

RRND

Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club



Chairman's Chatter

It was a nice surprise to see so many faces peering out at me when I arrived for the AGM - a particular surprise as I thought I was half an hour early! Thank you to those who did come; it was a constructive meeting and there was time to chat and enjoy each other's company afterwards.

Life in the Coles household is a little busy at the moment so I would like to thank Malcolm for stepping in at the last moment and running the last training trial on his own. These trials continue to provide a great starting point for new and prospective members, and we gain one or two new members every time they are held.

Malcolm also led the laying out team for the last Club trial at Ockley, another good event. Thanks to all who helped with the organisation here.

I set out for the committee meeting last night unsure as to whether the meeting would have to be held in the car park - it wasn't as the Home Cottage was still open - but it closes for six weeks refurbishment at the end of the month. This means, of course, that we need a new venue for our meetings and the next two will be at the Dog and Duck pub at Outwood which has just reopened.

We discussed timing of trials at the AGM and several members favoured moving the Club trial back to the fourth Sunday of the month, something that was endorsed by those present. The fixtures list from April onward will be published shortly with this in mind although we will also look to see what else is on each month and try and avoid clashes altogether, so please be aware that on some months the weekend chosen may vary. Of course this also means that we will need to revisit training trial dates. Please check the calendar regularly.

Richard Coles

Boxing Day Enduro

Although I had been aware of the Boxing Day Enduro for years I never attended one until 2009 when Malcolm's wish to ride coincided with the event actually being held on the day after Boxing Day due to land problems. On that day it didn't conflict with arrangements for a family Christmas so off we went.

The event is held by the Witley and District M/Cycle Club to raise money for charity. It is billed as a fun event and attracts a diverse range of machines and riders of all abilities. Normal enduro requirements are relaxed to allow virtually any sort of bike to enter including pit bikes, and some riders will wear fancy dress, particularly if sponsored to ride. Real novice riders, being seduced by the promotion of the event as a fun event, are clearly out of their depth as soon as they start. Weavers Down where the event is held is also the home of the Natterjack Enduro, part of the two day British Championship series. In addition to some difficult terrain the mix of championship enduro and MX riders leads to some serious racing. There is no denying the spectacle of the event. Up to 350 riders ride, with each class starting Le Mans style, the championship riders getting underway to the bang of a maroon.

Boxing Day 2010 saw the 30th BXDE. It also coincided with the worst weather conditions for the event for years. Changes in family circumstances have meant that whilst we keep Christmas Day special the likelihood is that on other days we

will all have different commitments- in other words it was a good excuse for Malcolm to enter again! In 2009 he did well on his KTM 125sx: this year he was out on the Yamaha YZ125.

We headed down and arrived early in order to get a good point on the starting line. Each class will often have bikes three or four rows deep. The first test for many was getting onto Weavers Down- the tracks and parking area being deep in snow or ice where driven on. The start straight was ice; the course, although on open common or through woodland, was ice; the bogs were ice, (until the ice broke then they were deep bogs- with ice), and the pits and timing control were covered in ice. The first championship rider away opened the throttle and the bike just sat there with the rear wheel spinning, the rev limiter making the bike backfire.



After Championship and Experts the Clubmen were released. Malcolm was set for a good start, centre of the line, front of the group of riders, only to fall in the snow on his way to his bike (did he fall or was he pushed?).



Two thirds of the way round the course was the biggest hill of the day and the main stopper. A steep and gullied hillside had only three single track routes up its face. If a rider stalled or span to a halt no-one could get past. By the time Malcolm and the majority of riders got to the climb the queue was about a hundred yards long and three deep.

I was able to walk around some of the course near to the start line. It included a five feet drop from the area called the wall (infamous in the Natterjack test) although there was a slower alternative route here. Although normally a relatively easy jump for a good rider today was a different scene, riders coming to grief as their bikes slid at the moment more power was needed to make the jump and the bikes nose diving over the edge. Even the route past the pits was dangerous with riders coming to grief one after another as their bikes lost traction. Riders crashing out without warning became so common place people didn't bother to look!

For more information and results and photographs have a look at Witley's excellent website. If you can get down there next Boxing Day and support the event. Malcolm will probably be riding- I'll still be getting over the Christmas Lunch.



Richard Coles

February Training Trial

Just really wanted to say thank you to Malcolm for running the training trial on his own at short notice and for still managing to help out and give advice to new riders.

I didn't have any pictures of him on the day or take photos other than of Grace and James but he is in the background of this picture!



Carol Dark

A Bit More Club History

As well as the Club had done since the War and at the beginning of the 1950s, it was now to go through a bit of a dark patch. When the AGM was held in January 1954 the Club had 89 members, (78 adults and 11 juniors), but these numbers gradually fell over the next few years and at the time of the AGM in January 1957 there were only 40 members.

The one thing that continued to be going well was the RAC ACU Training Scheme and in view of it's continuing success the lectures were now held at Redhill Technical College instead of at the Clubroom.

A new member during this period was Mr E Tickner but new members generally were not easy to find and indeed some of the existing members were considered by the Committee to be 'undesirable!' They felt they should have a different method of selection. They even thought of a 3 month probationary period but this was never put into practice.

Despite their best efforts the Committee struggled to increase membership and also to gain the support of existing members at social events. In September 1954 the Club called a Special Club Member's Meeting to discuss the situation and the way forward. It was decided to hold a dance and invite old members and also RAC ACU training scheme pupils. At the dance a winter programme was announced and it was agreed that a diary and fixtures list would go into the next newsletter and also be sent out to former members.

The social events organised were quiz nights, bring and buy sales, What's my Line night, sausage and mash night, as well as talks, film shows, table tennis tournaments and timed trials from the Clubroom. The Christmas party was still held but invitations were extended to friends and other clubs. In the spring there was a cricket match at Monotype Sports Club but still there was not enough support for social events. Not giving up the Committee organised further events like 'What's this off Name the Part', 'This Machine- who rode it?'.... and still more darts and table tennis.

The lack of enthusiasm meant the Club's Dobraveni Trial was unable to start on

time because of lack of observers and the whole situation in general had a knock on effect on the Club's finances. Mr Watkins had been Club treasurer for 21 years and at the AGM in January 1956 he announced that for the first time in many years the Club's expenditure had exceeded income and with only around £5 in the bank, the Club was now in the red. The Clubroom rent had been increased so a move to The Black Horse, Reigate Heath was made and an agreement drawn up with Regnal Football Club who also used this as a meeting place.

There were still good entries for trials and with small profits being made on social events the finances started to head in the right direction. Members who were paying their subscriptions in instalments were chased up and pillion passengers were charged entry fees for road trials. In 1956 the Club paid for Mr P Hodgson to enter the I.O.M. TT in the 350cc Clubman's class at a cost of £7 and 7 shillings. At one point consideration was given to leaving the Star Group but this was not thought to be a good move because of the risk of losing competitive riders.

Hopefully the future was to look a bit brighter.

Carol Dark

Membership Cards

Please note that in future, membership cards should be shown at signing on, to ensure you pay the reduced member rate, and to speed up the process for those volunteers carrying out the signing on. Anyone not presenting their membership card will be charged as a guest rider at that event.

bmf Discount

The Club is affiliated to the British Motorcyclists Federation (bmf), and all Club members are therefore eligible for discounts on advanced tickets to all bmf shows, insurance, travel and breakdown cover and on other bmf benefits.

To receive a card with the discount code on, please contact the Club Secretary, Carol Dark, on 01737 767007.

National Road Rally 2011

This event takes place this year on 25 & 26 June, and entries must be received by 28 May 2011.

Here are 10 great reasons for riding in an annual, exciting and challenging road based Event for riders of Motorcycles and Scooters, solo or sidecars, three wheeler cars or Motorcycles

1. The opportunity to join 1000 enthusiastic riders in a ride taking in some of England's finest roads at the peak of Summer.
2. Visit numerous Controls in the Rally matrix, Sharing the comradeship of experienced control teams and riders on all types of machine
3. Setting your own targets, from 120 miles in the Sunrise Rally, from 200 miles in the Daytime Rally, and from 200 to 540 miles in the National Rally
4. Take part in the Special Tests, held at the Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA) and go for a Platinum Award, the top challenge
5. Take advantage of one of the longest Summer days (& shortest nights) of the year
6. Be able to start at a Control close to your home or at least from the outer ring of Controls
7. Form a team with your friends or club members, or check with your local

- dealer, they may be entering a team.
8. The chance to be a sponsor to MENCAP, and add to the £130,000.00 that has been raised over past years.
 9. Finish at one of the multiple Final Controls that will be positioned around the country
 10. Receive a lasting memento of an enjoyable experience and achievement.

Most of all take advantage of this once a year opportunity to get out on your bike, scooter, or three wheeler and ride in a friendly Rally, which treats all abilities on the same level and provides great chances to meet and make friends.

Interested, now read the 'SUMMARY of the RALLY', at www.nationalroadrally.co.uk/2011 this will provide sufficient information to enable you to send in your entry.

Club Trial at Ockley 20 February 2011

A good turnout for this months Club trial at Ockley with some 36 riders signing on. Full results are available on the website at www.rrnd.co.uk, but best results on the day were as shown below:



Route/Class	1st	2nd	3rd
White Expert	Luke Thomas - 19	Eric Clarke - 33	Stuart Read - 34
Inter	Jake Pope - 39	Samuel Brightman - 45	Chris Dark - 78
Novice Blue	Alan Stanley - 86		
Blue Over 40	Danny Haste - 41	Chris Roos - 50	Pete Jenkins - 58
Red	Bob Collins - 36	David Cutler - 64	Luke Edwards - 71
Red Under 16	Ben Edwards - 85		
Yellow	Mike Hammond - 99	James Dark - 123	

Handicaps and Current Championship

Standings

Championships are run over 11 rounds with best 8 scores counting

Name	Jan	Feb	Total
Expert			
Luke Thomas	12	12	24
Stuart Read	11	10	21
Eric Clarke	10	11	21
Scott Dark		9	9
Malcolm Coles		8	8
Inter			
Samuel Brightman	12	11	23
Jake Pope		12	12
Chris Dark		10	10
Novice Blue			
Alan Stanley	12	12	24
Tom Charman	11		11
Over 40 Blue			
Pete Jenkins	11	10	21
Antony Read	12	8	20
Rob Edwards	10	7	17
Danny Haste		12	12
Chris Roos		11	11
Novice Red			
David Cutler	11	11	22
Luke Edwards	8	10	18
Trevor Howell	9	5	14
Dave Charman	12		12
Bob Collins		12	12
Under 16 Red			
Ben Edwards	12	12	24
Handicap			
Luke Thomas	22	22	44
Eric Clarke	14	21	35
Alan Stanley	25	9	34
David Cutler	23	11	34
Stuart Read	15	17	32
Antony Read	24	4	28
Pete Jenkins	20	7	27
Bob Collins		25	25
Luke Edwards	11	13	24
Paul Brightman	18	6	24
Samuel Brightman		24	24
Chris Dark		23	23
Rob Edwards	10	12	22
Dave Charman	22		22
Paul Newman	14	8	22

Next Club Trial

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

Venue	Blacklands Farm
Start	11am on 20 March 2011
Laying Out etc	All routes: the Darks and the Dons. Signing on: Volunteers required.
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	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. This is an AMCA event run by Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club.
Entries	Please download an entry form from the website at www.rnd.co.uk (under What's on) and bring fully completed to save time when signing on, together with the correct money. If you have not renewed your membership for 2011 and cannot produce a current Membership Card, you will be charged as a guest rider.

Your Club needs YOU!

For those of you who attended the AGM we did cover this, but we know, (or at least I know), how distracting a beer and a plate full of sandwiches can be when someone is talking. For those who didn't attend the AGM, this is probably aimed more at you anyway so read on!

When it comes to putting on a Club trial there is a fair amount of work that is involved, land needs to be chosen and booked, equipment bought to lay out as well as sorting before and after the event, permits need to be applied for and a team organised to run the trial on the day. The Committee takes care of most of this and we are also helped out by other members of the Club to lay out and handle the signing on. But it is the same members over and over again that have become relied upon to help make this happen.

Now we can't make anyone help, so instead I thought I would highlight a few of the good points about getting involved and laying out a trial.

Firstly we will never turn anyone away, if you want to help then you only need to say. If you have never laid out before we won't just throw you in at the deep end, we can help out as much or as little as you wish with a route. We need all levels of riders input, so never think that because you are a beginner your input will be invalid. We use some pieces of land up to three times a year, with new peoples' influence we can create new and interesting sections that we might not have

thought of in the past.

Laying out may seem like a bit of a chore, but it's really not. We try and get to the land a couple of hours before the start, and there is generally a rough idea of where we want the trial to go. Not only do you then get to add your own touch on the route, but you get a proper wake up before the trial starts. With the same people always laying out you get the same style of sections all too often, unless we get new pieces of land it can sometimes be difficult to come up with new routes.

The idea of getting up that little bit extra early on your Sunday probably does seem like a bad idea, and yes when it's pouring down with rain you do sometimes think why on earth did I agree to this, but it's not fair on the guys who do this every month to make sure there is an event on for you to ride. I have always been involved with laying out, I used to go out with my Dad when he was Comp Sec all those many years ago, and it was always good fun, for me I got to ride my bike more, and now that I'm older and laying out trials myself, it's still a great chance to get that extra time on the bike, and put bits in that I want to ride. You feel much more involved with the Club, and it's a good feeling when people enjoy a trial you put on.

We don't shout about it much but we do also reward the laying out team with half price entry to the trial, no one gets paid for any of the work that they do for the Club, and this is a small token gesture to the effort people put in. I know when I have a steaming hangover and an empty wallet from the night before though this is very well received!

One last point I will raise though is this, if you have ever complained about a trial, please take into consideration the time people have put in that day to even have an event for you to ride. If you want something done about it then you only have to call, we'll get you on board and we will ride your sections, it's as simple as that.

So not sure if I have actually convinced anyone that getting involved is a good idea, but at least now Debbie will stop hounding me to write something about it after I said I would 2 months ago.....

Stu

Race for Life

Most of you will be aware that our Club Secretary, Carol Dark, has been undergoing cancer treatment for some time. Carol, daughter Grace, and a few friends will be participating in this years' Race for Life.

Any one who wishes to contribute towards Carol's sponsorship for this event can do so at www.raceforlifesporsome.org/caroldark2806

All contributions will be very gratefully received!

Your New Committee

Following the recent AGM, the current Committee members are as follows:

Chairman

Richard Coles

Email: richardguy.coles@virgin.net

Club Secretary

Carol Dark

01737 767007
Email: cdark@ntlworld.com

Competition Sec

VACANT: temporarily filled by Richard and Malcolm Coles

Email: richardguy.coles@virgin.net

Assistant Competition Secretaries

Stuart Read - 07817691726

Malcolm Coles - 07766712595

Membership Secretary

Rob Edwards
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Club Treasurer & Social Secretary

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Newsletter Editor

Debbie Don
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Committee Members

David Charman - 01342 842458

Colin Don - 01737 243537

Danny Haste - 01737 773163

Pete Jenkins - 01883 370045 (Home) & 07740 414371 (Mobile)