



# **Kent Youth Trials Club**

**AFFILIATED TO THE AUTO-CYCLE UNION**

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## **NEWSLETTER**

NO. 17

With winter almost upon us I suppose we can begin to look forward to what us old-time riders call "real trials weather". Frozen ruts, glutinous mud, (sometimes hub deep!) biting winds, snow and rain. The dark mornings, early rising and early starts. A period for sorting out the men from the boys.

Some boys, and yes even Mums and Dads may not have experienced these conditions. If they are fit enough to survive then surely they will come to know the true spirit of trials riding. For nothing draws people together better than adversity. And these times can be adverse! Keeping hands and feet warm, pulling bikes out of sections whilst hardly able to feel, or stand even.

And yet, these can also be the best times. The comradeship shared, the help given and received, the experiences exchanged whilst clasping a cup of tea and stomping the feet. Wondering if we are all mad, and yet realising the joy of the crispness of a winter's day when and if the sun does break through.

Then the run home, the hot bath and a warm fire. And after it all you'll actually feel sorry for those who have not known such times! You will, believe me!

**BRITISH LEGION TROPHY  
TRIAL 16/10/77**

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Anyone who missed this club event, missed a great day! Held at Chattenden Barracks near Rochester, it was a sponsored event in an effort to raise money for our British Legion friends. I don't know yet quite how the fund raising side came out, but I will be able to let you know in due course. I do know the British Legion officials, and local dignitaries that turned up, were most impressed with the riding and behaviour of the boys. This could aid our continual search for new trials ground. And did you see the centre page spread of the Kent Messenger? That sort of publicity can only do us good.

The course itself was short, consisting of only nine sections. This is all we were able to cut out in the time available, but at least it allowed parents of the younger and newer riders to get round with their lads. The sections were not too hard, with the possible exception of number nine for the experts, which I personally felt was just a little dangerous. But most of the lads had a go at it, so I could be wrong there.

And what about the weather. Phew! It started off dull and misty but by lunchtime it was shirt sleeve order. I felt sorry for the Army Cadets band in those heavy uniforms!

Looking at the results, congratulations go once again to Steven Higgings and "Jay" Smith finishing first and second in Class A Experts. Not only that but I must mention that both actually did one lap each completely "clean". Steve on lap 3 and "Jay" on the last lap. Great stuff.

David Smith won Class B Experts and Shane Edwards took second spot. Must mention Anthony Errey here - who was unfortunate enough to come to grief at the end of the second lap and suffered broken bones in one foot. A trip in an ambulance to the local hospital was his prize(!) to have it strapped up. I 'phoned his home this week to enquire as to his progress and I understand it may be about six weeks before he can ride again. Tough luck son - see you soon.

In the Novices Classes, David Wicken who hasn't ridden with us for a long time because he has been helping with decorating etc. in the new family home - at least that's what his Mum says. Personally I think he's been practising like crazy!! Anyway he returned with a vengeance to clean up Class A. Well done David. Closely followed by Gary Parbutt with the smiling Steve Brooker third. He was smiling because he had borrowed Dad's 250 Quacker for the day. Thing is I can't see Dad getting it back.

Class B Novices was won by Mike Moreland, well done lad, followed by Matt Parbutt, not to be outdone by brother Gary, and third was Steve Garner.

It was the old one-two in Class C again, Sean Cuckow and Russ Edwards in another close fought battle.

During my travels round the course on the day I noticed some of the younger new members having a "go"; that includes No.72 Mark Humphreys, No. 29 Ashley Pitman, and No. 99 Karl Brown who fell heavily in section nine but bravely remounted and carried on. These lads are part of a new contingent whom I shall call the "Orpington Errors".

No.103, Andy Mynheer also put in a lot of effort, mainly with the feet, to complete his first trial with the club. A good try lad; and I also saw No. 95, David Gledhill, concentrating in his own quiet way, complete the course, and following in father's footsteps.

At the end, the speed test provided the usual number of thrills with "Mad Ivor" Simmonds coming to grief on the second bend; the Kawasaki Kid running out of road, and Mark Lemmon literally making a flying start! Or at least the machine made a flying start - Mark was busy trying to get aboard!

All in all, a great day's sport.

REMINDER

Those of you who received sponsor forms and have collected the sums due should send them without delay to:  
 MR. C. JERRARD, TREASURER, KENT COUNTY BRITISH LEGION,  
 40 CAMDEN ROAD, SEVENOAKS, KENT. They should have been sent in by the 4th November!

RESPONSE

At last! I welcome some letters from you in response to Bike Majors comments in the last newsletter. I've also had a couple of 'phone calls on the points he raised. It seems you may not be adverse to accepting observing on a rota system and bearing in mind the various points raised, my suggestion would be that one of the committee is given the task of Observers Secretary to liaise with members and keep records. Also that new members should not go on the list until after say a few months period and some instruction at practice sessions.

I received an interesting letter from Mr. Brown, father of new members 99 and 100, Karl and Toni Anne and he has given me permission to publish in full; - it reads:-

"I was interested to read the letter from Bike Major in the October Newsletter and as the father of a new member would like to reply.

The first thing you notice when attending a K.Y.T.C. trial is the very efficient way it is conducted. Add to this the friendly and helpful atmosphere created by existing members and it is easy to assume, wrongly so, that your assistance is not required.

A rota system for observers would overcome this problem but would suggest that all members be asked to participate and not be compelled to. Some people may not have the confidence to act as observers and if forced to do so, the only people who will suffer are the riders. The only point I would ask you to consider is that if new members are asked to join an observers rota, that their services are not called upon for at least two meetings. It is quite

probable that the new rider will need the assistance and encouragement of his parents for a couple of trials.

Whilst discussing an observers rota, don't let us overlook the fact that some of our members may get a lot of pleasure from observing and may wish to act on a regular basis. This must be considered if a rota system is adopted. May I take this opportunity of offering my services for future events but feel that ALL observers should receive proper tuition. Finally on this point, a £1 contribution to the club funds when families are unable to do their turn of duty, I feel is a reasonable suggestion.

We should all be encouraging, not forcing our children to attempt difficult sections, after all this is the way to improve. Therefore I must agree that a penalty of two extra points for those who miss sections is a very sound proposal.

Finally, as a new member I find that I am continually having to enquire as to the precise location of future trials or practices, as the venue is shown in the Newsletter but not always the full address. Could I suggest that it may be beneficial to new members to issue a list of addresses of the usual venues along with the membership cards. Any new venues could of course be advised in the Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,  
David Brown

P.S. I think Bike Major has revealed his own identity. In his last paragraph he states, "The last thing is MY monthly award. Who usually makes this award?"

I reply:-

"Dear Mr. Brown

I presume from your post-script that you have assumed I am Bike Major? I can assure you this is not so. I said in the last newsletter that I reproduced his letter in full. This is what I did. Bike Majors was referring to himself when he said "my award". All Clear.

Ed."

Incidentally, the Bike Major award is a purely selfish whimsey which I heartily endorse. He has sent me a cheque for £6. and for the next six months he will award a £1.00 voucher; to be spent in the shop; to any rider whom he wishes to encourage, or reward for a particular effort that he happens to see.

However, let me hasten to add whilst I think it is an excellent idea I don't want any more such awards initiated. That would spoil Bike Majors enterprise, I feel.

Whilst on the subject of letters, I received a very nice one from Mrs. June Lurcock. Her son Chris, No.30, who will be 17 in March of next year and will have to leave the club then anyway, has succumbed to the lure of a road machine. Partly because he needs to get to and from work and partly for the sheer enjoyment of it. I imagine he'll be after an RD 250 or something like that and so the 175 Yam has had to go. I expect Chris will reappear on the adult trials scene in a few years time when finances improve.

Incidentally I'm having the same problem myself now. Alan becomes 17 in January and is saving hard to get a road bike as soon as possible. Preliminary enquiries show that it could cost around £170.00 to insure a 250cc for a year, but a point worth bearing in mind for any lad nearing the time when he has to make similar decisions is that one company (I believe it's the Norwich Union) allows you to insure any reasonable number of 250cc machines for that amount (after all you can only ride one at a time) whilst other companies insist on a separate insurance for each machine. (No - I am not in the insurance business - despite what you may be thinking!!)

Anyway to get back to June's letter - she says farewell to all her friends in KYTC and wishes the club well for the future. She mentions the pleasurable days out and the joy of seeing boys improve, in confidence and "sheer guts" in her time with the club; and ends with the news that her daughter met her fiance at a KYTC trial.

Thanks for the letter June - we shall miss you too.

This trial was held in the woods around the race-track. The weather was not too cold and mainly dry. The course consisted of two laps of fifteen sections. Although I was observing on section twelve I heard the sections generally were of a sporting nature. There was some mud, but not too bad.

What was of particular interest was that the organising club adopted the "punch card" system for observers. Instead of being given a numbered board as is our club's usual practice, each observer was given a small punch, scissor-like in construction, that was used to register the riders' score on each section.

Each rider carried a small cardboard strip score-card measuring approx. 8" long x 2" wide, numbered with the section numbers down one side, and across the top of the strip were the figures 0,1,2,3,5.

After the rider tackled the section the observer immediately produced his punch and registered the score in the appropriate column by punching out a hole.

This is my first experience of this system, and I was particularly interested in it to see if it might be advantageous to us in any way. I list below what I feel are the plus and minus points:

Observer plus points

1. Easier to operate than the usual board system. Less cumbersome and if a rider is in need of help it is easier to slip a punch in your pocket and go to his aid. Especially so in wet weather where one has to ensure that the board and score sheet is kept dry and legible.

Observer minus points

1. The observer does not have a constant check list of riders to see if a particular rider has gone through the section, if asked by a spectator. This is a minor point I feel

Rider plus points

1. The system allows the rider to check his score at each section and to know at a glance his overall score at any given time. The scores can be checked with the observers at the time and doesn't leave the rider in doubt as to what he has been marked.

Rider minus points

1. It may be inconvenient to stop at the end of each section to have one's score-card punched, although the previous comment may nullify this. Some difficulty was experienced initially by some riders because they didn't get into the habit of keeping the score-card in any one particular pocket, however this seemed to iron itself out on the second lap.

Clerk of the Course plus points

1. Each rider is completely responsible for his own score card and subsequent scores.
2. Cards are not made inelligible by inclement weather conditions, rain, cold hands, mud, etc.
3. A card is issued to each rider for each lap; so at the end of each lap an up-to-the-minute score is available instantly. In fact in this trial I was able to ascertain the final finishing order within fifteen minutes of the last man coming in!

Here they are:

CLASS A					
1.	G.Haslam	250 Suzuki	Witby	9 marks lost	
2.	M.Medgraff	" "	Surrey S/B	12 "	"
3.	S.Higgins	250 Ossa	KYTC	15 "	"
4.	D.Jackson	250 Bultaco	Sidcup	23 "	"
5.	J.Smith	250 Kamasaki	KYTC	24 "	"
6.	S.Wood	250 Ossa	KYTC	26 "	"
CLASS B					
1.	D.Smith	123 Montesa	KYTC	10 "	"
2.	A.Errey	80 Yamaha	KYTC	12 "	"
3.	S.Edwards	175 Yamaha	KYTC	12 "	"
4.	G.Lemmon	125 Honda	KYTC	19 "	"
5.	S.Simcock	250 Ossa	KYTC	19 "	"
6.	A.Clinkard	80 Yamaha	Normandy	33 "	"

So you can see it was quite a good day for the KYTC. Well represented in Class A and practically a clean sweep in Class B. Well done lads.

I would like to praise Neil Davison. He was in all sorts of minor difficulties on the ex Mick Moreland Suzuki. Sticking throttle, and the chain off twice to my knowledge. However he carried out his repairs by himself with much cadging of borrowed tools. He kept smiling and I believe finished the course. I wonder if Bike Major saw him?

### LODGE LEES 20/11/77

Heavy overnight rain produced a "gluepot" on the day. The course was atrocious, as indeed was the going between sections. This resulted in very high scores.

First in Class B was Peter Cressey with 137 marks lost!! That will give you some idea. Second was Mick Moreland on 151 and third Jonathan Morris on 158.

In Class C. Sean Cuckow scored 175 and Jason Legge was runner up on 213.

Australia were all out 785!! Definitely not cricketing weather. Nuff said.

Special thanks to all observers who spend more time pushing and pulling than actually observing.

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*May I on behalf of all*

THE COMMITTEE

*wish all members*

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A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

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EXTRASpare Parts

We have recently received a letter from rider No. 88, Steven Carrella. You may have missed him at the trials recently. Steve writes to say he has been a non-starter because he's been rebuilding his engine. One point he mentioned in particular is that he had to wait for one 3p part for 3 weeks!!

I know both young Terry Wilson, No. 31, and John Walker No. 82 have been out of action for over 4 months awaiting parts for an 80cc Yamaha and 123cc Montesa respectively. So it seems the Japs and the Spaniards are no better at backing up sales than our own British firms used to be, despite all the great claims they make. Obviously complacency has crept into their organisations through possible lack of competition.

It may be that it would pay us all to pool our information on servicing, repairs and spares, etc., in order to ensure that the dealers who do care and go out of their way to help us are rewarded with our jobs when required. Not too often, I hope!

Will you please write to me if you have been satisfied with a local dealer, or again if you feel you've been badly treated.

I believe we have one or two members connected with the trade. They might like to put their side of the picture. Together we may be able to catalogue case histories and badger manufacturers for better service.

COMMITTEE MEETING 21/10/77

Once again a frantic dash from the North of England found me at "The Anchor" right on time. The Agenda was dealt with and the following are the main points of immediate interest.

## Christmas Party 17/12/77

Once again the party will be held at the Royal British Legion Hall, Aylesford, near Maidstone. It begins at 7.30 p.m. All long term members will know how pleasant, and what a success, last year's party was. We look to all new members to come along and join in the fun this year. We shall have to limit numbers so it will be a case of FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. Registered Family Membership tickets will cost £1.50 the lot. Additional member adult guests £1.00 (just in case you want to fetch Granny!) and children 50p. There is a very good disco arranged and refreshments and a bar. There will be an impromptu grepe paper fancy dress competition (Don't bring made up costumes) and a "Whose baby" competition. With the latter parents are requested to bring a photograph of their youngster as a baby with them and pencil the name lightly on the back and hand it to our Social Secretary - Nancy Morris. These will then be put on a board and riders will be asked to identify as many as possible. Should make a bit of fun! Presentation of "The Rider of the Year" awards will also be made.

By the way, we require a Father Christmas outfit for the party. Does anyone have one that we might borrow for the evening. Please contact Doreen.

### Donations

Very generous donations have been received from George Lemmon, Doreen Simmonds and Alf Parbutt. The committee acknowledges receipt and sincerely thanks them for their generosity. (I will not embarrass anyone by publishing figures but if I tell you these donations amount to over £100.00 you will judge for yourselves the extent of the committee's gratitude - Ed.)

### BRISTOL M.C.C. NATIONAL TEAM TRIAL 8/1/78

We would like to enter a team, or possibly two, in this event. Our Secretary, Doreen is obtaining information from Bristol so anyone who would like to submit his name to represent the club on the day should contact her so that entries can be made and transport etc. arranged in good time.

NEW LAND

Through the efforts of Doreen and her husband Roy, the use of a new piece of land has been obtained. It is at Mays Farm, Barming. We shall be riding on it in February for the first time. The farmer concerned is quite amenable but obviously it will pay us to be on our very best behaviour if we want to keep it. You should all know what is required of you by now. Delicate use of the throttle, etc., and definitely NO WHEELIES. In addition, parents please note, DEFINITELY NO DOGS ALLOWED.

NEWSLETTER ENVELOPES

I have been asked to let you know that these may be obtained from the shop at the next trial.

As I mentioned last month the club need to be supplied with twelve 9" x 4" first class stamped addressed envelopes for next year's newsletter. In order to keep everyone informed and avoid some needless telephone calls to committee members. Some of you jumped the gun and sent them in with your membership renewal (that's O.K.) but I now require envelopes from the following riders. Incidentally, I still have some in stock from last year on behalf of some lads, hence the different requirements. I require 12 9p S.A. Envelopes from the following riders, unless otherwise stated.

Jason & Stephen Legge	12	Stuart & Valentine Wood	12
Mark & Grant Lemmon	12	David Burroughs	12
Gordon Cook	12	Steven Connello	12
Calvin Platfoot	12	Michael Prince	12
Alan Chilvers	12	Andrew Soameson	12
John & Julie Banks	6	Shaun Mitchell	3
Stephen Simcock	10	Russ & Sean Cuckow	9
Steve Taylor	7	Michael Moreland	5
Steven Higgins	7	Stephen Brooker	11
Peter Cressey	8	James & David Smith	10
Tim Geoghegan	5	Phillip & Chris Cliff	9
Anthony Errey	12	Gavin & David Cooper	6
Glenn Lines	12	Jonathen Morris	7
John & Julie Walker	10	Leonard Marsh	9

Duncan & Ken Pearson	10	David Wicken	10
Keith & Tim Morgan	12	Tim Cooper	2
David Gledhill	12	Ian Coates	6
Richard Lipscombe	7	Shane & Russ Edwards	10
Terry Wilson	12		

In addition I require postage stamps ONLY from the following:

Brett Syndercombe	12 x 2p	Peter Cressey	4 x 2½p
Neil Thompson	12 x 2p	Steve Taylor	5 x 2½p
Mark Humphrey	12 x 2p	Tim Geoghegan	7 x 2½p
Russ Browning	12 x 2p	John & Julie Banks	6 x 2½p
		Gavin & David Cooper	6 x 2½p
		Jonathen Morris	5 x 2½p

### MEMBERSHIP

The final renewal date for membership for 1978 was November 15th. I spent one Sunday afternoon making about twenty-five telephone calls to many members to remind them of the deadline. In some cases I've had difficulty getting through, and in other cases members have moved home and failed to let the club know their new addresses. Anyone wishing to make a late application for renewal had better see me as soon as possible and I'll put the requests before the committee.

### "BIKE MAJOR" writes:-

"My grouse this month is about keeping sections clear.

Your trial at Rochester was just great, good well thought out sections requiring skill and ingenuity well within your capabilities but - oh those spectators - parents seem to think that because it's little Willie next it's O.K. to stand within sections, several times I saw boys divert their attention at critical stages because of these mobile obstacles, if you were the rider - keep your mind on the course - if you were the mobile obstacle, 'Move yer arris'.

My award this month goes to No. 7 Mike RIDGE. He rides a 250 Bultaco which as soon as it sees woods takes off like a blue streak and Mark hangs on looking like he's trying to

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control a runaway Rhino. He does this with courage and determination that others ought to try and cultivate. When finally he extricates himself and his machine from a painfull looking 'knit one purl one' he does it with a grin that shows a love of his chosen sport - well done Mark you get more pleasure than most I've seen (including winners).

"Bike Major"

### FOR SALE

Boys B.S.A. "Firebird" cycle. Dynamo lighting, 5 gears, spare handlebars, chrome carrier, pump and handbook. Only minor scratches. Ideal Xmas Gift. Reason for selling - rider No. 4 Jonathan Morris has outgrown it. £35.00. See Jonathan, Dennis or Nancy at next trial or write to 31 Milner Crescent, Aylesham, Canterbury.

### Funnies

Have you heard about the six Irish lads who went to a KYTC Trial one day. Five pleaded guilty!

Or the one about the famous Irish stuntman Evel O'Knievel who is now comfortable in Dublin Hospital recovering from his unsuccessful attempt at jumping 13 motor-bikes in a bus!

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. takes place on January 19th at the Royal British Legion Hall, Aylesford, Nr.Maidstone. The start time will be announced later. We did intend to start about 4 o'clock in order to allow everyone to have their Sunday dinner in comfort but if we do this I understand the owners of the hall propose to charge us for the day and evening use. So we may have to fetch the time of the meeting forward in order to cut costs. Seems to me it may be a good idea to start at 11 a.m., after all everyone seems to get to the trials at that time alright!

Now is the time to ensure you are in possession of the Club's Constitution and Rules and if there are any matters

for the agenda, or amendments you wish to propose, this is the time to act in order to give our Secretary plenty of time to prepare. If you wish to do so, please put it in writing.

May I, at this time, draw your attention to Rule 9, para. 3. We must have at least half of the currently registered membership in attendance at the A.G.M. in order to be able to proceed with the business. So please do come along. Don't leave it to the next bloke!!

### A.C.U. NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations are due, in a big way to Shane Edwards, No.67, in being placed 15th in the Intermediate Class of the above Championship. Certainly Dad must have put in a lot of time and mileage to help Shane compete and I'm sure he's mighty pleased with the results.

### HINTS FOR OBSERVERS

At a recent trial all observers were presented with a list of do's and don'ts etc. This was prepared by Don Cuckow and is quite explicit. If anyone contemplating observing would like a copy they are available upon request at the signing-on point at each trial.

By the way, on the back of one of these list of hints handed in after the last trial, was found the following rhyme.

"Sounds of observers snoring in the breeze,  
 Sounds of bikes popping through the trees,  
 In the fog they can't be seen,  
 Give him a 3, and don't be mean."

We obviously have a poet in our midst!

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS1977

- DEC: 4th KYTC/ESTC Trial. 11.00a.m. Ospringe, Faversham.  
 17th Christmas Party, 7.30 p.m. British Legion  
 Village Hall, Aylesford, Nr.Maidstone.

1978

- 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 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, Royal British Legion Hall,  
 Aylesford, Nr.Maidstone.

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