



Kent Youth Trials Club

AFFILIATED TO THE AUTO-CYCLE UNION

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JANUARY 1978

NEWSLETTER

No.18

This, I'm afraid will be the last editorial piece I shall write. Pressure of work forces me to relinquish an honorary post I have had the pleasure of fulfilling, to the best of my ability, for the past year and therefore, as you will have seen from the preliminary AGM notices that have been circulated, I have not offered myself for re-election for the forthcoming year.

On the whole, it has been a good year. I've enjoyed the committee work, where I act as Membership Secretary; the trials have been just great, and here I usually serve as starter; and I've had the pleasure of meeting new people and making new friends.

I would have liked a bit more participation and contributions to the newsletters. This has been forthcoming in some instances - mainly Bike Major - for which I thank those concerned; and I hope they will continue to support the new editor when elected. Certainly I expect to assist from time to time in this direction when I feel I have something worthwhile to say. Maybe a few more will join in. This isn't a problem peculiar to KYTC though. I have three other club mags. and their editors are always requesting contributions as well!!

In signing off I wish you all a Happy New Year -

Ed.

KYTC/ESTC TRIAL. DEC. 4th OSPRINGE

Without a doubt the general concensus of opinion was that this was the best club trial to date. Congratulations are due not only to Bob and Don, but also to the many workers who turned up on the appointed days to help cut out the sections and prepare the course; and to the observers and workers who assisted on the day.

On behalf of the membership may I say thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

Twenty Essex members joined us for the day; 9 Class A, 9 Class B and 2 Class C. I'm sure they enjoyed themselves.

I walked round the course a couple of times and apart from some conjection at the block of sections 4, 5 and 6 on the first and second lap all seemed to go well. There was enough variety to test novice and expert alike. In particular I noticed Karl Brown "having a go" at section 12 being urged on by enthusiastic dad David; Steve Higgins having a "swear-up" on section 6 after stopping in the mud; and Paul Geeves of the Essex Club making a very impressive clean in section 5.

There were two mishaps, to my knowledge, on the day. New member, Marc Carroll fell at the section observed by Jenny Legge, (was it number 13?) and broke bones in his left leg. Not a very good way to get your name into the newsletter Marc!

The other was, of course, the unfortunate mix-up with the results. I didn't stay for the presentation but I believe Essex rider Paul Geeves was awarded the Premier, when in actual fact it was our own James Smith who had won with 19 marks lost to Paul's 20. However, I understand that it has now all been sorted out.

Steve Higgins tied with Paul on 20 and Anthony Dobbs also got a 1st class award in the Senior section. Stuart Wood, who we don't have the pleasure of seeing all that often; Mark Lemmon and Andrew Furlong, all of Kent, got the 2nd class awards.

In the Intermediate class M.Crowder and Calvin Platfoot of Essex and David Smith and Shane Edwards of Kent won 1st's while Steve Simcock, Grant Lemmon and Peter Cressey had 2nd class awards.

The Junior section saw R.Geeves of Essex (must be the young brother of Paul) and our Russ Edwards get 1st's and Sean Cuckow got the only 2nd.

All the renewals have now been dealt with, and cards sent out. The Family Membership now stands at 80. We have 106 registered riding members and they are divided as per the list.

	Total	Expert	Novice
Class A	47	12	35
Class B	43	4	39
Class C	15	-	15
Class D	1	-	1

We already have our allotted 10% of "Out of County" riders, numbering 10 to the 96 Kent riders.

During the course of the year 4 class A experts and 6 class A novices will have to leave the club on reaching the age of seventeen. This unfortunately includes my own son, Alan, who will be the first to go. He will ride his last trial with us at Tibbs Court on January 22nd.

I hope he will continue to support us from time to time, and come to encourage Joanne, who at the moment, is still our only girl riding member, but who I hope will soon receive moral support from our two new girl riders Julie Roach and Penny Anderson.

COMMITTEE MEETING 25th NOVEMBER 1977

Once again I was able to get down to Littlebourne for the latest Committee meeting and a number of items were discussed which I was asked to bring to your notice.

- (1) There were a record number of new applicants to join the club and this, once again, brought forth discussion as to the overall size of the club, and within that, the size of the various classes therein. Originally, there was a limit set at around 100. This has now been exceeded after review and I have already presented you with up-to-date figures.
- (2) With the growth of the club and the sections within comes the problem of obtaining sufficient ground for the various age groups to practice and ride on. For instance Little Ruckinge, Lodge Lees and to some extent Tibbs Court are not particularly severe to improve the standard of our Experts but at the same time they provide excellent sport for the riders of lesser ability and younger ages.

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- (3) I have been asked to bring to your notice that most adult clubs will welcome as members Dads and 14 year old sons who may then participate in closed to club events. This is one way we can help our older, perhaps more competent riders to get more testing rides. Please have a chat with me if you require information on this subject.
- (4) For next year's events a new method of marking will be adopted. 10 marks will be awarded to a rider who misses a section, or who does not attempt a section when called upon to do so. Thereafter it will be 5-3-2-1-0 as before. There was a lot to be considered and much discussion before a decision was reached. One salient point was made and I was asked to notify all riders. There is no disgrace at all in not attempting a section. You, and you alone, know or feel what you are competent to attempt. Indeed, in my opinion, you are to be congratulated if you have the commonsense to realise the limit of your abilities. By the same token, you must realise the person who lays out the course is not out to break you, or your machine, but is genuinely trying to assemble a test of skill for those who are trying, and have reached the stage, to improve their riding technique; and after all this is the overall object of the club. So, if you come across a section you feel is too tough for you, you may either give it a miss entirely and take a 10; or you may choose to ride through the "Section Begins" card and either stop or ride out of the section, thereby taking a 5; or you can have a go at it.
- (5) Kill buttons! No, not 007 mother! But the sort that cut out the engine and stop it revving to destruction when a rider falls. These are not compulsory, but are thought by our machine examiners to be well worthwhile. It is suggested that they be fitted if possible. (Reminds me, I must get Jo's done!) Seek advice from a dealer or perhaps we have a competent auto-electrician in the club who could write an article describing how it can be done for the guidance of all our budding home mechanics.
- (6) A good number of the committee have, for various reasons, had to stand down this year. We trust there will be sufficient goodwill and interest from new members, as well as old, to ensure enough nominations to form an active committee next year. I know all of us ex-members will always be around to lend a hand when required. One of

the wishes expressed by our Chairman was that the work load be spread around more this time. In other words each committee member might be willing to accept a specific task rather than just be a committee member. At the moment our Constitution calls for a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, General Secretary, Competition Secretary, Membership Secretary and Social Secretary. I have been doing the jobs of Membership Sec. and Newsletter Editor. Michael Banks has acted as Treasurer and Shopkeeper. Perhaps there are two new posts to be created. Certainly it would be nice to have an Assistant to aid the General Secretary. In a previous newsletter I have already suggested that perhaps a position of Observers Secretary might be included to assist the Competition Secretary. It is hoped that the Comp. Sec. will also be assisted by different "Clerks of the Course" depending on the venue for the events and I believe Brian has already approached a number of volunteers on this subject! This sort of effort all helps to spread the load and ensure the continued and efficient administration of the club and its events.

- (7) A number of new members have been ringing me asking the whereabouts of the various pieces of land we use. Please note, Brian has undertaken to produce photo-copies of maps giving details and these will be sent soon. Another thing I am often asked is the names, phone numbers of committee members. Obviously, with the elections due at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON SUNDAY THE 29th JANUARY 1978, STARTING AT 2.00 P.M. AT THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HALL, AYLESFORD, MAIDSTONE, it would be useless publishing a list of names and addresses for you now. No doubt you will all receive this information in due course.
- (8) One point raised was the venue for future committee meetings. This will have to be decided by the new members but at the moment Trevor Dobbs and myself have a round trip of over 100 miles to attend these monthly meetings; whilst others only travel four or five miles. Obviously with a county organisation this sort of thing is bound to happen but it has been suggested that the new committee may have to alternate between north and south or east and west Kent depending on where the members reside.
- (9) Tony Soameson, father of Andrew, attended the meeting and agreed, purely on a part-time temporary basis, to act as our Public Relations Officer. For which we thank him.

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However Tony stresses that the position is still very much open to anyone who has more time to spare or who is better qualified.

- (10) Tony is a keen amateur photographer and is taking photographs on the club's behalf. Some will be sent to newspapers in the hope that they might print and the club get some publicity, and others will be displayed at the club's shop. You will be able to order copies of these if you wish. Don't forget to have a look in at Tibbs Court.
- (11) The question of new members attending two or three compulsory practices before entering for a trial was discussed briefly. As the club has got bigger very quickly it has been impossible to give new members the basic tuition over minor obstacles that is perhaps desirable. This is another matter for the new committee to resolve.

SPARES

You will recall the piece I did in last month's newsletter about this problem, I have some response - all in Yamaha's favour.

Firstly, Mrs. Connor, mother of Andrew, No.85, now works for J.C.Latham and Son on Thanet 584310 between 9.30 and 1.00 p.m. Or you can contact her at home on Thanet 821594. She offers to help any riders for spares for TY 80, 175 or 250. Any orders can be bought to any practice or trial.

Secondly, Mr. Carroll, father of Marc and Neil, recommends Yamoto (Motorcycles) Ltd. of County Oak, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2TD as operating an excellent phone/COD service. Try them on Crawley 25037 or 34305.

Finally, I've had a letter from Brian Edwards of Mike Duffy Motorcycles Ltd. 752 Sidcup Road, Eltham SE9 3NS. (Tel: 01-857 3749) which I am pleased to publish in full.

" I was interested in the article in your Club Mag. concerning the poor availability of spares for certain trials machines.

In these days of the "Quick Buck", dealers are all too ready to sell you a machine, take your money, and give very little in return.

These tactics are generally associated with the discount merchants, and not the more reputable motorcycle dealers, who major on sales spares, and service.

8. about with reasonable safety on crutches over the Christmas holiday. He hopes to have a proper walking plaster fitted when he goes in for a check-up on Friday the 30th Dec.

MAN & MACHINES!!

Looking through the recent membership renewals, and new memberships lately I thought it might be interesting to see what the breakdown was as far as the type of bikes most in favour with our club members. I came up with the following figures for those with a love for useless information or for those like me who are perhaps just curious!

Yamaha lead with the greatest number of trials machines in the club. Perhaps the information is not so useless after all. When you consider how Yamaha cater for the junior trials market it certainly ought to make other manufacturers sit up and take notice.

With machines at about £350.00 upwards a time there is certainly a very good market to go for. And I wonder if the kids of today will be "one make" riders of the future on the strength of a good first machine love affair as so many of the old 'uns were. Or perhaps with Dad buying the machinery and the pressure of modern day advertising he will change from that first make as time goes by.

Anyway, here are the figures.

TY YAMAHA 250 cc	2	Montesa 250 cc	1
" " 175 cc	21	" 172 cc	2
" " 80 cc	<u>21</u>	" 123 cc	<u>9</u>
	44		12
Ossa 250 cc	10	Honda 150 cc	2
		" 125 cc	7
		" 125 cc SL	<u>1</u>
			10
Bultaco 250 cc	7	Kawasaki 250 cc	2

Then we have 2 x 50 cc Italjets, a lone Suzuki 125 cc, one Bantam and one Dot.

These figures are not complete or conclusive because some riders did not specify the capacity of their machines when completing their forms. Also some new members are in the process of getting proper trials machines as opposed to a "hack" and we have some registered riding members, mainly

young brothers and sisters of older boys, who do not yet have a machine of their own.

One thing struck me, perhaps it has you too. Bearing in mind the success they have had in adult trials, and the coverage they get through Barry Sheene's efforts - not even one Suzuki! There is obviously a lesson for the Japs and other manufacturers here that if you pitch your prices too high you just ain't gonna sell in volume.

I saw recently in the press that a manufacturer, Italian I believe, was boasting they had just marketed the first £1000.00 trials machine. I hope all the adults have enough sense to leave them well alone otherwise every other maker will want to get aboard the band-wagon. And there goes our future sport!

BIKE MAJOR writes:-

What a great trial! Ospringe '77 can only mean the December trial, and future organizers will have a devil of a job to measure their efforts against this one.

I felt more than sorry for observers who had no chance to see the rest of this magnificent course, and as short as it was between sections I was ready to be carried for the last lap - no volunteers - therefore no Bike Major award this month.

I usually try to encourage riders who don't get the recognition of awards, but I ask you honestly what rider did not deserve recognition on Sunday the 4th. Those who came off carry honourable bruises and those who didn't are superstars.

Final note about the observers refer to that dear old gentleman who so ruthlessly commanded the timed section. Proper type-casting for the last trial of the year. But where was the sythe and hour-glass?

Without a doubt our newsletter was compiled by the editor emerging from his morning ice cold shower. His poetical eloquence in the November edition near sent me rushing back to bed and my hot water bottle! Must remember to push "Byron" Coulter into the January mud and curry flavour section.

All you lads who are pestering Dad for a new bike but feel your pleas are falling on stony ground at least make sure that he puts you a set of spare cables in your Christmas stocking (or wellie boot). I bet they are top of poor Trevor Miles list!

Bike Major

P.S. Changed my mind about the award for this month. It goes to No.72, Mark Humphries, for having the courage to do exactly

10.

what Dad said on section 10. It must have looked a long way down.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 17th DECEMBER

Although my family and I didn't get down to the party at Aylesford, near Maidstone, as we would have liked, I am told on good authority that a good time was had by all who were able to go. There was the excellent buffet prepared by Doreen and the girls, a bar, a disco and a humorous conjurer who involved some of the lads with his tricks. He went down very well I'm told.

The Rider of the Year Awards were presented to the following lads:

Class A Expert	Stephen Higgins
Class A Novice	Stephen Brooker
Class B Expert	David Smith
Class B Novice	Peter Cressey
Class C	Sean Cuckow

My sincere congratulations to all concerned. Obviously persistence and tenacity over the long season has produced an impressive list of winners. I hope it will act as a spur to all those who must have been closely in contention this year to produce the goods over the next series of trials that have already been set out in the list of forthcoming events. Good luck to you all.

Incidentally, I understand we are already looking for a larger hall for next year's event.

DON SMITH'S SUPERTEST 17th DECEMBER 1977

This was held at Desborough, north of Northampton. It was an invitation event for riders who had done well at the Don Smith/MCN Trials Schools held during the past year. Anthony Dobbs, my own son Alan, and Peter Cressey got invitations and turned up on the day.

It was a 10.30 start so we left home about 6.00 a.m. and had breakfast on the Motorway on the way up.

It really was a "supertest"; consisting of four laps of a fifteen section course. With a time limit of 4½ hours. That may sound like a long time, and indeed in some ways it

was, but when I tell you that some of the sections were about 150 yards long, doubling back and across water hazards and up steep mud and loose rock climbs, over and across huge boulders you'll get some idea of the severity of the course. They wanted a lot of looking at and that in itself was very tiring. Alan had been to a late night party the night before and the early morning start did him no good at all. However, he lives and learns I hope.

At the start Alan had the advantage, as far as time was concerned, of an early number and went off at 10.37. At 12.05 having just completed section 10, Don Smith who was tearing round the course on the new 125 cc Fantic trials mount, urged him to push on. Even so at that stage there were only three riders in front of him - No's 1, 2 (a nice lad from Yorkshire we practically went all the way round with him) and No.28.

Push on he did, to eventually finish 26th out of 31 finishers, from 63 starters. The missing 32 retired! Anthony Dobbs also pushed on to good effect and finished a creditable 17th. Poor Peter's Honda found the climbs just too much and he was forced to retire after the second lap. It really was tough going lad, wasn't it?

Neil Thompson (number 92 with our club) was also invited through the Essex club and he also found the going tough and retired after two laps.

You probably saw in the MCN that the winner, Steve Higgins (not our Steve Higgins - but a lad from Darwen club) had the choice of any new trials machine and chose the new Suzuki 250cc which comes on to the market in the New Year. It really looks a dream, but so then did the Rathmell and Karlson Montesa's on display alongside the new Bultaco's.

2nd in the event was Glen Scholey from Wakefield, who lost the same number of marks as the winner; had exactly the same time in the special speed test, but had 41 cleans to the winner's 42. What tough luck.

Third place went to Rob Harper, who also finished in third place at our National. (Wearing No.4) last September.

PLEASE DON'T

An inconsiderate practice seemed to start at our December Ospringe trial. I noticed a number of riders circulating the course after they had actually finished, enquiring from

observers how many marks they had lost at that particular section. This was being done while fellow competitors were still attempting the various sections. This obviously is not what is required. It distracts the observer's attention from the job in hand. That of marking riders properly and correctly. You want that done to you lads don't you so please spare a thought for others. When it comes to enquiring your score from observers after you have finished the course but others are still riding - PLEASE DON'T.

IS IT THE SAME?

This is a question I hear asked by riders at every trial. Usually on the third or fourth lap when they are either too tired or just too damn lazy to get off and have a look. We have never had a time exclusion in our club trials yet so you all ought to know that enough time is always allowed. Is it the same? It always amazes me. No section is ever the same after a number of riders have ridden over it. If you've got time, for goodness sake, if you want to improve your scores - get off your 'arris and have a look.

COMPETITION AND COMRADESHIP

Riding trials is not just about competition. It's also about comradeship. I am often surprised at the number of lads at our events that seem to ride round on their own. There are a number among you who probably feel you have very little chance of an award, and you are probably right. So why not make your day more competitive, interesting and friendly by making your own trial within a trial! Look up the results of the last two or three events and sort out two or three riders who are about your mark. See if you can pal up and go round in a small group together. If your starting numbers are not too far apart you can wait for one another at the first section (but you mustn't hold up other competitors).

The benefits of the exercise are many. You make new friends, you have someone to compete against and therefore

develop a new sense of wanting to win your own little private trial, with the additional benefit of while doing so in improving your skill.

Also if you are unfortunate enough to break down or fall off and hurt yourself there is always someone with you to go for assistance.

It doesn't have to be the same two or three guys at every trial. You never know you might improve out of all recognition and then you wont want to ride with them; you will want to measure your new found techniques against the better riders. You may even pleasantly surprise yourself one day and finish up among the awards, what could be better.

Try this idea at the next trial. Offer someone a night out with your favourite page 3 girl if he can beat you. You are sure to get some takers.

NEWSLETTER ENVELOPES

Despite the list published in last month's newsletter and the committee's decision that a condition of membership for the forthcoming year shall be that the Editor shall be in receipt of a sufficient number of first class stamped addressed 9" x 4" envelopes to ensure efficient distribution of news of events, etc. there has been a distinct lack of co-operation from some members. Will the following please send by return the required envelopes to me so that I can effectively hand over to the next Editor in a proper manner.

Jason & Stephen Legge	12	Keith & Timothy Morgan	12
Gordon Cook	12	Julie Roach	12
Calvin Platfoot	12	Paul Irwin	12
Alan Chilvers	12	Andrew Soameson	12
Anthony Errey	12	Keiran Ashlee	12
Glenn Lines	12	James & David Smith	10
Shane & Russ Edwards	10	David Wicken	10
John & Julie Walker	10	Duncan & Ken Pearson	10
Dan, James & Paul Riley	10	Kevin & David Thomas	10
Robert Ogden	10	Andrew Furlong	10
John Banbrook	10	Matthew Brooks	9
William Palmer	9	Penny & Chris Anderson	9
Paul & Sean Cuckow	9	Phillip & Chris Cluff	9
Stephen Higgins	7	Richard Lipscombe	7
John & Julie Banks	6	Jonathen Morris	6

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Gavin & David Cooper	6	Ian Coates	6
Tim Geoghegan	5	Michael Moreland	5
David Cooper	2	Timothy Cooper	2

Also will Andrew Brush, as well as sending 12 envelopes, please return the second renewal form, completed in full, which I sent about three weeks ago.

In addition I still require stamps ONLY from the following:

Brett Syndercombe	12 x 2p	Gavin & David Cooper	6 x 2½p
Mark Humphrey	12 x 2p	John & Julie Banks	6 x 2½p
Russ Browning	12 x 2p	Jonathen Morris	5 x 2½p

I have received a copy of a letter from Tony Soameson to our Chairman which I have been asked to publish, as it concerns everyone - here it is:

"Dear Brian,

I would like to offer my most sincere apologies to the Committee and all those members concerned for my failure to notify all the local and motorcycle press of the results and outcome of the Kent versus Essex trial held at Ospringe on 4 December .

On the Monday morning following the trial I found I had only one hour to prepare myself for an urgent business trip which took me away for 3 days. Unfortunately, this is one of the hazards of my job and I cannot rule out the possibility of similar problems arising in the future. However, I did manage to give a full report to Trials and Motorcross who also said they would do their best to print one or two photos of our trials in the future. Photographs of the Kent -v- Essex trial will be on sale in the shop at the next trial. Please convey my regrets via the Newsletter to all those award winners who were disappointed by not reading the results or seeing a report on this trial in the press. However, I am sure we all understand business must come first, otherwise, we fathers would not be able to afford our sons' expensive hobbies!

Unfortunately, the nature of my work frequently takes me away from home during the week and I also spend a

considerable amount of time in the Middle East. At times such as these, I am obviously unable to devote sufficient time to KYTC matters and therefore if there is any parent who would be better able to take over the job of Press Officer, then I for one, would be only too pleased to hand over. Meanwhile, whenever possible I shall continue to take photographs of the events and make these available for the press.

Your 'willing but not always able' Press Officer,

Tony Soameson

FORTHCOMING EVENTS1978

- JAN: 8th National Club Team Trial, Bristol M.C.C.
 15th Practice 10.30 to 2.30 Little Ruckinge Farm,
 Herne Bay, and Tibbs Court
 C 22nd Trial, 10.30 a.m. - Tibbs Court
 29th Annual General Meeting, British Legion Village
 Hall, Aylesford, Nr.Maidstone
- FEB: 12th Practice - 10.30 to 2.30 - Ospringe
 C 19th Trial - 10.30 a.m., Mays Farm, Barming
- MARCH: 12th Practice - 10.30 to 2.30 - Lodge Lees
 C 19th Trial - 10.30 a.m. - Lodge Lees
- APRIL: 2nd Barham Schoolboys Trial (Prov.)
 9th Invicta Cup Trial (Prov.)
 23rd Practice - 11.00 to 3.00 - Ospringe
 C 30th Trial 11.00 a.m. - Ospringe
- MAY: 28th Practice - 11.00 to 3.00 - Chattenden Barracks
 C 29th Royal British Legion Trophy Trial, 11.00 a.m.
 Chattenden Barracks
- JUNE: 11th KYTC National Trial
 25th North East London M.C.C. - National Trial
- JULY: 2nd ESTC/KYTC Trial (Prov.)
 9th Practice/Mums and Dads Trial - 11.00 a.m.
 Tibbs Court
 C 16th Trial - 11.00 a.m. - Tibbs Court
 30th 80 c.c. Trial - Ospringe
- AUG: 13th Practice - 11.00 to 3.00 - Mays Farm
 C 20th Trial - 11.00 a.m. - Mays Farm
- SEPT: 10th Practice - 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 - Lodge Lees
 C 17th Trial - 11.00 a.m. - Lodge Lees
- OCT: 15th Practice - 11.00 to 3.00 - Tibbs Court
 C 22nd Trial - 11.00 a.m. - Tibbs Court
- NOV: 5th Practice - 10.30 to 2.30 - Ospringe
 19th KYTC/ESTC Trial - 10.30 a.m. - Ospringe
- DEC: 3rd Practice - 10.30 to 2.30 - Mays Farm
 C 10th Trial - 10.30 a.m. - Mays Farm
 16th Christmas Party

* (C) Counts for "Rider of the Year" awards
