

Editorial

August turned out to be a very sad month with the death of Roger Birch. Roger, as you all know had been suffering from breathing problems for several years and finally succumbed to his fate in Saint Helena's Hospice. We will all miss him.

Roger's funeral took place at Colchester Crematorium on Thursday, 1st September, and was attended by a full congregation of family and friends from the EFA and other organisations that Roger had an interest in. For those who were able to attend, a wake was held at 'The Flag' public house in Wivenhoe where Roger was given the send-off he deserved.

I first met Roger in the mid-seventies when he was taking photographs for MCN. He obviously recognised me as an Eastern Centre rider and the event where we made our first contact was on the Surrey/Hampshire border! I cannot remember the trial nor the name of the club which organised it, but this was the the start of what I like to think was a long friendship. Much of my trials riding in the seventies and eighties took place in the adjoining

centres and often one would come across Roger's infectious grin looking out from behind a tree or bush.

I hope you like the colour front cover with a photograph of Roger and 'Arkwright' which I have included on this edition of your favourite monthly magazine. This is an not a current photograph but one I took in the summer of 2001, the location being the benches in front of 'The Alma'.

We will miss him.

September looks as if it will be a busy month especially the weekend of the 24th/25th. The club has events scheduled for both days! On the Saturday, Tim is organising a 'Green Tour' in conjunction with Bob Drane who has sorted a route containing green lanes which will be suitable for bikes equipped with road tyres. Tim has written more on this subject later in the magazine. It looks as if it could be something very interesting. Just let us hope that the weather is going to be kind for it.

The meeting originally cheduled for October 2nd has been cancelled due to there being too many conflicting events. Instead we are visiting Raydon on 25th September where Eddie Hood has agreed to be Clerk of the Course and set out some

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The September Plonkaround

Raydon Pit, Wades Lane, Raydon, Suffolk

Saturday 17th September 2005

Gates will be open at noon.

Trials practise for:

Pre 65 solos • Pre 65 sidecars • Twin Shocks

Youths/Juniors • Twin Shock sidecars

sections which will be to the style we have come to expect from the EFA; the entry form is included within this magazine.

I have included an article about the Timber Woods Long Distance Trial which was supplied to me for inclusion in the Chelmsford Newsletter. As far as I am aware, Roger Gulliver was our only entrant but sadly failed to finish. When you read the article I think you will be chuckling at the problems the writer encountered during the day. I hope he has better luck in the future but I do look forward to receiving further copy for inclusion in the magazines.

I hope that you have thought about getting the trials iron out from the back of the shed and fettling it in readiness for the coming trials season. Yes, even a though we maybe enjoying an Indian summer, the winter trials months are just about with us - so put away your scrambler or caravan and get ready to return to trials. It won't be

long now until it is Thumpers time! 'Er indoors' has already started preparing the regulations and entry forms for distribution.

Young Pedro is fast becoming an authority on the World Superbike series. This month he relates his experience at the recent round held at Brands Hatch. What he has not included is his impression of the make-up of the crowd surrounding him. He has told me of the apparent discourteous and ignorant behaviour of those he was of necessity forced to spend the day amongst whilst watching the event. It is a great shame that this country seems to be breeding such a large number of these people. It has made both Peter and Gary wary of attending future such meetings.

Best wishes,

Jim

Secretarys Scribblings

Sad news this month that Roger Birch has passed away. Always a fighter, Roger got out as much as he could, adapting his bike to carry his oxygen bottle and latterly, with the help of family and friends, especially Arkwright, and under his own steam on his motorised buggy. Everyone has probably got their own special memories of Roger but one of our favourite, more recent ones, was seeing him at a bike jumble at Great Blakenham on a bitterly cold Sunday in February of this year. Great lumps of snow were falling but Roger didn't care, he was steering his buggy between the outdoor stalls, winding up the stallholders, and grinning from ear to ear. We'll certainly miss him.

We were a rather soggy band who went round on the August Tim's Tour. Unfortunately the promised rain arrived almost right on the dot of 4 o'clock. At least we were all prepared with waterproofs and it didn't rain all the time. No-one wanted to become part of the Clacton Carnival Procession so we had to deviate from the proposed route. The Mistley Fish 'n Chips were good and the tide was up making for some pleasant views across the river.

Next Tour will be a bit of a surprise - more details from The Management elsewhere.

The A & J Fundraisers Club Fundraising Rally in aid of Little Haven Children's Hospice advertised in last month's Newsletter took place on Sunday 21st August and was a successfu! day. Although it started off rather cloudy and dull, the sun came out, bringing lots of people with it, and around £5,000 was raised for the charity.

Events coming up are:

The 12th Netley Marsh Eurojumble takes place on 10th and 11th September. You can find it on the A336 between Cadnam and Totton near Southampton. Doors open at 10am on Saturday and 9am on Sunday.

Also on this weekend are the Brighton Speed Trials which take place on the Saturday and the Brighton Burn Up which starts from the Ace Cafe and finishes along the Madeira Drive on the Sunday making a sort of impromptu Bike Show along with all sorts of stalls, live music, plenty to see.

As Sunday 2nd October is yet another of those crowded Sundays with the Copdock Show (which takes place at the Suffolk Showground, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich) and a Pre-65 Scramble we thought it best to move our trial. It'll now take place on Sunday 25th September at Raydon, courtesy of Eddie Hood. Regs are available in this Newsletter but you can enter on the day.

See you there.

Heather

<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>1973 Honda 125 ohc</p> <p>3000 miles on the clock</p> <p>OFFERS</p> <p>Eddie Hood 01473 833499</p>
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Todd8080

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.

FOR SALE

C15 engine (distributor type)

As lifted out of the frame - internal condition unknown

£175

Eddie Hood 01473 833499



Green is the Colour - Saturday 24th September

Our next event is due to take place on Saturday 24th September (weather permitting). The plan is to depart from 'The Alma' at 3:30 and then to meet Bob Drane on the Coggeshall bypass. He is going to offer us a tour of green lanes which will be very touring bike friendly especially for machines shod with road tyres, again, weather permitting. The tour will finish at the chippy adjacent to Tesco's in Black Notley.

Come on you lot give it a whirl!

It will be different but not dangerous.

Relating to our last outing held on 13th August, the magnificent seven who participated had to brave the elements as Lady Luck was against us weather-wise. However, an enjoyable evening was spent starting from Chairman Ted's abode, who one can assume was not in residence as the flag was not flying! We rode to Clacton via Ardleigh, Great Bromley, Bentley and St Osyth. It had been intended to ride the length of the promenade at Clacton but Roger discovered that the carnival was taking place so we made a diversion missing this. We journeyed towards Harwich enjoying the twisty road but not the heavy rain. Leaving the main road at Little Oakley we took a minor road leading to the Ramsey bypass, then Ramsey village, Wrabness, and Mistley where we enjoyed our well earned fish supper. The magnificent seven were Geoff and Daph, Roger and Heather, Chris Stokes, Mick Brown, Arkwright, Young Doug and yours truly.

See you there

By order of the Management

APOLOGIES...

Dear friends,

The 'Dick Little' British Bike Trial

I have just been informed that I made a mistake in stating that the winner of class B unit construction bikes was Graham Rodemark. It should have read Graham Barton!



It was with great sadness we heard that Roger Birch had passed away. After a long battle with his terrible illness, the end came peacefully in St Helena Hospice, Colchester. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his wife and family at this time of mourning their great loss.

Roger was a staunch member of the EFA. He was with us right from the very start of the club. He was also a close personal friend of ours and we shared many great times together. Even though he was very ill and it must have taken every ounce of his determination, he still managed to get out and meet up with his friends right up until about a month ago.

There are many funny stories and incidents concerning Roger, far too many to recall in one small article. Therefore, as a tribute to Roger, I would like to recall some of these things in future Trials and Tribulations newsletters.

Roger was a great character and leaves a large gap. The EFA will never be quite the same without his wit and presence. How much we will miss him.

Ian and Sylvia Preedy.

NURSING HOME BLUES

A family took their frail, elderly mother to a nursing home and left her, hoping she would be well cared for. The next morning, the nurses bathed her, fed her a tasty breakfast, and set her in a chair at a window overlooking a lovely flower garden. She seemed okay, but after a while she slowly started to tilt sideways in her chair. Two attentive nurses immediately rushed up to catch her and straighten her up. Again she seemed okay, but after a while she slowly started to tilt over to her other side. The nurses rushed back and once more brought her back upright. This went on all morning. Later, the family arrived to see how the old woman was adjusting to her new home.

"So Mum, how is it here? Are they treating you all right?"

"It's pretty nice," she replied. "Except they won't let me fart."



Pedro's Patter

The World Super bikes meeting of at Brands Hatch on 7th August - a bright and shiny day. We had arrived at 8am and obtained a good viewing location on South Bank enabling us to watch the action from half way along the top straight through Paddock Bend, up Hailwood Hill, round Druids and Graham Hill bends and along the Cooper straight. What action we saw, incredible machinery, great teamwork and highly motivated and skilled

There was good racing in both the Super Stock and Super Sport races with no shortage of the necessary ingredients and we enjoyed the spectacle - not many Brits though.

Fast forward to 21st August.

From the sofa I watched the British Superbikes at Silverstone, marred by red flags in both races. Thankfully no serious damages however they got down to it. "Our man" Leon Haslam, son of his famous father Ron Haslam,



Pierfrancesco Chili

riders. The Haga and Corser battles were great and Regis Lacona was relentless and there in third place. Chris Walker showed a lot of spirit but bike problems putting him out of race one but he was 5th in race two. James Toseland, though circulating midfield, obviously it isn't going to retain his No. 1 status this year. Lorenzo Lansi, another Italian firecracker who will climb the ladder. Pierfrancesco Chili is a waning star at the great age of 41, however he is a man I admire.

had a second and third. Not an overnight wonder but a result of effort and commitment I feel. Gregorio Lavilla took race one and deserved it. Kyonari, the little Japanese gentleman with 'balls of fire', put Gregorio into second place in race two. "Our" veteran, John Reynolds, took a well deserved third in race one but bike problems prevailed in race two with a DNF.

At this meeting and others and that I view from the sofa, there isn't any

shortage of talent providing lots of cut and thrust which hopefully will have someone on the podium with our national flags waving in the international arena in future years.

Speedway also seems to be on a high these days. I've seen some real 'balls out' performances in the last month, both national league and international meetings. Obviously lots of money enters the equation to provide the standard of machinery and a gear. It has certainly moved on from when I first viewed West Ham in 1948!!! However, it's all relative. I it enjoyed that and the heroes 'Bluey' Wilkinson, 'Split' Quarterman, and Jack Parker.

I also viewed, on August 21st, the world motocross championship round

from Germany. It was an 'Olde Fashioned' English scramble, nay a mudbath, which obviously suited KTM mounted Carl Nunn. He finished second in the the MX2 race two and had a presence in a race one along with Brits Jamie Noble and Paul Cooper and Scott Billy Mackenzie.

During the interviews which TV companies love, the young men aged 16 who ride around on CBR 600s etc came across as being a very adult and on the case with technical settings which I find very encouraging, despite my being a 'grumpy old man'! Happy riding

Pedro

FOR SALE

Mid 1960s Hagon C15 Grass Bike

£750 ono

Eddie Hood 01473 833499

FREE SEX!

There was this petrol station in "Tractor Boy Country" trying to increase its sales, so the owner put up a sign saying "Free Sex with Fill-up."

Soon a "tractor boy" customer pulled in, filled his tank, and then asked for his free sex. The owner told him to pick a number from one to ten, and if he guessed correctly, he would get his free sex. The buyer then guessed eight and the proprietor said, "No, you were close. The number was seven. Sorry, no free sex this time but maybe next time".

Some days later, the same man, along with his friend this time, pulled in again for a fill-up, and again he asked for his free sex. The proprietor again gave him the same story and asked him to guess the correct number. The man guessed two this time, and the proprietor said, "Sorry, it was three. You were close but no free sex this time".

As they were driving away, the driver said to his friend, "I think that game is rigged and he doesn't giveaway free sex".

The friend replied "No, it's not rigged - my wife won twice last week".

Explanation of Life

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the Dog did?" And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?" And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give! you twenty years."

But man said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," God said. "You asked for it."

So that is why the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

A & J FUNDRAISERS CLUB

"Through this newsletter I would like to thank the members who supported our second fundraiser for the Little Haven Children's Hospice at New Acres, Althorne on Sunday 21 August. The weather was ideal for such an event and 300 exhibitors brought along impressive displays of vintage cars, motorcycles, engines and a large assortment of stalls. The live music, belly dancers, dog displays, King Arthur, Queen Guinevere and the archery displays with Robin Hood were enjoyed by all. I am pleased to report that as a result of the Show we will be able to donate £5000 to the Haven's Sponsor a Nurse Scheme at a special presentation evening to be held in the near future. New Acres proved to be a splendid location for the Show, with the added attractions of the gardens and domestic bygones museum and plans are already in hand to hold another Show there in August 2006.

Janet Hobart
Show Co-organiser for A & J Fundraisers Club"

ROGER BIRCH

Dear Heather,

I write to you both formally on behalf of the Eastern Centre and personally from myself to express our condolences to the EFA on the sad death of Roger - a long time member and great enthusiast of all elderly vehicles (and tractors) We all know Roger had suffered from breathing and lung problems, with great fortitude, for many years - yet always retained a kindly and cheerful disposition. He was very brave.

I knew Roger for forty five years coming across him when he worked at Pilkingtons Garage, Alresford. It was he who executed my very first vehicle MOT test - then only known as "The Ten-Year-Test", on my old Ford van which I used to take bikes to trials, etc: It passed but Roger casually announced that he had to rebuild the linkage connecting the rear transverse spring to the axle! I think they charged me £2/17/6d including the certificate. I then got to know Roger when

he scrambled his Triumph and of course he retained his love of British bikes with his association with the EFA.

I am afraid that we will be on the Continent for the next week so I wonder if you would pass on my apologies to all concerned at the funeral on September 1st.

I know all will be saddened by his death but with the gathering of his colleagues and fellows, I am sure the occasion will not be an overly sombre one. That was not Roger's style

Chris and I send our good wishes to you all,


A.H.Kenny
(chairman)



The Auto-Cycle Union was founded in 1903 and is the Governing Body of British Motorcycle Sport

Making British Motorcycle Sport and Leisure Happen



BUMPER STICKERS

There are only 2 choices on the menu: take it or leave it.

TRULY SCOTTISH

A young Scottish lad and lass were sitting on a low stone wall, holding hands, gazing out over the loch. For several minutes they sat silently, then finally the girl looked at the boy and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin'...perhaps it's about time for a wee kiss."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and kissed him lightly on the cheek, then he blushed. The two turned once again to gaze out over the loch.

Minutes passed, then the girl spoke again.

"Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh I was thinkin'...perhaps its noo about time for a wee cuddle."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and cuddled him for a few seconds. Then he blushed. Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch.

After a while, she again said, "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh I was thinkin'... perhaps its about time you let me pewt ma hand on yer leg." The girl blushed, then took his hand and put it on her knee. Then he blushed. Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch before the girl spoke again.

"Another penny for your thoughts, Angus." The young man glanced down with a furled brow.

"Well, noo," he said, "my thoughts are a wee bit more serious this time."

"Really?" said the girl in a whisper, filled with anticipation.

"Aye," said the lad, nodding. The girl looked away in shyness, began to blush, and bit her lip in anticipation of the ultimate request. And he said,

"Dae ye nae think it's about time ye paid me the first three pennies?"



Actual Headlines from Newspapers in 2004!

***Panda Mating Fails; Vet Takes Over
[what a guy!]***

Timber Woods Long Distance Trial

(incorporating the Long Distance Walk)

July 2005

I had eagerly awaited the 'Timber Woods', and following various communications with Peter Burrell (clerk of the course) I got my entry in (he dissuaded me from using my TY 250 so I bought on eBay, a DT 175MX). I had



prepared the bike well though, new rings, bushes, tyres etc. New MOT and tax - I set off for the start later than planned but arrived in good time as my start time was not until 10.24. I signed on and got my road book - I discovered that my road book holder (bacon box) was just too small for A4 so I spent 10 minutes trimming the paper to fit.

All ready ..."
tools?...check;
phone?...check;
drinks?...check;
fag papers? ...check;
fuel - need to mix? ...
.check:"

10.24 and I was off. I joined a group that were gathered outside the start area and we travelled together ..."this is great", I thought, up hill and across



byeway along the Pilgrims Way..... fantastic... back onto the A20 and the group picked up speed. The bike had started to rattle a bit in the engine but I thought little of it, I was keeping up with them (anxious as I had lost my way on the road book by now) until the rattle got worse and then a definite



POP from the motor ended the Timber Woods for me. I was non-plussed thinking it's one of those things...until I realised that I had left Peter Burrell's phone number in the van and being start number 110 there were no other riders likely to be passing. Luckily (and that's the only luck I had all day) I was by the UK petrol station so I left the bike there bought some fags (I had left mine in the van too!). A nice chap took pity on me and asked if he could give me a lift....until he realised it was 7 miles in the wrong direction (if it had been me I would have taken me but...well its the thought that counts!!!)

So I set off on foot back to Forge House. I had predicted that I would see a good deal of the Kent countryside on the 'Timber Woods' but not on foot. I did happen to see a disturbing sight though. A conclave of Morris Men practising in a secluded area....I quickened my step!!! The walk was okay to begin with but became arduous as the miles wore onTrials boots are not made for walking...whatever Nancy Sinatra might tell you. By now I was doing about 10 fags an hour and my feet were raw (a blister the size of an old penny). I had watched various trialists pass me by without stopping until a gent in a car stopped and offered me a lift, I gratefully accepted, although by this time I was only 1/2 mile from Forge House!!

I went to declare myself retired, had a cuppa and went to pick the bike up. While doing so I spoke to some very friendly folk that were refuelling and having a better trial than me.

I set off home and went slowly up the M20 to the M25....and the fan belt went on the van....eventually I arrived home (God Bless the RAC), knackered for all the wrong reasons and I swear if its the last thing I do.....I will be back at the next Timber Woods Long Distance Trial. Thanks to those that offered encouragement in the Tent.

I was one of two Chelmsford riders that entered the 'Timber Woods Long Distance Trial', the second was Paul Roberts on a 250 Honda who finished placed 71st.

Matthew Browning No 110

Editors note:

Roger Gulliver was our sole entry and sadly didn't finish.

Early Retirement

Due to the current financial situation, the Management has decided to implement a scheme to put all workers over 34 on early retirement. This scheme will be known as Retire Aged Personnel Early (RAPE).

Persons selected to be RAPED can apply to the Management to be eligible for Special Help After Retirement (SHAFT).

The situation of persons who have been RAPED and SHAFTEd will be reviewed under the Scheme for Retired Workers (SCREW).

A person may be RAPED only once, SHAFTEd twice, but SCREWED as many times as the Management deems appropriate.

Persons who have been RAPED can apply to get Additional Income for Dependents or Spouses (AIDS) or Half Earnings for Retired Personnel and Early Severance (HERPES). Obviously persons who have AIDS or HERPES will not be SHAFTEd or SCREWED any further by Management.

Persons staying will receive as much Special High Intensity Training (SHIT) as possible. Management has always prided itself on the amount of SHIT it gives all employees.

Should you feel that you do not receive enough SHIT, please bring it to the attention of your Team Leader. He/she has been extensively trained to give you all the SHIT that you can handle.

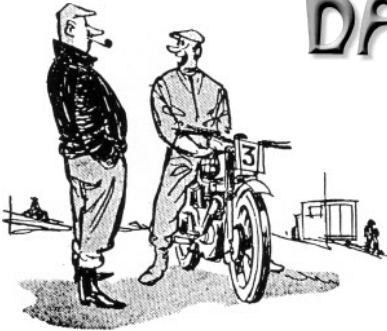
Management Human Resources Department

This months Picture Caption Competition



Now that's an awkward moment..

DABBERS DIARY



August has been a quiet month for me, but I enjoyed 'Tim's Tour of Tendring' finishing at a very good fish & chip shop at Mistley. It was a pity that it was not better supported, must have been the trifle damp weather! Also it was a pity that we had to detour around Clacton and not ride along the prom. Evidently Tim's Tour clashed with Clacton Carnival. I reckon we

should have joined in, who knows; we might have won a prize!

I enjoyed seeing that picture of Roy Banister on 'Erica' at the Weeting Steam Fair. I first saw this machine, with Mark Gibb on board, at the BBQ trial at Great Bromley. What a lovely old machine that I am sure we will see more of in the future.

Now! Have you been watching the cricket? Wow! What excitement, or is it drawn out, blood pressure inducing, stress? What was last year boring, Poms always getting beat, sleep inducing stuff, has suddenly become interesting.

And what about Formula One, Ferrari can't have got that bad, that quick, can they? But have you heard the rumour that Valentino Rossi is testing with Ferrari, still I suppose some people think that MotoGP is in danger of turning into a procession. I reckon that the cricket and F1 authorities have joined the entertainers union Equity

FOR SALE

Yamaha TY175

Restored to original condition

Powder coated frame

Re-con tank

c/w lights

£875.00

Brian Neale

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Legend dies

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed last week.

Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Cokey", died peacefully at the age of 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in. And then the trouble started . . .

Shut up.

You know it's funny



Picture Caption Quiz No.2 - "Wot No Greeves!"

and have employed script writers. Sour grapes? Not a bit of it, lets get in on the act, how about it Chairman Ted, lets take a page out of the cricketers book with dyed hair, earrings and make-up. But only at weekends of course!

Was the last paragraph tongue in cheek? Only a bit!

The old Royal Enfield model 'G' has passed it's MOT, without any of last years dramas and is all ready for it's trip down west for the 'Circuito del Mendip' and the 'Arbuthnot Trial'. I am also meeting up with some old Southern Centre mates in the New Forest for what is a rather strange event, it's the 'Perce Simon' reunion walk. We meet at a village hall for a chat and a view of a lot of old photos, reports etc. and then those that are up to it walk some of the sections from this famous old national trial. Let's hope the weather is good.

This years 'Arbuthnot' will a memorable event for me as it was here in 1994 that I first heard about the Eastern Fourstoke Association from our late club mate, Roger Birch. Roger was competing on the Royal Enfield that I now ride, and I met him at White Sheet Hill, a section observed by Pam and Ralph Venables. I was about to move to Essex and asked Roger about trials up here, he told me all about the EFA, the Alma club nights and the Thumpers.

Good advice, thanks Roger.

I hope all of this year's riders from the EFA will have the opportunity to sit down before, during or after the Arbuthnot and raise a glass to our old mate. Cheers Roger!

Dabber

End Thought . . .

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm