

Editorial

Quite an eventful month in our household! As many of you will no doubt be aware, both Tracey and I have severed our connections with the Eastern Centre of the ACU as far as acting in any official capacity is concerned but more of that later in this magazine. I trust that you will read about our reasons for taking this great step and what it holds for the immediate future of the Eastern ACU. Suffice to say that a 'friend' of this club was instrumental in Tracey's resignation, whilst a member of this club brought about my resignation as Gazette Editor but please make your own minds up.

Summer has arrived! The first of Tim's Tours will soon be with us. Don't know whether we shall have machinery suitable for taking part in these events this summer, but now that we shall have considerably more time available to us we should be able to get at least one of our road bikes back on the road again. The trouble is that summer and retirement can make one a bit lazy! There are more details on the first of Tim's Tours to be found on page 8.

You will see from the centre pages of this magazine that the Leonard Cheshire Charity Barbecue Trial is almost upon us, Please note that this is

NOT an enter on the day event. The reasons for this are various but amongst them is the need to know how many people are to be catered for. It would seem that Mick Brown has excelled himself this year with an afternoon and evening of enjoyment to be had by all who attend. Not only have we got a hog roast but Belly Dancing and a live country band - see you there but **DON'T FORGET** to get your entry in.

Also, you will find a sponsorship form. Why not try and get your friends and family to sponsor you for a good cause.

El Presidente and his good lady are about to set out on some fundraising for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. The intention is to go a long way in the Austin 7 and be sponsored for doing it. However, it is necessary to get the driver, passenger, their luggage together with said transport to a point south of Bristol. So, if anyone has access to a suitable trailer and means of towing it, then Ian is waiting to hear from you. I have been sworn to secrecy about their intended journey.

I understand from reading the minutes of a recent meeting of the Competitions Committee that I have been replaced as Team Manager for the Inter Centre Pre65/70 Team. The person who has been selected to take over what is, in essence, a winning

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The Mid Anglia MCC
present
for your enjoyment



The May Plonkaround

Raydon Pit, Wades Lane, Raydon, Suffolk

Saturday 20th May 2006

Gates will be open at noon.

Trials practise for:

Pre 65 solos • Pre 65 sidecars • Twin Shocks

Youths/Juniors • Twin Shock sidecars

For further information contact:

Mike Harden 01473 310537

email: mike@harden-j.freemove.co.uk

team is none other than Mr Clampin. At least the rumours that have been circulating have proved to be true. I trust that when he uses his vast knowledge of present day Pre65/70 trials he will be able to select a team that complies with the rules of the event!

I guess that once again there will be a good smattering of our members sunning themselves in Scotland instead of joining us at the 'Alma'. I just hope that the family Gibb don't have too many punctures - especially in Fort William High Street or, no doubt, it will be Mark's job once again to placate the Supermarket manager!

We made a pilgrimage to the hills of Worcestershire over the Easter weekend. Sadly my health and walking ability failed us and we were unable to witness the great hill climb - must say though that the hill looked 'quite interesting' but not perhaps as steep as I was expecting. My earliest experiences of 'freak' hill climbs was down in Devon soon after I got involved in motorcycle sport back in the late forties and early fifties. The

local Dartmouth club ran events alongside the house of my grandparents and this hill was, and still is, very steep and goes from just about sea level all the way up to 400+ feet above sea level. However, I think Red Marley has got a definite something about it.

Further to last months bit about our holiday in Marseille, last week Tracey received an ominous brown envelope with the words "On Her Majestys Service" on the front. It was a bit different though as it had French postage stamps! Yes, the Consulate in Marseille have in their possession some of the items that were stolen when Tracey's handbag made a sudden departure from our hire car. We don't know as yet quite what has been recovered but it is nice to know that some things have been recovered and with any luck she will get them back. It looks as if she was traced by her driving license.

Best wishes,

Jim

Secretarys Scribblings

The Red Marley Easter weekend was a great success, entertainment-wise and weather-wise. Rog did a few selected sections at the trial but his mind was really on the hillclimb the following day. As it had been really dry the hill was quite dusty this year but the 167 entries kept the crowd entertained. A new hill Record was set at 19.61 seconds and the weekend ended in somewhat controversial circumstances when Richard Williams on a 500 Cheney BSA just pipped Arthur Browning on his 500 Jawa Metisse to be awarded the win in the Allcomers Final. From where we were watching it looked as though Arthur had won again but the photographers have captured Richard overtaking him in the air and the timing equipment confirmed the winner.

The Ipswich - Felixstowe Run takes place on Sunday 7th May. If you can't get a place on the run it's worth getting yourself to Felixstowe to see all the vehicles come in and park up along the front.

If real ale, village greens plus old bikes are more your scene you'd be better off at Blackmore, Jericho Cottage to be precise, but get there in the morning 'cos a lot of the bikes disappear soon after lunch. 10.30am is the official start time.

There's also a jumblie at North Weald on the 7th if you're still searching for bits for the bike. However you might want to save yourself for Saturday 13th May when there's the Classic Bike Show & Jumblie at Kempton Park Racecourse.

Closer to home on the 13th, the Braintree Club have the first round of their Summer Series Evening Trials at Straits Mill, Bocking, start time 5.30pm. Just turn up and enter on the day.

Summer must be here as the first Tim's Tour has been arranged for Saturday 20th May, more information from The Management elsewhere in this issue.

Two events taking place later in the year are:

Saturday 1st July



Leonard Cheshire Seven Rivers Charity BBQ Trial. We've included an advance warning Entry Form in this month's newsletter as we need to have your entry in early for catering purposes. A vegetarian option will be available please let us know beforehand.

Saturday/Sunday 15th/16th July



Chris Bater has asked me to let you all know about this year's Weeting Steam Engine Rally and Country Show. It's always a good weekend. There's space for camping/caravanning if you want to make a weekend of it or just come for the day. Don't forget to bring a bike for the display. More details are available from Chris on 01473 622550.

Heather



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

Pedro's Patter

At the Stourborne (Haverhill) MCC's Captain Cod Trophy Scramble on 20th March, 1966, Chelmsford Auto were represented by 'Squeak' Grimwade (who has recently reappeared in pre-65), Ken Dodd, Dave Temple, John Chisnall, Mick Garwood, Alan Orrin, John Kemp and one J McGillicuddy entered on a 650 Matchless - not known to me. Final winners included Jim Aim, John Pease, Les Vince and Pete Smith.

The CDAC Scramble on 21st August, 1966 was controlled by Mr and Mrs Smith, namely Kath and Ron, as Secretary of the Meeting and Clerk of the Course. Roland Steele and Ken Harrison were Club stewards, Joe Adey was machine examiner, with Robin (Joe) Church as Paddock Marshall. On track, the aforementioned competitors were joined by John Parker (solo and sidecar), Roger Barker, Paul Rowland, Mike Meadows, Mick Potter, R ('Tubby') Hughes, Tony Allen, Dick Hobart (out on Jim Jamieson's 350 AJS), Vic Dadd, Robbie Page and Gordon Turner. Freddie Mays won the 250 chased by Pete Smith and John Pease. Jim Aim won the all comers from John Pease and Pete Smith. In the second Allcomers, it was Jim Aim followed by Freddie Mays, John Louis and Ken Dodd.

The club's grass track at Claydons Farm, East Hanningfield had a solo entry of 74 with 43 sidecars. Jack Hubbard took the 250 final on a Hagon Bultaco and then the 500 on a Hagon JAP. Ian Towns chased hard on similar machinery with Reg Nash third. Dave Hunt was top dog in the 'chairs'. Tony Staples beat Jack Hubbard in the allcomers - the grass did fly!! Many of the aforementioned Chelmsford club members were mixing it with the 'pure' grassers on their scramblers - very creditable and enjoyable.

As always, steady change went through the scene. Competition machinery was being produced by factories and cottage industries. Entrepreneurs were making the most of a relatively affluent society. Very few, if any, competitors rode their machinery to a meeting. I, personally, had graduated to a Fordson 10 van when number one son was due. The manager refused to be placed in a sidecar!! Said van was fitted out with two 'floating' ex Eastern National bus seats so that family excursions could be undertaken when it wasn't full with two AMCs.

The Chelmsford club was healthy with local membership plus others from outside the centre enjoying our well run and popular courses.

Dick Cumming and others were enjoying their sprinting which was popular at Witchford in Cambridgeshire and the club did inspect North Weald with a view to running there but it wasn't proceeded with.

Actual Headlines from Newspapers in 2004!

Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors

[Boy, are they tall!]

WANTED

Do you have (or do you know anyone who has) a single or two bike trailer for sale?
Please ring Roger Gulliver
01621 892606

On the trial scene, the club had many runners, or should that be plodders and plonkers, the heavy weights having given way to Cubs, C15s and in turn the Villiers engined brigade resorted to Spanish machinery. Many speedmen still turned out for winter exercise on a Trials iron as there was still a sport divide, winter-Trials, summer-speed! Although TV scrambles entertained us during the darker months.

Flashback

All Chelmsford club members riding in the Morgan Cup trial on 3rd April 1949 collected awards! This trial was run by the North East London MCC of the South Midland Centre. The winner was Ernie Whiffen, 350 BSA of the Ilford Amateur club losing 29 marks. Chelmsford club man Johnny Monk (62) 500 AJS took a first class award along with Jack Prior (69) 350 AJS together with Stan Holloway also on 69 riding a 500 AJS. Gordon Lee took the first of the second class awards on 70 riding his 350 AJS. Also riding was one Brian Coomer on a 350 Ariel but he was excluded for missing sections!!

A fortnight later found Messrs Holloway, Lee, Monk and Pryor included in the entry of 188 at the Beggars Roost trial. No results available.

Forward to 25th March, 1951 and the 20th annual Beggars Roost trial. The results show Derek Clampin of Colchester winning a second class award on 30 marks whilst Stan Holloway was best Chelmsford Auto clubman winning a second class on 31. There was an entry of 236. The organisers, Wood Green and District Motor Club, got the course right as Cyril Ray, 500 Ariel, went round clean!! Also Ariel mounted were Frank Wilkins and Kay who were the best sidecar on 25. The other clean sheet was J Botting on a 197 Francis Barnett who took the 250 award. Alan Mullee, Johnny Monk, Jack Pryor and Geoff Pearce were the other Chelmsford entrants. Clive Adams was also present under the Maldon club banner.

The Scott trial on 10th November 1951 saw in the list of starters, for this 'infamous happening', three Chelmsford stalwarts, Alan Mullee 500 Ajay and Jack Prior and Ian Bental on 125 Bantams. They tried and failed!

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.

GREAT BARBECUE CHARITY MOTORCYCLE TRIAL

SATURDAY 1st JULY

at
The Leonard Cheshire Seven Rivers Home for the Disabled
GREAT BROMLEY
(on the B1029)

LOOK!

Trial

10 Sections

4 Laps

@ 4pm

Hog Roast

Bar, Raffle,

Stalls etc.

From 6pm

Music

'Eddie Lee'

&

'The Country Friends'

Entertainment

Belly dancing

with

'The Spirit of the East'

Dance Company



LEONARD CHESHIRE

Essex





It's that time of year again!

So, get the bike out of the shed, dust it down, and join us for a run out on Saturday 20th May, starting at the "Alma" at 4:00pm. Distance is approx 42 miles with a finish about three miles from the start point.

See you there! The more the merrier.

All welcome.

By Order of The Management



Jack Lilley Cup Trial 2006

Historic Bagshot Heath was once again the setting for the VMCC (Brooklands section) British Bike trial.

For the 'second year in succession' and at the eleventh hour, the ever enthusiastic Mick Holloway volunteered to be the Clerk of Course for this very popular event. As last year he did a superb job, with ten sections and four laps to be completed by some very competitive 'British Bike riders'.

Thanks are also due to Stuart Towner and his unsung band of helpers for their willing work and capable organisation, before, during and after this event.

The observers are probably the most important people on **'any'** trials day, standing out in all weathers, marking the fortunes of the riders as they attempt to go 'clean'. It must be noted that our observers were all a great bunch of individuals with many smiley faces and they were often heard encouraging the riders through their particular sections. Most vociferous of these was probably my wife Sue and our good friend Lynn Hutton. They were observing on section ten, which abounded in mud at the 'section begins' bit, followed by a very long and slippery climb up hill to the finish. If you have ridden Bagshot Heath you will know exactly the area I refer to. Great fun all round! In fact this one section seemed to be the real decider on the day. Only one man went clean here on every lap be it hard or eased route. That honour went to Danny (superman) Briggs. An outstanding performance indeed and he made it look so easy as well! Everyone else was dabbing, footing or failing! I saw him ride it with my own eyes but still find it hard to believe how he does so well with that upright stance on the footrests and hardly a body lean in sight! Incredible ride young Danny! You were the talk of the trial.

Two other friendly old characters appeared on the day in the shape of Mark Mills and Alan Ward who are both Sunbeam members.

Both of these men are recovering from illness and have no intention of giving in to their problems!

Mark has come on a long way since his stroke and was fit enough to ride his ex. Peter Donaldson Bultaco 250, which he has been steadily improving for some time now.

Alan has the same illness as Mark, but a bit more severe. But! He still attends trials and walks slowly around chatting to his old friends and having a joke or two. Sue and I can see the definite progress in his recovery. Keep going old mate and keep looking to the future when **'one day'** you will get your leg over a trial's bike once more.

LIFE'S MYSTERIES ARE ON YOUR TV

Things you would never know if it weren't for the small screen:

- If you lose a hand, it will cause the stump of your arm to grow by 15cm.

Another character who was also riding threatened to write to the 'The Sporting Motorcyclist' to tell them that I couldn't get my old Ariel up the big slippery hill at section ten, when he did!

OK! '**George Smith**' of '**West Kingsdown**', I have beaten you to it and told everyone first! That's ruined your thunder! Hasn't it? Anyhow my legs are shorter than yours and I am not as suicidal as you either!

It had been a really good sporting Sunday, with the rain being quite relaxed and only giving us a light shower towards the end of the day. Why do I enjoy these trials so much? Is it the old bikes, the old characters or what? Actually, it's about everybody involved and everything that happens on the day. There is no one thing that stands above the other. It's just a lovely event! Full of enthusiastic marshals, helpers and competitors.

Many thanks to the 'Brooklands Section' of the Vintage Motorcycle Club for taking the time to organise this sporting day.

Dave Blanchard

Results

Jack Lilley Cup	Mike Barton	AJS 410	4 marks lost (faster spcl test)
1 st class	Danny Briggs	AJS 350	4 marks lost
2 nd class	Allan Shorter	AJS 350	7 marks lost
Thurlow Cup	Graham Barton	Ariel HT5	14 marks lost
Steve Lilley Cup	Roy Enticknap	DOT 250,	23 marks lost



Our President and his good lady are hoping to undertake a very long journey on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust at the end of June in the Presidential limousine, otherwise known as a 1934 Austin 7 Tourer.



Our intrepid duo are, however, not only looking for sponsorship but also some kind person who can take them and the Austin 7 to a position just south of Bristol. All offers of help to El Presidente.

A Statement from Tracey and Jim

Many of you may by now be aware that at the Board meeting of the Eastern Centre held at Stanway Rovers Football Club on 20th April 2006, both of us, Jim and Tracey, resigned our positions within the Eastern Centre.

Whilst we are aware that competitors, organisers and spectators at events in the Eastern Centre are likely to be inconvenienced, we do feel that we had **very** real reasons for carrying out our actions.

Firstly, we would like to make it known that the scurrilous reports that 'we are just a pair of trouble makers out to impress the General Secretary', are just the outpourings of someone with a very sick mind and one who is obviously not aware of the real reasons for our resignations, or is unwilling, or unable to appreciate the realities of the situation facing the Eastern Centre, and motorcycle sport which takes place under the auspices of the Eastern Centre ACU.

Those of you who were at the Board meeting will be aware of the very personal attack that Mr Clampin, the 'figurehead' President of the Eastern Centre, carried out against Tracey, Gary Thompson (the General Secretary of the ACU), Sidge Kenny and myself but without having the courage of his own convictions to name me. This very personal attack against Tracey, Gary and myself, has now been continuing on and off (more on than off) for the last year or so. Tracey finally snapped and read her resignation from a prepared statement, a statement that she has felt necessary to have with her at all meetings of the Eastern Centre committees for quite some time as it was obviously just a matter of time before Mr Clampin had his avowed way and wore her down so that she felt it necessary to resign her position. It must be realised that Mr Clampin is in no way alone in his attitude towards Tracey and the desire to either remove her from office or to make her position untenable so that she felt it necessary to resign. Messrs Armes and Penny are in no way 'lily-white' in their actions. Mr Armes has, for most of the time that Tracey was the Centre Secretary, not been slow in using every available opportunity to belittle her and savagely criticise her work for the centre. Perhaps it is time that Mr Armes' work for the centre was given the criticism it so richly deserves. Mr Penny has in fact called for Tracey's removal as Competition Committee secretary at an executive committee meeting - that is the amount of respect and thanks that Tracey has received from three prime members of the so-called Executive Committee of the Eastern Centre. It must be realised that she has had no reason to complain about the attitudes taken towards her by Sidge Kenny, Andrew Hay or Alan Foskew - just those members who 'live in the past' and are a thorn in the side of 'New' ACU which is accepted by most if not all centres as the way forward. However, we are in the Eastern Centre - and what do they care?

What must be understood is that the backbiting, vindictive, and in most cases quite unjustified remarks that have emanated from these gentlemen rub off on our relationship, mine and Tracey's, and it has been getting increasingly difficult to cope with the attacks on us which it must be appreciated are mainly in private and not open for all to hear.

Following the invective from Mr Clampin, and Tracey's resignation, I had good reason to consider my position as Editor of the Eastern Centre Gazette.

Sadly, a member of the Competitions Committee, Mr Hood, then chose to attack me in a slanderous manner regarding the inclusion of letters within the Eastern Centre Gazette. He even had the impertinence to accuse me of writing the letters myself in order to humiliate him. I am not willing to stand for completely unjustified attacks made on my integrity in public and this, therefore, brought about my resignation.

It had been my hope and wish, to serve the Centre until I reached my 70th birthday, some four years hence, in order that I might have been able to return some of the joy and pleasure I have had from my involvement in off-road motorcycling. Sadly, in my view, my attempts at moving the Centre forward achieved nothing other than criticism from those who say a lot but in reality do very little, and some of them have done very little for the sport over many years. However, they do make a lot of noise at times. Surely, in line with ACU policy, and the policy of some adjacent centres, the age of 70 is the time to hand over the reigns of POWER to someone younger and who will almost certainly be more in touch with the realities of our sport.

Following this I had an attack directed at me from Mr Hearn, the erstwhile Chairman of the Enduro sub-committee, when he complained that my April Editorial in the Eastern Centre Gazette had caused Mr Ranson of EMG Ford, to remove their sponsorship of the Eastern Centre Enduro Championship. Incidentally, later in the meeting when I asked Mr Hearn to define the sponsorship received by the centre, he instead gave the sponsorship details which applied to the Diss National enduro! Does (or did) the sponsorship for the Eastern Centre Enduro Championship exist? I, or so I understand, the Competitions Committee don't know!

My April editorial in the Eastern Centre Gazette came about because of our worries with regard to Enduros in the Eastern Centre not being run in accordance with the rules of the ACU - a direct requirement if insurance for the event is to be honoured. For your information I include a very pertinent paragraph from page 82 of the 2006 ACU Handbook regarding insurance at events:

"It is a condition of the policies that ACU Codes, Regulations and Supplementary Regulations are observed and complied with. Failure to comply could prejudice the operation of the cover."

Bragging Rights

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers.

The first boy says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

WANTED - Urgently

Large Carpet

colour and pattern not important, must be extremely hard wearing
also

Brush

suitable for sweeping unwanted items under the aforementioned carpet

Details, in first instance to:

Eastern Centre ACU Executive Committee

Surely, this says it all – comply or you're on your own matey – and neither Tracey nor I, are willing to put our home on the line for committees that we have little regard for whilst they condone non-compliance with the rules of the ACU.

The sponsorship 'deal' referred to by Mr Hearn, would appear to have included the loan of four Transit vans for a few days either side of the event (a lot of use in Thetford Forest!) plus the supply of some £2000 of tape for marking out! Now, what on earth would you do with £2000 of tape? Just work it out for yourself. At my estimate, using the retail cost of tape bought in small quantities, including the dreaded VAT, I believe that would buy in the order of 187 kilometres of the stuff. I joke not!

I stand by every word I wrote in the editorial of the April edition of the Eastern Centre Gazette. I wrote it because Tracey and I had been subjected to put downs by the Competition Committee and Messrs Hearn and Penny over the past two years whilst attempting to get the Competitions Committee to ensure that Enduro events were run to the ACU rules.

At the aforementioned Board Meeting, Mr Hearn attempted to refute my statements in the Gazette by stating that Enduros were to be run by the rules as stated in the 'minutes' of the Open Forum. This statement was refuted by some of those present who had attended the Forum and good grounds for their memory of the events at the Forum was seemingly provided by the acting Clerk of the Course, Wilf Harvey, at the first round of the Eastern Centre Enduro Championship. At this event, Mr Harvey reportedly announced to the riders at their briefing that they should ignore my editorial, stand together, and enduros within the Eastern Centre would continue to be run as they always had been. To those riders present who rode legitimate enduro machines this meant, quite rightly, that the Eastern Centre were STILL condoning the use of machines which did not meet the specification for an enduro machine, leave alone being required to meet the appropriate sound level.

I feel that I could have come to some sort of compromise with the Enduro fraternity, especially as they appear to have, as a minimum, paid lip service to altering their ways and complying with the rules.

It would appear that Tracey and I have been vilified for attempting to stand up to them and ensure that enduro, here in the Eastern Centre, is run according to the rules. I trust you can now appreciate why we took the action we did. In the case of Tracey, her resignation was expedited by the actions of the Centre President

who, unfortunately, was not put in his place by the Centre Chairman who should have had overall control of the meeting. To be fair to Sidge though, I just don't believe that he could quite believe his ears once Mr Clampin started shouting! I feel sure that, out of stubbornness, I would have remained as Editor but to then be insulted/assaulted by Mr Hoods remarks – well that was more than I was willing to take. I trust that these two individuals went home satisfied following their attempts to destroy the running of the Eastern Centre.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience you may experience as a result of our resignations but we are afraid that we could not continue to work for the centre under these circumstances. We have a life of our own to live and it DOES NOT include being subject to the whims and fancies of those who ought to know better.

I have made the offer to continue with the job of editing the Eastern Centre Gazette as long as the Executive and Competitions Committees are willing to give a solemn assurance that only constructive criticism will be levelled at both Tracey and myself. We shall just have to wait and see whether this will come to anything – mind you we're not holding our breaths on this! Of course, the resignations of the four persons mainly instrumental in our resignations would help in this matter. As it is, I understand my offer to 'collate' a Gazette for the forthcoming two issues, June and July, has been accepted subject to the restrictions I placed on the committees.

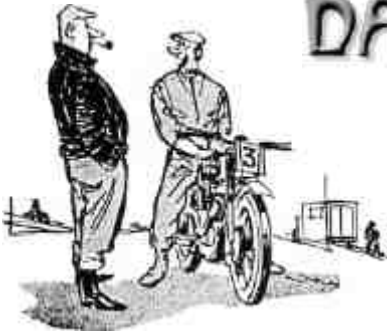
The ball now rests firmly in the court of the Executive and Competitions Committees. Of course, I would be quite ready, and prepared, to accept constructive criticism, but, sadly, this would appear to have comprised an imperceptibly small part of the criticism I have had to endure.

There is absolutely no way that Tracey would consider taking back the position of Centre Secretary unless a major restructuring of the membership of the Competitions and Executive Committees was carried out, but that is most unlikely. I think we can say therefore that the Eastern Centre is now in need of a new Secretary – if one can be found who will be willing to undergo the problems that Tracey had to endure – and incidentally, several other centre secretaries before her!

Both of us have relinquished our stewards licences because of our lack of trust in the Competitions Committee. There are some very good people on that committee but sadly they are very much in the minority and treated with a certain amount of contempt by the others. I just hope they can find it in themselves to stand for re-election to the committee when their term of duty comes to an end so that the voices of all of us, at least, those who matter, can be heard in the wilderness. Our lack of trust in the Competition Committee revolves around the contempt with which the comments and actions of stewards are treated by the hierarchy of the committee.

I finished off my resignation letter to Sidge by wishing the Eastern Centre the best of luck in the future – it will need it! I can see no real hope for the sport being run according to the rules of the ACU until some fresh 'NEW' ACU faces are to be seen on the top table!

Jim



DABBERS DIARY

Seems a long time ago now, but in early March Sam Appleton and I rode in the 'Classic Motorcycle' Press trial at Cadwell Park. This was the first time I had visited this part of the country, and Ann and I took the opportunity of exploring a small part of the Lincolnshire Wolds

There was a threat of snow, which we didn't get, bitterly cold, but bright sunshine. What an area of contrast's this is, with flat hill tops and steep wooded valleys, wonderful, we are going back to get some more of this for the 'Wolds Run' in company with Roger and Heather who did this run last year.

Back to the press trial, Sam was riding 'Little Eric' and was accompanied by it's creator 'El P' and dad Tony. The sections, I thought, were a bit nadgery considering all the wonderful countryside we were surrounded by, and several riders went clean, the results were difficult to understand as no names were supplied! But I think Sam finished up in the top ten and I was in my rightful position well down the field. We did get our picture in the 'Classic Motorcycle' although it was a rear view, queuing for a section! But we did rub shoulders with Mick Grant and British Superbike star Steve Plater who was riding Mick's very trick Cub.

Went to Blaxhall on Good Friday and had an enjoyable day in the warm sunshine, I must thank them for allowing me to advertise our Barbecue trial and thanks to the Secretary of the Meeting for a mention of our event in the results. You will see elsewhere in this magazine that we have a new element this year in the form of a Country Band, 'Eddie Lee and the Country Friends' very good they

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BUMPER STICKERS

He Who Laughs Last Thinks Slowest

Crisis Lesson

A fourth-grade teacher was giving her pupils a lesson in logic. "Here is the situation," she said. "A man is standing up in a boat in the middle of a river, fishing. He loses his balance, falls in, and begins splashing and yelling for help. His wife hears the commotion, knows he can't swim, and runs down to the bank. Why do you think she ran to the bank?"

A girl raised her hand and asked, "To draw out all his savings?"

are too. Plus a 'Hog Roast' in place of the traditional BBQ, vegetarians will be catered for, but we must know in advance how many. It won't be a bucket of pig swill, as suggested deep in pig country at Blaxhall, but something more appropriate. We hope to have the motorcycle memorabilia stall again this year, so clear out the shed and bring your treasures along either to donate or sell on a commission basis. We will also welcome help on this stall, as well as more section sponsors. I am pleased to report that some riders are already talking about getting sponsors from their family and friends, the sponsor forms are in this month's T&T so start twisting arms soon, don't forget every little helps and every little bit will be gratefully received.

The course will definitely be for Gentlemen, Clubmen, Beginners call them what you like, but it will be easy, promise! So bring out those old big classic bangers, this is a fourstroke club after all. The experts will be catered for with slightly more difficult deviations, so ideal for somebody wanting to upgrade and ride with the experts.

Now the grumpy old man bit! Did you read about Manchester United, the second richest football club in the World, accepting a lottery grant of £30,000 to increase the fitness of its staff! The money has been granted to the club from Sport England. Over three years it will fund yoga lessons and lunchtime walking sessions for staff. What a cheek! That's our money, and I thought walking came free! That's how I found the Bromley Brook land, by walking at lunchtime. Anyway it's going to save me money, no more lottery tickets, back to the 'orses for me. And what about the end of Grandstand? Probably means more football and less motorcycling. The BBC have forgotten how it was scrambles, and in a small way trials, that kept them going back in the winters of the late fifties and early sixties when all other sport was called off because of bad weather.

Dabber

End Thought . . .

Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.