



# ACU EASTERN GAZETTE



OUR FIRST EVER FULL COLOUR ISSUE

Volume 60 No. 1



#### **REGULATIONS IN THIS ISSUE**

Date	Club / Promoter
12th January	Wymondham & DMCC
19th January	Ipswich MCC
26th January	Southend & DMCC
2nd February	Lowestoft Invaders MCC
23rd February	Diss MCC

Type	Status	Venue
Trial	OPEN	Gt. Ellingham
Trial	OPEN	Raydon Pits
Trial	OPEN	Poles Wood
Trial	OPEN	Aldeby
Enduro	OPEN	Thetford Forest

Photo by Paul Sewter

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#### 2020 OFFICIALS OF ACU EASTERN

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#### **ACU Eastern Competitions Committee**

(The President, Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Secretary & Treasurer are ex-officio members)

Treasurer are ex-officio members

Chairman: P. Armes

10 Tremaine Close, Hellesdon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 5EL

Tel: 01603 487061

e-mail: permits@easternacu.org

Other Elected Members:- Charlie Ralph, Eddie Wass,

Alex Wright

Sub Committee Chairmen

Motocross – Charlie Ralph Enduro – Jack Hearn

Trials – Paul Nash & Chris Cook Grass Track – Alan Foskew

#### **ACU Eastern Gazette**

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ACU Eastern Web Site

www.easternacu.org

Results, Events Calendar, News, and more

In the December issue of the gazette we published a small feature about the 'King of Lyng', Dennis Slaughter and his attendance at the final round of the 2019 Centre Motocross championship; so it is with great sadness that we have to follow that this month

**Foreword** Phil Armes



with the news that Dennis passed away on December 10th. Quite simply, I have known Dennis all my life, and while he was never one to mince words, I grew to have the utmost respect for a man who dedicated his life to off road motorcycle sport, motocross in particular, and of course the Cadders

Hill venue at Lyng. My very first bike was a Garelli Record insurance write off that he sold to my father, who rebuilt it for my 16th birthday. Kind of ironic really, in that Dennis nearly wrote off my quad when he went 'over the top' into the sand pit at Lyng many, many, years later! We have tried to pay due respect to him in this issue, but I would like to say that although he was fairly small in stature, he will leave a mighty big hole in the world of motocross, and within the Eastern Centre.

Some of you may have noticed that the gazette looks a little different – at least I hope you have! As from this month it will be published in full colour (at no extra cost) which I hope will meet with everyone's approval. This also gives us a bit more flexibility with both adverts and editorial/ photographic content so don't be shy, send us your pics and reports from your events and we'll do our best to get them in.

When introduced in 2016, the role of safety officer only applied to events held on Forestry Commission Land. However, following recommendations from an external inquiry into a serious accident at the 2018 Isle of Man TT, the ACU has subsequently determined all disciplines, with the exception of trials, will need to have a Safety Officer appointed and a 'Safety Plan' in place. The ACU handbook is to be updated to reflect this change.

To this end, a Training Seminar hosted by Andy Waters has been arranged for January 9th (Thursday) commencing at 7.30 pm and lasting approximately 2 hours. The training covers legal responsibilities, meaning of a duty of care, risk assessments, and the investigation of accidents. Priority will be given to current Safety Officers who will be invited personally to attend to renew their licence, and then places allocated to new applicants.

If you would like to book any of your club members onto the seminar please contact the Centre secretary. If officials organising trials wish to register to develop further their understanding of event risk management, then also please apply.

Don't forget – the Centre ACU EASTERN 2019 AWARDS EVENING Needham Market Community Centre chool Street, Needham Market Sat. 8th Feb 2020 rrive at 7.30pm for 8.00pm £12.50 - ADMIT ONE

awards function is on February 8th: contact the Centre secretary for

your tickets.



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#### Wymondham & DMCC Sunday 12th January 2020

#### Open Permit TRIALS Gt Ellingham NR17 1AQ

Entries Close: At Start

#### January Trial inc Norfolk & Suffolk Group Championship

Sign On: 09.30am Start: 10.30am National Grid Reference: TM 028980 Permit No. ACU 58165

OFFICIALS:

Eastern Centre Steward: tbc Club Steward(s): R Beales

Clerk of the Course: P Yarham (Licence 10873)

Child Protection P.o.C.: D Glover

Entries Open: 5th January 2020

Secretary of the Meeting: D Glover, 33 Barley Way, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1YD
Tel: 01953 455772 email: drgbodyshop@gmail.com

JURISDICTION:

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, these Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of these Regulations. Open to Adult & Youth members of the ACU riding solo machines.

Start / Finish: Hill House Farm Gt Ellingham, Norfolk NR17 1AQ
Course: Banks & Ditches. Routes: Red/Blue; White; Beginners

Classes: Expert, Inter, InterB, Novice, Twinshock, Youth A, B, C Awards: None

Entries: Must be on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM and sent to the Secretary of the Meeting with a fee of £15.00 for Adults

and £15 for Youth. Cheques/POs to be made payable to Wymondham & District MCC Ltd

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Entries accepted on the day. All Entrants, Riders or Passengers must be prepared to produce their current Licence/Trials Registration when signing on, N.S.C.7.11

ENVIRONMENTAL MATS - USE THEM or you may lose your ride



ACII FASTERN -	- TRIALS OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM			
Event:	Organisers:			
Venue: Date of Event: Permit No: ACU Course Lic/Cert No. (where Applicable)				
	· · · · · ·			
	the Auto-Cycle Union, the Standing Regulations, Supplementary Regulations and any Final I Sporting Code and Standing Regulations are published annually in the ACU Handbook.			
	understand the National Sporting Code of the ACU, the ACU Standing Regulations, such			
Supplementary Regulations as have or may be issued for the event, and agree to be bound by them.  I declare that I am physically and mentally fit to take part in the event and I am competent to do so. I confirm that I understand the nature and type of event I am entering and its inherent risks and agree to accept the same notwithstanding that such risks may involve negligence on the part of the organisers or officials.				
<ul> <li>I confirm that I am not currently suspended from ACU permitted.</li> <li>I accept that insurance arranged on my behalf by the organism.</li> </ul>	I confirm that I am not currently suspended from ACU permitted competition or on the ACU Stop List as a result of incurring a Concussion injury.     I accept that insurance arranged on my behalf by the organisers of events that I may enter specifically excludes liability between the participants. I understand			
<ul> <li>I consent to details of any injuries I may suffer at this event be</li> </ul>	serious injury will be principally the result of my voluntary decision to engage in a high risk activity. being passed between all medical services and the Clerk of the Course.			
<ul> <li>I consent to the collection and retention of my personal inform</li> <li>I confirm that the machine(s) as described below which I shal on the machines for which I have entered.</li> </ul>		l an		
<ul> <li>I confirm that if any part of the event takes place on a public hequivalent legislation, and that they will comply with the regul</li> </ul>	highway, the machine(s) described below shall be insured as required by the Road Traffic Acts, or lations in respect thereof.	int o		
transponders, accessories). I understand that I am liable for the	highway, the machine(s) described below shall be insured as required by the Road Traffic Acts, or ulations in respect thereof. niser during the course of the event. These items include but are not restricted to (safety clothing, the cost or replacement of any items lost or not returned and non-payment or non-replacement of had an ACU Licence suspended, nor have I been excluded from any ACU competition.  Don't forget to put Entry Fee here	no. in the event of an emergency:		
items borrowed may affect my entry into subsequent events.  I confirm that I have not been refused an ACU Licence, nor have	had an ACU Licence suspended, nor have I been excluded from any ACU competition.	no. in the e emergency		
I/we enclose the entry fee of: £	Don't forget to put Entry Fee here	no.		
	stand that by taking part in this event I am exposed to a risk of death, becoming permanently nowledge that even in the event that negligence on the part of the ACU, any event organiser, any	v		
circuit owner, the promoter, the organising club, the venue	e owner, or any individual carrying out duties on their behalf were to be a contributory cause of a rious injury will always be my voluntary decision to take part in a high risk activity.			
I have read the above and acknowledge that my partic	cipation in motorsport is entirely at my own risk. I agree that I am required to register on			
	Don't lorget to sig	gn		
Rider's signature:  If applicable:	Please tick box if you are 18 years of age and over			
	Please tick box if you are 18 years of age and over			
FOR PARTICIPANTS UNDER AGE OF 18, <u>DECLARATI</u>	ION OF PARENT, PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:			
	the parent/person with parental responsibility of the aboaccept that my child may participate in the aforementioned meeting.	ove		
I declare as follows: - I have read and understood the "Ac	cknowledgement of the risks of motorsport" which appears above. I appreciate the dangers inhe anent disablement. The child does not suffer from any physical, medical or mental disability whi			
would make it unsafe for him/her to participate either as a	a Competitor or for Practice. I accept that it is my responsibility to ensure that the child and I hav Sporting Code of the ACU, Standing Regulations, Supplementary Regulations and Final Instruc	ve		
tions subsequently issued and this Entry Form and that he	he/she will comply with them. I accept that photographs or video films may be taken of my child gations. Photographs may also be taken for promotional purposes and may appear on the ACU			
website or in ACU publications.				
<b>Extract from NSC Article 7.14:</b> A parent or legal guardia responsibility with that competitor.	ian of a rider or passenger participating in a competition requiring consent is deemed to bear mu	utual		
Rider's Surname:	First Name:			
Address:				
	Postcode:			
	Email:			
	Club: (The ACU affiliated club to which you belong)			
	First Name:			
_				
Address: Phone: Club: (The ACU affiliated club to which you belong)				
	Club (The ACO animated club to which you belong)			
Class Entered (Tick required)  Expert Expert B Inter	Inter B Novice Pre 70 Twinshock			
Youth A Youth B Youth C Youth D Youth E Sidecar				
Sponsor/Machine Make:	Engine Size (cc)			
Indicate your preferred route: Yellow	50/50 Red/Blue 50/50 White Beginners			







ACU EASTERN -	TRIALS OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM		
Event:	Organisers:		
Venue:	Date of Event:		
Permit No: ACU	Course Lic/Cert No. (where Applicable)		
This event is held under the National Sporting Code of the Instructions issued for the meeting. The ACU National S	e Auto-Cycle Union, the Standing Regulations, Supplementary Regulations and any Final Sporting Code and Standing Regulations are published annually in the ACU Handbook.		
Entry declaration: I/we the undersigned apply to enter the event described above and in consideration thereof:  1 declare that I have had the opportunity to read, and that I understand the National Sporting Code of the ACU, the ACU Standing Regulations, such Supplementary Regulations as have or may be issued for the event, and agree to be bound by them.  1 declare that I am physically and mentally fit to take part in the event and I am competent to do so. I confirm that I understand the nature and type of event I am entering and its inherent risks and agree to accept the same notwithstanding that such risks may involve negligence on the part of the organisers or officials.  1 confirm that I am not currently suspended from ACU permitted competition or on the ACU Stop List as a result of incurring a Concussion injury.  1 accept that insurance arranged on my behalf by the organisers of events that I may enter specifically excludes liability between the participants. I understand that this form may be used in litigation as evidence that any serious injury will be principally the result of my voluntary decision to engage in a high risk activity.  1 consent to details of any injuries I may suffer at this event being passed between all medical services and the Clerk of the Course.  1 consent to the collection and retention of my personal information by the ACU.  1 confirm that the machine(s) as described below which I shall participate on shall be suitable and proper for the purpose. I confirm that I am eligible to compete on the machines for which I have entered.  1 confirm that if any part of the event takes place on a public highway, the machine(s) described below shall be insured as required by the Road Traffic Acts, or equivalent legislation, and that they will comply with the regulations in respect thereof.  1 accept responsibility for any items borrowed from the Organiser during the course of the event. These items include but are not restricted to (safety clothing, transponders, accessories). I understand that			
I/we enclose the entry fee of: £			
Acknowledgement of the risks of motorsport: I understand that by taking part in this event I am exposed to a risk of death, becoming permanently disabled or suffering some other serious injury and I acknowledge that even in the event that negligence on the part of the ACU, any event organiser, any circuit owner, the promoter, the organising club, the venue owner, or any individual carrying out duties on their behalf were to be a contributory cause of any serious injury I may suffer, the dominant cause of any serious injury will always be my voluntary decision to take part in a high risk activity.  I have read the above and acknowledge that my participation in motorsport is entirely at my own risk. I agree that I am required to register on arrival by "signing on" at the designated place before taking part in any Practice Session/Race, Trials or Enduro.  Don't forget to sign			
Rider's signature:	Please tick box if you are 18 years of age and over		
If applicable:	Please tick box if you are 18 years of age and over		
<u> </u>	ON OF PARENT, PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:		
(COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) I			
Extract from NSC Article 7.14: A parent or legal guardian responsibility with that competitor.	n of a rider or passenger participating in a competition requiring consent is deemed to bear	mutual	
Rider's Surname:	First Name:		
Address:			
	Postcode:		
	Club:		
_	First Name:		
	Phone:		
ACU Licence No:	Club: (The ACU affiliated club to which you belong	g)	
Class Entered (Tick required)  Expert		]	
Sponsor/Machine Make:	Engine Size (cc)		
Indicate your preferred route: Yellow	50/50 Red/Blue 50/50 White Beginner	sП	





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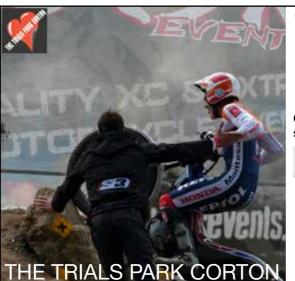


#### **Further notes from ACU Eastern Trials** Forum November 7th 2019

#### Trials Forum

As was reported in the December gazette, at the recent Trials Forum it was decided to continue calculating championship points for Twin shock C and pre 70 C. Also, for all Pre 70 classes the 2019 method to determine machine eligibility should continue but that this should be made more transparent as below.

- a. For each Pre 70 championship round (except the Thumpers Trial or any others which have formal scrutineering) a volunteer will be identified to inspect machines to identify machines which appear to contain components which do not meet the ACU Eastern Pre 70 machine eligibility rules, as printed in that years ACU Eastern Official Handbook. Volunteers so far include Mr E Hood, Mr Plummer, Mr Carroll and Mr Dopson.
- b. After each event the details of any machines identified as in a. above, are then sent to the Trials Committee secretary who reviews and sends the information to the secretary of the meeting, so that the issued results can highlight the machines that are considered not to comply. Any issues with the results are initially to be reported to the event secretary.
- c. The volunteers on the day are only collecting information relating to the identification and source of such components, and should not discuss eligibility with the competitor, unless to help clarify the source of components.
- d. After an event any questions relating to interpretation of the machine eligibility rules will be dealt with by the Trials Committee and will follow the ACU National Sporting Code and be accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- e. Any competitor who requires clarification of eligibility on their machine before an event can contact the Trials Committee secretary (dopson boar@msn.com) to determine if clarification is possible.
- f. ACU Eastern championship eligibility does not affect any decisions made by the organising club relating to the organisation of individual trials.



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WOBURN FARM, STIRRUPS LANE CORTON, SUFFOLK NR32 4LE

TEL: 07889 422555

#### **ACU EASTERN MOTOCROSS RESERVED NUMBER SCHEME 2020** RENEWALS ONLY (AVAILABLE FROM MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER)

Now is the time to renew your number for 2020. If you want to ensure you keep the same number for the 2020 season, you must renew it by 31st January 2020 at the latest. NO NUMBERS WILL BE HELD AFTER THIS DATE.

Any numbers not renewed by 31st January will be made available on a first come, first served basis. If you have not renewed your number by this date there is every possibility that you could lose it to another rider. There were about 700 numbers sold in each of the last 3 years so if you don't want to lose your number. renew it NOW.

You can renew your number online at www.easternacu.org or if you prefer by using the postal form below.

The cost of reserving your number stays at £5 per season. If reserving the number online an extra 50p is added to cover the fees we are charged by PayPal. This ensures that the chosen charities we donate to do not lose out, and is still cheaper than sending the application form by post.

Numbers 1 - 50 are kept for experts only. Number 1 will be offered to the Centre Champion; in the event that the champion declines, number 1 will not be issued.

In the last 4 years this scheme has enabled the ACU Eastern, on behalf of riders, to make donations totalling £14.070 to the chosen charities.

#### NEW NUMBERS AVAILABLE FROM 3rd FEBRUARY

#### EXPERT NATIONAL / BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP RIDERS ONLY

Any expert graded rider who is registered for an ACU National Motocross Championship may, where able to do so, purchase their registered number - even if it has already been purchased by a junior graded rider. If you wish to take up this option, please contact the reserved number co-ordinator direct: 07766 904655 - DO NOT attempt to do it online. The timing system will correctly calculate championship points and positions where riders compete in separate classes (expert / junior).

#### 2020 MOTOCROSS RESERVED NUMBERS - RENEWALS ONLY NUMBERS NOT RENEWED BY 31st JAN WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME. FIRST-SERVED BASIS. Renew your number or risk losing it!

Use this form to RENEW your riding number for all 2020 Eastern Centre Motocross meetings with electronic timing.

### First Name Surname Your Club ..... Contact Phone Number (mobile, landline, or both) Mobile ......Landline (including area code)..... Expert / Junior (delete as applicable) Renew Existing Number .....

Please send your completed form, together with a cheque for £5, made payable to

Tel: 07766 904655

"Eastern Centre ACU MX Acc.", and a stamped self-addressed envelope, to: Number Scheme Coordinator 27 Tizzick Close, Norwich, Norfolk, NR5 9HB

Items in bold text must be completed

#### Joe Cordle Trial

Sign On: 09.30am Start: 10.30am National Grid Reference: TM 042389 Permit No. ACU 58166

**OFFICIALS:-**

Eastern Centre Steward: tbc Club Steward(s): G Timms C Smith

Clerk of the Course: D Cordle (Licence 5689)

Child Protection P.o.C.: D Cordle

Secretary of the Meeting: P Cordle, 4 Bullen Close, Bramford, Ipwsich, Suffolk IP8 4JE

Tel: 01473 462274 email: the.cordles@talktalk.net

JURISDICTION:

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, these Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of these Regulations. Open to Adult & Youth members of the ACU riding solo machines.

Start / Finish: Raydon Pits, Wades Lane, Raydon, Suffolk IP7 5QP

Course: 4 laps multi route sections. Routes: Yellow, 50/50; Red/Blue; White

Classes: All adult solo; Youth A & B Awards: To Winner

Entries: Must be on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM and sent to the Secretary of the Meeting with a fee of £16.00 for

Adults and £12 for Youth. Cheques/POs to be made payable to Ipswich MCC

Entries Open: At Start Entries Close: At Start

Entries accepted on the day. All Entrants, Riders or Passengers must be prepared to produce their current Licence/Trials Registration when signing on, N.S.C.7.11

**ENVIRONMENTAL MATS - USE THEM or you may lose your ride** 





We don't have many figures of national standing in this Centre but with the sad loss of Dennis Slaughter M.B.E. at the age of ninety-one, after suffering a long illness, we - and the whole of motorcycle sport - have lost a major figure. If Dennis ever had gone on to be awarded a title. he probably would have opted for: "Lord Lyng", as he loved the historic off-road venue at Cadders Hill, just outside the village of that name. He was already regarded in motocross circles as: "The King of Lyng".

For virtually the whole of his life, he had spent countless hours in managing and maintaining it as a major and internationally recognised motocross circuit. Indeed, with transport provided from his care home, he was able to attend the final meeting of this season at his beloved venue, last October. He had long connections there right from his younger days before the Second World War, when he attended and assisted at Norwich Viking meetings of the time and he was said to never have missed a speed event there since 1948!

Dennis was a shrewd businessman and had a motorcycle business in Norwich, After National Service, he had been active and successful as a rider, following his elder brother, Colin who was already competing in both solo and sidecar meetings. trials Dennis began in and featured in inter-club events, then progressed to grass track racing and in 1954, won the Eastern Centre 250cc solo championship. He might well have gone on to achieve more, had it not been for a cruel injury sustained in 1956. He also supported riders, sponsoring both Ray Parker, and later, Ray's son. Luke, who won the Centre Championship in 2016. Earlier he had Geoff Mayes as a rider, and he won the 1980 British Motocross championship.

Behind the scenes of outdoor activity, he had been chairman of the renowned Norwich Vikings club and later, became their President. He served for many years on the Eastern Centre Competitions Committee and over the years, rose to be chairman of the ACU Motocross Committee. In addition to all that, he managed the British Motocross des Nations team for several years. Seeing how the sport was beginning to suffer with loss of venues, it was Dennis who came up with the idea of a "Land Fund" - funded by levy - to attempt to secure more permanent sites At the turning of his 80th birthday, a large celebration party was held for him, with the Chairman of the ACU, Brian Higgins, attending - along with several former champion riders.



Dennis had suffered from indifferent health in recent years but he attended meetings whenever he could, both at the outdoor motocross circuits, along with Lyng and also the indoor Board and committee meetings which are necessary to keep the sport running. Always well turned out, his keen eyed attention observed and took it all in but usually Dennis said very little. When he did make any comment, it was invariably straight to the point and of practical common-sense. His quiet Norfolk tones and dry wit will be missed by riders and officials alike. "Unique and kindly" are apt descriptions for this true man of motorbikes.

#### **Memories of Dennis**

Due to a problem with the starting system Dennis decided he would start the race at Lyng with a flag. I duly lined up on the startline with my fellow competitors and we were told to cut our engines, whereupon Dennis made the following announcement..... "Now I know some of you think I'm an old b\*\*\*\*\*\*d, but cross the start line before I raise this flag and you'll find out how much of an old b\*\*\*\*\*\*d I can really be!" Paul Grantham

I have so many memories of Dennis going way back. One of which is the hilarious stay in a hotel in Frome, where we were staying for the British MX Grand Prix at Farleigh Castle. He and another good old Norfolk boy spent the majority of the breakfast in the hotel showing each other their scars, accompanied by graphic descriptions of how they were received, and the level of blood involved. I found the whole episode hilarious; not so, several of the foreign guests of the hotel who suddenly lost their appetites.

You also have Dennis to blame for me wittering on over the Tannoy at Lyng - one time when he was stuck for a commentator at Lyng, and he said, "you will do", and I have been doing it ever since! Apart from his lifetime at Lyng of course, he was a jubilant man in Switzerland, the last time the Brits won the MX of Nations, and fulfilled an ambition to host a 125 Grand Prix at Lyng. Now he has left us, but he will certainly never be forgotten, his legacy to us all is the excellent Cadders Hill circuit. *Charlie Ralph* 

I was fortunate to be invited out for a meal with Dennis, Frank Dixon and Phil Armes to celebrate Dennis' 80th birthday. I had noticed that it was 35 years to the day since I had purchased my first bike from Dennis, and brought this to his attention. As quick as a flash, and possibly thinking I was after a free repair, he responded "Well it's out of warranty now boy". *Paul Sewter* 

#### While we're reminiscing

We have always enjoyed some great characters within our region, many of whom are sadly no longer with us. With the 100th Anniversary of the Eastern Centre not too far away we would love to create a small anecdotal history of the Centre through tales of these often unsung heroes of the sport. If you have anything you feel may be of interest or amuse others in the Centre please send a few lines to webmaster@easternacu.org.

## Recollection Section

Sidge Kenny

It has been a long while since I last attended a big motorcycle show. I do not mean the gatherings which we frequently enjoy every year, in local areas and comprising of nicely restored old bikes, a few generally local trade stands with various other allied organisations also making an appearance. I am referring to the big National shows where the trade turns out more or less in full and manufacturers unveil their new models for the forthcoming year. With the enthusiasm of

youth, I went along for many years from the late 1950's, to the mecca of Earls Court – enduring the difficult journey, the queueing, the crowding and the appallingly over-

priced and under nourishing snacks. In time, the lure of worshiping at the temple of the gleaming motorbikes slackened. It all became too wearisome and these pilgrimages anyway invariably ended with dehydration and headaches. It must be all of forty-five years since I attended a major motorcycle show.

But this year, my neighbour Colin, asked me out of the blue if I would like to go to the motorcycle show, nowadays held at the NEC at Birmingham. He would do all the driving. My admittance ticket price would be considerably reduced since I am now a "Senior Citizen" - how could I refuse?



The traffic involved in getting to the outskirts of Brummie-land and then the queues entering into the large NEC car parks, did bring back uneasy memories of the London events but actually getting in to the exhibition itself was pleasingly rapid, the turnstile staff were helpful and polite - and we soon passed inside.

My memories of those old London shows, when British motorcycles ruled the world, were also revived at the very first stand we visited. It was for Royal Enfield – now made in India and being exported back to us! Any one will tell you the old Enfield bikes were well engineered and robust – for their time. But things have moved on and the Indians, after producing replicas of the earlier products, have now radically redesigned these machines and brought in many innovations which to-day's riders would expect as a matter of course. The new Royal Enfields look good, and yet also appear "retro", as if the lineage had never been broken and they were still being produced in Redditch – just a few miles from the NEC. When speaking of "Indians," that grand name in the motorcycle world, the Indian motorcycle was also represented – a make I do not recall seeing at the earlier London shows.

All the familiar Japanese factories were present of course and as ever, formidable, with their large range of products and their undoubted quality. Yet I could not get particularly excited over them - perhaps nowadays taking their excellence as a matter of course. And then there was Triumph – another great name from the past and the company, having gone through a torrid time of it in the 1970's under the Nipponese onslaught, now also staging a vigorous comeback – something in truth, they have done for some time. Another company I thought had gone for ever - and was delighted to see at this show - was: Watsonian, the sidecar specialists, with again, excellently finished products, proudly pitching in. There was me, foolishly thinking the sidecar market would be dead and buried – I should have known better of the chair brigade! I have to count in Norton as well, which also is showing a serious intent to take on its share of the road-going sports market. In addition, I was fortunate in learning a few things about modern engine development, having had a brief and informative chat with the designer of their V-four engine. After all this, I was then left to ask myself the seemingly obvious question:-

"If these great names of the former British motorcycle industry can produce such attractive and exciting products today – why did they virtually all go belly-up fifty odd years ago?"

The only answer must be:- "Poor management - lack of vision and lack of faith." Or it might simply may be that they were different times.

On the way up, I prophesied to Colin that the show would be dominated by electric bikes, with all the political pressure to go green. Again, I was surprised and proven quite wrong. True, there were several electric machines on show – mainly in lightweight or scooter guise but nowhere as many as I predicted. I found that rather comforting – why?

#### Because I am an old petrol head - and now a "Senior" one...



Photo: A future Sidge in the making?

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Supplementary Regulations as have or may be issued for the I declare that I am physically and mentally fit to take part in the entering and its inherent risks and agree to accept the same n I confirm that I am not currently suspended from ACU permitte I accept that insurance arranged on my behalf by the organise that this form may be used in litigation as evidence that any set I consent to details of any injuries I may suffer at this event be I consent to the collection and retention of my personal inform I confirm that the machine(s) as described below which I shall on the machines for which I have entered. I confirm that if any part of the event takes place on a public hi equivalent legislation, and that they will comply with the regular I accept responsibility for any items borrowed from the Organit transponders, accessories). I understand that I am liable for th items borrowed may affect my entry into subsequent events.	derstand the National Sporting Code of the ACU, the ACU Standing Regulations, such event, and agree to be bound by them.  e event and agree to be bound by them.  e event and agree to be bound by them.  e event and I am competent to do so. I confirm that I understand the nature and type of event I am notified to expect the part of the organisers or officials. The competition or on the ACU Stop List as a result of incurring a Concussion injury.  ers of events that I may enter specifically excludes liability between the participants. I understand erious injury will be principally the result of my voluntary decision to engage in a high risk activity. In a participate on shall be suitable and proper for the purpose. I confirm that I am eligible to compete highway, the machine(s) described below shall be insured as required by the Road Traffic Acts, or altitude to curse of the event. These items include but are not restricted to (safety clothing, he cost or replacement of any items lost or not returned and non-payment or non-replacement of any and ACU Licence suspended, nor have I been excluded from any ACU competition.			
I/we enclose the entry fee of: £	Don't forget to put Entry Fee here ਨੂੰ ਤੂੰ ਫ਼ੈ			
Acknowledgement of the risks of motorsport: I understand that by taking part in this event I am exposed to a risk of death, becoming permanently disabled or suffering some other serious injury and I acknowledge that even in the event that negligence on the part of the ACU, any event organiser, any circuit owner, the promoter, the organising club, the venue owner, or any individual carrying out duties on their behalf were to be a contributory cause of any serious injury I may suffer, the dominant cause of any serious injury will always be my voluntary decision to take part in a high risk activity.  I have read the above and acknowledge that my participation in motorsport is entirely at my own risk. I agree that I am required to register on arrival by "signing on" at the designated place before taking part in any Practice Session/Race, Trials or Enduro.  Don't forget to sign				
Rider's signature:	Please tick box if you are 18 years of age and over			
	Please tick box if you are 18 years of age and over			
FOR PARTICIPANTS UNDER AGE OF 18, DECLARATION	ON OF PARENT, PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:			
(COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) I				
Extract from NSC Article 7.14: A parent or legal guardian responsibility with that competitor.	n of a rider or passenger participating in a competition requiring consent is deemed to bear mutual			
Rider's Surname:	. First Name:			
Address:				
	Postcode:			
Phone No.:	Email:			
ACU Licence No:	Club: (The ACU affiliated club to which you belong)			
Passenger's Surname:	First Name:			
Address:	Phone:			
	Club: (The ACU affiliated club to which you belong)			
Class Entered (Tick required)  Expert  Expert B Inter   Youth A Youth B Youth C				
Sponsor/Machine Make:	Engine Size (cc)			
Indicate your preferred route: Yellow	50/50 Red/Blue 50/50 White Beginners			



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#### Southend & DMCC Sunday 26th January 2020

**Open Permit TRIALS** Poles Wood, CM14 5TL

#### Open Trial inc D Class Championship Rd 1

Sign On: 09.30am Start: 10 30am Permit No. ACU 58167 National Grid Reference: TQ 559997

OFFICIALS:-

Eastern Centre Steward: the Club Steward(s): S Smith P Owen

Clerk of the Course: P Nash (Licence 39376)

Child Protection P.o.C.: P Nash

Secretary of the Meeting: J Nash, 33 Cherry Orchard, Southminster, essex CM0 7HE

Tel: 07947 215648 email: nap148@aol.com

JURISDICTION:

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, these Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of these Regulations. Open to Adult & Youth members of the ACU riding solo and sidecar machines.

Start / Finish: Poles Wood, Great Myles Farm, Ongar Rd, Kelvedon Hatch Essex CM14 5TL

Course: Woodland & Pit. Routes: Yellow; Red/Blue, 50/50; White, Beginners Classes: Sidecar Championship: All adult solo: Youth A to E Awards: None

Entries: Entry for this event is via the ACU online entry system - Go To https://members.acu.org.uk LOGIN or REGISTER then go to 'Search for an Event'; find the event and follow process to enter. As an option, entries may be made on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM and sent to the Secretary of the Meeting with a fee of Adult £15.00.00; Sidecar £20.00; Youth £13.00. Include one 9x4 SAE. Cheques/POs to be made payable to Southend & District MCC Ltd.

Entries Open: 4th January 2020 Entries Close: At Start

Entries accepted on the day. All Entrants, Riders or Passengers must be prepared to produce their current Licence/Trials Registration when signing on, N.S.C.7.11

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Sign On: 9.00am Start: 10.30am National Grid Reference: TM 465945 Permit No. ACU 58168

OFFICIALS:

Eastern Centre Steward: tbc Club Steward(s): R Tozer S Turner

Clerk of the Course: C Grice (Licence 38892)

Child Protection P.o.C.: R Greengrass

Secretary of the Meeting: R Greengrass, 58 Dell Rd, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft Suffolk Nr33 9NS

Tel: 01502 563566 email: rjg@rongg58.plus.com

JURISDICTION:

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, these Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of these Regulations. Open to Adult & Youth members of the ACU riding solo machines.

Start / Finish: Pond Farm, Aldeby, Norfolk NR34 0BY Course: Woodland & Sandpit. Routes: Multiroute

Classes: Expert B, Inter, Inter B, Pre-70, Twinshock, Novice, Youth A,B,C

Awards: Richard Greensides Memorial Trophy for best performance (youth or adult)

Entries: Must be on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM and sent to the Secretary of the Meeting with a fee of £16.00 for adults and £14.00 for Youth. Include one 9x4 SAE. Cheques/POs to be made payable to Lowestoft Invaders MCC Ltd

Entries Open: 4th January 2020 Entries Close: 30th January 2020

No Entries on the day. All Entrants, Riders or Passengers must be prepared to produce their current Licence/ Trials Registration when signing on, N.S.C.7.11

ENVIRONMENTAL MATS - USE THEM or you may lose your ride



Firstly, a happy and prosperous new year to our readers. The dates for all of the Eastern Centre meetings, including the Norfolk/Suffolk Junior Club events have almost been sorted,

#### Charlie's Chat Charlie Ralph

although the Halstead club are waiting for news and fixtures of the British Sidecar rounds, hopefully soon to be published.

#### The ACU Eastern championship rounds are as follows:

Rd1	Wakes Colne	5th April
Rd2	Blaxhall	26th April
Rd3	Lyng	10th May
Rd4	Lyng	28th May
Rd5	Blaxhall	19th July
Rd6	Wakes Colne	23rd August
Rd7	Wattisfield	20th September

#### The Norfolk/Suffolk Junior Championship rounds are all to be held at Hockham.

Rd1 23rd February Rd2 11th/12th April Rd3 21st June Rd4 30th August

All Hockham dates will be on the fixture list

The Motocross Committee have managed to avoid clash of dates with the ACU British Championship rounds for the adult Eastern series, and also have tried not to clash with the Eastern enduro rounds, although one or two event clashes are unavoidable.

The Committe are also pleased to announce that the Eastern Championships will be sponsored by three companies in 2020, Bickers Lifting and Stebbings Car Superstore have kindly agreed to support the series again, and we welcome Instanda Insurance Solutions on board as well.

Our good friend, Simon Eastwell from HRM Boilers has also agreed to provide an annual trophy to the best expert rookie each year, so on behalf of the Committee, we thank them all for their valuable support.

Hopefully, the full Eastern Centre fixture list will be available in late January, and also please use the easternacu.org website for plenty of useful information on dates, results etc.

Also, a reminder to riders to renew their race numbers for 2020. Riders who would like to keep their number from 2019 will have until the end of January to renew. All details are on the above website, and all monies from the numbers scheme will, as usual, go to the two Air Ambulances in the Eastern region, and to the ACU riders benevolent fund. £3750 was donated in 2019.

The Littleport club have managed to organise a race meeting at Buttercup farm, Chatteris on March 22nd, and will feature round one of the NGR over 30's Championships, and news from the Braintree club, who hope to host a meeting on June 7th. Due to a venue problem at Stisted, the club may move to Foxborough near Halstead, watch this space!

The motocross forum, held on the 4th of December, was attended by around 28 people, including a few riders. A few tweaks have been made to the 2020 handbook rules, and hopefully the fixture list and handbook will be available around late January.



ACII FASTERN -	TRIALS OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM			
Event:	Organisers:			
Venue:	Date of Event:			
Permit No: ACU	Course Lic/Cert No. (where Applicable)			
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
Instructions issued for the meeting. The ACU National	ne Auto-Cycle Union, the Standing Regulations, Supplementary Regulations and any Final Sporting Code and Standing Regulations are published annually in the ACU Handbook.			
Entry declaration: I/we the undersigned apply to enter the event described above and in consideration thereof:  I declare that I have had the opportunity to read, and that I understand the National Sporting Code of the ACU, the ACU Standing Regulations, such Supplementary Regulations as have or may be issued for the event, and agree to be bound by them.  I declare that I am physically and mentally fit to take part in the event and I am competent to do so. I confirm that I understand the nature and type of event I am entering and its inherent risks and agree to accept the same notwithstanding that such risks may involve negligence on the part of the organisers or officials.  I confirm that I am not currently suspended from ACU permitted competition or on the ACU Stop List as a result of incurring a Concussion injury.  I accept that insurance arranged on my behalf by the organisers of events that I may enter specifically excludes liability between the participants. I understand that this form may be used in litigation as evidence that any serious injury will be principally the result of my voluntary decision to engage in a high risk activity.  I consent to details of any injuries I may suffer at this event being passed between all medical services and the Clerk of the Course.  I consent to the collection and retention of my personal information by the ACU.  I confirm that the machine(s) as described below which I shall participate on shall be suitable and proper for the purpose. I confirm that I am eligible to compete on the machines for which I have entered.  I confirm that if any part of the event takes place on a public highway, the machine(s) described below shall be insured as required by the Road Traffic Acts, or equivalent legislation, and that they will comply with the regulations in respect thereof.  I accept responsibility for any items borrowed from the Organiser during the course of the event. These items include but are not restricted to (safety clothing, transponders, accessories). I understand that				
I/we enclose the entry fee of: £	Don't forget to put Entry Fee here	וו סר mer		
Acknowledgement of the risks of motorsport: I understand that by taking part in this event I am exposed to a risk of death, becoming permanently disabled or suffering some other serious injury and I acknowledge that even in the event that negligence on the part of the ACU, any event organiser, any circuit owner, the promoter, the organising club, the venue owner, or any individual carrying out duties on their behalf were to be a contributory cause of any serious injury I may suffer, the dominant cause of any serious injury will always be my voluntary decision to take part in a high risk activity.  I have read the above and acknowledge that my participation in motorsport is entirely at my own risk. I agree that I am required to register on arrival by "signing on" at the designated place before taking part in any Practice Session/Race, Trials or Enduro.  Don't forget to sign  Rider's signature:  Please tick box if you are 18 years of age and over				
If applicable:	Please tick box if you are 18 years of age and over			
-	ON OF PARENT, PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:			
(COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) I				
Extract from NSC Article 7.14: A parent or legal guardian of a rider or passenger participating in a competition requiring consent is deemed to bear mutual responsibility with that competitor.				
Rider's Surname:	First Name:			
Address:				
	Postcode:			
	Email:			
ACU Licence No:	Club: (The ACU affiliated club to which you belong)			
Passenger's Surname:	First Name:			
Address:	Phone:			
ACU Licence No:	Club: (The ACU affiliated club to which you belong)			
Class Entered (Tick required)  Expert Expert B Inter  Youth A Youth B Youth C				
Sponsor/Machine Make:	Engine Size (cc)			
Indicate your preferred route: Yellow	50/50 Red/Blue 50/50 White Beginners			

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Venue:			
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(COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) I			
Extract from NSC Article 7.14: A parent or legal guardian of a rider or passenger participating in a competition requiring consent is deemed to bear mutual responsibility with that competitor.			
Rider's Surname: F	irst Name:D	.O.B	
Address:			
	Postcode:		
Phone Numbers			
Landline (inc. area code):	Mobile:		
Email address:			
ACU Licence No: Tick Class Entered	. Club:(The ACU affiliated of	club to which you belong)	
Championship Expert Expert Vets		lubman Supervet (+50)	
Machine:	Gubilian Ciubilian Veteran 🔲 C	idoman Supervet (+50)	
Make:	Cana	city (cc)	
Sponsor (if applicable)			
If TWO MAN: Partner's Name			
PLEASE INDICATE WHO WILL BE RIDIN	G FIRST		

# Motocross Memories Part 2 - Charlie Ralph

Towards the end of the 1950's, many riders were turning to two stroke power, and with the emergence of Dave Bickers achievements on the Essex built Greeves machine, many of the leading Eastern Centre riders were following suit. John Ford, Peter Smith, John Pease, and even the evergreen Jack Hubbard were competing on the Thundersley built bikes, John Banks and John Louis started out on the DOT



machines, and the Little Clacton market gardener, Norman Messenger, rode the Cotton bike. One rider who stayed on the big four stroke bikes however, was gentleman Jim Aim. Other riders who rode mainly four strokes was the Kent visitor, the great John Giles on his mighty Triumph, Dave Nichol on Matchless, and Andy Lee, who later was nicknamed the King of France because of his many race wins in French International events.

Also emerging in the early 60's were the likes of Dennis Howard, Trevor Harvey, and Adrian Yallop, along with Freddie Mayes, and many more, so, with all of the aforementioned, it is little wonder that the 60's were regarded as the golden era of motocross.

Still unable to afford a road bike in the early 60's, myself and a group of keen young motocross fans approached the local coach company in the town of Hadleigh, and for a couple of years we managed to fill coachloads of people to take us to places such as Mumberry Hills at Westleton, Wakes Colne, Shrubland Park, and to many other venues almost every Sunday in the racing season. Eventually I obtained my first road bike, a little 197cc Francis Barnett, but the Villiers engine must have been a "Friday afternoon" build, and we did not get on together. My elder brother's new BSA C15 was much more reliable, and I remember borrowing it to go to a meeting at Cockfield near Lavenham in Suffolk. This was hosted by the Bury St Edmund's club, prior to their West Stow Heath days, and it was the first time that I watched the "Baron", John Banks in action on a 250cc DOT. One of the top riders on that day was the late Rex Garrod on his Greeves.



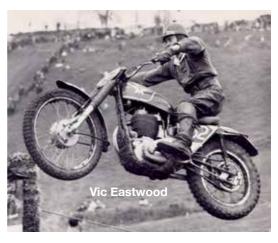
At around that time, I first saw a very young Freddie Mayes riding in one of his first ever meetings on a little maroon coloured James at a circuit in the village of Washbrook, just outside of Ipswich. I recall that he was being briefed by his pipe smoking father. Shrubland Park was still the place to see the National stars in action, Dave Bickers, Cheshire's Alan Clough and the tenacious little Bryan Winston Goss, known as "Badger", on their two strokes, up against the mighty BSA team of Jeff Smith, Arthur Lampkin and

big John Burton. Not forgetting the Matchless team of farmer Dave Curtis, and his protege, Vic Eastwood, who has always been one of my all time favourite riders, and the Rickman brothers on their fabulous looking Metisse bikes.

At Wakes Colne, the late Cecil Newport was organising some big National meetings, ably backed by one of the nicest guys I have ever met, the late Albert Carter. When Mr. Newport passed away, (his memorial stone can be seen at the circuit), it was Albert who took over the reins, and promoted some really top meetings, as well as becoming the ACU motocross chairman and team manager for many British Motocross Des Nations victories. One of my early memories was the 1962 Essex Grand National where Dave Bickers won four out of four races, with Giles, Burton. Clough and Pat Lamper all in the top places.

John Banks was listed in the programme, still as a junior grade rider at the time! It was interesting to note that in the programme, Dave won 260 shillings, (£13 old money), for winning the main race! I still have a black and white photo of Vic Eastwood rounding a hairpin bend at the Colne, and on that corner was a heavily laden apple tree!

By the mid 60's, Dave Bickers was busy riding in World Championship and National events, so we saw much less of the Suffolk maestro, but this allowed others to shine, and soon they were joined by the likes of likeable Chris Ginn, Dave Cordle, John Gibbons, the lovable character, "shrimp" Davey, and the quick youngster from Maldon, Richard "Tubby" Hughes. To compete with the bigger engined four strokes, many riders were obtaining larger 360cc twostrokes as well as their 250cc bikes, and with the popular Husqvarna's, and the emergence of the Czech built CZ, a new chapter was born, and now that I had my first car, as Del Boy Trotter used to say, "the world's my lobster"!



Sadly, as I finished these notes, came the news that Vic Eastwood has passed away after a lengthy illness. He will always be remembered as one of Britain's finest. Sincere condolences go to Ann. Scott and Mark.

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# Diss MCC Open Permit ENDURO Sunday 23rd February 2020 Ride 22, Thetford Forest IP27 0TR GH Motorcycles Husqvarna Eastern Centre Championship Rd 1

Sign On: 7.30am Start: 9.00am
National Grid Reference: TL 843880 Permit No. ACU 55961

OFFICIALS:

Eastern Centre Steward: RG Hearn Club Steward(s): W Harvey

Clerk of the Course: A Waters (Licence 95651)

Child Protection P.o.C.: Mrs B Chapman

Secretary of the Meeting: Mrs B Chapman, 2 Riverside Cottages, Worthamling, Diss, Norfolk IP22 1SU

Tel: 07789 325416 email: help@dissmcc.co.uk

JURISDICTION:

Held under the NSC and the Standing Enduro Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, these Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of these Regulations. Open to Adult members of the ACU riding solo machines.

Start / Finish: Ride 22. Thetford Forest. 2 miles North of Thetford on A134 Norfolk IP27 0TR

Course: 12 miles of Forestry Commisssion land inc 1.5 mile special test.

Classes: In accordance with Championship Conditions

Awards: In accordance with Championship Conditions

Entries: Entry for this event is via the ACU online entry system - Go to https://members.acu.org.uk LOGIN or

REGISTER then go to 'Search for an Event'; find the event and follow process to enter. As an option entries may be
made on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM and sent to the Secretary of the Meeting with a fee of £68.00. Cheques/POs to
be made payable to Diss MCC Ltd. Confirmation of entry online via the ACU entry system, or on www.dissmcc.co.uk

Entries Open: 4th January 2020 Entries Close: 16th February 2020

No Entries on the day. All Entrants, Riders or Passengers must be prepared to produce their current Licence/ Trials Registration when signing on, N.S.C.7.11

ENVIRONMENTAL MATS - USE THEM or you may lose your ride

#### Why the move to colour?

If you look at the cover of this issue, you will see the words "Volume 60 No.1" which presumably means that the gazette is now entering its 60th year. Just as motorcycle technology has changed dramatically in that period, so have the methods and equipment used in the print industry.

I believe some of the early issues were produced by hand, with a single issue going to each club which was passed around the members on a club night. For the past few decades the Gazette has been produced using traditional 'litho' printing, great for single colours but prohibitively expensive for full colour printing.

Since the turn of the century the print industry has been gradually moving to digital technology with many printers running both litho and digital presses, the digital presses mainly being used for short-run work where accurate colour-matching was not critical. The difference in cost between single colour and full colour printing on digital presses is nowhere near as great as with traditional printing methods, and the dramatic increase in the quality of digital printing has seen a great industry shift to this being the preferred printing method for most short to medium run jobs.

Some of you may recall a few years back when the great Giacomo Agostini appeared in colour on the cover of the gazette - this was a digitally printed cover, with the inside pages printed litho. We have now reached a point where the cost saving in printing the gazette in a single colour is minimal, and the move to full colour is a better showcase for our sports as well as giving better value to our advertisers.

# What's on

Motocross

Open



ACU Eastern Youth MX Championships

#### **January**

NSJMCC

23rd

Norwich Viking	Trial	Open	Lyng	
EFA	Trial	Restricted	Little Bealings	
Wymondham	Trial	Open	Great Ellingham	N&S Group
lpswich	Trial	Restricted	Raydon Pit	
Southend	Trial	Open	Poles Wood	ACU Eastern 'D' Class Trials Championship
ıary				
Lowestoft Invaders	Trial	Restricted	Aldeby	
EFA	Trial	Restricted	Raydon Pit	
Castle Colchester	Trial	National	Pebmarsh	
Chelmsford	Trial	Open	Beasley End	ACU Eastern 'B' Class Trials Championship
NSJMCC	Trial	Open		
Diss	Enduro	Open	Thetford Forest	GH MC's ACU Eastern Enduro Champs
	EFA Wymondham Ipswich Southend ary Lowestoft Invaders EFA Castle Colchester Chelmsford NSJMCC	Wymondham Trial Ipswich Trial Southend Trial  Arry Lowestoft Invaders Trial  EFA Trial Castle Colchester Trial Chelmsford Trial NSJMCC Trial	EFA Trial Restricted  Wymondham Trial Open  Ipswich Trial Restricted  Southend Trial Open  ary  Lowestoft Invaders Trial Restricted  EFA Trial Restricted  Castle Colchester Trial National  Chelmsford Trial Open  NSJMCC Trial Open	EFA Trial Restricted Little Bealings  Wymondham Trial Open Great Ellingham  Ipswich Trial Restricted Raydon Pit  Southend Trial Open Poles Wood  ary  Lowestoft Invaders Trial Restricted Aldeby  EFA Trial Restricted Raydon Pit  Castle Colchester Trial National Pebmarsh  Chelmsford Trial Open Beasley End  NSJMCC Trial Open

Event in bold denotes regs in this issue Full events calendar available on www.easternacu.org

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