

55 Newsletter

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Computer say's NO!

I've been without a computer for nearly two months. I know you've all missed me but when it says NO what can I do. The problem is twofold with the power supply burning out and then the motherboard died. My eldest brother is helping with a loan of his spare computer. If you thought I forgot about you all its not true and unfortunately at the time of my computer blues I was in mid-flight over several topics so the good news I can return to the subject. **CB**

The riding front, in Enduro

I took part in round 1 of Great Britain Cross Country and I entered in the over 40 class. The competition consisted of a 2 hour race over a six mile course. After signing on and with scrutineering over I lined up with all the other over 40 riders in a field, which had about one hundred bikes handlebar to handlebar. As the time drew close to the start I put in my ear plugs and waited, expecting, to be set off on a group of 4 to 10 riders. However there was the official saying something I and many others couldn't hear over his hand held microphone at the other end of the field. Behind the over 40s were the youth, then sportsman and finally ladies. If you imagine a 17th century battle field with all the soldiers in a line ready to march forward and further lines of soldiers (riders) behind us it was quite a sight. Whilst the guy talking over the microphone was at the other end of the field there was another guy who held up a board say 'warm your engines' a minute later he held up another board to say 'stop your engines'....it was only at the point I looked to my right to see the rider next to me crouched over his handlebars and foot on his kick start I realized that this was a race start!!!!.....in the next couple of seconds the guy on the microphone had a large flag ready above his head, and with my pulse rapidly rising I quickly changed my footing with my left foot over the gear lever and my thumb ready on the starting button, then with the flag dropping I was off!! At the first gate it was total carnage, hundred riders travelling flat out from about 300 metres to a gate which would only take about 15 riders at a go. I didn't fare well some rider decided to park his front wheel between the rear of my front wheel and engine. After about 10 seconds of riders piling in to me and him I leant over and politely said "good morning if you push your bike back a fraction we will be able to join the race". The rider looked at me with his eyes wide open and not blinking, looking very scary. After my new found friend and I parted company I managed to get past about half and dozen riders to arrive at the first uphill and again total carnage, bike and bodies everywhere – time for some trials riding and off I continued. The carnage continued throughout the day but it was all good fun and out of 80 or so over 40's I finished 57. The next round was at Gravesend in early April; more next time. **CB**

Trials riding

I've also been out riding in a Wobbler in readiness for a 3 day trial in Exmoor. This event is for twin shock and British bikes so should be good fun. I've been working on the Fantic improving areas of the bike to make it more competitive. The twin shock bikes seem to be becoming more popular with prices rising. I don't think they will reach the prices of the British bikes but then Honda TLR's are not cheap. **CB**

SE Centre Team Trial for Clubs - June

On the 7th June at Hourne Farm, Crowborough the annual team event takes place and it would be good to enter some teams from the riders we have. We took part last year and you enter as individuals with a team manager sorting out the teams, and the club paying the team fee. Monte Bryant has volunteered to manage this for us and I am the secretary for the event, on behalf of the Kent & Sussex club. More detail is in the May TSM and will be on the SE Centre website. www.SoutEastTrialsCombine.org.uk any more advice needed just get in touch. **Steve Westley**

Club Night at the Pied Bull – 5th May

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. **SW**

What's on over the coming months? Directions follow at the end.

Details can be found about these on the websites and in TSM which is published monthly on the 1st and lists all the competition events in the following month allowing plenty of time to get your entry in the post. In competition the entry form must come from TSM.

www.doublefive.co.uk www.nktc.org.uk www.southeasttrialscombine.org.uk

26th April Owls B&W Club Charity trial – Penshurst

3rd May Bexleyheath club trials invite – Stonegate

3rd May Surrey Schoolboys SE Centre trial – April TSM

5th May Tue Club Night at Pied Bull, Farningham Village from 8.30pm

10th May Owls NKTC Trial round 4 – Penshurst – April TSM

17th May Ilford MacDonald Cup – Horsmonden – April TSM

24th May Double Five Club and Beginner trial invite to NKTC Clubs – Chads Farm

25th May Monday SE Trials Combine Hook Wood Trial SE Centre round – April TSM help needed to observe and clip punch cards

31st May Bexleyheath club trials invite – Ash

2nd June Tue Club Night at Pied Bull, Farningham Village from 8.30pm

7th June Kent & Sussex SE Centre Team Trial – Hourne Farm – May TSM single route trial

14th June Erith NKTC Trial round 5 – Horsmonden – May TSM

21st June Sunbeam SE Centre trial Twinshock & Pre67 – May TSM

21st June Folkestone SE Centre trial – May TSM

28th June Bexleyheath club trials invite – Wainscott

28th June Eastbourne SE Centre trial – May TSM

5th July Owls SE Centre trial Penshurst – June TSM

7th July Tue Club Night at Pied Bull, Farningham Village from 8.30pm

12th July Double Five NKTC Trial round 6 – Chads Farm – we will need help from club members to observe, marshal and set up. At the end of the event all club members who help get a chance to ride the course a couple of times before clearing up.

Cliff

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