

55 Newsletter

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Club Night at the Pied Bull – 6th April

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**

TBEC Hare and Hound racing 2010

With the season's opening round having taken place in February at Rendlesham, Suffolk, team chunky monkey (Peter Cook, John Barnett, Glen Baker and me Cliff Barnett) have made the commitment to ride this championship. There are eleven rounds (one round you have to marshal and one round you have to miss)...so only nine rounds count. I was the only rider out of the team to ride at Rendlesham the other three marshaled. Out of 140 riders I finished twenty-second overall, which should have been higher had I not messed up on my fuel stop. The TBEC is a step up from the Chiltern Hills Club competitions we all rode in 2009 and congratulations to Glen Baker aka Endo for winning the Chiltern championship outright for 2009 having attended all the events. New to the team is Peter Cook aka Cookie and John Barnett aka JB. Cookie brings to the team a vast knowledge and riding skill. I believe he won the South Eastern Centre Enduro Championship in 1994. JB brings to the mix extensive rider knowledge and a will to win. We are all over 40 with me being youngest and better looking which everyone knows is the key to winning a hare and hound.

Let it be said, in team chunky monkey there is an air of competition. It's friendly, but newer bikes have been purchased for this seasons racing and it's getting serious. Fitness is really important if you're to ride a four-hour race (2+2). Word has it Cookie has joined a gym and Endo is out mountain biking. JB's swimming and I've taking to laying off the Donor Kebabs. Cookie and Endo have been training on some new land run by Enduro Kent and other pieces of land, whereas JB and I have been out on the lanes. There are target riders to beat for this year's racing and if your name is in the list it's because the team respects your results, so here goes: Richard Blunt, Andy Mason, Lee Smith, Martin Rushbrook, and Gavin Maggs. I'm also going to make a DVD of this championship so if anyone's interested you can find me at Canada Heights during the course of this year. I'm not of the ability to beat the above named and having switched from trials to hare and hounds at the start of 2009 this is my second year in the sport. The team has varying riding abilities and if you can follow the South Eastern Enduros to give you some idea of the teams riding abilities (this is a guess) Myself as a Clubman A, JB a middle of the rode Expert but a top rider in the wet, Endo a top expert bordering on championship class and Cookie a good championship rider.

Endo and I are Double 5 MC club members, we are both on the clubs committee and it's fair to say there's some camaraderie between us. If Endo had one target to beat this year it's me, he's said it! I have beaten him once in 2009 and he hated it! The only way to beat him is by following him; he goes mad and then launches into a tree. The same can be said for me. The bikes: Cookie rides a: 2006 KTM 200. Endo rides a new Husky 310, JB's on a 2006 Gas Gas 300 and I'm on a 2009 KTM 300. I'm hoping Endo's bike won't last a straight two hour race without requiring a fuel stop. This will play into my hands so things could be looking up for me beating Endo this year.

Cliff Barnett (rider 721)

What's on in March and April ? Directions follow at the end.

Ref websites www.doublefive.co.uk www.nktc.org.uk www.SouthEastTrialsCombine.org.uk

For points and awards you need to pre-enter NKTC & SE Centre events - detail in TSM

March 14th – NKTC round 2 at Sandfields, Cowden (this is the venue where we will be running the National trial in September)

March 21st – 55 Club trial at Cudham, this is our 2nd visit this year and is a good venue to practice

March 21st – Barham Non-Expert trial

March 28th – Gravesend Centre trial

April 4th – Invite to Bexleyheath club trial at Ash

April 6th – Club Night, Pied Bull from 8.30pm

April 11th – NKTC round 3 at Whitepost, Cowden

April 18th – 55 Beginner & Wobbler trial at Chads Farm

April 18th – Sittingbourne Centre trial

April 25th – Tenterden Centre trial

May 9th – NKTC Clubs Team trial at Chads Farm. This is a chance for members of NKTC clubs to form teams and compete against each other. The format and rules are on the NKTC website and the 55 club try to get as many teams in it as possible. For those of you thinking of getting into the NKTC series this is a good event to start in. We will also need a few observers so if you are a non-rider but want to be involved put your name forward. **SW**

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

Cliff