

RRND

Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club



News from the Editor

Following our trial in recent months of producing the Club Newsletter in an electronic format, we have now signed up to an eNews service, providing a cost effective and fast way of communicating with members.

This months' newsletter is the first using this service, and it is hoped that members will enjoy the new style. A mailing will be made shortly to those members for whom we do not hold e mail addresses, to ensure that everyone receives the eNews.

As always, a plea for articles! Please send them to me - my details are at the end of this eNews.

My grateful thanks this month go to Carol Dark, who has typed most of this eNews for me, and to the Dark family generally, without whom there would be nothing to publish in this edition!

Debbie Don

Chairman's Chatter

I write this with the October Club trial at Ockley fresh in mind, thankful that my scores seem to have returned to that of a totally average blue Club rider and not, as at Hook Woods, as if I am determined to score maximum on every section! Perhaps it was lack of riding recently, or perhaps the different terrain, but I just could not get things together at the latter even though our entry was relatively light and there was plenty of time to take over the sections.

For the most part the stream at Ockley was very low and the ground under the trees bone dry. There were still some deep pools to catch out the unwary or the unlucky and section 7 seemed to be the bogey section on all routes with a number of riders requiring dry clothes. Carol Dark was busy with the camera so perhaps we will see some of the evidence on the gallery soon?

Editor Debbie Don has now put together a package to facilitate the monthly e mail news letter to every member. An operation means that she can't get into the loft to get to the computer (!) but Carol Dark is valiantly assisting to get the news letter out as normal. The membership list has been over hauled and hopefully all members will now be in receipt of the newsletter. If you are aware of any members who have problems receiving e mails or who have no access to a computer please advise the editor asap.

There has been another change on the Committee with Shelley Wooster standing down as Membership Secretary. Dave and Shelley have been hard working and supportive members of the Club and Committee for many years but their move to the coast has meant that their involvement has had to reduce. Our thanks to them and a welcome to new Membership Secretary, Rob Edwards. Rob's father previously held this post and with two teenage sons riding and a nephew taking an interest it is clear that the Edwards family are back! Web pages have been amended and the new membership application form will bear Rob's details.

Richard Coles



Club Trial Hookwoods September '09

The entries for the Hookwoods trial were down a little in number from previous events at this venue. This may have been due to the National trial running in Kent the same day.

Full results are available on the website but the best on the day were as follows::

Experts: S Read 6 M Powdrell* 17 E Clarke 36

Inters: M Don 68 A Read 75

Novice Blue: K Cross 168

Blue Over 40: S Straker* 33 D Frazer* 57 R Edwards 93

Blue Under 16: Tom Charman 77

Novice Red: J Paterson* 33 D Charman 41 G Tickner 74

Red Over 40: R McKenzie 15 G Jarvis* 25 A Williams* 25

Red Under 16: E Tickner 42

Yellow: C Warren* 18 B Edwards 36 L Edwards 56

* denotes Guest Rider

Letters

I would like to thank Colin, Matt, Chris and Scott for setting out a very enjoyable trial at Hook Woods recently - and especially to Chris and Carol (and Grace!) who

came along to do the signing on on Sunday and then left to go to the British round in Cowden.

Also, I would add that we ought to try and avoid clashing with the British round in future - I hadn't realised that it was the same weekend as our Club trial and I'm sure that people were torn between which event to attend - I know that I was! Also, it was a shame that there was a Bognor event at Betchworth on the same day, again impacting possible entries.

Eric Clarke

42nd National Jim Courtney Presidents Trophy Trial Sidbury, Devon

On Saturday 3rd October we headed down to Devon for the 42nd National Jim Courtney President's Trophy Trial being run by Otter Vale MCC the following day. This event starts from Wolverleigh Farm, Sidbury and is a round of the ACU Traditional Trials Series. The Traditional Championship comprised of six classes; Pre 75 machines, Twinshocks, Air-cooled Monoshocks, riders over 40, riders over 50 and riders over 60. In addition there were two non-championship classes for Experts and Clubmen. In all there were 92 riders including Chris Dark on his SWM 280 and Simon Mephram on a Honda TLR250.

The course was approximately 20 miles in length, taking in sections at six groups and comprising of 40 sub sections. There was parking for spectators at all but one group of the sections and a route card and map was provided in the programme.

We stayed at a B&B in Honiton only a few miles from the start and spent the Saturday visiting nearby Sidmouth, although unfortunately we left the sun behind in Redhill. Saturday evening we enjoyed a superb meal at The Otter Pub in Weston just outside the town of Honiton. This is a pub which was recommended to us a few years ago and is so good that we look forward to returning to it each year.

The Dark Family



ACU British Trials Championship at Cowden, Kent

The weekend of 26/27th September saw a round of the 2009 ACU British Trials Championship held for the first time at Cowden in Kent. This round was run jointly by Wickham Motor Club and Kent Youth Trials Club at Sandfields Farm, Cowden on a piece of land that has been used by Wickham club since the 1940s if not before.

Saturday was practice day and competitors could practice for two hours between 3pm and 5pm being allowed to try each section only once. There were twelve sections and all but the last were natural sections in this area of large sandstone rocks. Many of the sections have been used in the past, although with less severity. Others had been unearthed with the help of an excavator and a large working party during the preceding weeks. The last section, in the field was made up of enormous tree trunks and huge rag stone rocks, two of which were 8 tonne each.



As explained in the programme, the format for 2009 has undergone some changes. The Championship class still caters for the elite riders and is seen very much as a springboard into European and World Championship events. These Championship riders ride some specialist sections designed to test their exceptional skill, as well as riding some of the harder Expert sections. The Expert class could be described as containing some Championship riders who have moved down, other riders who are progressing up, as well as those who have settled for this level of competition. The biggest change is the addition of an Expert 'B' class, where riders will attempt some Expert sections and also some special

sections of rather less severity.

Starting at 10am on Sunday a programme of some 45 competitors including Britain's top riders competed over the course of three laps of twelve sections. Michael Brown, Alexz Wigg, Sam Haslam, James Dabill and Sam Connor were among the Championship class riders, all with their 'minders' shouting out advice in their own special language and preparing the way where needed. Some blowing dust from the rocks – that always amuses me!



Entry for spectators was £7 per car which included 4 people and a programme. There was live music, trade stands and catering vans. At the end of the trial there was a cycle trials display by Scott Wilson who attempted the last section on his Onza bike.

A champagne presentation followed. James Dabill won the Championship Class losing 18 marks, followed by Michael Brown on 26 and Alexz Wigg on 56.

In view of this years overwhelming success, plans are underway to host the event again next year although this is yet to be confirmed. It will certainly be an event not to miss!

For anyone who likes the idea of riding in this fantastic area, Wickham MC runs the Harvest Trial in September at nearby Whitepost Farm which is open to all centre riders and the Combine Trial in March at Sandfields Farm. Although the latter is only open to members of the North Kent Trials Combine it may be possible to obtain day membership by arrangement.

The Dark Family



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