



Kent Youth Trials Club

AFFILIATED TO THE AUTO-CYCLE UNION

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NEWSLETTER

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No 9

EDITORS PIECE

Prior to the Annual General Meeting I put my name forward to serve as a committee member for the forthcoming year. I did so for a number of reasons.

Firstly, because I am interested in youngsters and feel it is important that in their formative years they receive the right sort of guidance, encouragement and interest. Secondly, I think this club has a great future and felt that I wanted to be an active part of it, and thirdly, although now a car driver, I'm still a motor-cyclist at heart; and of course, Alan and Jo ride bikes !.

At the AGM, I suppose due to lack of opposition I found myself elected, and as a result of the persuasive powers of our worthy chairman found myself with, not only the membership secretary's mantle, but also the job of putting the monthly newsletter together. I shall attempt this to the best of my ability. I can't promise a seven-page effort like the one Brian produced last month but I will promise to keep you abreast of all club news, at trials, behind the scenes at the committee meetings, and so on.

Obviously I cannot, nor intend to, do it all by myself. I would welcome any contributions, comments, constructive criticisms, cuttings, etc., you care to make, or send. Please do so, to me, at the above-mentioned address, and I will see your point of view is expressed in your newsletter. Thank you.

Peter Coulter

Committee Meeting 18/2/77

On this Friday night, despite torrential rain and gusting winds on the motorway, Alan and I attended our first committee meeting. There was almost a full turnout and it was pretty obvious that it was to be an industrious gathering competently chaired by Brian, with all parties making valuable contributions to the effective running of the club.

Forthcoming events like the National Trial - Christmas Disco - A.G.M. were discussed. As were Club Finance and the future of Lodge Lees.

There was a lengthy review of the February Boxley Trial, and I was asked to bring the following points to the notice of members.

RIDERS:

1. When you arrive at the venue for a Trial please seek out the Control Point and will one parent and rider sign on at once. After that, then you can unload your bike and get ready for the Trial.

2. In future, the actual starting times will be displayed somewhere at the Control Point. This will save riders having to wait a half-an-hour or so at the starting area, and will enable time for competitors and parents alike to have a bite to eat and organize themselves. However, you should report to the start area ten minutes before you are due off to enable scrutineering to take place.

3. Remember, a trial consists of a required number of laps of the course, not riding each section consecutively a required number of times.

4. Make sure your wheels are clean before you enter a section. (Something all those who competed at Boxley will have thoroughly learnt I'm sure).

5. Please make sure you sign off when you've finished. Do not ride around areas where later starters are still competing.

OBSERVERS:

1. As well as signing your rider in, you must also sign as an observer. This is for insurance purposes, and obviously must be done before you go out to your section.

2. Parents prepared to act as observers please report to Bob Simcock at the start, in future.

3. If a rider retires please leave cards blank. Do not insert 'fives'.

It was generally felt that the format of the trial was right. Three laps straight off allows everyone to eat and load up, etc., whilst the results are formulated. It was unfortunate that the route to the early sections was practically impassable for the younger riders but in future the first five sections will be situated for easier access if at all possible.

The older boys will please be tolerant of this arrangement, remembering that the younger boys are probably raw beginners, and not as physically strong, and we need to encourage them to continue. After all the long term future of the club is in their hands. Or even their feet, at this stage !.

The meeting closed about 10.45 and we trundled back up the motorway and just got in bed by midnight.

Don Smith Trials School

The first course for schoolboys took place between 21st and 24th February. There were five riders from KYTC: Alan Chilvers, Antony Dobbs, Robert Prior, Ivor Simmonds and Andrew Soameson. Elsewhere in this issue is a report on the course from Ivor.

The next course starts on the evening of April 11th (Easter Monday) and goes on until 14th. Alan Coulter and Richard Lipscombe will be there, and speaking to Don Smith recently he tells me he has just a few vacancies left if any KYTC lads are interested. His 'phone number is 01 529 7975 or details from Brian Prior.

Adult and other Clubs' Events

- 27th March - TRIAL (adults only) - Barham & DMCC starting at 10.30am at Barham Recreation Ground. Volunteer observers before 10.00 am please - details: Cliff Arter, Barham 356 (work) or Bridge 830108 (home).
- 3rd April - TRIAL (adults only) - Gravesend Eagles - observers welcomed - details: Graham Mitchell - Dartford 24591
- 10th April - TRIAL - Barham Schoolboys - KYTC Class A and B riders invited.
- 10th April - TRIAL - South Shropshire Motor Cycle Club NATIONAL trial - Class A and B near Burrington, Ludlow, Salop. Details/Entry Forms from Bob Simcock, KYTC Comp. Sec.
- 17th April - TRIAL - (adult and class A Schoolb ys) Tenterden MCC Weald Novice and Schoolboys Trial at Woodchurch, 10.30, details: T.W. Vanns, 159, Gordon Road, Strood, Rochester, (Medway 41931 - work).

Club Trial at Boxley 13/2/77

Although we were once again blessed with fine weather, overnight rain not only caused Bob and Don a lot of extra work on the Sunday morning easing sections but also made the approach to the area practically impossible. Most Dads had their work cut out getting into a parking space and a number of 'fives' were recorded!.

As well as Bob and Don were able to ease sections there was little they could do about the 'clinging' mud between sections at the gully and many front wheels stopped turning until they were either cleaned out or the front mudguard removed. However most lads stuck at it, although in many cases a high number of marks were lost, and those that did eventually enjoyed themselves. This was as much a test of character, as it was riding ability. The first lap took about an hour or so, the second and third about fifteen minutes each !!.

To those who received awards - congratulations. You certainly earned them. Shane Edwards took the Class B Experts for the second month in succession, whilst his pal Steve Higgins took the Class A Experts, beating January winner James Smith by just one mark. Don's boy Sean won the Class C event and is riding with great confidence now. Nice to see long-standing members Ivor Simmonds, Peter (Honda rules OK) Cressey, Paul Cuckow and Steve Simcock amongst the awards. And congratulations to new members Dave Sparrow and Antony Errey on showing well.

Riding trials though isn't necessarily about winning, it's about keeping going and trying your hardest all the time, even when things seem hopeless. That's what makes the great riders - GREAT. Ability and expertise comes with practise and experience. The amount of effort put in to gain that experience is really the only limiting factor. That and the fact that Dad won't fork out for the latest Suzuki, Rathmell Montessa or Bultaco Sherpa !!.

Safety Precautions

Whilst I was assisting Don at the start of the February trial at Boxley one or two lads were warned that their chain guards to the lower run of the chain were not sufficient to comply with club rules. A note of the lads' names was taken so if you were an offender please make sure Dad helps you put the matter right before you ride in our trials again. If not you will be excluded from riding.

Due to the undesirability of using Boxley for a third consecutive month it has been decided to hold the 17th April Trial at Lodge Lees. However, car-parking there is very limited so the Trial will be for Class B, C, and D riders only. Start will be at 11.00am, but please try not to arrive earlier than 10.15 as there will be little opportunity for riding before the Trial starts.

Class A Riders are invited to ride on 3rd April, 1977 at Nickle Farm, near Chartham Hatch, where the Invicta Club are holding an Adult Novice and Class A Schoolboy Trial comprising two laps over twenty sections starting at 10.30am. The results of this Trial will count for the KYTC Annual Awards Scheme and the best KYTC riders at this event will get KYTC Awards as well as any trophies awarded by the Invicta Club.

Bring and Buy !

If anyone wishes to buy or sell any motorcycle bits, Clothing, equipment etc., please let me have details for inclusion in the Newsletter.

FOR SALE

Cotton 170cc Trials, 1969, taxed, M.O.T., Preston Petty guards, Renthall bars, good condition: £160 O.N.O.
Evenings or weekends:- 5, Freta Road, Bexleyheath.

Dunlop rubber trials boots, size 7 upwards, slightly used but extremely wearable and good value. A few pairs available £3.50 pair. Contact: 01 303 8668 (evenings).

WANTED

Montessa petrol tank - Andrew Mynheer, 27, Albert Street, Ramsgate, Kent.

Newsletter distribution

This is either done by hand at the monthly Trials, or by post. If you want to ensure receipt of your copy I need a supply of stamped addressed envelopes from you. I have these to hand at the moment from the following members only.

Terry Wilson, Martin Tilling, Steve Simcock, Steven Taylor, Mark Ridge, Robert Prior, Peter & Raymond Riddell, Duncan Pearson, Jonathen Morris, Chris Lurcock, Justyn Harris, Paul & Sean Cuckow, Paul & Mark Donohue, Peter Cressey, Antony Dobbs, Shane Dawkins, Paul Towns (1 Only), Michael Moreland and Ian Coates.

Joining an Adult Club

For Class A boys, in particular, there is considerable advantage in joining an adult motor-cycle club, as well as being a member of K.Y.T.C. You can't obtain a licence for trials from the A.C.U. until you are sixteen. This allows you to ride in "open-to-centre" events held on private ground, but you can take part in a club's "closed-to-club" events, and some Novice trials. The competition is tougher and can only benefit you in the long run. Also, of course, it helps to "spread the gospel", as it were, in regard to youth trials. Although, of course, there are many adults who don't like to be beaten by "kids" ! So it is therefore essential that your conduct is a credit to yourself, your family, this club and the world at large. Nobody likes a cocky "know-all". So be polite, obey the rules and instructions of officials, listen to advice (remember you don't have to take it - but surprisingly enough some adults do know what they are talking about), go out and do your best, and most of all enjoy yourselves.

My own club has just produced it's list of "closed to club" events for the year and it provides a variety of venues from March to December. I'm sure there are many clubs that produce a similar programme. If anyone is interested and would like to know how to go about joining such a club; or if anyone knows of an active adult trials club that has such a list of events please contact me.

Another point is, that membership of an adult club entitles you to receive a copy of the South East Centre Gazette. You have to pay extra for it, but it keeps you in touch with all events in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, and also provides entry forms to the various trials you are eligible to enter.

Finally, such a membership brings you into contact with many fine riders, who's style you can study. Men like Richard Whitbread, Gordon Fennings, Gerald Budgen, Mick Sturdey, Gordon Farley, Alan Ketley, Charlie Harris, Tim Bateup, Les Watts, etc. The world doesn't begin and end with Malcom Rathmel you know lads !.

Cartoon Competition

The cartoon caption competition in issue 8 did not produce a great deal of response; although the entries I did receive were very good. The winner was Stephen Simcock. His caption read:

" I hope you will excuse him but he is practising
for Home internationals."

His prize will be the autographed copy of 'Ride It' which Don Smith very kindly donated.

If the other lads who took the trouble to enter will see me at the next club trial I will reward them for their efforts.

Don Smith's Trials School

I left Headcorn at 6.30pm and at 8.00pm arrived at the Post House Hotel, Brentwood; after parking the car we went into the Hotel foyer where we met Don Smith, who went on to explain details of the course, what time we had breakfast, lunch and evening meal, what time we had to be ready with our bikes in the morning, where to park the bikes, etc. After this we were directed to reception who supplied us with our room numbers and the people we would be sharing with. After depositing my suitcase in my room and meeting my room-mates Antony Dobbs KYTC and Barry Windybags Southampton I returned to the car park to unload my bike. All of the bikes were parked at the rear of the Hotel where you also had to leave your can of spare petrol. The bikes were checked hourly by hotel security and I must admit nobody lost anything from this compound. I returned to my room and settled down to watch TV, we then decided to go to bed, but as raiding parties were sent out from other rooms to topple people out of bed, we had to participate in the fun.

Next morning we had arranged for reception to give us a early morning call this allowed plenty of time to get ready for breakfast, breakfast consisted of bacon and eggs. Don Smith instructed us to be at the front of the hotel after breakfast. Myself and Paul Geeves were instructed to load the bikes into the Transit Pick-up. We travelled with the driver. The other riders travelled in Don Smith's 12 seated mini bus that 21 people piled into.

Day One Morning - We were put through sections riding at our own pace and in our own way.

Lunch - At local cafe either beans on toast or egg/toast.

Afternoon - Don Smith explained techniques of riding down banks, then proceeded to demonstrate with his Ulf Karlson Replica Montessa 250.

Day Two Morning/Afternoon - more demonstrations and advice from Don how to improve our riding ie logs, turns, water, etc.

Day Three Mini Trial consisting of 25 sections.

Evening - results of Trial - lecture by Don Smith of the Course also his opinion of our riding ability and what he considers we would obtain if we kept practicing.

Footnote I consider we had very good tuition also we had lots of laughs and I would thoroughly recommend this course to any rider considering it.

Ivor Simmonds

Forthcoming Events

1977

20th March - Trial - Boxley - 10.30am

3rd April - Trial - Invicta Club - Niclle Farm - 10.30am - KYTC
Class A invited to enter - entries close 21st March

3rd April - Practice - Lodge Lees - 11.00am - 3.00pm - please try
not to arrive before 10.45 am - thanks.

17th April - TRIAL - Lodge Lees - KYTC (class B, C & D only - 11.00am

8th May - Practice

15th May - Trial

12th June - Practice

19th June - Trial

26th June - ESTC/KYTC Trial at Royal Oak Pits, Danbury, Essex

17th July - Practice

24th July - Trial - Tibbs Court

14th Aug - Practice

21st Aug - Trial

4th Sept - KYTC NATIONAL TRIAL at Peters Pit, Wouldham

11th Sept - Practice

18th Sept - Trial

9th Oct - Practice

16th Oct - Trial

6th Nov - Practice (changed from 13th)

20th Nov - ESTC/KYTC Annual Trial in Kent

27th Nov - Practice

4th Dec - Trial

17th Dec - Christmas Party - British Legion Village Hall

1978

15th Jan - Practice

22nd Jan - Trial

29th Jan - Annual General Meeting. British Legion Village Hall

12th Feb - Practice

19th Feb - Trial