

BARHAM MOTORCYCLE CLUB

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

**** IMPORTANT MESSAGE : SUBS DUE JAN 1st 2012 ****

Please send your renewal forms and payment to Eddie or Mark ASAP. The word from the top table is that **this will be your last Sporting Motorcyclist and newsletter if you have not renewed your membership by the end of February**. The club has already absorbed the rising costs for the TSMs and postage. These have to be covered whether members have paid on time or not. The committee aim to keep Barhams subs the most competitive in the Southern Section and your prompt payments are essential if this is to remain the case.

Ok, now onto more pleasant matters. The meeting on Jan 17th at The Black Robin was very lively. Chas Coleman had left a kitty behind the bar so all the usual suspects were in frolicsome mood before I got there. There was much hilarity because in the last letter I'd put 7pm as being the kick-off time for the meetings. It should be 8pm. What can I say? Turn up anytime after 7pm and you'll enjoy general supping and socialising before the Committee meeting proper. In fact getting some semblance of order before official business begins is a Herculean task (isn't it Jeff.). Anyway the Black Robin is a very nice venue for the meetings. We have a room to ourselves with gratis peanuts and crisps on the table. We scoffed them pretty pronto but there were no seconds. We had to rely on the bits stuck in our teeth to keep us going for the last half hour of the meeting.

Richard wasn't in the chair because he's on a cruise. We all expressed the sincere hope that his ship IS still afloat and he wasn't currently scuba diving off the Italian Coast. This reminds me I bought a lottery ticket to win a cruise but only cos it was a rollover. (Sorry about this joke folks). On Saturday afternoon I was looking forward to watching "Carry on Cruising" on the tele, but they'd replaced it with "Carry on don't lose your head". Aw, ITV must think their viewers are sensitive about cruising but fine with The Terror and "French peasants, their hands covered in blood because of the bleeding aristocrats". No! Stop! When I start quoting Carry on Films we're all in trouble so back to Barham business.

The committee have awarded the Phil Hughes Trophy to Mr Marc D'Amico of the Folkestone Club. Marc is a very dedicated trials rider who has worked hard to improve from a novice to an Intermediate rider. He's a very affable chap so very well done to him.

Eddie had received a letter from Tim Daish. Tim has decided not to renew his membership because he is no longer involved with two wheelers.

Eddie also said he was sad to hear of the demise of a former member; Johnny Wake, who passed away on Jan 16th aged 90. He was fondly remembered by Eddie and Tom amongst others as a well known character at local events riding a 350 AJS or similar.

Daz reported that Pete Walsh has had a moan. It seems that owing to an unfortunate administrative oversight Walshy had been sent the results of the Mutton Lancer in an unstamped envelope. This hit him hard in the pocket department as it cost him £1.36 to collect it from the Post Office (quite right said Jeff). Barhams in Walsheys bad books then. Oh dear, never mind, moving on... to the non stop rule (TSR22b).

This is still a subject for discussion both at meetings and on Trials Central. As you might expect there are arguments both for and against its adoption and in these early days of its most recent reincarnation it's caused controversy. Joan Westbrook wrote to the TSM in support of the TS22b as she believes "sanity might return to the severity of the sections and bring back willing observers". The first practical problem with the rule change we became aware of arose at the Charity fundraising trial on Jan 2nd when individual observers were applying the rule to their own interpretation because the Clerk of Course had not given any directives on the marking. There does seem some consensus in this area that to get a 5 for even the briefest pause is rather draconian, especially for the novices. It's a case of the punishment not fitting the crime and perhaps a return to getting a 1 for a stop would be more appropriate. In December TSM Jim Connor wrote that in his opinion benefit should be given to the rider for a very quick pause. During the Jan 2nd trial some observers were allowing a brief pause or hesitation to, for example, the count of three, before giving a 5. Others followed the rule to the letter and as soon as the wheels stopped turning gave a 5. As Alan Wibb pointed out this is what the rule says and there is no differential between a pause and a stop in TSR22b. This trial also highlighted how careful Clerk of Courses will have to be setting out the sections. Ben & Alan were in discussion with Barry about the implications of the rule. Ben isn't an advocate for riding non stop but he didn't seem to think it should be a problem for the expert and elite riders. We gathered he sees the rule as being more of a disincentive for novice riders who tend or need to pause more frequently due to inexperience and nervousness. From the conversation I felt he couldn't see how riding non stop was any advantage to modern club trials. As we understand it the rule was reintroduced to encourage C of C's to ease the sections and thereby encourage more riders to compete. However if its no big deal to elite club riders to ride non stop then surely it hasn't given them any particular extra incentive to compete at British Championship level.. The top British riders seem to have moved to the Spanish Championship anyway and with easier sections there will be more cleans from the top riders making it more difficult to get an overall winner and more boring for the spectators. Interestingly the British Youth Championship, the Ladies and Girls and of course World Championships are Stop allowed so its just going to cause confusion as different rules apply at Centre and National Level for some classes, not forgetting the clubs who don't run to ACU rules anyway.

It looks like there will be further discussion on this topic at a meeting of the ACU up in Rugby in mid February. Even if the ACU continue with the rule it may increasingly be rejected at club level (according to Trials Central some Yorkshire Clubs have rejected it) but its early days yet and the controversy may die down as the year progresses. No doubt it will be mentioned in future newsletters as 'im I married talks about it a lot (non stop in fact).



Give over mucking about lads. Its non stop you know."

Trials Reports

On Jan 2nd there was a trial at Howfield Woods organised by Chris Osman and the Folkestone Club to raise funds for Ben Morphetts 2012 campaign.

Barham Members competing were Mark Ridge, new to Barham Adam Bell, Dave Heather, Vin & Baz Gooding, Alan Burman & Kevin Crook.

Jimmy was there but not riding while Pat was observing as was stalwart observer Jeff.

There were over 65 entries which makes the gross takings over a grand.

Everyone seemed to be struggling with very, very slippy sections. It had rained all day the day before and the conditions were quite desperate at the start although as it was a sunny day the sections in the sun did begin to dry out a tad. Kevin said he thought conditions did improve towards the end. Mark reported that "the heavy rain on the preceding days meant that for half the sections it was a proper muddy trial. The other half of the sections were in the quarry and sandy gully and had plenty of grip. As this was the first trial of the year it gave everyone a chance to see how the newly introduced Non Stop rules would work, and the answer is it will take Riders and Observers quite a while to adjust, I think it will be quite hard with the trials grounds we have locally which tend to have lots of tight turns and logs where it is very easy to 'Stop' I think it will probably be harder for the riders in the lower classes to adapt as the experts will learn how to ride and hop without stopping."

I trotted about after Vince, Alan Burman & John Dent who were riding together but me being me I was always stood in the wrong place at the wrong time & got showered in Shite from wheels spinning in the mud. Good to know if I was caught on a speed camera they wouldn't recognise me.

Speaking of facial mud packs Emma Morphett was also riding. Her day her job is a beautician. I'd say she has an unusual combination of career and hobby. Ideally she would like to concentrate on theatrical make up. I Wonder if she could make 'im I married (Baz) look like Johnny Depp? No, come to think about it that's only possible with Photoshop and a vivid imagination.

Gordon "Ace" Davis was observing on Sect 1. He drove through a quagmire to his section but then got his motor stuck. Steve Rankin & Chris were trying to organise a rescue effort with a 4x4 and tow rope when who hove into view doing a 4 wheel drift between the hop poles but Gordon... His commando style balaclava had swivelled round but he was determined to get back to the pits somehow.

Our man Kevin nearly didn't make it back to the pits either. He ran out of petrol on the ride back to pits but luckily his Scorpa has a reserve so he was saved form the shoving mode of motorcycling.

It was a shame the constant rain on New Years Day made the sections so wet and muddy because Chris Osman and others had put a lot of time & effort into organising the trial.

Results: Elite Ben Morphett 1 m/l Expert Kevin Morphett 43 m/l
Expert B Dave Plumb 62 m/l Inter Gary Roberts 29m/l
Inter O/40 Adam Bell 49 m/l Pre 67 David Strank 16 m/l
Youth Novice Joe Lloyd 76m/l Beginner Nicola Clarke 68 m/l

And last but not least young Max Morphett as a Beginner Youth with 95 m/l. Phil Morphett said that young Max was riding the last TY80 to win a British Championship. A useful hand me down from his big brother no doubt.

January 8th The EKTC Trial by the GEST Club at Northiam East Sussex

A cold but dry Sunday Morning for the seasons first EKTC Trial. 36 riders entered plus quite a number of late entries on the day.

Barham had 5 riders entered, Kevin Crook, Dave Heather, Adam Bell and father /son duo Dave and Bradley Mears. Sadly Bradley wasn't able to ride because of the injury to his hand and unfortunately Dave Heather couldn't make it on the day either.

GEST had laid out a very challenging course on steep muddy climbs and tight narrow streams but the riders all seemed to enjoy the event and the challenges.

Dave Mears rode the Inter route but dropped a few silly 5's which he blamed on low level and obscured marker flags. These fives were nothing to do with Dave being at a heavy duty party the night before, oh no, no as if...

Thank you to Eddie for putting quill pen to parchment and scripting this report. I'm very happy to get a letter and its no trouble to type it into the newsletter. I think paper free is overrated meself. Eddie says he's had his computer 3 years and still hasn't switched it on. That makes it nearly a veteran computer and it'll soon be a collectors piece taking its place amongst the twinshocks and other relics of yesteryear.

Results: Expert: 1st Kevin Morphett 13 m/l and 2nd Matt Strank 16 m/l

Inter: 1st Dave Strank 3 m/l and 2nd Ian Moore 10 m/l

Novice: Ben Dobbs 7m/l and 2nd Steve Higgins 27 m/l

Over 40 Inter: 1st Malc Noble 27 m/l and 2nd Adam Bell 40 m/l.

The slightly de tuned Dave Mears was 3rd with 67 m/l

Thanks to Adam and Dave for putting Barham on the podium!

Over 40 Novice: 1st Brian Cornelius 2 m/l and 2nd Pete Southern 15 m/l

Jeff is thanked on the results sheet for observing which is how it should be.

Jan 15th The 2012 Sidcup Sixty. Canada Heights

The first round of the 2012 SE Centre Championship was 2 laps of 18 sections. The sections were tough as reflects the Championship status of the event. There were 134 entrants.

Our man Ben Wibberley started number 1. He has won the event and the Youngs Cup for the past 2 years but this year he had an inauspicious start when he went over the handlebars on the first section. Once he abandoned the acrobatics he steamed on to win the trial and the cup for a third time with 28 m/l. Hurray! We're proud of you sir.

In the intermediates Dave Heather had a good ride to finish 10th in class. Dave is very new to trials, if I recall rightly he has been competing for less than a year so it's a fantastic performance from him.

The third Barham member competing was young Vince Gooding in the Youth Novice class and he rode his heart out to finish 2nd with 45 m/l. Vince set off at number 122 and was under pressure against the clock to complete the event within the 6 hour time limit. The first lap took nearly 3 hours but he blitzed the second lap to finish well within the time. The Barham top brass were represented by Jeff in his observing capacity. The Sidcup hospitality clearly impressed him as our hero related bold tales of 2 bags of grub and cuppa soups! Sponsorship of the event by Freestyle meant Jeff blagged a free hat (surely the landmark pom pom wont be cast aside??) and a Freestyle goody bag. He also won a tin of chocs in the raffle. Shame he got the chocs and hat just after his good lady wifes birthday. Pressie problem solved and Jeff could've saved himself the expense of a slap up birthday burger for her at McDonalds (or did he say she paid??).

Ben Wibb. reckons all the Freestyle razzamatazz, flags and banners were just showing off because Inta Motorcycle Services Ltd are a superior establishment (and please note other motorcycle dealers are available.)

There are a lot of photos of the event on the Sidcup 60 website. Dave H's mugshot pops up all over the place and young Vince closes the video on the site. Looking at the pics and vids on their website its better viewing than the repeats on Dave with your cocoa.

The results:

Expert Elite 1st Ben W (hurrah!) 28 m/l 2nd Ashley Newbery 74 m/l
Harvey 48 m/l

Expert 1st Matt Hogg 45 m/l 2nd Julian

Inter. 1st Paul Garrett 24 m/l, 2nd Dave Plumb 28 m/l

O/40 Inter 1st Chris Koch 1 m/l (riding for no award) , 2nd Dave Shave 21 m/l

O/50 Novice

1st Roy Beatty 0m/l (riding for no award) 2nd Paul Casling 3 m/l

Novice Joint 1st David Strank & Bryn Matton(no award) 1 m/l, 2nd Sten Pringle 7 m/l
Stiles 136 m/l

Youth Expert Jack

Youth Inter 1st Dominic Freaks (riding for no award) 27 m/l 2nd Scott Kennett 43 m/l

Youth Novice 1st Aidan Bowker 19 m/l 2nd Vince Gooding 45 m/l

I'm afraid the young lady rider Alex Head had to retire on the second lap due to injury. I've heard she broke a finger during a crash into a tree. She deserves full credit as a good rider and tough lass so I expect she'll soon be competing again.

January 22nd The Dunlop Trial Ashford MC

No results as yet although I've spoken to a couple of the competitors who have been sent half the results, and those results seem to be wrong. I don't know what happened there then. Has Walshy had a senior moment?

I also gathered some of the riders thought the trial was very boring. An Inter rider thought the Inter and Expert routes were too similar with the elite being totally different. Oh dear, not it seems Walsheys finest hour which is a shame as it takes time and effort to run a trial and the Ashford Club isn't a big club these days. Perhaps there will be a report in TSM with a different view of the day. Marks report from half the results is:-

Ashford Held the Dunlop at the Gliding Club, Charing on 22nd January. It had been dry the previous week so the ground was dry and grippy, the sections at the previous weeks Sidcup Sixty were very hard and I think that Clerk of the course Marc Taylor and Jon Cousins over compensated and the sections were slightly too easy, although riders of my ability thoroughly enjoyed the event. (Some of the Marks were missing from my Results Sheet):

Elite Sam Conner 1ml; Expert Matt Hogg 1ml Inter S Mote; Inter O/40 G Robert; Novice D Norris & Novice o/50 G Baylis

.Now what else is there to report?

Well, Bradley Mears is back at work although it will take a long time for his hand to fully heal. We all wish him a continuing good recovery.

Eddie has clutch problems with the Vincent. It's all or nothing hence Eddie can be seen wheelie-ing round the countryside, a most alarming incident for both rider and spectators alike. He asked Barry if he had the same problem on the racing Capon Vincent. But no, ye olde Capon has a Newby clutch so problem solved. This was no consolation to Eddie who wishes to remain blessed with a Vincent original.

Dazza reported 7 entries for the Feb 12th Trial. Seven, SEVEN!! Where are you all?? We don't need to worry about non stop. It'll be no go at this rate. And there was the Daz-Man hoping to explore the possibility of getting a computer programme to speed up getting the final results on the site. We won't have any results to play with if we don't get a bigger tribe of riders.

We thought we may have had a bit of bother at the end of the last meeting. 3 or 4 of us were trotting across the car park when we heard the unmistakable sound of a car running into another car and saw the collision at the far end of the car park. An 'Erbert started to make for the exit so Ben W shouted out "oi mate you've just hit that car" and it was only then that the car pulled up. He reckoned he didn't know he'd hit another car but not only had the impact made a load of noise but his indicator was hanging onto his bumper. By this point a few other Barham members had come out of the pub and it turned out Andy Furlong was the unfortunate owner of the damaged parked car. Still, thanks largely to Bens action the he was able to exchange details with the driver at fault and hopefully resolve the matter satisfactorily.

Now a special reminder to Ben... bring a rucksack to the next meeting. You cannot always rely on this large bag turning up every time. Will it be a rucksack or a trip to Ikea? Which is preferable? Not a tricky choice surely? Yes well, moving on.

Don't forget BARHAM TRIAL 12th FEB. GET YOUR ENTRIES TO DAZ

Next club meeting Tue Feb 21st 8pm at The Black Robin Kingston. It won't be the AGM because we cannot be certain the accounts will be finalised in time. The AGM now is postponed until March so you'll have to contain your excitement a little longer.

Please send any articles, points of interest or anything you wish to bring to the attention of the Barham Club Multitude to me, editor@barhammotorcycleclub.co.uk .

I trust you all survived Burns Night and there were no unfortunate incidents involving bagpipes, haggis or kilts. (Och, is anything worn under the kilt? Nay, its all in perfect working order).

2012 is apparently the Chinese year of the dragon. This is not to be confused with British putting drag on which is a completely different thing and not really encouraged at club meetings.

And finally (cos I'm starting to ramble now) I'm looking for a new pillion passenger for my broomstick. My cat is no more and I'm very sad. It will be a trip to the cat sanctuary soon but if anyone knows of an adult cat in need of re-homing please let me know because I have a vacancy for the resident moggy job.