

RRND

Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club



Editor's Message

Apologies for the late issue of this month's E News. However, until this weekend, I had only one article to include from Mark Stubberfield, (thanks Mark), so could not publish. Luckily, my pleas to the Committee were answered by Richard & Stuart - thanks guys.

Can I ask that you **all** consider writing me a brief account of your motorcycling exploits? I would love to be in the position of having so much material, I can afford to hold some over for the following month(s)!

Remember - its your publication, and only as good as the effort put in, so please send me any articles, reports, jokes, photos, letters etc. The deadline for the next issue is 1st July - contact details at the end of this E News.

Yours hopefully!

Debbie Don

Chairman's Chatter

A few things come to mind this month.

Firstly, well done to Mark Stubberfield for entering the Scottish and giving it a good go! Mark certainly put a great deal of preparation into it (losing a stone in the process) but as he is the first to admit, was unprepared for the sheer slog of the cross country going between sections. Unfortunately, he was advised to hand in his number after the first day or could have at least ridden on a couple of extra days. It has been interesting to hear of his experience and he vows to try again - and next time may have company from some other RRND members if Malcolm, Stuart and Scott are true to their word!

Secondly, our best wishes to Antony Read who is currently recovering from a major operation. Although he has kept quiet about it, Antony has been unwell for a time. Despite major surgery he intends to be back riding in about 6 weeks. No doubt Stuart will pass on our best wishes and let us know of his Dad's progress.

Thirdly, I am often amazed at the comradeship and closeness of the Trials and Enduro world, and the access that we have to some of our best riders. Malcolm and I rode in the Tea 'til Dusk Enduro run by REME at Slab Common on 30th May. 72 riders started and these included Daryl Boulter, British Enduro Champion, and Scott Elderfield, British MCX Champion! Go to a local trial and you are quite likely to be rubbing shoulders with World Champion, Alexz Wigg. Not only can you ride with them, most are approachable and happy to chat. Go to any event, certainly in the South, and you will see someone you know. I am always happy to encourage people into our world and enjoy running the training trials. We hope to follow Neville's suggestion of promoting a regional youth trial in the future. In this newsletter you will see the reply I sent to a Sussex Police Officer hoping for help with mini-motos. Unfortunately I saw no alternative but to act in a way to protect

our sport and our land access. Let me know if you have any other ideas!

And lastly- new members continue to come to us via the training trials and its great to welcome the Butt family - check out the picture below and the pictures on the website of Billy and Geoff (Dad) in the buttercups!



Richard Coles

New members

On behalf of the Club and Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to the Club:

Geoff, Billy & Ellie Butt

Martin Howell

Trevor and Austin Howell

and last but not least Brian Walpole.

Rob Edwards

Membership Secretary

My First Scottish Six Days Trial

The event began for me on Sunday 2nd May with signing on at the Ben Nevis Hotel (which was suffering from an outbreak of the Novobug virus, not a good omen!) followed by scrutineering and parking the bike in parc ferme at the West End car park. Incidentally, I was filmed taking part in both of these events and can be seen on the videos on the SSDT website. The first outing on the bike was for the parade of riders through Fort William high street that afternoon.

Day 1 – Monday 3rd May

As rider number 160 my start time was 10.10 and the first sections at upper Leanachen were very hard to get to, up a steep, wet, marshy hillside which lost me a lot of time as I got stuck several times. Fell off at section one, stalled it at section two then another two miles down the same marshy hillside to sections three and four at Leanachen. By the time I got here I was knackered – not a good start.



After these two sections it was a long twenty mile run across Annoch moor and some of the most dramatic terrain I have ever found myself in. Many times I found myself stuck in bogs up to the fork stanchions, on one occasion throwing me over the handlebars and taking me and two kind competitors to lift it out. This journey also lost me valuable time. There were seven sections in this area, one of which I even managed to clean but of course there were no spectators to clap in this remote location.

Rest stop, Kinlochleven – phew. Good to see Liz and friends from our local pub who had come to support me and by this time I had settled into it and was really beginning to enjoy myself. As I pulled in, someone I met at the traditional trial in Redruth, Barry Craig whose son Terry was competing, took my time card and bike and told me to get something to eat while he took care of the bike. What a lovely lot we triallers are!

Off again, next sections beginning at Blackwater approximately twelve mile round trip, returning to Kinlochleven. This terrain took us up into the hills, up goat tracks beside sheer drops and of course more bogs. Met Liz and co again at Garbh Bheinn, the last of the sections in this group, however I was now running seriously late and had to start taking fives rather than attempting the sections.

Despite every effort after more than eight hours on the bike, I was over time and excluded from the trial.

That night, we lost count of the number of cuts and bruises on my body and I was unable to grip anything with my right hand such was the arm pump, but slept well.

Day Two – Tuesday 4th May

Even though excluded from the trial you can carry on on a no award basis, so feeling stiff and sore, I set off on my twenty eight mile road run to the first sections at Laggan Lochs. On arrival, I tried the sections but was unable to grip properly with my right hand. As this was the first set of sections and I had just refuelled, I threw in the towel, my trial was over.

This was a great experience and to be part of it was brilliant. I'll just have to train harder for the next time.....

Any youngsters in the club considering doing the Scottish, enter now and don't leave it until you are fifty.

Many thanks to everyone for their support and words of wisdom prior to my departure and in the words of Chris Dark "it's hard".

Mark Stubberfield

Scottish Six Day Trial 2010

Well done to Mark for attempting this most gruelling of trials - and for finishing the

first day. Mark's score for this first day was 524, which was about half the number of marks lost by several other competitors.

The overall winners of the Six Day Trial were as follows:

First: Alexz Wigg 15

Second: Michael Brown 17

Third: Ben Hemingway 17

Full details can be found at www.ssd.org.

If anyone wants to follow Mark's lead and try to get a place for next year's event, you should note that it will be the event's 100th birthday, and as demand for places will be unprecedented, the entry process will start earlier than usual this coming September!

If you missed it on TV, then coverage of this year's event can be viewed at www.worldsport.tv, click on the Alphabetical option on the left hand menu, then select 'S' and hey presto!

Hookwood Cup – South East Combine 31/05/10

Now I have my new toy to play with in the form of a shiny new Beta Evo, I am starting to get out and try to ride a lot more trials than the standard 2 a month I seem to be going to. Last month I entered the Hookwood Cup - at Hookwoods funnily enough - where I opted out of the elite route and rode the expert, equivalent to the expert route at the South Coast events. I was pretty glad I did, as the elite route was very full on, drawing in some big names such as Ben Morphett, Sam Connor as well as other regulars to the national and international circuit.

As per usual I was not feeling my best after a heavy weekend, but this sometimes aids my performance so I powered through. This was not the case this time however, and I proceeded to clock up some hefty scores on the first lap, not helped with having the first section being watched by about 40 people including most of the top riders!



The trial was run over both parts of the woods, at Club events we are usually restricted to the left hand side of the wood, so a welcome change to ride both bits. The right hand side still offers a lot of extreme sections, but has a lot more natural obstacles rather than fields of rocks and boulders. After the first lap I started to get into it a little more, and once I cleaned a few sections started to feel a bit better. I knew the damage with the poor first lap, but still good to get some good rides in.

I finished the day with a nice hefty 5 on some tricky steps that I had previously got up, but thankfully I hit the rocks before the bike did avoiding putting that first scratch on the bike!

Once I finished I watched the top riders finish out their laps, and sat there in awe as they cleaned up on some ridiculously hard sections with pin point precision. Hopefully with some quieter nights at the weekends and a bit more time on the bike I will be able to start challenging the lead guys at these events, but until then I had to settle with 9th place - smack bang in the middle of the field. Not the best result but thankfully not the bottom either!

Stuart Read



Photos above from May's training trial

Club Trial at Faygate 23 May 2010

A scorching hot day greeted the 34 riders who signed on for the May Club trial at Faygate. Thanks to all who laid out, signed on and took down in Eric's absence from this trial.

Best of the riders on the day were as follows:

	1st	2nd	3rd
White	Stuart Read - 3	Scott Dark - 22	Malcolm Coles - 75
Inter	Antony Read - 43		
Novice Blue	Jessica Fry* - 39	Phillip Tickner-Wand - 45	Robert McKenzie - 63
Blue Over 40	Rob Edwards - 35	Pete Jenkins - 42	Bob Collins - 55
Red	Stan Metcalf - 6	Phil Oakley - 7	Richard Osborn - 10
Red Under 16	Tom Hutchinson - 20	Ben Edwards - 39	Grace Dark - 93
Yellow	Mike Hammond - 18	James Dark - 20	Brian Walpole - 33

* denotes Guest Rider

Tales of Godzilla at Faygate!

You either hate or love Faygate as a venue - there doesn't seem to be any in between. The place has an evil reputation when wet but a beautiful day meant a good turnout for the event.

Malcolm and Stuart laid out the whites, I did the blues, with Pete the red and Mike the yellow. Pity my companions who not only had to put up with the heat, the flies, and the constant yapping of an overexcited and overheated border collie, but also my constant whining and grizzling about Godzilla.

Now Godzilla (the Gas-Gas for those of you who don't know) was running true to form. In a cycle as regular as clockwork, once a month she becomes foul-tempered, unpredictable, unreliable and downright dangerous. By section three (laying out) she had tried to saw my left ankle off with the drive chain removing another chunk of boot in the process, and then in a dramatic gesture had disengaged her kick start spring (again). Refusing point blank to bump start she was left against a large beech and smirked whilst I limped off into the distance, my Diadora boots (possibly the worst trials boots in the world?) doing their best to finish what the drive chain had failed to achieve.

Unusually, Malcolm and I were both laying out routes that we were to ride, so we felt we needed to ensure that they were reasonably challenging. I must confess by the time I returned to the start I

couldn't care less about riding but thought I might as well try and resolve the problem and set off back into the woods with a borrowed set of allen keys.

Godzilla does not care for internal inspections and will do her best to spit out an allen bolt or a kick start shaft shim when you are not expecting it. Carrying out the operation on a carpet of deep leaves I was rather expecting to put back rather less bits than came out but it all seemed to go rather smoothly- after all I am rather practised at it now! So the dog was left tied up in the shade and I set off to catch up with the bulk of the riders.

To say it was a bad day is an understatement. For some reason Godzilla's clutch took to biting at a different point each time it was released for the first lap, then a false neutral meant that she waited until I was least expecting it before dropping into gear and firing herself across the clearing into a tree - fortunately leaving me standing with my legs apart and my mouth open as I held the clippers. She then laying screaming like a petulant toddler until I was able to collect her and dust her off. She was not done with me yet - she then amused herself by throwing me over the handlebars into the stream (or mud) where I lay in the cool shallows reflecting that I was probably the most comfortable I had been all day - or would have been if it hadn't been for a rear wheel that was rotating about 6" from my face as Godzilla again screamed her head off! To finish me off a failed climb on section 5 resulted in a viscous stab in the knee from her foot rest.

Now all these problems and a less than proficient ride the rest of the time meant that I was fairly slow and was greeted with a rapidly emptying car park on my return. Most riders were rushing off to join family and friends and enjoy the weather so particular thanks to those of you who stayed to clear away - even so half the laying out team also had the job of clearing. Please ensure that you take your turn in clearing away. Thanks also to those who tried to move the dog into the shade as the sun moved when he didn't have the sense to do it himself. Although on a long strap when left he seems to treat a lead or a tie as a hair trigger to a grenade and will not move!

Godzilla was left hissing and spitting to herself whilst Harvey and I went off with the collecting bag. On the whole I was pleased that the gearbox was engaging properly and I was even hopeful that this problem was resolved. I chose to ignore the appalling high score - Perhaps Godzilla and I had a future after all!

To be continued!

Richard Coles



Chairman's Correspondence with Sussex Police

From Sussex Police:

'Morning Richard,

I have been passed your RRND website details from a Guy Wheeler at Crawley Borough Council. This reason for this is due to problems we have had, like many areas with anti social driving with mini motos on footpaths etc. Most of those stopped have said they just wanted somewhere to ride legally but we have been unable to give them any helpful suggestions. I see you run a membership which could offer a service for them to use their bikes legally and safely. If you would be happy could I collect some leaflets (if you have any) or contact details for us to pass to local residents stopped on bikes or who take an interest in this.

Obviously we are coming up to the summer and are trying to prevent this becoming an issue like it did last year.

Any help or information would be appreciated.

Regards,

Pc
CP965
Crawley
Sussex Police.

Dan

Pyle

Sussex Police – Serving Sussex'

Chairman's Response

'Thanks for your e mail.

I suspect a lot of your problem stems from the unsupervised use of these bikes and whilst riders say that they just want somewhere to ride - that generally means locally and on the days they choose - school holidays etc. Transporting the bikes to our riding areas is likely to be an issue. To be honest if an individual is interested in trials riding they will generally seek us out and visit us for information.

The other issue for us is that we avoid planning issues because of the very limited use each area gets. Often the areas are only available to us one or two days a year. Trials bikes create very little noise. Most mini motos are more akin to scramblers and would not be suitable for our events. Although some land owners (a very few) may be sympathetic to a request to practice, continuous use by bikes other than trials bikes is likely to cause planning issues for both us and the land owner and possible loss of use altogether. The other issue is occupier liability and all of our events are held under a permit and the Club and landowner is insured.

Sorry to be negative - I think your problem can only be dealt with locally and the majority of these riders would not be interested in the discipline of trials and only want the freedom to ride where and when they choose and/or access land locally. I am also involved in motorcycle enduro and the authorised use of Tilgate Forest for a small number of events has been jeopardised by unauthorised use by other vehicles.

We are always happy to talk to prospective members and to show them what a trial is. Feel free to circulate our details to those who an express an interest in that activity. The reality is that few of our members have access to anywhere to practice and ride once or twice a month travelling a fair distance to do so.

Richard Coles.'

Let any of the Committee know if you have views on the above!

Club Championships 2010

Current standings are as follows:

Expert

Stuart Read	59
Scott Dark	43
Malcolm Coles	37
Eric Clarke	32

Inter

Antony Read	43
Pat Lloyd-Jacob	35
Danny Haste	23
Mike Husband	20

Novice Blue

Robert McKenzie	60
Keith Cross	20
Robert Edwards	11
Chris Roos	11
Mark Stubberfield	10
Luke Edwards	37

Over 40 Blue

Pete Jenkins	55
Rob Edwards	43
Andy Hutchison Snr	31
Colin Don	28
Mark Stubberfield	26

Novice Red

Luke Edwards	37
Paul Newman	33
Bob Collins	23
Richard Osborn	21

Under 16 Red

Ben Edwards	44
Grace Dark	33
Tom Hutchison	24

Handicap

Ben Edwards	114
Luke Edwards	98
Mike Hammond	95
Stuart Read	89
Malcolm Coles	68
Tom Hutchison	68
Robert McKenzie	58
Bob Collins	55
Scott Dark	55
Antony Read	53
Samuel Brightman	51
Grace Dark	51
James Dark	50

What's on?

Lots happening this month, so put the following dates in your diary, and please try and come along to the events the Club is running (in blue below):

13 June	Star Group Trial (Talmag Club) at Frensham.
13 June	South Coast Trials (Crawley Club) at Birchanger Wood. Start 10.30am.
WED 16 June	Club Evening Trial at Sparticles Wood. Start 6pm.

20 June Beginner Training Trial at Harts Lane, South Godstone. Start 11am.
27 June Club Trial at Hookwoods. Start 11am.

Club's 75th Anniversary Camping Weekend

To celebrate the Club's 75th Anniversary, a camping weekend is to be held at Ockley over the weekend of 24 & 25 July 2010, with the Club trial being run on the Sunday. Please get the dates in your diary now, and full details of the weekend will be circulated shortly!

The Club on Facebook!

If you are a Facebook user, you should note that there is now a Group page for the Club - simply search for 'Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club'. Upcoming events are posted, and obviously, you can use the Wall and Discussion boards.

Please bear in mind that all content is public, so take care when posting that you do not provide too much personal information etc, and please do not post photos etc of other people without their permission.

Hopefully, this Group will develop into a useful tool. I will be looking for a volunteer(s) to become administrators/moderators if it takes off!

Debbie Don