

RRND



Reigate & Redhill North Downs Motorcycle Club

Chairman's Chatter

I hope all of you had a chance to enjoy the good weather. The wind seems cold by comparison with the temperatures of last week, but nothing like on my brother's smallholding in Aberdeenshire where temperatures of 24 degrees have been replaced by 6" of snow!

This week has seen the hose pipe ban coming into force so I will be pleased to hear of the most inventive way of getting bikes clean. I think we all accept that our water supplies need preserving - just look at the levels in the stream at Blacklands - but why are the Government spending a fortune building a rail link that no-one seems to want and yet can't match the achievements of the Romans and pipe water around the Country?

No motorcycle commitments for us this Easter weekend but I have just bade goodbye to Pete Jenkins who together with Pat L-J is off to Cornwall for the Lands End Trial - its worth checking out the Motor Cycling Club's web site if you do not know of their classic events.

Whatever you are doing - have a great Easter.

Richard Coles

Discount for Club members

A thank you this month to Andy Sargeant of AJS 4x4 Services, who has kindly supplied us with some section tape, and a quantity of bunting.

Andy is also offering a discount on car tyres to Club members on production of a membership card.

AJS are on the A217 near J8 of the M25. The address is Kingswood Knoll, Brighton Road, Lower Kingswood, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 6XN.

Tel: 01737 241370 Mobile 07802 246100 www.aistyres.co.uk

Star Group Trials

After a couple of years of riding almost exclusively only in RRND Club trials as a good introduction to trials riding for Luke and Ben, I decided it was time for us to venture further afield so I entered the three of us into the recent March Star Group trial.

The last time I rode a Star Group trial I could afford the fuel to drive around in a 3.5 V8 Rover getting only 16 MPG, Stuart Read was only 3 years old and Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister.

Since then many things have changed and the Star Group trials seem to be no exception.

The first thing that I noticed is the very low number of youths entering; one in the Youth B class and Ben was the only entry in the Youth A class.

The second thing that I notice is the lack of RRND club members taking part, Alan Stanley the only Club member apart from Ben, Luke and myself. Neville Lewis was also on the list of competitors but representing the Sunbeam Club.

What is Star Group all about?

The RRND club is one of a number of clubs that are part of the Star Group championship; each Club hosts at least one event through the year for the members of the Star Group clubs to compete in, ours is in December and was held at Ockley last year.

The different classes that the Star Group caters for includes all the categories we would have at a Club trial, but also there are pre 67A & B, over 50's Sidecar and Twin shock, so something for everyone and a wide range of interesting machines.

The Star Group championship is run through the year both for individuals and clubs, with the RRND points tally currently putting us near the bottom of the 2012 league table.

As many clubs have access to land that we don't use for Club trials, this is a great opportunity to ride in places you wouldn't otherwise be able to use and would probably just not be economically viable for a Club trial.

How do I enter a Star Group Trial?

This is not as straight forward as entering a Club trial or a South Coast trial, where you just turn up on the day, but don't let that put you off.

You need to apply for an ACU card, to do this you need an individual code from Carol Dark then you may be able to apply on line at the ACU web site, or you can print out a form from the ACU web site and post it off with a cheque for £10. You should get your ACU card within a few weeks which then opens up a whole new world of events that you can compete in as an ACU card holder.

Then you also need a copy of the Sporting Motorcyclist, this is a monthly publication which contains details of all the local ACU events and application forms. Details of how to subscribe to this publication can be found on the ACU web site or ask a Committee Member for a subscription form.

Once you have all this sorted out, you just need to pick your event, send off the entry form from the Sporting Motorcyclist with a couple of SAE's, then sit back and wait for the programme to arrive in the post as confirmation that you are in the event and any final signing on details.

March Star Group report

The March event was organised by Haslemere Motorcycle Club, held on a piece of land that I understand was new to the Star Group in a disused Chalk Pit in Cocking. Whilst that is a word that is more commonly found at the beginning of a phrase to describe my efforts at trials riding which ends in "it up", this really is a place name too, a small village near Midhurst in West Sussex.

The venue being a chalk pit, unsurprisingly contained a lot of chalk rocks in all shapes and sizes and a few areas of mud thrown in for good measure, luckily the weather was bright and sunny and the ground was only a little damp.

I had the pleasure of riding round with Alan Stanley, both of us starting from section four on the first lap. Not being too experienced with riding on this type of terrain, I took the precaution of watching how one or two of the more experienced riders tackled the obstacles before having a go myself. The first lap seemed to go fairly well losing only 15 marks, including losing 5 marks on section 6 by missing a gate.

By the time we got to the second lap there seemed to be a few changes to the terrain which caught me out once or twice when using the usual practice of "I know where I am going" after the first lap. The smaller soft chalk rocks were getting either destroyed by the bikes riding the route, making parts of it much easier than the first lap, or getting moved around making the route more difficult. I was caught out badly on section 10, this section consisted of going over / between a few big chalk boulders, then around two 180 degree bends before launching up a bank made up of some pretty big boulders before going up another steep chalk bank then dropping back down. On my first lap I managed to clear this section, but on the second lap I found out too late that one of the boulders had moved from where it was on the first lap and was now blocking the route I had previously taken, so half way up this rocky bank I came up against a rather large bolder and inevitably took a tumble, giving me a total on the second lap of a further 15 points.

The third lap was much more successful for me dropping only 6 marks.

Starting the riders at different sections seemed to alleviate queuing on the first lap, but by the second and third laps there were about 20 - 30 riders waiting at section 7. This was mainly due to this being the longest section at the event with the biggest hill climb of the day for the Blue route and it took a good half hour of queuing to get through this section. But apart from that, it was a very enjoyable event, the over 40 blue route was won by Gerald Budgen from the Horsham Club on 18 points, his third win in this class out of three trials. I finished third in my class on 36 points which was only three points behind second place, whilst Alan finished slightly further down the field on 55 points nursing an injured wrist.

The Novice Red route was very competitive, Shaun Fishwick from the Thames Club won on just three points, whilst Luke finished in 5th position on 40 points. Ben of course won the Youth A class, earning the RRND 25 points in the club Championship.

We enjoyed doing our bit supporting the Club in the Star Group inter club championship so much that next month, we will be competing in the Star Group trial at Hungry Hill, which I gather is a very popular venue.

In case you are thinking of trying the Star Group trials yourself, I thought that the severity of each of the routes was comparable with our own Club trial routes and this is backed up by the scores, hopefully we will see a few more RRND members supporting the Club in this championship at future events.

Rob Edwards

Creative Route Finding!

Whilst riding at Faygate the thorny topic of scoring came up.

It was suggested that some riders were looping out excessively in some of the sections and therefore not riding the sections as they were intended.

When laying out sections on the day of the trial, it is very time consuming and potentially costly to tape off all the areas where looping out may take place, so it is really left to the riders to ride the sections in the spirit they were laid out.

I think it should be remembered that it's a Club trial and that if you are riding the difficult parts of sections by looping out, then you are only fooling yourself. If you were to try this at a Group or Open to Centre trial, don't be surprised to be given a 5!

Personally I think riders should go from one set of markers to the next without travelling in a forward motion against the direction of the section.

For reference, AMCA Rule 33 (which covers our Club trials and South Coast trials), and ACU Rules TSR 22A(i) and TSR 22Bf (which cover Star Group trials) refer.

In a future E News we may print the AMCA and ACU marking systems to clarify the situation.

In the meantime, have fun and try and ride sections in the spirit they were laid out!

Colin Don

Next Club Trial - Sethern, Rams Lane, Dunsfold

The next Club trial is at Sethern on Sunday 15 April 2012. Rob's team will be laying out, but volunteers to sign on and take down will be required - please contact Colin Don on 07768058411 or by e mail to debbie.don1@btinternet.com if you can assist in any way.

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.

March Club Trial at Faygate Tip - 25/03/2012

A reasonable turn out of 32 riders. Best on the day were as follows:

	1st	2nd	3rd
White/Expert	Stuart Read - 30	Scott Dark - 41	
Inter	Steve Moore - 6	Eric Clarke - 12	Peter Steer* - 76
Novice Blue	Tom Charman - 78	Stuart Hescott - 129	
Blue Over 40	Rob Edwards - 50	Pete Jenkins - 52	Antony Read - 61
Red	Dave Charman - 28	Keith Cross - 33	David Cutler - 34
Red Under 16	James Dark - 54		
Yellow	Hannah Moore - 1	Mike Hammond - 22	

* = Guest Rider

Thanks go to Colin's laying out team for setting out the event, Carol & Grace Dark for the signing on and Pete, Keith, Steve & Hannah and Dave & Paul for the taking down.

Comp Sec Report

The 25th March saw RRND at Faygate Tip. Eight sections were set out on what turned out to be a warm sunny day following a frosty early morning.

For those Club members unfamiliar with Faygate Tip, it has a range of clay banks, logs and roots which with any moisture prove to be a challenge!

Section one was mainly over logs with tight turns. The blue route required a wheelie through a 'V' in a tree.

Section two was over roots with a nasty climb and tight left turn.

Section three had more turns and cambers which took marks off the careless!

Section four had a huge log for the whites but was cleanable - Chris Dark went clean whilst Eric Clarke on his Fantic had the odd dab. Sadly Chris' bike gave up!

Section five proved to be a bit of a challenge with a log then mud and a climb up a slippery bank. Rob Edwards was having some success on this section.

Section six was a flowing section with 3 logs and a climb out which was satisfying if ridden well.

Section seven was up at the top part of the land where the 'bomb holes' are - most had cleans on this one.

Section eight proved to be unpredictable with cleans on one lap and dabs at the exit out on others.

This is probably the driest I've ever seen Faygate, but the clay ground still proved difficult for riders a little eager on the throttle with traction being lost.

Thanks to all who set out and helped take down, and I have to say again that sorting the cards into colours when taking down makes it so much easier for me later, thanks again.

The next Club trial is at Roy's land at Sethern near Dunsfold on Sunday 15th April. Rob Edwards and his team will be doing the honours. Volunteers on the day for taking down please.

Feet Up!

Colin Don

Current Championship Standings

**Championships
are run over 11
rounds with best
8 scores**

counting

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Expert				
Scott Dark	12	12	11	35
Stuart Read			12	12
Samuel Brightman	11			11
Inter				
Eric Clarke		12	11	23
Chris Dark	12	9		21
Steve Moore			12	12
Marcus Faulkner		11		11
Matt Don		10		10
Novice Blue				
Stuart Hescott	10	11	11	32
Tom Charman	11		12	23
Alan Stanley	12			12
Toby Robinson		12		12
Over 40 Blue				
Rob Edwards	10	12	12	34
Pete Jenkins	11	11	11	33
Colin Don	9	7	7	23
Chris Roos		9	9	18
Antony Read		8	10	18
Mark Stubberfield		6	8	14
Novice Red				
Paul Newman	12	10		22
Dave Charman	10			22
David Cutler	9	12		21
Keith Cross	11	9		20
Luke Edwards	7	8		15
Paul Brightman	6	5		11
Ben Edwards	4	7		11
Bob Collins		11		11
U16 Red				
James Dark	12	12		24
Handicap				
David Cutler	18	23	17	58
Luke Edwards	20	16	16	52
Keith Cross	23	8	18	49
Ben Edwards	10	19	19	48
Dave Charman	24		21	45

Eric Clarke		21	24	45
Paul Newman	22	9	13	44
James Dark	21	1	22	44
Rob Edwards	8	25	9	42
Scott Dark	16	13	11	40
Pete Jenkins	12	17	10	39
Mike Hammond	11	6	20	37
Bob Collins		22	15	37
Colin Don	6	24	6	36
Chris Dark	15	20		35
Paul Brightman	25	10		35

How The Handicaps Work

The idea of the Handicap Championship was so that all riders no matter what sort of bike they ride or which sections could compete for one championship. At most Club trials there are 5 laps of 8 sections making a total of 40, the maximum loss of marks would therefore be 200 if one fived every section. Each rider's handicap is worked out on the difference between what you actually lose and 200. Therefore if I got it right your handicap added to your score would equal 200. The Handicap winner at the end of the year should therefore be the rider who has improved the most. In addition to awards being given to Championship winners, the Handicap winner of each Club trial also receives an award.

Antony Read

BMF backs driving test petition

The UK's largest motorcycling organisation is backing a campaign to ensure bike-related questions are included in the driving test to help raise awareness of motorcyclists on the road.

An online petition calling on the department for transport "to ensure that biker related questions are compulsory in the driving theory test" has been created by Bennetts, one of the UK's leading motorcycle insurers.

"Since inattentiveness by other road users causes the majority of motorcycle accidents, the BMF has consistently called for further initiatives to raise the awareness of all vulnerable road users" says the BMF's Government Relations Executive Chris Hodder. He continues: "With over 1.3 million motorcycles on Britain's roads it's incredible that prospective drivers can currently pass the test without answering a single question relating to motorcyclists. We would encourage all our members to sign this petition".

Hannah Squirrel, Director of Marketing at Bennetts adds; "The petition has been approved by the government and we need to get at least 100,000 signatures in order to have this raised in the House of Commons. Bikers are an important group of road users and it's essential they are recognised within the driving test."

Motorcyclists and drivers alike can sign-up online via the official government link:
epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/26272

With
Rachel
BMF
0116 2795112

Best
Membership

Wishes
Crossley
Secretary