

RRND

Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club



Chairman's Chatter

Blimey - May already! Where did those four months go? The last few weeks in the Coles' household have been quiet bike wise as there has been a bit of a break in the SEEC time card enduro programme. Rather than enter the SEEC Hare and Hounds series we have taken a bit of time out and been able to enjoy the good weather and do some garden projects, as well as do some well needed bike maintenance. It hasn't all been lazing about though as membership of the Church choir meant a full schedule over Easter and I have somehow ended up with a part in a local drama group's comedy (at Outwood). I know - my riding has always been a bit of a joke so I am ideal for such a role.

Although as family we have always been involved with our local Church, life goes on and if our events fall on a Sunday - as most do - then we will work around them. Even so, I was a bit taken aback to receive a sales call from MCE Insurance on Easter Sunday. Even worse the salesman happily told me that the best deal they could find me was only three times higher than my last policy! For once I could tell him to poke it but a replacement for the KTM will be coming soon and no doubt I will have to eat humble pie. Perhaps the reason for the increase in premiums is the on-going issue of theft of off road bikes. Certainly the enduro world is full of stories of wholesale garage strips where houses have been entered to obtain keys for both buildings and vehicles and often the bikes are removed in the van or pickup of the bike owner.

The most brazen thefts appear to be centred on Hook in Hampshire at the moment. There have been several cases where a sale is agreed on the 'phone, the bike having been advertised on the internet. A cash purchase is agreed and a time fixed for collection. At the last minute the seller rings up and asks the vendor to deliver the bike as they have transport problems. A plausible address is given that seems to check out and the delivery points have been in cul-de-sacs. The vendor is met on arrival by a casually dressed male who asks to be allowed to run the bike up in the cul-de-sac just to check the gears. In each case he has then driven at the vendor at speed and driven off without any bike clothing or even a helmet and is quickly lost. I suspect that perhaps a van is parked up in the area ready to receive the bike as otherwise it would attract attention and that this might also be why the bikes are lost so quickly. The most recent bike was lost by one of our championship riders and was a 2011 bike worth around £5000. With such distinctive bikes going it is highly likely they are being taken abroad. Be aware of the problem - see websites such as MXtrax or Enduronews for more information.

My thanks this month to Tom and Dave Charman who again turned out to erect and man a stall in Priory Park advertising the Club at the Reigate and Banstead Council Sports weekend. How different was the weather this year to the heavy rain of last year? As you will have seen from Rob's article last month we are always receiving enquiries and welcome a steady trickle of new members and this event further helps to highlight our sport.

Next Club trial is at Dunsfold and will give those of you who don't attend the Club camping weekend a chance to ride there. It's interesting in the dry and a nightmare in the wet. I have just booked a holiday for that period - so you'd better be prepared for the wet!

Richard Coles

Fifty Years Off (mostly) and On of Trials Riding

As 2010 rolled on to 2011, it dawned on me that it was 50 years ago that I rode my first trial - The Sunbeam Novice Trial of Sunday July 16th 1961, starting from Cross-in-Hand, near Heathfield, Sussex.

In those days, of course, there was only ever one route through the sections, so trials were roughly graduated in degrees of difficulty, in order to cater for beginners to experts. Novice trials were the place to start and club trials were the next step up, followed by group and then open to centre trials. Youth/schoolboy trials didn't exist, and trials were often road based, with a single lap route of maybe 20/30 miles connecting areas of off-road going, where the observed sections were located. The Sunbeam Novice was just such a trial and a long way round for a very green 17 year old. There was much demand though, as witnessed by the entry (I still have the programme) of 205 riders! I belonged to the East Grinstead MCC (no longer in existence) back then, as my Uncle (Frank Ford) was a keen member and had taken me along to club nights for some time.

I had only recently bought my steed for the trial, a 197cc Villiers powered 1955 DOT. It was heavy, particularly the Earls type leading link forks, and pretty gutless, but it got me round. Can't remember who I bought it from or how much I paid, but it certainly wasn't much as it was already uncompetitive compared with the Greeves, Cubs and later DOT's etc which were very common by then.

Transport for the bike was also a problem. Buying a trailer or van was totally beyond the budget and even with my youthful enthusiasm I didn't fancy riding it to and from the start, as was not uncommon in those days. Uncle Frank came to the rescue though, by fabricating an angle-iron bumper for the family Ford Popular such that, with the DOT front wheel removed, the bottom of the forks could be bolted to the bumper. The DOT then trailed along behind on its rear wheel. A necessary refinement later on, was to remove the rear chain for transport, to avoid it thrashing about and wearing out sprockets, gearbox bearings etc.

The list of entrants in the programme was very helpfully marked with FS for First Trial and TA for Teenager where relevant, and this shows I was in very good company. Notable teenage first timers were Gordon Farley (later to become British Champion) and Jim Connor (Sam's Dad and of Hookwoods fame). I've got the results too, and the winner is shown as M.J. Teather (Greeves) on 15 marks lost. Gordon Farley (Tiger Cub) was third and best teenager on 37. Jim Connor, also Greeves mounted, retired, and I struggled round for 98, elated to finish and mad keen to do it all again. Nothing's changed really!

By the end of 1961 I had sold my road bike (a 150cc James) and the DOT to buy a 2 year old ex Ian Hillier Greeves Scottish, and this became my go-to-work transport and weekend entertainment, and proved very reliable at both. During the next few years I rode most of the South Coast group trials, club trials and a few Open to Centres (Witley Mill, Wickham Harvest etc) and attained Expert status, although always miles away from the top local experts of the time (Ian Hillier, Graham Beamish, Mike Peach and RRND's own Ken Sherlock and Charlie Harris etc). Like most people though, I eventually needed all the money I could lay hands on for a mortgage and to get married, so I sold it in 1967 and dropped out of trials for a few years.

Around 1973 I bought an early Montesa, but only managed 2 or 3 rides a year, as by this time I had also acquired a young family and time/money priorities had to go in that direction. The Mont came in very handy during the hot summer of 1976 though, when I rode it to work, on the Purley Way, every day and stayed cool!

We moved house in 1978 so the Mont had to go (see previous reason for selling motorbikes) and trials riding took a very back seat until 1985, when I became

aware of the new (for then) Pre 65 scene. Raiding the family budget found £200 which was invested in a very clapped out 1962 Greeves Scottish, very similar to my original one. A couple of years were spent finding the bits (not so easy then as it is now) and rebuilding it, and I joined RRND on Ken Sherlock's recommendation and recommenced riding, off (mostly) and on ever since.

Brian Edwards

Next Club Trial

Details of the Club's next Trial are set out below.

Venue	Dunsfold				
Start	11am on 22 May 2011				
Laying Out etc	White Volunteer Needed	Blue Volunteer Needed	Red Volunteer Needed	Yellow Volunteer Needed	Signing on Volunteer Needed
Course	May be either five laps of eight sections or four laps of ten sections. In both cases there will be a break after the second lap. It is preferred that riders ride the course as laps starting at whichever section they prefer and not keep riding the same section continuously.				
General	<p>Please note that all parents/people with parental authority are responsible for under 18 year old riders and it is required that you sign their entry forms. Under 18s do not have personal insurance cover, only third party. For safety reasons do not ride around the course alone but in small groups observing each other in the sections. Always check a section is clear before entering and no practising in the sections before or during the trial. If caught practising you may be disqualified. Helmets are optional for adults but you are strongly advised to wear one. All under 18 riders MUST wear a helmet.</p> <p>This is an AMCA event run by Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club.</p>				
Entries	<p>Please download an entry form from the website at www.rrnd.co.uk (under What's on) and bring fully completed to save time when signing on, together with the correct money. Please remember to bring your Membership Card. If you cannot produce a current Membership Card, you will be charged as a guest rider - it is not the responsibility of the volunteer(s) undertaking the signing on to check whether you have renewed your membership.</p>				

Please contact Richard Coles if you can assist at this trial.

Next Beginner Training Trial

The next Training Trial will be held on May 15th at Tilburstow Hill, Godstone. This is an AMCA event run by the Club, and the same terms and conditions apply as for the normal Club trials.

Aldermaston Nomads 3 Stage Trial

Well, I can't remember if it was Mark's idea or mine to do the Aldermaston Nomads 3 Stage Trial but whoever it was, it was a brilliant idea. By 9am on Sunday 3rd

April, we gathered at Bagshot and looked around the parking area. I thought we may have bitten off more than we could chew. We were parked next to Richard and Malcolm and they were both very reassuring and said there was nothing to worry about, just have some fun. Well, that we certainly did.

The format is basically in 3 stages, the first being 2 laps in 2 hours with 10 trials sections thrown in. Each lap is just under 5 miles through woods and up and down some nice long climbs. The second stage is more of the same but without the trials part of the sections. This time you get to do 2 laps in 1 hour. Now it is starting to get a little faster. My exhaust was throwing out a James Bond style smoke screen and it smelled a little bit like a barbeque. I don't think my bike had ever moved so fast! The third stage was 3 laps in an hour and sections had more or less just become checkpoints. It had now become a race and it was clear that the experts would catch us up at the latter stages and of course a few did. Malcolm said he came past but I'm not sure if I let him pass or he got by on one of the places where I had my eyes closed!

I would recommend this trial to anyone who likes to try something a bit different. The first couple of sections and rides in between them seemed a bit longer than I was used to and by about halfway round the first lap, both Mark and I were saying we could never last the day. Of course we did and it appears by the provisional results that we did quite well in our group. It was really hard on the forearms and thighs but well worth it in the end. It was also a bit hard on the bike but I guess that's what they are made for.

All in all a great time and I got home just in time to do the Mothers Day bit.

Robert McKenzie

Diary Dates

Here is the up to date list of events for the remainder of 2011:

May	15	Training	Trial	(for beginners)	Tilburstow	Hill,	Godstone
May	22	Club	Trial		Dunsfold,	Nr	Guildford
June	9	Evening	Trial		Sparticles	Wood,	Hooley
June	26	Club	Trial		Hook	Woods	Horsley,
July	7	Evening	Trial		Beare	Gill,	Ockley
July	24	Club	Trial		Faygate	near	Crawley
August	4	Evening	Trial		Sparticles	Wood,	Hooley
August	14	South Coast	Group	Trial	Sparticles	Wood,	Hooley
Sept	18	Training	Trial	(for beginners)	Tilburstow	Hill,	Godstone
Sept	25	Club	Trial,	Betchworth	(Old Quarry)		Dorking
Oct	16	Training	Trial	(for beginners)	Tilburstow	Hill,	Godstone
Oct	23	Club	Trial	Blacklands	Scout	Camp,	East Grinstead,
Nov	20	Training	Trial	(for beginners)	Tilburstow	Hill,	Godstone
Nov					27		TBA

Dec 27 Club Trial Betchworth (Old Quarry) Dorking.

Report of the 89th London to Lands End Trial

Having rode this trial last year, I had a much better idea of what was required. My trusty Suzuki DRZ 400 had its gearing altered as low as possible to help in the sections especially with the nasty restarts that are generally thrown in to stop riders of modern bikes from winning the trial. This gave me a top speed of only 55mph on the road!

The other riders in our little team were Danny Haste (Suzuki RM250), Pat Lloyd Jacob (Triumph 500) and Alan Ross (Triumph 750). With over 500 entries to this trial there are 3 starts - Hampshire, Gloucestershire or our start in Cornwall. We rode our bikes for one hour just to get to the start line. At 7pm we set off at 1 minute intervals. Within the first mile we passed a stricken sidecar outfit with its chain wrapped round the frame, not nice. We rode on into the night stopping either for fuel or food stops. We used head torches on our helmets to read the directions on a scrolling device on the handle bars. In the dark we also had sections to ride that you can not look at previously. Just read the instructions on your handle bars, double check if you have a restart to do, then ride it when called forward by the observer. Also any footing in the section is a failed section!

At about 1am Danny had a rear tyre puncture in the middle of some pitch black moor miles from anywhere. Our only option was to fit a new tube at the side of the road. Half an hour later we were back in the trial, excellent work! From here on we pushed on quite hard to make the time back up. The dawn broke and for about an hour we rode on in thick fog. Then the sun came out and we were treated to a lovely day. Still more mileage and sections to overcome.

The infamous Crackington loomed up at about 8am. As we waited to be called forward we were passed by bikes that had not made it to the top and had to come back past us. These bikes had clay all over them thus giving us a clue as to what to expect round the corner. Unfortunately Alan had a dab near the top dashing his hopes for a "gold" award. The rest of us made it up clean. The last 2 sections of the day had a massive crowd looking on. We were fairly tired by now as it was about 4pm and we had been riding for 22 hours. All the boys made it up the hill and then rode on to the finish at Scorrier Cornwall. After such a marathon event a pint of beer was a very silly idea, so we had 2!

Thanks to the lads for making it an excellent and successful event.

If you look on "You Tube" some of the sections have been filmed but the only clue to how steep the climbs are is the way many riders just don't get going again after a restart and just fall off. Also look for the nutters that turned up on Honda C90s and they actually finished!

Pete Jenkins

Willow Cafe

The following has been received:

'Hi I thought this may be of interest to some of you, and your members.

VJMC OPEN DAY
 at the
Willow Cafe
Saturday 28th May
From 10am to 3pm



**Vintage Japanese Motorcycle
 Club**

The Kent and Surrey Section will be
 displaying some of their classic
 Japanese motorcycles at the Cafe.

Everybody is Welcome

www.willow-cafe.co.uk Tel: 01323 843362
 Lower Dicker, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4BT

Some of you know who we are, but if you don't please look at our website
www.willow-cafe.co.uk.

Hope to see you soon.

Thank you

John Rhodes

Willow Cafe'

**Results from Club Trial at Sparticles
 Wood on 17 April 2011**

Route/Class	1st	2nd	3rd
White Expert	Luke Thomas - 7	Simon Mepham* - 43	
Inter	Jake Pope - 11	Chris Dark - 33	Simon Rye* - 35
Novice Blue	Robert McKenzie - 16	Peter Steer* - 50	John Bateup* - 56
Blue Over 40	Antony Read - 14	Pete Jenkins - 21	Rob Edwards - 41
Blue Under 16	William Bateup* - 46		

Red	Toby Robinson - 38	Martin Howell - 42	David Cutler - 45
Red Under 16	Ben Edwards - 112		
Yellow	Mike Hammond - 33	James Dark - 81	Bob Miles - 84

* Denotes Guest Rider.

Full results are on the website at www.rrnd.co.uk

Current Championship Standings

Championships are run over 11 rounds with best 8 scores counting

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Expert					
Luke Thomas	12	12		12	36
Eric Clarke	10	11	11		32
Stuart Read	11	10			21
Scott Dark		9	12		21
Inter					
Samuel Brightman	12	11	10	10	43
Jake Pope		12	11	12	35
Chris Dark		10	12	11	33
Novice Blue					
Tom Charman	11		12	12	35
Alan Stanley	12	12			24
Over 40 Blue					
Pete Jenkins	11	10	11	10	42
Antony Read	12	8	9	12	41
Rob Edwards	10	7	8	9	34
Robert McKenzie		9	12	11	32
Danny Haste		12	10		22
Novice Red					
David Cutler	11	11	9	10	41
Trevor Howell	9	5	7	9	30
Luke Edwards	8	10	5	5	28
Martin Howell		7	8	11	26
Toby Robinson			11	12	23
Dave Charman	12		10		22
Under 16 Red					
Ben Edwards	12	12	11	12	47
Lewis Farmer			12		12
Handicap					
Luke Thomas	22	22		19	63

David Cutler	23	11	17	12	63
Trevor Howell	20	1	22	15	58
Chris Dark		23	18	17	58
Eric Clarke	14	21	20		55
Antony Read	24	4	1	25	54
Samuel Brightman	18	24	4	6	52
Dave Charman	22		21	8	51
Jake Pope		17	10	23	50
Pete Jenkins	20	7	1	21	49
Robert McKenzie		18	7	24	49
Grace Dark		1	25	22	48
Rob Edwards	10	12	1	20	43
Luke Edwards	11	13	8	9	41
Ben Edwards	14	6	14	5	39

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