

RRND

Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club



Chairman's Chatter

I awoke this morning and found that the prospect of standing in a cold field in a cold north wind for an hour whilst Malcolm ran in the newly built engine of the Yamaha was not something that filled me with eager anticipation. Gone are the days when I would take a motorbike whatever the weather, if I even had the choice, as for several years a bike was my only transport. However it's different if there is an event to go to and if, as it has now, the sun appears to compete with the wind and the sky is a glorious blue without a cloud then things seem pretty good.

Of course now we have a huge range of clothing to protect us from the weather and all sorts of electrical gadgets to keep us warm/entertained/in communication/on track always assuming that we are running the latest mega bike with a vast reserve of power. For the trials or enduro rider with no battery or even lights it would be fanciful to even look at the electrical gadgets, but not so the latest clothing.

There is a new store in Blindley Heath, the Bikerstore.co.uk, and I thought I would pop in to see what it offered for my needs. Inside I received a friendly welcome and I found that, although generally catering for the road rider, there were some good economical suits that would be excellent for trail use, and that off road boots could be ordered in. I found myself drawn to the gadgets and there I recognised the type of CO2 cylinders that my eldest son uses in his avalanche pack.

Those of you that have no interest in snow sports may have never heard of the avalanche pack but they have become a familiar sight in ski resorts in recent years, particularly amongst serious skiers who venture "off piste". The pack is basically a well designed rucksack with an inflatable hood and sides that is activated by the skier on a T handle if he is caught in an avalanche. When inflated the system cocoons that skier protecting him from damage, taking him to the surface of the snow as in water, and hopefully also giving him some breathing space if that is prevented for any reason.

On enquiry I found that these cylinders were for use in a motorcycle harness and that a similar system was frequently used now by eventing horse riders. Basically a reflective H belt - when examined one could see that it was thick enough to hold a deflated bag held in place by velcro and inflated by a pull tag similar to that on the avalanche bag. In this case the system was designed for the pull tag to be clipped to a lead at the rear of the petrol tank so that the system was automatically inflated were you unlucky enough to be unseated.

For a few moments I saw a business opportunity, after all there could be a good market in trials and enduro riders. But then I had a reality check. I remembered my last enduro. I had gone over the handlebars in the first lap! Imagine trying to continue wearing a Mae West! Visions of half the field at a trials apparently sporting life jackets in the Blacklands stream - a bit over the top, or even riders just forgetting that they were connected and getting off the bike only to inflate came to mind. Perhaps we are not yet ready for that system- just hope that no-one in the European Parliament stumbles across it.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM later this month. Don't forget - there are vacancies on the Committee. You can't afford not to come or you might find you've been voted on!

Richard Coles

AGM Reminder

A reminder that the AGM will be on Wednesday 15 February 2011 at The Red Lion Public House, Betchworth, Surrey at 7.30pm.

Please arrive early so the meeting can start on time. It will be held in the downstairs function room.

Awards for the 2011 season will also be handed out. The Championship Winners have already been announced, but the following have also won awards - come along & receive your public's adoration as you receive your prize!

2011 Individual Handicap Winners

January Alan Stanley

February Bob Collins

March Scott Dark

March Grace Dark

April Antony Read

May Curtis Howell

June Mark Stubberfield

July Toby Robinson

September Grace Dark

October Trevor Howell

November Ben Edwards

December James Dark

Next Club Events

Next Club Night

This will be held on Wednesday 7th March 2012 at The Red Lion PH Betchworth. Please come along and socialise with other members. We will be in the downstairs room. There will be no Committee meeting that night, so Committee members will be free to socialise!

We hope to see you there!

Next Club Trial

The next Club trial is on Sunday 26 February 2012 at Blacklands Farm. Volunteers to lay out sign on and take down are required - please contact Colin Don on 07768058411 or by e mail to debbie.don1@btinternet.com if you can assist in any way.

Other Trial Dates

Club Trial 25 March 2012 - Faygate Tip

Club Trial 15 April 2012 - Sethern, Dunsfold

Club Trial Saturday 26 May 2012 1pm start followed by BBQ at Beare Gill, Ockley

Club Trial Saturday 23 June 2012 1pm start followed by BBQ at Sparticles Wood

Club Trial 15th July 2012 - The Old Quarry Betchworth

12th August 2012 - South Coast Group Trial - our round of this Championship at Beare Gill Ockley 10.30am start. Volunteers to observe will be required.

Club Camping Weekend - Sethern, Dunsfold Friday evening 24 August 2012 to Monday evening 27 August 2012.

Club Trial 23rd September 2012 - Faygate Tip

Club Trial 28 October - Blacklands Farm

Club Trial 25th November 2012 - Reel Hall Farm, Shamley Green

9th December 2012 - Star Group Trial - our round of this Championship at Beare Gill, Ockley 10.30am start. Volunteers to observe will be required.

The Winterval Club Trial 30 December 2012 - Blacklands Farm.

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 | <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. 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.</p> <p>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 | 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. |

January Club Trial at Shamley Green

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



Best on the day were as follows:

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| White/Expert | Scott Dark - 36 | Sam Brightman - 71 | |
| Inter | Chris Dark - 52 | | |
| Novice Blue | Pat Lloyd-Jacob - 20 | Pete Jenkins - 59 | Alan Stanley - 75 |
| Blue Over 40 | Rob Edwards - 72 | Colin Don - 122 | |
| Red | Paul Newman - 15 | Keith Cross - 21 | Dave Charman - 25 |
| Red Under 16 | James Dark - 32 | | |
| Yellow | Brian Walpole - 12 | Mike Hammond - 53 | |

* = Guest Rider



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.

Report on the Star Group Trial, January 8th 2012

January's Star Group Trial was run by Kingston Club at Hungry Hill, near Aldershot. Terrific bit of MoD ground of course, where the famous Talmag Pre 65 trial, amongst others, is run every year.

There was a good pre-entry of 50 or so, augmented by another 20 who signed up on the day. All classes were catered for, including Expert, Inter, Novice, Over 40, Over 50 plus twinshocks, pre 65's, Sportsmen and sidecars. Ten sections were set, each with 4 routes, and with 4 laps to be completed.

There were 4 RRND entries, Alan Stanley, Colin Don, Neville Lewis and me. Initial excitement was when Nev's Beta wouldn't start. Not so much as a cough would it offer. We hooked it up to Paul Fishlock's Ariel outfit and he towed Nev around, but still no go, only succeeding in pulling Nev over and hurting his leg! Plug out and there was a good spark, so the pre 65 solution of hitting the float chamber with the plug spanner was tried and, Hey Presto, away she went! Just a sticking float needle after all that.

Colin, on the red route, and Nev and I on the yellow Sportsman route did a lap or so all together, and I reckon Nev's bruised leg was a good thing for him, as he didn't seem to use it for footing much! Our sections were all tricky enough, making good use of the steep, loose gullys, tree roots and banks etc. I certainly found plenty of opportunities to get my feet down, plus a five on Hungry Hill itself on the 2nd lap. I hadn't been quite fast enough, despite using 2nd gear (out of the 4 available) on the first lap and had a messy 3, so more attack next time round resulted in an even messier 5, being unable to get round the corner near the top! Vic Allen, the ex British Motocross champion was observing, and he tried to make me feel better by saying I was going faster than he could manage on his 'crosser! He was joking of course!

Nev was riding very well and dropped 24, and I managed to lose 30. Best Sportsman though was that wily old campaigner Derek Cranfield who managed to drop no marks at all!

Alan was on the blue route and dropped 79, which compared pretty well I think with the lowest score on that route of 26, by the ex Star Group Expert champion Gerald Budgen, now riding O/40's. Gerald's son Mark was runner-up to Ashley Hall in the Experts. On the red route Colin dropped 54, with best on that route being Peter Hains, who only dropped 1. Andy Bamford in the pre-65 class, riding his AJS 500 only lost 10! Fantastic ride!

A good day was made even better with a long special test laid out through the trees. Kingston are primarily an Enduro club and it showed in the special test. Even the fastest riders took over a minute, and many of us were nearer 1 ½ minutes. As Nev remarked as we were waiting for our go - I hope they have got an hour hand on that stopwatch!

Good trial, good company, hope to do it all again next month at Bagshot.....

Brian Edwards

Ed's Note: Thanks to Brian for this article, hopefully it will encourage more of you to have a go at the Star Group trials, riding for RRND!

Musings from the acting Comp Sec

As some of you may be aware, I've been doing the Competition Secretary's job on a temporary basis. Unless there is someone out there who is going to step forward, it appears that it's going to become my job by default!

The Club has been spoilt in the past with our Comp Secs - they have been enthusiastic and extremely hard working, being first at the trials setting out and last to leave after taking down. This is not quite how I see the job working for me!

I would like to try to establish 3 or maybe 4 setting out teams, each with 5 or 6 members of differing abilities, to cover all the 4 routes we normally have at Club trials.

Each team would have a team leader/captain, who would be responsible for ensuring there are enough team members available to lay out, or find alternative people to help out for their designated event. Having 5 or 6 members in a team would allow some slack.

Each team would be responsible for laying out 3 or 4 trials in a year, thereby giving everyone a chance of a 'lie in' now and again.

Taking down would still be done on a voluntary basis by people volunteering on the day. The laying out and taking down at our South Coast (August) and Star Group (December) trials would be co-ordinated by the Comp Sec with volunteers from each team.

I have started to compile a list of potential team members and would ask that anyone who is interested in being a team member or team leader/captain contacts me asap please.

I would like to get the teams arranged as soon as possible and it would be nice to get them in place and operating by May.

We always need somebody to sign on at trials. If you don't fancy laying out you could always help signing on and give Carol a well earned break - you will be shown what to do etc so don't be shy!

Finally thanks to those who set out at Shamley Green and to those who took down. I don't know who did it, but the person who sorted out the cards into colours as they took down made my job really easy - could I ask all those who take down in future sort out the cards? - it is so helpful! It's the little things like this that make life easier!

Colin Don - Tel: 07768058411 E Mail: debbie.don1@btinternet.com

Enduro Sprint Championship

On the weekend of the 11th and 12th of February the Enduro Sprint Championship will be coming to Aldershot, Hampshire. It is a very spectator friendly format with a mix of GP motocross jump sections, extreme areas and fast technical woodland.

It has attracted some very big names such as:

David Knight (UK) - 3 times World Enduro Champion and Enduro legend.

Jonny Aubert (France) - 2 times World Enduro Champion,

Taddy Blasuziak (Poland) - Current World Extreme and Super Enduro Champion,

Ricky Dietrich (USA) - AMA Supercross and MX star, and many more!

Spectator entry available on both days at a cost of £10 per person, more info can be found at <http://www.enduro-sprint.com/>

Oh and I'll be giving it a crack so support welcome!

Malcolm Coles

Were you a member in the early 1960s?

If you were you may remember George Jenkins who was seventeen years old when he first joined the Club and rode a red Triton.

George is keen to get in touch with his fellow riders and remembers three mates in particular who were Mick on a Bonneville, Terry on a Velocette and Phil who rode a Sunbeam and an ES2 Norton.

If you do remember George between the years of 1962 and 1965 he would love to hear from you. His e-mail address is georgejenkins13@aol.com

Exeter Long Distance Trial Report

Start of January our team of 4 riders from RRNDMC rode the Exeter LDT. Things started badly as on the way to the start Danny kindly filled his tank and topped up mine with diesel. We had to drain the tanks at the road side and then refill them again. We only just made it to the start in time, to not incur time penalties.

Our start time was Friday evening about 8pm followed by 100 miles on the road to the first food stop at the Haynes Museum at about midnight where we would meet up with the other competitors who came from 2 other start points in the SE of England.

After an hour's stop we set off again on the trial proper to the first section about another hour or so away. This section in Forestry Commission land looked very tough from a distance as we queued at the bottom of the impossible looking climb watching headlamps go up and generally come back down again! The side cars here had a near impossible job. Danny and myself having "modern bikes" had to stop half way up in a "re-start box" and then get going again without footing. Dan had a fail just after the restart, an annoying mistake as he then has to ride on for another 12 hours unable to win a coveted Gold award.

