

Stans Newsletter No 7

Sally Steele sent in this report on the Betteshanger Sprint. And some additional comments From Karl Stratford. Thanks guys.

The Heritage Sprint at Betteshanger was a fantastic weekend, enjoyed in glorious sunshine, although the humidity and dust certainly kept everyone on their toes!

All the children rode brilliantly in the newly extended and revamped demonstration arena. As the weekend progressed, it was great to see them growing in confidence, developing their skills, and becoming increasingly willing to take on new challenges. As always, they encouraged and supported one another every step of the way.

One of the biggest highlights for many of the riders was being invited to take part in a parade along the drag strip in front of the crowds. The spectators were especially impressive on the Sunday, but our young riders didn't let the size of the audience faze them. They confidently showed off their skills, tackled the mobile obstacles and even managed a few wheelies along the way! A huge thank you goes to the arena helpers who moved the obstacles down to the drag strip and back again. Most importantly, the children rode with huge smiles on their faces throughout and represented Kent Youth Trials in a wonderfully positive way.

We were also lucky enough to have photographers on hand to capture some fantastic action shots of our talented riders in action.

Karl organised a Kick Start race, which was enthusiastically embraced by everyone. The course featured obstacles, steep climbs, descents and some tight turns, making for a close and exciting competition. After some impressive riding, Charlie Steele claimed victory with the fastest time. While he was understandably delighted with his performance, he may have been even more excited to receive his custom-made winner's trophy at the next trials weekend!

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Karl said, Betteshanger is a 1/8th mile drag strip and a highlight for the riders was to ride up the strip over obstacles in front of the crowd. There were 16 riders, mainly younger members, the oldest was Hector who put on a good show for the younger ones. This year we used the banking as well. The Kick-Start style event was good fun and was won by Charlie Steele. You should see the video, he rode very well and fast. It was a good group of riders and showcased the club well. We have been invited back for next year, we are looking forward to it.



Kick Start Area



Ava on the death-defying seesaw!

Cowden Weekend - Day 1: Mud, Rain and Plenty of Smiles!

After months of sunshine and bone-dry conditions, the eagerly anticipated Cowden weekend finally arrived... bringing the rain with it! Fortunately, a little water was never going to dampen KYTC spirits, and the weekend proved once again that our riders are as resilient as they are talented.

Saturday began with a soggy start as our dedicated observers headed out to their sections, ready for a day of competition. Cowden's famous sandstone terrain is challenging enough in the dry, but the rain added an extra layer of difficulty.

The weekend was kindly sponsored by the Payne family on behalf of Alport UK, a charity close to their hearts. Unfortunately, Evie Payne was taken unwell and instead of flying across the fields on two wheels, found herself travelling in a vehicle with four wheels and flashing lights. Thankfully, she made a full recovery, while brother Jack stepped into fundraising mode, selling homemade tattoos and stickers to raise money for the charity throughout the weekend.

There was plenty of excellent riding across all classes. In the Younger Riders class, Charlie Laughton strengthened his championship challenge with a superb win, while Mya McVarney and Millie Holyer completed the podium.

The Beginner Big Wheel riders continued to impress as they tackled a mixture of pink and yellow routes. Ryder Smith led the way with an outstanding 20 cleans, followed by Alfie Martin and a delighted Winnie Ely in third place.

One of the closest contests of the day came in the Sportsman class, where Charlie Steele and Aiden Camfield were inseparable right down to the final mark, sharing first place after matching scores throughout the trial. Their sporting handshake on the podium perfectly reflected the friendly spirit of the championship, while Harry Dennis and Sophia McVarney finished on the same marks with Harry taking the final podium place by one clean !!

Over on the red route, the Novice riders put on an excellent display. Henry Lingham secured the win, closely followed by Jack Hayles and Oliver Silvester in a tightly contested class. Edward Mooney's determination, perseverance and positivity throughout the day earned him the well-deserved Rider of the Day award, voted for by the observers.

The Intermediates certainly had their work cut out on the demanding blue route. Matthew Hann took first place with an excellent performance, while Lilly Wright secured second and Ethan Munday completed the podium. With Lilly matching Matthew's number of cleans, it was a close-fought battle throughout the day.

Meanwhile, on the Expert white route, the friendly rivalry between Fletcher Ely and Kayden Hart continued to entertain. The pair remain closely matched, but on this occasion Fletcher just edged ahead to take the win, with Kayden riding superbly to finish second.

As presentations came to an end, so did the rain. The clouds finally parted and the evening's festivities could begin. Before long, the campsite was alive with games of manhunt, hide-and-seek, dancing and plenty of action on the bouncy castle. The familiar aroma of Cadacs firing up and dinners being prepared drifted across the field, while parents, finally able to swap section scores for conversation, settled into their camping chairs to relax, catch up and enjoy a well-

earned tipples of their choice. Despite spending the day tackling some of the toughest conditions of the season, the riders somehow found a second wind, and the laughter and energy continued well into the evening.

One of the things that makes KYTC so special is the sense of community among our members. From the youngest riders to the oldest, it was wonderful to see children of all ages playing together, building friendships and creating memories away from their bikes.

Despite the weather's best efforts, Cowden delivered another memorable weekend of great riding, plenty of smiles and everything that makes our club so special.



My Ladies Trophy girls.



Lilly in good form!

Celebrating 50 Years of KYTC: A Golden Day of Riding, Memories and Friendship

The day had finally arrived. After months of anticipation and organisation, KYTC's 50th Anniversary Open Practice Trial welcomed past and present members, along with friends of the club, for a special day of riding, reminiscing and celebrating five decades of club history.

Riders were invited to tackle an unobserved trial while taking a trip down memory lane through an impressive collection of archived newsletters, photographs, trophies and even old meeting minutes. It was fascinating to see familiar family names appearing throughout the years, a reminder of the generations who have helped shape both the club and the sport.

At the signing-on desk, Katy and Sarah were braced for a busy morning, and with an impressive 96 riders taking part, they certainly earned their tea and biscuits. Once the paperwork was complete, attention turned to carefully displaying the archives in the gazebo, keeping one eye firmly on the sky in case the notoriously unreliable British summer decided to make its presence felt once again.

The legendary Steve Saunders joined us for the day, bringing along an impressive selection of TRS trials bikes from Saunders Extreme Sports. The youngsters were quick to test them out and put them through their paces, while Reece from New Forest Off Road brought along his Neutra electric trials bikes, attracting plenty of interest and questions from riders and spectators alike.

Adding to the occasion, Mark Ridge from Barham Motorcycle Club spent the day capturing fantastic photographs of riders tackling Cowden's famous sandstone terrain. With sections catering for all abilities, there was plenty on offer, and riders attacked them with enthusiasm, determination and varying degrees of elegance!

The club was delighted to see such a fantastic turnout, with members past and present coming together to celebrate this milestone anniversary. The occasional shower made an appearance, but it did little to dampen spirits. The Pit Stop Burger Van, kindly arranged by KYTC, proved a popular addition, and the complimentary vouchers for riders helped keep energy levels topped up throughout the day.

Events like this do not happen without a huge amount of hard work behind the scenes, and the committee should be incredibly proud of what they achieved. The day perfectly reflected everything that makes KYTC special: great riding, lasting friendships, countless memories and a club spirit that has stood the test of time for fifty years.

Here's to the next fifty years !

Sally.



Some of the old KYTC boys enjoying themselves.

KYTC round 9 Wormshill

I Missed the last couple of events and Sally Steele did the reports for me. Very eloquently !

I observed on section 1. It was a tight grotty little section with no real obstacles and just a couple of tight turns for all classes, with lots of dabs lost. The best ride was Joshua he cleaned it where everyone else was dabbing.

Pink small wheel. Charlie Laughton had good ride with a commanding win. He was chased by three girls Millie, Mya and Holly.

Pink big wheel. Archie took the win.

Yellow route, Charlie won on 1 mark lost, Sophia with her best result this year and first trial on a 24 managed to split the two top runners for the championship on 2 lost, Aiden 3 lost, and Louie not far away with another strong ride with 4 lost. That's what you call close!

Red route. Freddie and Jack tied and couldn't be separated, same marks lost, same cleans, same furthest clean, same 1s, same 2s, same 3s. As it was Jacks first win Freddie insisted that Jack had the 1st place trophy. Oliver had a disastrous first lap and lost a 5 on an easy section, he finished the trial only 2 marks off the win. Trials can be so frustrating.

Blue route. J.J. had his best ride for a long time and tied for the win with Matt. As a real coincidence the same as the Red route they couldn't be separated. All 5 riders entered have all won rounds this year. Another Blues winner, Hector was a non starter after, to no-ones surprise, injured himself on his bike the previous day. Get well soon Hector you have your new 125cc Gas Gas to ride now you are 12.

Expert class, It was Fletcher from Hayden, both rode well and enjoyed the trial but we need more Experts, you are the class that we all enjoy watching and the younger riders aspire to.

Team Stephens had their problems. On an easy section Freddie's bike started misfiring and popping and banging, he struggled through with a 3. He came over to me with his minder, Steph. Harley was away at the BSB round at Assen in Holland.

Kev Ely said I'll observe your section, you do Fred's bike. Now a two-stroke only needs compression, a spark and fuel to run. So while I stripped the carb I asked Steph to run back to the trailer for some tools and a spark plug and plug spanner. We have a box with all the tools and all the spares needed. She came back and said the box Harley had packed only had a pump and some oil and a funnel in it. Thanks! To much abuse from Louie "What sort of engine tuner are you? No spares or tools". While I did the carb, Louie ran back to his van and found a used plug, Tom came up with a plug spanner and fitted the plug. With carb fitted, hey presto the bike started and ran cleanly. With Fred calmed down and the last rider, he had his best rides on that last lap! Many thanks to all who helped. Five riders had offered Fred their bikes to finish the trial, thanks to them also.





Freddie and Jack, tie for red route the win. win!



JJ and Matt, tie for the blues route

Expert Class

In the 1980s and 90s when Harley was riding at KYTC the largest most competitive class was the Expert Class and it produced many top riders, including Graham Jarvis and Ashley Newberry. We now currently have only two riders who ride regularly. I worry that very soon we won't have any.

I think we should look at why this is. The Experts were the blue riband class who rode the difficult sections and impressed every other rider with their skill. I don't think we make enough emphasis on the class. It is and should be the class the others are improving and trying to reach.

I don't know the cure, I am just putting it out there. Is it something we can do about? There are many riders in the smaller classes and I hope and I am sure the parents hope they will stay at the club for years and become Experts.

Stan.

Adrian was going to do me a report on the ACU Youth Nationals
But he and Tristan went home early!

A couple of weeks ago Tristan spent the afternoon in the nicest and cleanest A&E ever encountered- James cook hospital Middlesbrough.

To get there Tristan decided it would be a fabulous idea to jump off his bike from a 6ft rock on the first day in the ACU youth nationals - hosted by Guisborough District Motor Club (who were fantastic by the way). He came up into a platform in section but the back wheel just started to move off as he planted. Tristan bailed out instead of going onto more rocks underneath. Unfortunately he over rotated his jump and landed directly on his left wrist. End of riding for Tristan. More importantly the bike was fine - it ended up being wedged between two rocks upside down, taking 3 people to pull it out.

Rush to the nearest hospital followed with great help from the host club to clear the paddock area to get the van out. Like the parting of the sea. Outcome 45 minutes from first nurse chat to doctor outcome was a fractured left wrist and rippled compression. Posh way explaining it crumpled and displaced under the force. Can see the crumple on left side of wrist on the x-ray (just below joint) sticking out. Should be straighter. 4weeks splint - 6 weeks no riding. 🙄🙄🙄. Is he listening to being told to reduce activity and to take care - is he heck. Still running around and literally chomping at the bit to get back on the bike. Hopefully the next KYTC round even if it's to poodle round at the back of the pack.



CARBURATION TECH TIP

In my business I was having so many telephone calls I couldn't get my work done, most of them were wanting freebie information. Harley set me up with a premium rate phone line "Stan Stephens Two-Stroke Help Line".

The most wanted help was with setting up carbs. With trials bikes most riders don't alter things very much but I think it would help to know the basics of carburation.

Basically how the carburation works is as follows'

At idling speed the control is the tick-over screw. The first $1/8^{\text{th}}$ of throttle is controlled by the mixture screw (note $1/8^{\text{th}}$ throttle, not revs). The next $1/8^{\text{th}}$ ie $1/4$ of throttle is controlled by the pilot jet. The $1/4$ to $1/2$ throttle is controlled by the cutaway shape of the slide. The $1/2$ to $3/4$ throttle is controlled by the needle. From $3/4$ throttle to full throttle is job of the main jet.

When the engine is running at idle speed the adjustment is the slow running screw or tickover screw. This is the larger of the two adjusting screws on the side of the carb. The mixture screw is the smaller adjusting screw beside the tickover screw. On some trials bikes the carb adjustments are on the right and some are on the left. Looking at the carb some mixture screws are between the tickover screw and the engine and some are between the tickover screw and the airbox. If the mixture screw is on the airbox side it controls the air and if its on the engine side it controls the fuel, so if on the airbox side you would screw it in to make it richer and out for weaker. If it's on the engine side screwing it in will make it weaker and out for richer.

If you can't adjust the bottom end carburation on the mixture screw you may need to change the pilot jet, this is inside the float bowl and is the small jet next to the main jet.

Rarely you need to change the slide, if it runs poorly $1/4$ to $1/2$ throttle it is more likely the slide is worn and needs replacing.

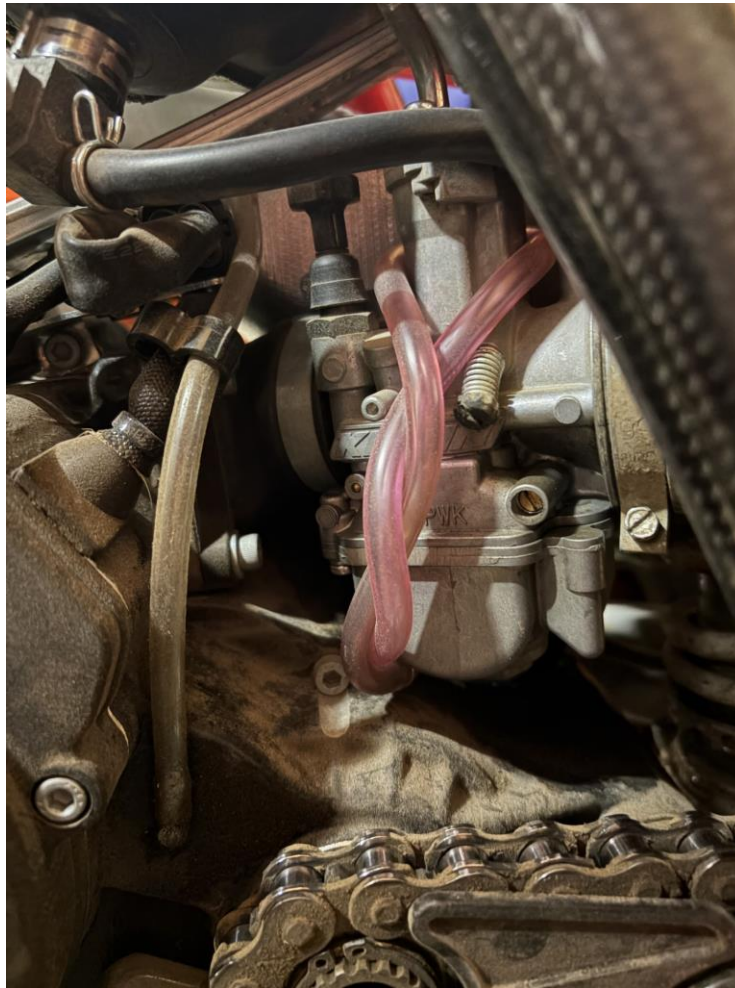
For mid position throttle, to raise the needle (lower the clip) will make it richer, raise the clip will make it weaker.

For full throttle it's the main jet, the larger jet inside the float bowl.

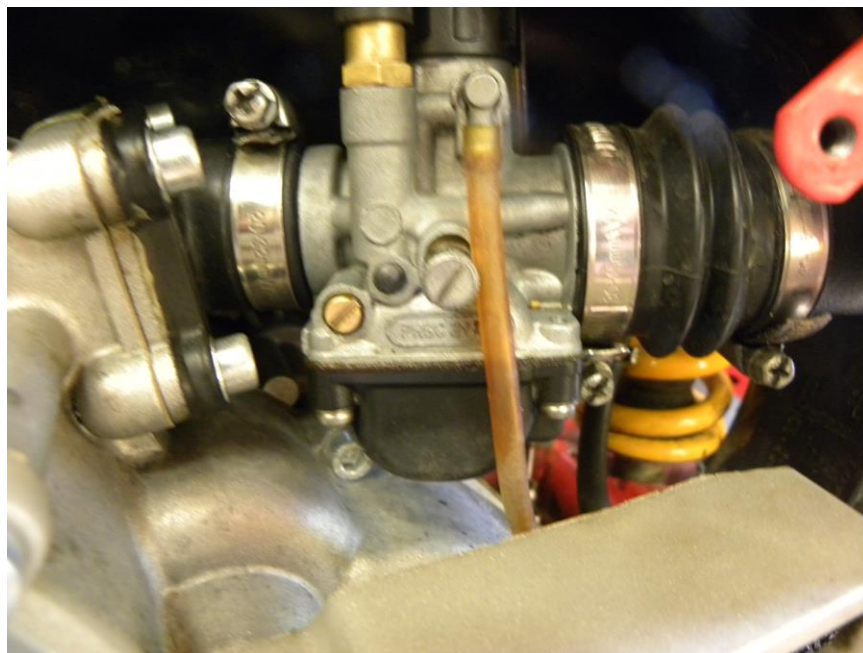
All the carb positions overlap each other.

I hope that helps.

Stan.



125cc Gas Gas. The mixture screw is on the air-box side of the carb so turning the screw outwards lets in more air and weakens the mixture. Turn the screw in cuts down the air and richens the mixture.



Beta 80. The mixture screw is on the engine side of the carb so turning the screw outwards lets in more fuel and richens the mixture. Turn the screw in cuts down the fuel and weakens the mixture.

Stan Stephens Two-stroke Help Line

Premium Rate Phone Lines

Known as Chat lines, where, usually, men could chat to dubious women and pay a high charge. Chat lines had a terrible reputation. Our Premium rate line was for people with problems with their two-stroke engine and cost £1.50 per minute and I would help them with their two-stroke problems.

One day my special line rang and I said "Stan Stephens Two-stroke Help Line, can I help you with your problem". There was a lady on the phone and she sounded upset, she said "this number keeps coming up on my phone bill, my son keeps ringing it. I am so worried". She was almost in tears. She said "I don't want to but I have got to ask, what are these two strokes about". I said "Lady, has your son got a motorbike"? She was puzzled and said "Yes". I said "Is it a two-stroke"? She went quiet and then screamed. "I love him, I love him, I'll never distrust him again". She ran off and didn't cut the phone off!

Thank you Joseph

All active members this year would have received an email from Joe, he has decided at the end of this year it is time for him to step down from the committee. Joe joined the committee back in 2019 and for the last 7 years has played a huge part in the running of the club and the growth. It goes without saying that he will be missed and thanks to his effort and commitment to KYTC the club is in a great position with lots of members actively riding.

Harley writes.

The funeral of Brian Smith.

Sad to report the recent sad passing of Brian Smith of Crowborough trials land (Pilmer Woods). There was a fantastic turnout of bikers for his funeral and a large montage of pictures of his rich biking life. Brian was a huge supporter of local trials, allowing several clubs including KYTC to use his excellent rocky river based land over a long period of time.

RIP Brian.

Likes and Dislikes.

I didn't go to Cowden and Harley put out some Likes and Dislikes sheets for me but the wind blew them away!

I have had some great replies, with unusual answers. Let's have some more.

The questions were;

1/ favourite sport to watch on TV.

2/ favourite sport to be involved in.

3/ favourite food.

4/ favourite KYTC rider to watch.

5/ top 3 likes.

6/ top 3 dislikes.

7/ favourite KYTC venue.

8/ favourite type of section.

Mason Meadows no 8

1/ premiership rugby

2/ trials

3/ Greek

4/ Enzo Alfrey

5/ most sports, food and going away

6/ football, people, TV.

7/ Cowden

8/ big hills and rocky river-beds

Jack Hayles no 61

1/ moto gp

2/ trials and mountain biking

3/ sausages

4/ Dan Dabreo

5/ bikes, food, games

6/ ID Buzz, washing bike, homework.

7/ crowborough

8/ streams

Enzo Alfrey

1/ Toni Bou world trials

2/ trials

3/ curry

4/ Fletch

5/ m/c racing, trials, running

6/ going slow, sand, cold

7/ Crowborough

8/ hill climbs

Hector Kemp no100

1/ F1

2/ trials

3/ Greggs sausage roll

4/ Mason Meadows

5/ motorbikes, flat-out, flying through the air

6/ homework, getting a stupid 5, waiting until I am 12 to ride my new 125cc Gas Gas

7/ Crowborough

8/ one with a big hill

Holly Kemp no 110

1/ gladiators

2/ swimming

3/ chocolate

4/ Hector

5/ Roblox, drawing and colouring, camping

6/ spiders and bugs, getting muddy,

7/ Cowden

8/ flat and straight

Willow no 24

1/ FI

2/ trials

3/ Dominoes

4/ Lily

5/ my dad, my car, my lpad

6/ fuel price, re-doing my GCSE English, getting up in the mornings

7/ Horsemonden

8/ streams

For Sale.

I am starting a "For Sale" feature in the Newsletter.

Needs to be roughly to do with trials/camping/workshop.

I'll start it.

For sale, motorcycle workbench, heavy duty and folds up. 270 cm long, 66cm wide. £50



Heavy duty workbench - £50



Heavy duty workbench with lower shelf - £60



Don't forget if you have any stories or facts about your riders please send them to me. I could do with some help, would anyone like to send me a regular report on the Pinks and Yellow classes after each trial. Some little stories would also help. My phone number is 01732 761056 and email is sswostroke@hotmail.co.uk

