

RRND

Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club



Chairman's Chatter

In my last "Chatter" I raised the thorny subject of accuracy (or honesty) when it comes to self marking at trials. I expected feedback but to date have had none so can only assume that you all agree with me, or perhaps you don't really care one way or another?

One person who does care for his sport is Neville, and it was good to hear from him that "the Codger" lives on in a new event for classic machines. When Neville wrote to the Editor last month I am sure that he also expected some feedback for his mischevous comment about the Committee's role in the demise of "the Codger" as it lacked both accuracy and honesty. Neville seems to have forgotten the issue was debated at his request at the AGM, and the Club decided that its efforts were best put to running events for its members and the groups in which they rode.

That in itself may not have provoked a reaction from me but I must correct the impression that Neville gives in the same letter that it is in someway unusual for younger riders to be fully involved and encouraged to take responsibility and leading roles in our sport. Laudable as the example he gives is, this Club's foundations are built and depend to this very day on the commitment of family groups across several generations. Looking back we see families like the Reads and Sherlocks, and the Darks and Dons, and particularly pertinent now the Edwards family. The latter particularly came to my mind because it was Rob's father who observed me at my first ever RRND trial, and now Rob has returned with Ben and Luke and the twins. They have been fully involved in all events and If it was not for their assistance this year the training trials would not have taken place.

Going on in the same theme I must ask for everyone's assistance for our Star Group trial on the 11th December. Star Group has rather fallen out of favour with our Club riders in recent years but there is a move back to their events as they do have access to some good pieces of land and it is important to keep the liaison going. As this clashes with a South Coast trial there will be members who would normally observe for us riding at South Coast to defend their positions in the Championship and a good turnout from other members as observers for Star Group is essential.

At the next Committee meeting the date will be set for the next AGM. There will be some changes on the Committee this year. I will be standing down as Chairman (so you won't have to put up with my rants anymore!) and Malcolm will step down from the Committee. We have already announced that Jo Jenkins wishes to step down as organiser for the camping weekend and I would ask all of you, if not already involved at Committee level, to consider if you could take a part in the running of this Club. It is much easier to have a full and willing Committee to share the work than a small core of enthusiastic but hard pressed individuals.

Next year will also see some changes to the format of the evening and training trials based on the feedback we have had from the questionnaires - come to the AGM to find out more.

Our Christmas trial will be on the 27th December 2011. With any luck that extra Bank Holiday will enable most of you to attend.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Richard Coles

Club Membership Renewal

That time of year is fast approaching again when Club membership renewal is due, beat the rush and get your renewal form in early, a form can be downloaded from the web site at www.rrnd.co.uk (click on RRND Membership on the left hand index) and once completed sent to Rob Edwards at the address shown on the form with

payment.

In order to keep Club costs down and cut down the effort required by the membership sec, please include a self addressed envelope if you would like your membership card for 2012 posted back to you.

Rob Edwards

Next Club Events

Beginners Training Trials

Please note there will be no Beginners Training Trial in December.

Next Club Night

This will be held on Wednesday 7 December at The Red Lion PH Betchworth. Please come along and socialise with other members. We will be in the downstairs room. The Committee meets from 8pm, and will join you all once the meeting is finished.

Trials magazines, and a few other bike related magazines will be available to take away - please help yourself and pass onto other members when you have finished with them.

We hope to see you there!

Our Star Group Round

We are running our round of the 2011 Star Group Championship at Beare Gill, Ockley on Sunday 11 December. The event starts at 10.30am. We need volunteers to come forward to sign on, lay out, take down and most importantly to observe sections on the day. Please please contact Richard Coles at diccles221@gmail.com if you can come along to assist in any way.

Next Club Trial

The next Club trial is the Xmas Club Trial on Tuesday 27th December 2011 at The Old Quarry Betchworth. Volunteers to lay out sign on and take down are required - please contact Richard Coles at diccles221@gmail.com if you can assist in any way.

Come along and work off those excess pounds put on over Christmas!!

Club Trials - General Regulations

Course	Club trials 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. 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

	<p>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>Club trials are AMCA events 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>

Portland Extreme Enduro

Malcolm and I both sit on the Committee of the South Eastern Enduro Combine, a group of clubs not dissimilar to the South Coast Group who run a championship during the year. From time to time we will ride in events away from home to get a variety of land or event not available in our own area. Sometimes I will ride these events rather than just support Malcolm as there is no direct effect on a Championship place- a recent example being the SETRA event on Salisbury Plain. One event I was not even going to consider riding was Track'n trails Portland Extreme Enduro! There have been a number of concerns established in recent years who run events on a commercial basis. Track'n trail are one; another running under the approval of the ACU is Paul Edmonson's "Fast Eddy" series. I guess in the trials world we have a similar set up now in the Hook Woods Club series.

Track'n trial have run Hare and Hound events in the South for a while. Their events are sometimes seen as a good event for a beginner to try the sport out as it is almost pay and play but they can attract large entries and to my mind there are better local club events to try first time.

Track'n trail was better placed than most local clubs to try a different format and recognising the appeal of events like Erzburg and the Tough One spent a year planning an extreme event based in the rather severe environment of the stone quarries on Portland. Malcolm has always harboured the desire to try out such an event and now we had one based in the South. They estimated that the severity of the event would be 8/10. Difficult to judge what that really meant but with the finishers for top events counted on one hand that was me out! The entry form discouraged novices but a You Tube video posted to give an idea of the event proved misleading as drops and climbs were flattened in the photography.

Our day started at 0330 as a minor complication was the fact that we had to drop my eldest son, with ski equipment and personal possessions for 6 months, at Heathrow Airport on the way. That done we crossed the bridge on to Portland at about 0830, the Island silhouetted in the sun and looking as forbidding as Alcatraz, the similarity remaining when we arrived at the venue to find the quarries overlooked by the forbidding Victorian Prison.

The quarries were truly extensive workings with formidable drops and climbs and some truly awkward trials like sections in the going - for instance one gulley was a good 10' deep and not wide enough to enable an enduro bike to stand in the bottom; another adverse camber shoulder was above a closed gulley with no clear way out. Listening to competitors it was clear that there were a good number who had been seduced into entering by the video and for whom the reality was a shock. To boost numbers the organiser had included a trials class and at least some of these riders were looking more confident.

Malcolm on Quarry Edge



At Track'n trail events riders have to ride a sighting lap - a good idea as not only does it avoid riders taking the wrong course it should also prevent mishaps on unseen obstacles. The sighting lap was something of a revelation. A number of competitors gave up there and then before the event, some had not made it back by the time the event started, and the casualties, including a broken wrist, were being treated by the medics.

One of many:



To quote TMX " the course turned out to be a fantastic blend of fast flowing greasy tracks leading into huge boulder fields and winding rocky tracks with both long and short climbs and several near vertical sections - with a bit of water thrown in for good measure!". Malcolm rode in the Clubman two stroke class and made a reasonable start to complete the first lap in about sixth place in class. The track improved slightly during the day as loose material was pushed to one side but was still physically demanding. The sighting lap had taken around 40 mins but Malcolms first lap was around 20 mins and he reduced that to 16 minutes a lap over the two and a half hours of riding, gradually making his way to third in class and an excellent 9 laps. The winner of his class completed 10 laps, and overall winner was championship rider Daryl Bolter on 11 laps.

Malcolm coming out of rocks with Daryl Bolter behind:



This was a great result for Malcolm but one not without mishap. On one descent (pictured) Malcolm took a slightly different line to find that the brambles concealed a 6' sheer drop and came in from the lap bloodied and bruised. There was significant potential for injury or damage to take you out and far from finding it an easy ride the trials boys were clearly taken aback by the sheer pace of the enduro bikes across such going and perhaps less protected from the flying debris in their open helmets. On one descent an army championship rider was busy riding competitors bikes down for them; another steep and difficult descent had to be traversed otherwise there was a significant drop to the quarry floor!

One of the shorter drops:



Throughout the event we were blessed with sunshine despite a strong wind. Goodness knows what it would have been like in poor weather! We arrived home to find the bike completely white, encased in a thick white shell that had dried and hardened on the way home and which has still not yet been totally removed.

Richard Coles

Insurance for Club Trials run under the auspices of the AMCA

Our Club Trials are usually run under authorisation from the AMCA. As part of this, insurance cover is provided.

A summary of the current Personal Accident Insurance cover follows. All competitors in our events should read this summary and ensure it meets with their requirements. If not, then you should take out your own personal insurance, which includes personal accident cover.

Who is covered?

Officials

Whilst travelling to and from an event including setting up and dismantling an event. Age 16-85 years of age.

Competitors

Whilst competing in an authorised event or official practice, including setting up and dismantling an event.

	Officials		Competitors	
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth
Death	£65,000	N/A	£10,000	N/A
Permanent Total Disablement	£65,000 (After 52 weeks)	N/A	£30,000	£30,000
Temporary Total Disablement - total inability to attend usual occupation or business	£250 per week (max 52 weeks)	N/A	Nil	Nil
Hospital Benefit (following 28 day hospitalisation for competitors)	£250 per week (max 8 weeks)	N/A	£2,000	£2,000
Fracture	£2,500	N/A	Nil	Nil
Dislocation	£1,000			
Physiotherapy	£500			

There is also Public Liability Insurance provided.

Please see the AMCA website for further information at www.amca.uk.com/resource-centre/insurance-key-facts

Results from November's Club Trial at Beare Gill, Ockley

Full results are available on the website at www.rnd.co.uk, but the best riders on the day were as follows:

	1st	2nd	3rd
White/Expert	Stuart Read - 19	Marcus Faulkner* - 63	Scott Dark - 63
Inter	Mike Husband - 56	Chris Dark - 60	
Novice Blue	Alan Stanley - 39	Pete Jenkins - 41	Joe Faulkner* - 61
Blue Over 40	Eric Clarke - 16	Rob Edwards - 43	
Red	T. Robinson - 1	John Yardley* - 7	Paul Newman - 9

Red Under 16	James Dark - 77		
Yellow	Mike Hammond - 52		

* = Guest Rider

November's Club Trial at Beare Gill, Ockley

Chris, Scott, James Dark and myself, had agreed to set out this month's Club Trial at Beare Gill on the Saturday instead of the Sunday as normal (lay in on Sunday!).

We met at about 10am, and after a short wait for Gervais who owns the land, we parked up and set about laying out the sections.

There were loads of pheasants strutting about in the sun and we were told that there had been a shoot a few weeks before and these birds were the ones that escaped the guns!

Because there was no rush we decided to layout 10 sections in a clock wise direction trying to incorporate the new area which had been cleared prior to this Summer's South Coast Group Trial.

Because of the nature of the land it is sometimes difficult to get a decent red and yellow route into and out of the stream, or across the stream to utilise all the potential obstacles.

It may be that another working party here in the future would open up even more of the great venue, so that all riders could enjoy the best features of this piece of land.

Scott set about laying the white route, Chris did the blues, I did the reds and James did the yellows.

We had listened to comments made about other trials and tried to set the routes accordingly.

The whites were a mix of steep drop ins with even steeper outs in some sections, proving to be quite a challenge.

The blues were slightly easier but retaining some of the big drop ins (there were a few apprehensive looks on Sunday!).

With hindsight the reds may have been a bit easy, with most riders dropping marks early and then improving as the trial went on.

I think James was spot on with the yellows.

We had the 10 sections finished by about 1pm and packed up in plenty of time to get home and watch the qualifying for the Grand Prix.

Sunday was another nice day with a bit of a breeze. I'm not sure of the numbers who entered but there looked to be a reasonable turnout.

It was nice to see Eric Clarke on his "new" Fantic 240, he said later that he had had a really enjoyable ride with just a few fuelling issues with the bike.

Stuart Read had a near miss on one section nearly giving himself another body piercing!

There were a few comments about a movable hazard in one of the sections. On investigation it was found that a particularly bold cock pheasant had been strutting his stuff and not paying any attention at all to the riders negotiating the section.

Good to see Rob McKenzie on Sunday, still not riding following his collar bone injury, maybe back riding early in the New Year?

I think a good day was had by all.

Finally thanks to all those who took the sections down - you all get gold stars:

Eric Clarke

Marcus and Jo Faulkner

Keith Cross

Pete Jenkins

Sam and Paul Brightman

Much appreciated. Those whose names don't appear here - perhaps you'll get your gold stars next time?

On a more serious note the Star Group Trial is looming fast and any volunteers for observing on the day would be very much appreciated, the sooner the better as it is planned to try and set out 13 sections! Please contact Richard Coles as soon as possible if you can help.

Colin Don

Coffee stop for you road bikers!

I recently stopped in at a shop called The Biker Store, where I had a very friendly welcome.

The shop is at Unit 2 Systems House, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, RH7 6JP.

Phone: 01342 458171

www.thebikerstore.co.uk.

The owner said to pass the word a coffee will always be available for motorcyclists!

A new shop selling motorbikes is also about to open next door, so a good place for a browse!

Colin Don

Obtaining/renewing an ACU licence

It is now possible to apply for or renew your ACU licence online (cost for trials £10).

It is simple and straightforward - even I managed it! Having the licence gives you the freedom to enter any of the trials run under ACU regulations this includes the Star Group trials. It's well worth applying for and hopefully will see more members riding other trials rather than just "club" trials.

Neville Lewis

Current Championship Standings

Name	Total
Expert	
Stuart Read	81
Scott Dark	65
Eric Clarke	62
Luke Thomas	48
Inter	
Chris Dark	56
Samuel Brightman	43
Jake Pope	35
Novice Blue	
Alan Stanley	96
Tom Charman	35
Over 40 Blue	
Pete Jenkins	88
Rob Edwards	82
Antony Read	73
Robert McKenzie	44
Mark Stubberfield	40
Novice Red	
Toby Robinson	83
Trevor Howell	70
David Cutler	61
Luke Edwards	60
Keith Cross	54
Stuart Hescott	50
Martin Howell	49
Handicap	
Trevor Howell	155
Keith Cross	138
Ben Edwards	136
Alan Stanley	130
Rob Edwards	126
Luke Edwards	126
Pete Jenkins	119
Stuart Read	116
Grace Dark	113

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

Club Newsletter Editor: Debbie Don
Address: 77 Buckland Road, Lower Kingswood, Surrey, KT20 7EF
Phone: 01737 243537
Email: debbie.don1@btinternet.com