00001	21101	00000	20100	00001	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	10
43	Mark Fletcher	500 RoyalEnfield	00000	00000	00005	50000	00000	00000	10000	00000	00000	00000	11
17	Trevor Hill	200 Triumph	00000	10011	00000	30000	01000	00000	00000	00000	00003	00050	15
31	Mike Smith	250 Greeves	00000	01011	00000	50001	03200	00000	00000	00000	00001	00000	15
44	Brian Fletcher	500 RoyalEnfield	00010	12222	00000	50001	11001	00010	00000	00000	00100	00001	22
32	John Beasley	250 Greeves	00111	13333	00000	20100	01001	20000	10000	00000	00011	00000	26
39	Peter Teager	250 B.S.A.	00000	55352	00000	51000	01000	00000	00000	00000	00002	00020	31
14	Alan Robinson	350 B.S.A.	00000	11331	00000	50105	01021	00000	00000	00000	00132	00100	31
38	Kevin Teager	175 B.S.A.	00111	12233	01000	51230	00000	00000	00000	00100	00132	00021	36
41	Colin Sadler	248 RoyalEnfield	01010	22123	00010	50011	01001	00001	10000	00000	05101	00105	37
7	Jason Sigourmay	250 B.S.A.	10051	53235	00000	51001	12010	10000	10000	00000	00010	00120	42

Twin Shocks (Harder Route)

No.	Name	Machine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot
1	Jim Mason	250 Suzuki	50000	20331	00000	50000	12000	00000	00000	00000	00013	02010	29
16	Paul Bickers	250 Ossa	00011	31212	00000	50200	00111	00000	00000	05000	00001	30000	30

Twin Shocks (Gentleman Route)

No.	Name	Machine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot
30	Richard Challis	156 Fantic	00000	00010	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	10000	00000	2
11	Mark Gibb	200 Bultonda	00000	12000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	3
10	Chris Byford-Smith	325 Bultaco	00000	00011	10000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00001	00000	00000	4
27	Sidge Kenny	250 Suzuki	00011	10000	00000	00000	00000	01000	00050	00000	00000	10000	10
5	Rob Clarke	247 Montesa	00000	22112	00000	10000	00000	00100	00001	00000	00000	00000	11
20	Ian Bennett	247 Montesa	00303	33333	23000	00000	02100	01000	05030	55000	20000	25013	61
36	Brian Cook	125 Honda	55355	31203	20000	00010	00001	01000	50520	05335	30500	00500	78
13	Stewart Place	250 Ossa	15555	55555	11210	00000	01031	31120	21000	02555	02025	00355	105
8	John Ruth	125 Yamajet		0	0	10	00	00	00	00	05	00	ret
15	Chris Stokes	250 Yamaha	0	5	1	0	15	0	0	0	1	5	ret
33	Peter Horrex	300 Fantic	011	5333	0001	0000	000	0300	0500	010	0000	5031	ret

Gentlemen

No.	Name	Machine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot
25	Barrie Clarke	250 Sprite	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	0
12	Ray Gibb	250 B.S.A.	00000	00001	00000	00000	00000	01000	00000	00000	00000	00000	2
2	Mick Honeyball	246 Greeves	00000	10000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00100	10000	00000	00000	3
29	Albert Dove	225 Banville	00000	00010	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00003	4
34	Alan Farmer	350 RoyalEnfield	00000	11011	01000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	5
26	Jeff Fincham	350 Rariefield	00500	01000	00000	00000	00001	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	7
40	Keith Fitzjohn	250 A.J.S.	00000	11010	00000	00000	00000	10001	00000	00000	00000	00002	7
24	Colin Rose	199 Triumph	00000	01000	00011	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00005	8
22	John Daly	350 A.J.S.	00012	11010	00000	00000	00200	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	8
42	Ted Smith	350 RoyalEnfield	01100	20102	00000	00000	00001	00100	00000	00100	00000	00000	10
6	Jim Patey	350 RoyalEnfield	00110	00510	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00000	00510	14
23	Kevin Goldsmith	350 B.S.A.	00002	50112	00000	00000	00001	03000	11002	00000	00000	00000	19
18	David Warton	350 RoyalEnfield	10001	11315	03100	00000	00000	10000	00000	00000	00005	00001	24
35	Kevin Harris	250 B.S.A.	00023	55115	00112	00000	00010	10001	00000	00000	01000	20010	33
4	Chris Huxtable	250 Greeves	00003	13200	12101	00000	01102	10100	00110	00055	00000	00005	37
21	Trevor Andrews	175 B.S.A.	0000-	0100-	0000-	0000-	0000-	1000-	0000-	0000-	0000-	0000-	102
3	Tim Bradshaw	250 Greeves	0	3	0	0	0	1	35	30	21	03	ret



*Trevor Andrews
175cc BSA*

*Photo by:
Jim Woodmason*

Youth (Gentleman Route)

No.	Name	Machine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot
19	Joe Palmer	125 Honda	00130	51133	33110	20100	50010	02010	02001	21550	20000	21150	64
9	Jack Tyson	125 Yamajet	35222	5	101	00000	10012	00000	5555	0525	210	053	ret

Membership . . .

We are pleased to announce that we have a new Membership Secretary. .

Those of you who were at January Club Nite will know that June Kent has offered to take over the Membership side of things for the Club and will be the first point of contact for new members joining the Club as well as distributing the Eastern Centre Gazettes and Newsletters each month.

Do you have your Gazette/Newsletter posted to you ? If so, it would be a great help if you could send a year's supply of stamped addressed envelopes in one go with at least 35p stamps if you require both publications as together they are too heavy for ordinary First or Second class stamps. 10" x 7" size envelopes are best as this size saves time and avoids the problem of trying to squeeze the publications into the smaller envelopes.

June can be contacted at:

30 Clayhall Place, Acton, Near Sudbury, Suffolk, C010 0BT.

Telephone 01787 379192.

Laurie Squirrell

Those of you who have the Eastern Centre Gazette will no doubt have read about Laurie and her Moto-X crash out in America.

It was extremely encouraging to see her on the Look East TV Programme when she attended the Track/Practice Day at Mildenhall which had been organised to raise cash for her fund.

She's still got a long way to go and with this in mind the Eastern Centre Marshals Club are thinking of arranging a Quiz Night with proceeds going to the Laurie Squirrell Fund. The plan is to hold the event on a Friday Evening at Rivenhall Village Hall starting at 8.00pm with teams of four people at £20.00 per team along with a raffle. Bring your own refreshments.

Before finalising all the details, they are canvassing clubs to see if there is enough support to make it viable (obviously they don't want to run at a loss) so if you'd like to be part of this please let me know asap - 01621 892606

Heather

LETTER TO THE BANK

This is an actual letter that was sent to a bank by a 96 year-old woman. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his depositing the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honor it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly transfer of funds from my modest savings account, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only thirty-one years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has recently become. From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by check, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate. Be aware that it is an offense under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact Status form which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof. In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modeled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Please allow me to level the playing field even further. When you call me, you will now have a menu of options on my new voice mail system to choose from.

Please press the buttons as follows:

- 1 To make an appointment to see me.
- 2 To query a missing payment.
- 3 To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.

- 4 To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- 5 To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- 6 To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- 7 To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorized Contact.
- 8 To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7.
- 9 To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee of \$50 to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. Please credit my account after each occasion.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New Year.

Your Humble Client,

(Remember: This was written by a 96 year old woman)

Christmas Plonkers

Several members enjoyed the 'recent' Xmas Plonkers trial at Raydon.

Ian Preedy was "debuting?" Little Ernie, the latest creation of a fertile mind, imagination and soundly executed engineering. Can we have an article on this, Ian? Sixty sections took just one mark from the partnership - good eh!

Kevin Goldsmith excelled with a clean ride along with Dave Habbin and Alan Robinson. Congrats. Also 'our' Roger Gulliver with Jim Patey in the chair beating 'Long' Mark Wilson and Garry Plummer. They were grinning all the way. Ian Bennett and Shaun Sear aboard a 650 JCB, oops, sorry, Tribsa, took third place after shifting some scenery! Jim Patey, not content with motivating Roger into his best ride ever, kept jumping on to his solo Enfield and turned in a cracking ride - 3 marks. Sixty years young and fuelled on Red Bull, Bob Martin and Phillisan, come on, what's the secret, Jim?

Mark, 250 BSA, just beat Dad, Ray Gibb, on "Big Brother" who went round on one - what a star!

There were more creditable performances.

Pedro Eaves

Alternate meanings for various words

Once again, The Washington Post published its yearly contest in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for various words. And the winners are...

Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed upon.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absent-mindedly answer the door in your nightgown.

Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

Gargoyle (n.), an olive-flavored mouthwash.

Flatulence (n.) the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.

Testicle (n.), a humorous question on an exam.

Frisbeetarianism (n), the belief that when you die your Soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck there.

Circumvent (n.), the opening in the front of boxer shorts.

FOR THE WORD LOVERS - Part II

The Washington Post's Style Invitational once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are this year's winners.

Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.

Giraffiti (n): Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

Sarchasm (n): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Inoculate (v): To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

Osteopornosis (n): A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)

Karmageddon (n): It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

Glibido (v): All talk and no action.

Dopeler effect (n): The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Arachnoleptic fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

And the pick of the literature:

Ignoranus (n): A person who's both stupid and an a# ^ & @ % * \$

The Tractor Boy's Day- vorce . . .

The Tractor Boy went into a lawyer's office and said, "I want one of them there dayvorses."

The Lawyer said, "Do you have grounds?"

The Tractor Boy said, "Yes, I have 140 acres."

The Lawyer said, "No you don't understand. Do you have a case?"

The Tractor Boy said, "No, I have a John Deere."

The Lawyer said, "You still don't understand. Do you have a grudge?"

The Tractor Boy said, "Yes, that's where I park my John Deere every night."

The Lawyer said, "You still don't understand. Do you have a suit?"

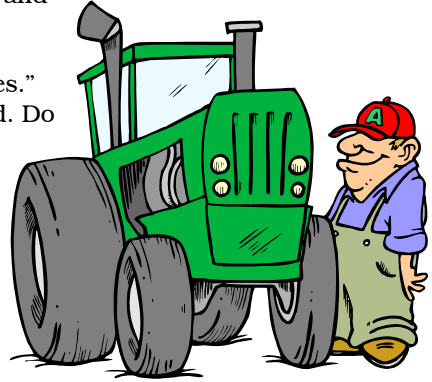
The Tractor Boy said, "Yes, I wear it to church every Sunday."

The Lawyer said, "Does she beat you up?"

The Tractor Boy said, "No, we both get up about 6:30 every morning."

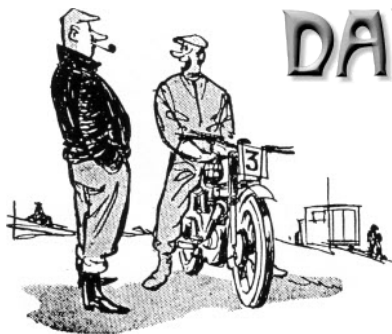
The Lawyer said, "Is she a nagger?"

The Tractor Boy said, "No, she's a little ol' white gal, but the last youngen' she had was a



Trevor Hill

photo by Russell Lee



DABBERS DIARY

The sun shone on us all at the 'Crab & Winkle' trial held at Wivenhoe last month, which was lucky, because on Saturday the new firm had every sort of weather you could imagine. I think we did a good job as every body seemed to be smiling at the end. The observers certainly did a good job and it was nice to see a couple of new faces. Our host, Brian Horrigan, was disappointed that we

were not able to use the new very wet section, but I hope he realized the situation when he saw how drastically we had to modify one of the other new sections. There is still scope for more new sections at this popular little venue.

Talking of new territory, there has now been two serious working parties at Great Bromley for the 13 March scheduled 'Bromley Brook Trial'. One mid-week sortie of four hand picked men, which chairman Ted described as an SAS scouting party, it was actually more like Dads Army. But we did blaze a trail through the wood and were later recruited into the Presidential Pushing Party to extricate El P and his conveyance out of the mire.

A second working party, on Sunday 23rd January numbered ten, including a representative from Essex Wine Bars! A good days work produced the eight brand new sections of varying types and severity to suit experts, gentlemen and chairs. We also scouted another half dozen that should be completed on our next sortie.

Some of you may remember that back in January 2000, Dabber suggested the club should have a Motto. The Latin phrase 'Semper in Excremento' (always in the sh..!) was suggested and adopted by the Revolutionary Council. Well it has not been widely used over the last four years but I think that I (Dabber) should adopt it as my personal motto as I managed to fill my boots with freezing muddy water at Wivenhoe and guess what happened at Bromley? Yep, whilst on depth gauging duties for Chairman Ted, in what was supposed to be a hard bottomed stream, the tide came in, straight into the right welly. But there was a hard bottom eventually! So it's 'Semper in Excremento' for me.

Talmag time again!

A good smattering of entries to this years Talmag but as I write this I don't know the outcome of the event but those that I saw included John Ruth (riding his Cub on the ladies route), Matthew Neale having forsaken the 'big' Ariel for the Dopson Douglas, Andrew Prill, Sam Appleton, 'Big' Fletch, 'Young' Fletch, Brian Neale on the Ariel (I hope the knees stood up to it!), Roy Ayres, Mark Gibb on the Henfield, Ray Gibb on 'Big Eric', Clive Dopson, Chris Bater and Chairman Ted. The sidecar brigade were well supported by Mark and Mandy Kemp, Alan Hornsby and Bob Chapman plus Roger Gulliver and his 'young' new passenger Jim Patey.



*Chairman Ted under the watchful eye of a puzzled Gordon Francis
photo by Dabber*

Stop Press

The EFA version of the Arbuthnot is still alive and kicking, providing we can negotiate a date change with the centre it will go ahead on 8 May 2005 and it will be called the Stour Valley Trial. We have a Secretary of the Meeting, a Clerk of the Course, an assistant Clerk of the Course and a liaison officer.

We are hoping to press gang a Starter/Timekeeper and Machine Examiners.

We will be needing to recruit course openers and back markers on reliable machinery and of course observers who will have the choice of working on their section before or after lunch, so they will all have a chance to spectate and watch this collection of interesting old British iron.

Any volunteers please ring Don Daly on 01787 477045 or Mick Brown on 01206 250462 (between 5 & 8pm please).

Dabber

End Thought . . .

Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.