

Editorial

It looks as if I spoke too soon in last months editorial. As you all must be well aware the latest problem to hit the farming community is the Bluetongue disease which would appear to be less likely to affect our sport due to the method the disease is transferred between animals. However, we must take the feelings of our landowners, who are in the main farmers who have livestock, into account. What all this does mean is that our forthcoming trials are at some sort of risk. However, as I write this the trial at Little Bealings is GO so let us all hope that it stays this way and that there are no more outbreaks of this disease, which was, in general, expected to arrive in this country sometime but apparently not by DEFRA, in its current or previous form nor by "Our Tone's" administration.

Mike Harden and his merry men are, it would appear, breaking new ground by holding a Plonkers Trial at Raydon on the afternoon of Saturday 13th October - you should find an entry form enclosed with your newsletter, if not give Mike a call - more details on page 2.

Don Daly and Chris Cook are devising sections/routes for the Snaque Pit trial on 21st October especially for "Old men on Big Old Bikes". So please get the pre-unit that you thought you were too old and decrepit to ride, out of the shed and fettle it ready to support the efforts of Don and Chris.

This past month, Tracey and I have been enjoying our 'new' hobby - holidays. We spent a week, or thereabouts, at Laon in Northern

France and very enjoyable it was too. One of the things that I determined that we should do was to go the site of the old Reims race circuit. This is a venue which was used by both cars and bikes up until the late 70s but since, along with several other road circuits has been abandoned. We found it a very nostalgic experience and now that the 'Friends of the Circuit' have begun to undertake restoration work, it is I consider, a very worthwhile spot to spend half an hour or so.

I shall not be available for the last two weeks of October so the November issue of T&T will have to be completed by the middle of the month but I have included more details of my requirements on page 11.

Regs for the forthcoming Thumpers have been posted to ALL those who entered the event in the past two years. Of course if you haven't ridden then you will need an entry form. These can be obtained by either:

- 1) giving Tracey a call on 01245 466815.
 - 2) see Tracey at Clubnite.
- or
- 3) downloading the entry form from the internet at www.thumpers.org.uk

Ted is looking for observers and no doubt dates of working parties will be made known soon.

The club are looking for a lightweight trailer suitable for towing by Greg's quad and to be used at Thorrington and Bromley where section marking etc has to be carried a significant distance.

Had a phone call from Eddie Hood last week and it would appear that the Triangle Tribe thoroughly enjoyed their Harley riding trip in US of A. Ed

Plonkers Clubmans Trial

Saturday 13th October 2007

Raydon Pit, Wades Lane, Raydon, Suffolk (Grid Ref TM043389)

Start at 1300 hrs • Enter on the day

A Trial for:

Pre 65 solos • Pre 65 sidecars • Twin Shocks
Youths/Juniors • Twin Shock sidecars

is going to write an account of their travels which I hope to be able to publish in a future issue of your favourite monthly magazine. Should make good and interesting reading.

I have now undertaken editing and production of the Trials and Tribs for 163 issues during which time there has been only one month with a missing issue. Together with this I have for approximately 29 of the last 45 years undertaken the editing of other monthly magazines. Well, now that I am well into and getting used to this retirement lark I have made the unanimous decision that, following the January issue of the T&T, if I am in hospital, which is going to happen sometime at the beginning of the year (maybe more than once) OR we wish to go on holiday, then I am afraid the T&T will have to go by the board for that month. I/we have put ourselves out for perhaps far too long by restricting our enjoyment at month ends. You must be aware that my workload doing magazines (unpaid) occupies somewhat more than 40 working days per annum (12 hour

days). If this is not acceptable to you as a member, then I am sure Ted would welcome your offer of becoming the new editor.

Many of you, I believe, supported Janet Hobart with her 'Showtime' during August. Well, she is arranging a concert by Winston the singing farmer to raise funds for the expenses in setting up next year's event. I have included an advert for the event on page 13.

I have received some comments regarding the format and content of Trials & Tribs lately and I would be grateful for some feedback as to what you want from what people tell me is their favourite monthly read. What must be realised of course is that as far as articles are concerned I am completely at the mercy of YOU, the reader. I think you must accept that our regular contributors do a marvellous job, but lets have your thoughts please.

Best wishes,

Jim

Secretarys Scribblings

No EFA trials for months and then two come along at once!

First one is at Sunfield Farm, Little Bealings, near Ipswich on Sunday 7th October. Entry form can be found in the middle of this newsletter.

Also on the 7th, for the road bikers amongst you, is the Copdock Show at the Suffolk Showground, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich -

www.copdockmotorcycleshow.co.uk

Think there's also a Pre-65 Moto-X at Marks Tey on that Sunday as well.

Next EFA trial is at Snaque Pit on Sunday 21st October. Again the entry form is in the newsletter but as it is a round of the Pre-70 Championship it is also in the Eastern Centre Gazette and you should use that entry form if you are competing in the championship rounds.



IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE?

Who would like to take over as Club Secretary
To find out what this involves, have a chat with Ted or
myself on Club Nite or, have a think about it and give
me a ring on 01621 892606

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU

Sunday 28th October is the date for the Woodbridge Club Trial at Tunstall Forest. Looks as though this is also a Pre-70 Championship Round so entry forms will be in the Eastern Centre Gazette.

Heather

Deep Thoughts by Men While Fishing

Two men are out ice fishing at their favourite fishing hole, just fishing quietly and drinking beer.

Almost silently, so as not to scare the fish, Bob says, "I think I'm going to divorce my wife - she hasn't spoken to me in over 2 months."

Earl continues slowly sipping his beer, then thoughtfully says, "You better think it over - women like that are hard to find."



HB PENCIL - *the value of a Catholic education and an HB pencil*

Little Mary Margaret was not the best student in Catholic School. Usually she slept through the class.

One day her teacher, a Nun, called on her while she was sleeping. "Tell me Mary Margaret, who created the universe?"

When Mary Margaret didn't stir, little Johnny who was her friend sitting behind her, took his pencil and jabbed her in the rear.

"God Almighty!" shouted Mary Margaret.

The Nun said, "Very good" and continued teaching her class.

A little later the Nun asked Mary Margaret, "Who is our Lord and Saviour?" But Mary didn't stir from her slumber. Once again, Johnny came to her rescue and stuck Mary Margaret in the butt.

"Jesus Christ!!!" shouted Mary Margaret and the Nun once again said, "Very good," and Mary Margaret fell back asleep.

The Nun asked her a third question..."What did Eve say to Adam after she had her twenty-third child?" Again, Johnny came to the rescue.

This time Mary Margaret jumped up and shouted, "If you stick that damn thing in me one more time, I'll break it in half!"

The nun fainted.....

The Matchless factory remembered

I had what I consider to be one of the best motorcycling related days of my life yesterday, (9/9/07). Sue and me were accompanied by John Excell and Robin Wynn on our journey by car to the Woolwich Arsenal. The Arsenal is laid out a bit like the Chatham Dockyard and is in the same historic type of format. We were there to attend the Matchless factory appreciation day, organised by the AMOC owners club. All old bikes were invited to the event (free of charge) but the day was mainly about the machines that were built at the famous 'Plumstead' factory.

During the day there was a ride out to Maxey Road which is the site of the old Matchless factory, to unveil a commemorative plaque referring to the end of motorcycle production there 40 years ago! This area is now just blocks of flats etc. But that's progress I suppose. Greenwich councillor Peter Brooks unveiled the plaque with Sammy Miller and Colin Seeley in close attendance. Police escorts were provided for all those old AMC bikes that rode the short distance and parked on the corner of 'Maxey' Road. The unveiling ceremony brought a tear to the eye of many a grown man and woman. In the interests of preservation, the plaque will be moved to a much safer place later on. This is a consequence of modern times, and is very sad indeed.

Back in the Arsenal complex on a very accessible (you could almost touch them) and long fenced off straight, Sammy and Colin plus other riders 'demonstrated' the AJS V4, Seeley AJS, the famous Porcupine and several 7R's. They sprinted them at full throttle, with the sound echoing off the nearby buildings. Absolute ear shattering MAGIC!! At one point they even had 3 7R's





racing abreast!! On the hairpin turns at the end of each run we watched and observed that it was only Sammy who never put a foot down on any tight turns! Sue and I spoke to him later and told him that we were looking out for any 'footing' and also asked if he was going to demonstrate the AJS trials bike that was parked there. He said he wasn't and that it belonged to Roger Ashby. Sue chimed in and said, " I bet you can show him how to ride it though!" This really made Sammy laugh.

Many people had brought along old items and interesting tales to tell about their Matchless days many years ago. Some of the stories were recorded in the main building. Old ex Matchless employees mingled with others and shared their tales of the AMC factory. Many documents and old photographs were handed around, discussed and admired by all that saw them. It was amazing how many people had worked there or had relatives who used to. Special moments and special conversations were going on all day. An old work friend of mine brought along his girlfriend who's Dad started there sweeping the floors, but eventually worked his way up to become an accountant in the office.

Council Complaints

The following is an extract from a complaint letter received by the council from a tenant

The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.

She had all his and his wife's old factory security passes and other documents etc. Fantastic stuff!

For my birthday last year, son Steve got me a copy of Colin Seeley's book. Colin wrote a lovely message inside it to me, which was obviously motorcycling related. I waited for my opportunity to go and thank him and tell him how much I enjoyed reading the book. He was very approachable and we had a short but good chat while he was preparing for his run-by! He was also hanging over the railings watching Sammy and the others doing their stuff on the racing bikes. We were grinning and commenting on how the sound was echoing off the buildings. As I said previously, absolute ear shattering MAGIC!!

Near the end of the day we were sitting with John and Robin on a bench some way to the rear of Colins car, when I suddenly spotted Colin stripped off down to just his socks and sandals, (well it was extremely hot and sunny that day)! I nudged Sue and about the same time Colin must have realised that he could be seen. He laughed and swung his discarded underwear in the breeze making several strip-o-gram type gestures at the same time. We all cheered and waved. Sue complained to me because I didn't have the camera ready! Drat we missed a good photo there! I suppose that's what it means to a racer when he says he's got to get his 'backside in gear'?

Lets hope they can all do it again next year because as I said at the beginning, it was one of the best motorcycling related days I have ever had!

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email... to the editor...



Dear Jim,

Whilst taking in the photograph of Mark Gibb on page 4 of the latest edition of Trials & Tribulations it's pleasing to see the observers in the background embracing the latest technology. This is a great advert of encouragement for the older observers to keep on observing as I'm aware the "Melford boi" taking the picture in the background has in the past been accused of docking riders marks where (the rider thought) none were lost (not Mark Gibb I hasten to add) and more commonly forgetting the riders number after they've left the section. Perhaps the photo's caption should read; "Aware of his short term memory problem one observer photographs every rider through his section to ensure he gets the right number."

Regards,

Chris Canham,

P.S. Only joking I've never had any problem with my dads observing, I've always found him to be very fair. Oops perhaps I shouldn't have said that.

Early Morning Nookie

She was in the kitchen preparing to boil eggs for breakfast. He walked in. She turned and said, "You've got to make love to me this very moment."

His eyes lit up and he thought, "This is my lucky day."

Not wanting to lose the moment, he embraced her and then gave it his all, right there on the kitchen table.

Afterwards she said, "Thanks," and returned to the stove.

More than a little puzzled, he asked, "What was that all about?"

She explained, "The egg timer's broken."

USEFUL CONVERSIONS . . .

For those who thought the hardest part of Physics was the constant conversion from feet and inches to the metric system, including all its Newtons, Joules, and Watts, here is an example of another useful conversion:

1000 aches

- 1 megahurtz

This and That!!

A diversion from the speed scene.

On 28th February 1971 the East Anglian National Trial was presented by Sudbury DMCC and LCC with Clerk of the Course Barry Chaplin; Secretary of the Meeting Pat Keyse; Club Steward 'Darkie' Lord; the ACU Steward Albert Carter: all club stalwarts! The Halstead, Braintree and Castle clubs all contributed effort and facilities i.e. Tye Farm, Alphamstone pits, Cross End, Purls Hill Woods, Snaque Pit, Acton and Edwardstone Pits. That's got all you old boys memory activated - well maybe not! Dick Hobart and Mick Denny got away 3 and 4 flying the CDAC flag. Roger Finch was on a 250 Taco; Allen Collier and John Kendall were entered by Jack Hubbard on 175 Bantam and 250 Taco respectively. Ken Davis, sometime Eastern Centre Gazette Editor, was campaigning at 250 Montesa. Doug Theobald was on a 175 Bantam (John Banks sponsored). Alan Ketley was entered by Frank Sheene (father of Barry) on a Taco. Colin Sadler 170 Cotton; Don French 250 Mont; as was Dave Spurgeon - these were all part of a class entry. I can't advise you of the results but talk to the above!!

Easter Sunday 11th April the Cambridgeshire Grand National. All the aces were back in action. Roger Harvey won the Under 21 race from Stuart Nunn. Malcolm Davis took the Mike Weedon Memorial Trophy from Dave Nicoll followed by Freddie Mayes - aces all. Vic Allen won the Grand National from Keith Hickman and John Banks third.

On the Easter Monday Chelmsford ran their Scramble at Ramsden Heath. The 10p programme has David Crowe on the front cover - he won the workers race and was 4th in the juniors which David Cordle won. Adrian Yallop was flying to take the experts over three legs. Brian Sadler won all three sidecar legs with mixed results behind him. Chelmsford's John Parker got a fourth with his lone 500 amongst the 650s. Terry and Fred Field had two thirds and a 5th on behalf of the organising club. Adrian Yallop (410 AJS two-stroke) finished a good day by taking the all-comers. Among the club members running the meetings very efficiently as always, were Monica and Charlie Crowe plus their daughter Heather always willing and able plus possibly acting as back-up to David.

Keith Hickman aboard works BSAs won the Mick Day Memorial Final at Wakes Colne on 9th May (Essex Grand National). The opposition was awesome from the national and local scene. Second was Andy Robertson from Dick Clayton. Keith Hickman took the Grand National from Jeff Smith and Andy Robertson.

BUMPER STICKERS

Grow your own dope, plant a man.

May 23rd at Sunny Brook farm Felsted. Dunmow's grass meeting - this wasn't a spectacular course, beggars can't be choosers, but the very grass minded members of Dunmow always put on an efficient do which attracted national riders. No. 1 on the day was Dave Izzard with his 500 Velo engined special - not your norm but a change from his or dad Joe's Ariels. There were several Ducatis on the 250 scene emanating from the Vic Camp concession. They never really broke into the game. 80 solos and 40 chairs took part. Colin Flexman (consistent neat Colin) won the 250 on his BSA with Geoff Blower on a Ducati second. The straight 350 race was Harry Godding's with Colin Flexman second on a 350 JAP. There were placings for J. Outridge -he'd occupied the podium on his specials in the 250 race also. Dave Manning did well to win the first chair final ahead of a class field ably assisted by Dennis Brewster. Harry Godding was going for man of the meeting by taking the solo all-comers ahead of one L Newsome riding under the Clacton club colours and Colin Flexman out on the 350 took third - great race!! Harry Godding completed a great day by winning the 410 to 500 and Solo invitation finals. The second Sidecar final went to out of centre ace Don Bass with rising local star Dave Heath in second place.

West Stow Heath was the venue for the Eastern Centre Championship third round motocross which was well supported with 180 competitors!! Adrian Yallop (250 AJS) won the 250 screaming smoking two stroke race! Then he finished second to Freddie Mayes in the 300 to 410 cc final and was third in the 750 cc final behind Freddie Mayes and John Pease.

Sadly, 36 years on, a reminder that racing cannot be made safe. Lester Goodwin, 6 time British 500 cc Sidecar champion, died at the Good Easter British Championship meeting on 2nd September. The speedway scene has got safer but not 100 per cent with their air fences whilst road racing's newly constructed circuits having lots of run-offs and the racewear today contributes greatly to guys picking themselves up and walking away.

Closer to home, sadly, Jim (the editor) hasn't been overwhelmed with fuel for T&T!!!

Adios

Pedro E

English signs in foreign countries

Doctors office, Rome:

**SPECIALIST IN WOMEN
AND OTHER DISEASES.**

WANTED

The EFA requires a 'smallish' trailer suitable for use at the Thumpers and Bromley to be towed behind Greg's quad.

W.H.Y?

Please contact Tony Appleton or Chairman Ted

**FOR
SALE**

Honda TLR 200

£1000 no offers

Eddie Hood

0775 1116003

IMPORTANT

Deadline for November Issue

Please Note:

The closing date by which all articles and adverts to be included in the November issue of Trials & Tribulations should reach the editorial office is Tuesday 16th October. Any items received after this date are VERY UNLIKELY to be included..

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 or sent via email should preferably be saved in text or RTF format.

Yamaha Serow 1993

Rear disc brake model

Tax & Mot apr 08

Renthals • Acerbis hand guards

nearly new tyres • 11,000 km, • vgc

£1200.

Trevor Andrews

Tel. 01787 227582



What a turnout to honour our late friend Roger. Nearly twenty bikes and thirty people - a fitting tribute to a very popular person.

Our departure was delayed slightly when 'Connie' Fletcher was rather reluctant to comply. A quick search of the Ipswich Road Henfield parts emporium was carried out and a replacement condenser was fitted. She duly obliged.

Another casualty was the rather impressive looking B40 belonging to Geoff who is a regular local at the Alma when it refused to start despite assistance from El Presidente and Roger both providing a push, but no go.

We eventually left Ted's place and made our way to Little Bromley and then on to Bradfield, Wix, Great Oakley and Beaumont-cum-Maze (what a lovely name). Then on to the outskirts of Walton-on-the-Naze where we had a stop for refreshments (and anything else which was needed) at the Titchmarsh marina. Continuing from here through Kirby-le-Soken to Great Holland along that enjoyable twisty road which brought us to the start of the promenade at Clacton where we enjoyed the experience of passing the pier and turning a few heads in our direction from the day-trippers who were taking benefit of the early evening sunshine whilst waiting for their homeward bound coaches. We then continued going past the airstrip at Jaywick after which we turned towards Weeley and then changed direction towards Great Bentley, crossing the very impressive village green which I think is reputed to be the biggest in the country.

After this we passed the entrance to Poplar Chase (home of the Thumpers trial) and headed for Brightlingsea at which point Pompous left us on his Ajay to be homeward bound.

We duly arrived at our destination and enjoyed our supper using the facilities of the adjacent Yachtsman pub. Thank you landlord.

We were met here by Mark Fletcher and family and were entertained by baby Alfie who Granddaddy Fletch took to see the parked bikes which made him gurgle with delight (and Alfie).

This tour was a fitting end to our programme for the year and was superbly orchestrated by Mick Brown who must be congratulated along with Roger and Heather Gulliver or for all their help.

God bless you Roger Birch.

The Management

It's Showtime (again)

***An evening with Winston
the Singing Farmer.
Norfolk comedy cabaret
with songs, farming tales
and family humour.***



Taking place at:
United Reformed Church, High Street, Great Baddow
on

Friday 9th November at 7.30pm

Tickets Price: £6

Available From:

Janet Hobart on 01245 473359
or email janethhobart@hotmail.com

Raffle, teas and light refreshments available.

The profit made on the night will go towards our expenses in staging It's Show Time 2008 at our new venue of Purleigh Halt, Barons Lane, Purleigh on Sunday 17 August.



On our recent holiday to France, Tracey and I visited the site of the disused Circuit de Reims and were surprised to see the apparently well preserved state of the facilities which stand either side of the public road from Reims to the village of Gueux.

It didn't take us long to realise that preparations were under way for the local equivalent of the Goodwood Revival weekend which was to take place over the weekend of 21st-23rd September 2007. How different the French appreciation of their past when compared to this country. There appeared to be very little vandalism having taken place over the intervening years - just the ravages of time. Congratulations must go to 'Les Amis du Circuit de Gueux' for their efforts in refurbishing the facilities that are still in existence.. The pits,

standing opposite the two main grandstands have been given a good coat of paint and the period advertising has been faithfully preserved. The grandstands still await their turn from the restorers.



Whilst the circuit was primarily a car racing circuit it did regularly cater for the bikes. In fact the last occasion the circuit, or at least the length of circuit passing the 'facilities' was used was to enable a Frenchman, Bruno Bonhuil, set the world speed record for an electrically powered bike on 26 June 1996 at 205 kph. Bruno was at the time World Endurance Champion.

This visit evoked many memories of what racing used to be like - the width of the circuit ensuring that none of today's blocking tactics would, or could, be used. I can well remember reading Jenks accounts of the racing that took place on this circuit with the likes of Jim Clark racing.

The Reims circuit could under no circumstances be considered in today's safety climate - in fact when it ceased functioning it was the fastest circuit on the calendar. This feature it can be claimed makes it allied to the old airfield circuit at Boreham which, when it ceased to operate was the fastest post war circuit in the British Isles, some 10mph lap speed faster than Silverstone!

If you are travelling in France on the A4/A26 autoroute through/around Reims may I suggest you take a short diversion and see for yourself this wonderful relic from yesteryear which thankfully would now appear to be in good hands. If you want further details on how to find it then do a Google search - the satellite map shows the installation well - or give me a call or ask me at clubnite.

Jim



The atmosphere of the weekend 21-23 September 2007

The Last Hurrah!

Well, it seems it could be unless we can drum up some support.

I am speaking of the next Snaque Pit trial on October 21st and the lack of big rigid and pre-unit springers. Surely this was what the Eastern Four-stroke Association was formed for - to encourage the use of such bikes.

I must say that I can't blame people though - I've given up trying to ride the Norton on sections designed to test trick Cubs and Bantams as at my age its just too much like hard work.

So, on 21st October, Chris Cook, myself and one or two others are, courtesy of Roger Finch and Graham Braybrook (who set the middy and hard routes) are going to try and devise a course suitable for old blokes on old bikes, similar to the very successful one we laid out a couple of years ago.

Of course, anyone can ride this route if they so wish. So if you've got a big old bike sleeping in the shed now is your chance to have a good ride without the strenuous muscle wrenching usually involved or any chance of falling down some steep bank.

See you all there than,



A story to enjoy -

ESPECIALLY SINCE IT'S A TRUE STORY

On July 20, 1969, as commander of the Apollo 11 lunar module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. His first words after stepping on the moon, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," were televised to earth and heard by millions. But just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark "Good luck, Mr Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs. Over the years many people questioned Armstrong as to what the "Good luck, Mr Gorsky" statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled. On July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26 year-old question to Armstrong. This time he finally responded. Mr Gorsky had died, so Neil Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

In 1938 when he was a kid in a small midwest town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbour's yard by the bedroom windows. His neighbours were Mr and Mrs Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs Gorsky shouting at Mr Gorsky. "Sex! You want sex?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"

End Thought . . .

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.