

# 55 Newsletter

Publisher **CLIFF**

Volume No. 3

Issue No. 10

Date **Dec 2008**

## Hare and Hound Enduro 23/11/08 at Tidworth

Having paid for an ACU licence it seemed a waste of money to not enter a competition this year, so with this thought in mind my entry was sent off to Southern England Trail Riders Association's event being held at Tidworth. The competition was to ride as many laps of the 5-mile circuit as possible in three hours. The land was MOD and used by tanks so as you'd expect the tracks were deep and nasty, filled with water and we would be riding across the tracks, not along them. At the riders briefing we were told some 'puddles' were over 6 feet deep and to not venture more than four feet from the course markers. My start time was 10:21am. There was a vast range of enduro competition bikes but one rider had decided to enter on a BMW GS1200. Is it me or have I missed something about the BMW 1200GS? I've gotta say I would be interested to know why this rider felt a 1200cc bike is competitive in an enduro. Seeing the bike parked up I had a quick look; I noted a set of new enduro tyres, most plastic panels removed, rider over 50. Draw your own conclusion, his final result was not even half a lap completed and what's more I reckon he spent £200 to ride this event (tyres, ACU license, entry fee, fuel to and from the event). He was also riding a class up from me in Clubman B. I suspect we'll be seeing him riding the Elite route in the South Eastern Centre trial championship next year!

Anyway...

Starting commenced with four riders away at one-minute intervals. I was riding my newly purchased 07 KTM 530 (she's a real beauty etc etc). It's a man's bike, I'll have you know, and yes you need to be a real man to ride her but it was an uneasy relationship until I got into my rhythm. The first quarter of the course was a kind of flat ploughed field and I was slow riding this as I didn't want to push my top speed just in case I crashed. Unfortunately this meant most riders were coming past me and it wasn't until the woods and technical stuff that I fared better; and as they floundered, my trials riding skills came into play. About half way through the course there was a large chalky hill climb and when I rounded the corner there were bikes all over it, some half way up, some near the top and then some sat at the bottom. I wasn't going to have any of that fairy crashing and pushing, so I clicked me beauty into second, gave her the right hand trumpet and leveled the hill! For us trials riders the course was very easy, but hard on the body - the front suspension was going up and down like a kango drill most of the three hours. There were few flat parts to this land, just constant jarring and being thrown around. I did 9 laps, the winner in my class did 10 and the expert winner did 14 laps. I'm pleased with my result and next year I'll be entering a few more enduro events.



## Trials Practice day 30/11/08 at Rotherfield

I do enjoy my trials practice days, but I wasn't looking forward to this one because the weather report didn't look good. My plan was an early start on the Sunday and to lay five sections out before anyone turned up. Fergie arrived early and helped lay out the course and it was completed by about 9:45am. Rotherfield and rain don't mix, as some of you will know and the sections would need to be good for everyone to enjoy themselves, so I stuck four sections down by the stream and one over on a slippery bank. There were three routes (wobbler, novice, inter) and riding all of them prior to anyone riding the sections they all looked good. Eight riders including my brother turned up and the rain held off. Section one on the inter route was tricky with a drive out of the stream. I messed it up quite a few times and Bruv only went and cleaned it! I did clean the section later on and then kept cleaning as it got greasier and as the day went on Bruv got a little worse but still did a good job. Mathew managed to completely drown his Sherco 250 at section 4 going off line; Fergie and Steve W helped dry out and restart the bike and I saw it running just before we cleared away, which was good news. Section 5 was the hardest section for me; I couldn't quite clean it when it got really cut up. The section was pure greasy mud and nailing the bike in third I kept losing a silly mark on a banking turn, excellent section and with a bit of practice I would have cleaned it even though it was getting worse every ride.

Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year.....2009 is shaping up to be an even better biking year than this.

Cliff

Most of you will have renewed your ACU trials card by now but for those who have yet to do so and want to ride early in 2009 complete the form and send it off to me asap as you will not get to ride unless you produce the yellow 2009 card, or I am able to confirm to the club that I have signed off your form, or you complete a new 2009 form assuming the Secretary at the meeting will allow you to do so.

Steve Westley

**For Sale** a Beta 2006 250cc £1,600 and 2-bike trailer + Montesa 311 250cc - any reasonable offers accepted. Contact Henderson on [Fergus.henderson@coopergay.com](mailto:Fergus.henderson@coopergay.com) or

### Club Night at the Pied Bull – 6th January

The first Tuesday night of each month we go to the Pied Bull in Farningham Village. This is a bike friendly pub so you can turn up in your car or on your road bike. The Triumph club also uses it sometimes on a Tue so it can be full of likeminded people. We are usually there from 8.30pm and in the summer nights probably in the garden and it is not committee stuff just a chance to talk to other club members.

### What's on for remainder of 2008? Directions follow at the end.

**Sun 21st Dec invite to Bexleyheath Club trial at Wainscott**

**Sun 28th Dec Thames Trial, Centre round includes Novice and Over 50 class – full detail in Nov TSM *note this is being held at Aldershot and not Hook Woods***

**What's on in early 2009? Directions follow at the end.**

**Sun 11th Jan North Kent Team Trial at Horsmonden – each year this event is run for teams from the 10 clubs in the group – for Novice level upwards and we usually put in 2 or 3 teams – see [www.nktc.org.uk](http://www.nktc.org.uk) for more detail – we will need an observer for each team, enter first as a solo rider and sort out your part in a team later.**

**Sun 18th Jan Sidcup Sixty SE Centre round p44 Dec TSM - Expert, Inter, Novice, Youth A&B**

**Sun 25th Jan Invite to Bexleyheath Club trial at Wainscott**

That is it for the moment so hope to see you at a trial or down the pub.

**CLIFF**