

55 Newsletter

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Happy New Year 2009

Looks like another action packed year for us all. If you can get out riding whilst the weather is not so nice come the summer you'll be amazed how good you'll have become so take advantage of as much riding you can. In 2008 we had an action packed season and again this year looks set to be the same, remember if the question asked is, "when will you be riding this year?" the answer is "at least 52 times".

North Kent Team Trial, Horsmonden 11th Jan 09

This was a bit of a spur of the moment ride, as I was set to practice ride at River Side motocross circuit for my coming season of Enduros and it was only due to the freezing weather that I made the decision at the club night to ride the Team Trial. On the drive to Horsmonden the van blew a fuse cutting the stereo out; the worse thing was it was playing one of my 80's electric pop cd's and I was in full song with the window down trying to scare small children.

The Fantic 240 was out for a showing at the team trial and, trying to get used to the QE2-like steering, I set off to section one with Paul and Neil to be greeted by Mrs Neil and family. Having walked the section, I offered my ideas on lines to Neil and Paul; then rode the section and got away lucky for a clean, Neil was caught off-guard by a small tree branch - well unlucky - but Bananaman (aka Paul) cleaned it! I didn't fare that well on this section later on in the day, having a stall and a dab on the second and third laps. Section two had a tricky 180 turn with tree root then over a greasy log; the QE2 needed a wider ark to make the turn, so a necessary dab saw this section out of the way. Section 4 was a bit more difficult, a drop into a gully that was a bit slippery, which must have been a bit off putting for the less experienced riders, but not that difficult because once in it was almost a straight line through the section. None of the other sections were that difficult apart from the final section, which got unexpectedly mud-messy as the ground thawed. Seeing Derek Baker flounder on the drive up the exit hill I decided when it was my go that giving it the beans in third gear would get me up the hill. But when I rounded the turn at the bottom of the hill and opened the throttle all I got from between my legs was a flat and gutless monotone "barrrrrr .."; realising it was machine-made not man-made, I coaxed and encouraged the Fantic with a de-clutch, the engine sprung back into life and off we went in perfect harmony to fail to make it to the top, slipping under for another five. That's the fun of running an old bike - you never quite know what to expect!

The Double Five teams comprised, Me, Neil & Paul and we came 11th – Chris, Joe & Steve who grabbed 4th – Monte, Fergus & Dave who were 12th.

In Dec the 2009 NKTC team trial will be held again so those of you who want to get in on the act make sure you enter the NKTC series throughout the year to get used to it.

Great trial and my thanks to all the observers and officials and not forgetting the land owner.

Club Night at the Pied Bull – 3rd February

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 in 2009? Directions follow at the end.

Sun 25th Jan Invite to Bexleyheath Club trial at Wainscott

Sun 1st Feb CSMA Trial – 'The Red Tape Trial' see Dec TSM

Tue 3rd Feb Club night at The Pied Bull, Farningham from 8.30pm

Sun 8th Feb NKTC Round 1 Gravesend Club at Horsmonden entry forms from TSM

Sun 15th Feb Invite to Bexleyheath Club Trial at Stonegate

Sun 1st Mar Double Five Beginner & Wobbler trial at Chads Farm

Tue 3rd Mar Club night at The Pied Bull, Farningham from 8.30pm

Sun 8th Mar NKTC Rnd 2 Wickham Club at Sandfields Farm, Cowden entry forms in TSM

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

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