

55 Newsletter

Publisher **CLIFF**

Volume No. 3

Issue No. 7

Date **Sep 2008**

Non-Championship NKTC, Burwash 10th August

What a great day; the weather held out the sections were spot on and I even had a bit of action. The thirteen or so sections had all the usual routes (white, blue, red) and seeing this event was billed as 'No Observers' I opted to ride Experts as a day entry. Riding a harder route does show my bad riding techniques, or lack of them and hopping is a must if I'm to ride the expert sections. At present it's more about balance and confidence and I suspect this will be the same for a lot of you as well. The sections followed the stream which runs throughout the land and most were cleanable had my confidence been noticeably higher. The last section in the stream on the Experts caused me most concern; well to be more precise it was 'Hairy' with a capital H! It followed the Elite route of the Langmaid trial this year - gulp! - and for once in sometime now I gotta say I was stopped by this section. I could say my bottle and skill didn't allow me to confidently attack the section; but perhaps the filling of my pants will be a description you will all understand much better. There were two problem parts to the section: the first a drop into the stream onto a camber of wet clay; and the other was the 'out' further along the section. I was willing to give the section a go as was Dave Luck with whom I was riding - we are of comparable riding abilities and it's interesting watching how he rides. Dave went first but only managed to get about 15 feet into the section and didn't manage to get to the drop. (A few sections later Dave came a cropper misjudging a bank exit, head-butting the bank and looked to have nearly knocked himself out. This ended Dave's ride for the day - hope you can see all right mate.) So, with one long leg I levered the bike and me down the drop and into the stream with thump to the sump guard and the forks bottoming. Then came the Out of the stream; and with water, loose logs and tree roots to overcome it didn't look nice. So with a bit more footing I lined up and held me breath.... I was up! And with a steady foot I was home and dry, or so I thought. After all that, 'pleased' wouldn't be the right word for my efforts; and all I needed to do now was ride across the face of a bank, then a 180 degree turn on the bank, down and out through the exit gates. As I made my way down the bank after the 180 turning to head towards the exit, my front wheel found a hidden log throwing me over the bars.... The rush of pain was that great I felt sick, and obviously that was that another five. Later on during the trial I had the good fortune to catch up with Steve, Neil, Iain and Paul. Paul had a very unfortunate spill dislocating his thumb which looked a bit like a banana; so if you speak with Paul his new nick name is Banana Man – only kidding mate

CB

Club Night at the Pied Bull – 7th October

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 like minded people. We are usually there from 8.30pm and in the summer nights probably in the garden.

British Championship Round at Hook Woods 7th Sept

A wet Saturday with rain overnight meant that a tricky course was ready for the Experts at 10am the next day. Sunday dawned overcast and grey but the rain stayed away from W Horsley for the whole event and having watched the riders having differing success on the sections, you have to admire their fitness. The course as it was set out apparently is in the fashion of the European trials at Championship level, it was tough and the scores were high. This is a trial to go and watch so put the date in your diary for next year. A couple of us helped on both days and we will do so again next year, if any one else is interested get in touch. Results on the website www.SouthEastTrialsCombine.org.uk

What's on? Directions follow at the end.

Sun 14th Sep NKTC trial at Burwash round 7

Sat/Sun 20th/21st Sep Double Five B&W Trial at Chads Farm, Ridley. Set up on the Sat come and help clear the place and cut out new sections then ride on the Sunday, both fields in use

Sun 28th Sep Eastbourne Charity Trial SE Centre round with beginner class – details in Sept TSM p13 Rushlake Green, Sussex.

Sun 5th Oct invite to Bexleyheath Club Trial at Stonegate

Sun 12th Oct NKTC trial at Hourne Farm, Crowborough – Kent & Sussex round 8

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

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