



EASTERN CENTRE GAZETTE

Volume 64

No. 12

December 2023



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2023 OFFICIALS OF ACU EASTERN



President:

Alan Penny 'Culross', Hadleigh Road, Elmsett, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 6ND
Tel: 01473 658768 e-mail: alanpenny@btinternet.com

Life Vice President: Albert Brace Jack Hearn

Honorary Life Vice President: Roy Bannister

Vice Presidents:

Roy Bannister	Roger Chaplin	Alan Foskew	
Geoff Brace	Sidge Kenny	Vera Hearn	Margaret Mellish

Chairman:

Chris Keeble Ashcroft, London Road, Capel St Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2JJ
Tel: 01473 730117 e-mail: chairman@easternacu.org

Vice Chairman:

Alan Foskew 9 Ebenezer Close, Witham, Essex, CM8 2HX
Tel: 01376 517169 e-mail: alanfoskew29@btinternet.com

Treasurer:

Andrew Hay 27, Tizzick Close, Three Score, Norwich.NR5 9HB.
Tel: 01603 734700 e-mail: andrew.hay10@btinternet.com

Centre Secretary:

The secretary position is vacant please contact via email
e-mail: secretary@easternacu.org

Permit Secretary:

Barbara Douglas The Old Cottages, The Moor, Reepham, Norwich NR10 4NL
Tel: 01603 871811 e-mail: permits@easternacu.org

ACU Benevolent Fund Officer:

Debbie Blyth 21 Ashe Road, Lower Hacheston, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0PD
Tel: 07963 118917 (eve) e-mail: blyths21@hotmail.com

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Vera Hearn 25, Quinton Road, Needham Market, Suffolk. IP6 8BP
Tel: 01449 721042. e-mail: jackhverah7@gmail.com

ACU Eastern Competitions Committee

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

Chairman:

Chris Cook
82 Kingsmead Park, Coggeshall Road, Braintree CM7 9EA
Tel:- 07824 166985
email: cjcook1904@yahoo.co.uk

Vice Chairman: Alan Penny

Other Elected Members:

Chris Keeble, Paul Fenn, Alan Foskew, Alex Wright, Martin Beadle

Sport Committee Chairmen:

Motocross – Andrew Hay *Enduro* – Jack Hearn
Trials – Paul Nash *Grass Track* – Alan Foskew

ACU Eastern Gazette

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ACU Eastern Web Site

www.easternacu.org

- Results
- Events Calendar
- News
- and more



The Centre AGM is the most important meeting of the year as it is the time and place for member clubs, who are the Centre, to review the previous year, plan for the future and appoint officers for the new year; as always happens the AGM was held on remembrance Sunday, 12 November together with a Special General meeting

Foreword

Chris Keeble



The Centre comprises 28 clubs which gives 63 delegates who are entitled to attend and vote at the meetings but it was disappointing that the actual attendance was one third of that number and the number of apologies was in single figures. The vast majority of the Centre simply ignored the event.

There is a very small group of people who run the Centre but we do need input from the clubs to approve decisions and set strategy for the future. The commitment is not great as it is only three hours once a year on remembrance Sunday when no sporting events take place.

Whilst talking to members away from the meeting one comment that I received was that a person did not attend himself because he knew another person who would attend and would tell him what happened; this misses the point and is akin to not voting at a general election because other people will vote; if this was taken to the extreme would you be content if the government was elected by a single person who bothered to vote?

The Centre is a democratic organisation and operates in accordance with decisions made at meetings but those decisions would carry more credibility if all clubs attended the meetings to provide input and cast their votes.

Please consider if you can find some time to support the people who give their time voluntarily to support the sport.

Without support from the clubs the Centre will not survive.



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Norfolk & Suffolk Group / Snetterton Combine

The Group held its final supper on 20th February at Stoke White Horse. Those in attendance were Mr and Mrs E Hood, Mr and Mrs R Peck, Mr and Mrs P Fenn, Mr and Mrs C Keeble, Mr and Mrs M Hearn, Mr and Mrs R Hearn, Mr and Mrs D Cordle, Mr and Mrs R Snowden. Mr A Keeble. Invited guests for the evening were Mr A Penny, Mr P Armes.

The group has now completed the final charity donation. The charities chosen to receive £4000.00 each were Air Ambulance, Prostrate Cancer, Teenage Cancer Trust, Lighthouse Women's Refuge and ACU Ben fund.

The Trials Group was formed just after the war with the Trials Championship 1st won by Ipswich Triangle in 1953 the Trophy being donated by Harry Redhead.

In 1953 the new owner of Snetterton approached the Diss club about running motorcycle racing there. Diss approached the Norwich club and it was decided to form The Snetterton Combine from the clubs which made up the Group.

At the beginning Freddie Thompson was clerk of the course with John Cook as starter, Cathy Thompson and Marie Armes were lap scorers. With the Group clubs supplying Marshalls. The Combine were renowned for running high class meetings at Snetterton so consequently Colin Armes and Marie along with David Bailey were invited to supply the start team and marshals for the 1st Grand prix at Silverstone.

The Group also held a motorcycle Triathlon at Snetterton where the riders rode a trial a scramble and a 1 hour road race.

Continued overleaf



Photos of charitable donation presentations following the winding up of the group.

Norfolk & Suffolk Group / Snetterton Combine

Small snippets from the past from former scrambles and Trials rider Tony Crouch.

Apparently, Dennis Slaughter could see how well the BSA Bantams were doing at racing and trials in the 125 class so apparently approached the post office and purchased as many as he could. He then subsequently won The Trials Championship on one.

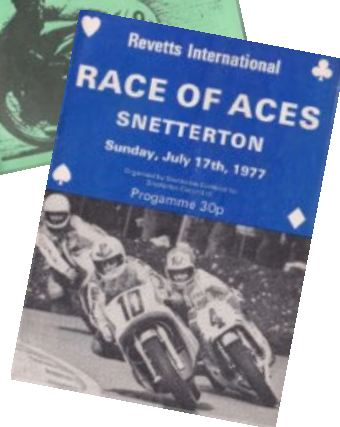
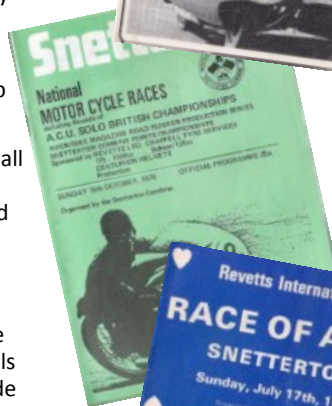
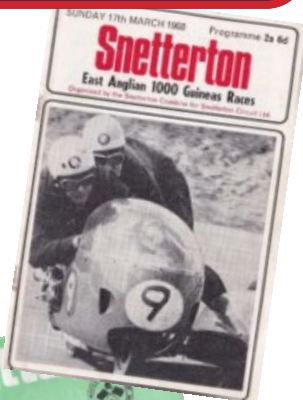
The group ran male only sausage suppers for the marshals and officials, these were held at Eye white Lion and in later years Diss Park Hotel and The Norfolk Dumpling where Lofty Cullen organised the strip shows. These suppers were very boisterous occasions.

At one of these events Tony Howe had his Austin 7 Lifted up off its wheels and put on beer barrels!

There were very good annual dinner dances held at Gunton Hall with well over 200 people in attendance for the Annual awards. On one of these occasions Colin Smith turned his Ford 100e on to its side on the way home at Clopton Hill and Tony and friends turned it back upright, no one was injured.

In recent years the Group hosted a very large 50 year reunion event at Snetterton, a charity British Superbike evening at The Norwood rooms Harleston, charity trials events at Corton Trials Park and Mark Kemp hosting a talk on his round the world ride for The Teenage Trust charity.

It is with great sadness we have had to close the Group down, consequently we would like to thank all officials and members whose hard work in running events through the years, to allow us to have made these donations. All remaining funds will be donated to The Ben Fund.



MOTOCROSS ROPE

Essex and Suffolk Border MCC have a large quantity of blue nylon rope and a smaller quantity of sisal rope on drums that was previously used for Bentley Moto Cross which they no longer have a use for.

The rope is all in good condition and will be unwound and checked before sale.

For sale at a bargain price

If you are interested please call Chris Keeble on 07540 095676

mpm

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OSET

November Board Meeting

Open letter received

At our recent Board meetings, it was nice to see Matthew Wear our ACU General Secretary in attendance, he certainly appears to be getting to grips with some ongoing problems & looking to the future.

The main item for the Board was obviously the proposed updated Bylaws, it was a pity that with an important item on agenda less than half the clubs bothered to attend.

I was not surprised at the outcome of the Bylaws vote, just confused as why.

The main objection to the updated Bylaws seemed to arise from the number and level of meetings, i.e., Board, Management committee, Competition Committee, individual Sport disciplines. There was also objection to the number of Sport discipline committee members being fixed. The Competition Committee and Management committee seemed the most objected to as they could influence the decisions of sport committees. There was no mention that the new Bylaws give the individual disciplines more autonomy clearly laying out their duties & responsibility's.

So, the vote went for retainment of the old Bylaws. Bylaws which include the Competition Committee. We then when on and voted to continue with a Management Committee. The two things creating most objections.

I fully accept it was a fair democratic vote, so no problem, just confusion as to the reason. I wonder did everyone realise that by voting against the new they were voting for the old.

When the decision was announced some-one said now for the resignation, my thoughts also, thankfully so far this has not materialised. Although the new Bylaws were not adopted, we should thank our Chairman for all his work in producing them during his first year in office.

There are numerous people waiting to take over as Chairman & Secretary etc.

Paul Fenn



Southend & DMCC

OPEN Permit Trial

Sunday 10th December 2023

ACU Eastern 'D' Class Trials Championship Round 3

Poles Wood, Kelvedon Hatch, Ongar Road,
Brentwood, CM15 0LA

What 3 Words: cars.drift.yours

Permit No.: ACU 202183

Sign On: 09:00

Start: 10:30

OFFICIALS

Club Steward(s):	Paul Owen
Clerk of the Course:	Paul Nash (<i>Licence 39376</i>)
Child Protection P.O.C.:	Paul Nash
Secretary of the Meeting:	Julia Nash 33 Cherry Orchard, Southminster, Essex CM0 7HE Tel: 07947 215648 or 07973 358408 email: nap148@aol.com
Course:	Woodland, Banks, Logs and Tree Roots; 4 laps / 10 sections
Routes:	Yellow, Red & Blue, White and Green
Classes:	Beginner to Expert, Youth and Sidecar
Awards:	None

JURISDICTION

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, the 2023 ACU Eastern Trials Championship Conditions, the Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of the Regulations. Open to Adult and Youth members with an appropriate licence riding Solo & Sidecar machines

ENTRIES

All entries will be via the ACU Online Entry System. Entry Fee Adult £20, S/c £25, Youth £10-£15. Entries will not be refunded unless the entry is refused, or on presentation of a doctor's certificate. In the event of cancellation refunds may be made less £3 to cover administration costs.

Entries Open: November 13th 2023

Entries Close: December 10th 2023 @ 10:30 am

Entries allowed 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

Solo: TSR22-A. STOP PERMITTED / Sidecar: TSR22-B. NON-STOP



Braintree & DMCC

OPEN Permit Trial

Sunday 17th December 2023

Turkey Trot 23

Beazley End, Essex, CM7 5JQ

What 3 Words:

Permit No.: ACU 202114

Sign On: 08:00

Start: 10:00

OFFICIALS

Club Steward(s):	TBA
Clerk of the Course:	John Yearly (<i>Licence</i>)
Child Protection P.o.C.:	Richard Penfold
Secretary of the Meeting:	Richard Penfold 108 Ilex Close, Colchester Essex CO7 7UT Tel: 07446 079550 email: richardpenfold2395@gmail.com
Course:	Rocks, Ditches, Tree Roots, Muddy Bank
Routes:	Yellow, Red/Blue, White, 50/50
Classes:	Exp, ExpB, Inter, InterB, Novice, Pre 65, Twinshock, Youth A,B,C
Awards:	None

JURISDICTION

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, the Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of the Regulations. Open to Adult members with an appropriate licence riding Solo machines

ENTRIES

All entries will be via the ACU Online Entry System. Entry Fee £20 & £10 for Youth . Entries will not be refunded unless the entry is refused, or on presentation of a doctor's certificate. In the event of cancellation refunds may be made less £3 to cover administration costs.

Entries Open: November 1st 2023, @ 2:27 pm

Entries Close: December 14th 2023 @ 2:27 pm

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

Can Only enter Via ACU sport 80 website, Max riders is set at 120.



Ipswich MC & LCC

OPEN Permit Trial

Tuesday 26th December 2023

Boxing Day Trial

Raydon Pit, Wades Lane, Raydon, Suffolk . IP7 5QP

What 3 Words: tributes, month, misfits

Permit No.: ACU 202150

Sign On: 9:30

Start: 10:15

OFFICIALS

Club Steward(s): Mr G Timms
Clerk of the Course: David Cordle (*Licence 5689*)
Child Protection P.o.C.: David Cordle
Secretary of the Meeting: Mrs P Cordle
4 Bullen Close, Bramford, Suffolk IP8 4JE
Tel: 01473 462274 email: the.cordles@talktalk.net

Course: 4 laps of 10 multi routed sections in a Disused Sandpit and some wooded area.

Routes: Yellow 50/50, Red/Blue, White

Classes: All solo Adult and Youth classes are welcome to ride any of the routes available, but there will be no beginners Orange route at this event.

Awards: To winner

National Grid Ref: Grid Ref TM041388

JURISDICTION

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, the Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of the Regulations. Open to Adult and Youth members with an appropriate licence riding Solo machines

ENTRIES

All entries will be via the ACU Online Entry System. Entry Fee Adult £20 Youth £10. Entries will not be refunded unless the entry is refused, or on presentation of a doctor's certificate. In the event of cancellation refunds may be made less £3 to cover administration costs.

Entries Open: December 1st 2023, @ 1:05 pm

Entries Close: December 22nd 2023 @ 1:05 pm or when full.

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

Please Park sensibly, and respect all the observers' decisions.



Woodbridge & DMCC

OPEN Permit Trial

Sunday 31st December 2023

Laurie Bird Memorial Trial ACUE Championship 'C' Round 6

Broom Hill, Butley, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 3NR

What 3 Words: excavate.mammoths.flown

Permit No.: ACU 202212

Sign On: 9.00 am

Start: 10.00 am

OFFICIALS

Club Steward(s):	Mr W Harvey, Mr A Miller
Clerk of the Course:	Mr I Barfield (<i>Licence 123652</i>)
Child Protection P.o.C.:	Secretary of Meeting
Secretary of the Meeting:	Mr Trevor James Andrews 7 Metfield Road Tel: 07803270853 email: tvjandrews@btinternet.com
Course:	Multi- route, gravel and woodland terrain, 4 laps of 12 sections.
Routes:	Yellow, Red/Blue, White
Classes:	Pre 70 ; Pre-Unit, Unit & Two-Stroke plus Twin-Shock
Awards:	Laurie Bird Cup to best W & D MCC rider.
National Grid Ref:	TM 368495

JURISDICTION

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ENTRIES

All entries will be via the ACU Online Entry System. Entry Fee £ 18.00 Adult £ 16.00 Youth. Entries will not be refunded unless the entry is refused, or on presentation of a doctor's certificate. In the event of cancellation refunds may be made less £3 to cover administration costs.

Entries Open: December 4th 2023, @ 6:00 pm

Entries Close: December 27th 2023 @ 6:00 pm

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

Caterer on site. Toilets (male & female)



Recollection Section

Sidge Kenny

The great Dave Curtis, one of the few riders in the 1950` and 60`s, who could get the very best out of the mighty – and heavy - Matchless scramblers in the days before scrambling gave way to motocross, was once reported as saying: “The best suspension is soft tyres...!” I cannot say if this was a wry poke at the AMC forks and the rear shocks of the day – which admittedly, were much the same as fitted on the road machines – or whether he was serious. Yet over the following decades without doubt it is the vast

improvements in suspension which have made the nowadays normal - yet astonishing - performances of both motocross and enduro bikes over the bumps and very spectacular jumps. From a time when the scramblers mainly raced on undulating farm land – usually muddy - with just a few moderate leaps, we now have developed to the `technical` circuits providing awesome displays of bikes soaring in the air, higher and for longer than some home-made kites. Both Moto-cross and Enduro as off-road sports have developed greatly as a result of those developments in suspension – particularly at the rear end - and for that, most of the credit must go to the Japanese.

From the mid 1930`s when BMW produced the first oil damped telescopic forks – for road racing - the rear end of a motorbike was well `behind` in getting acceptable springing. Pre-war, most motor bikes had no rear suspension at all. Some major manufacturers such as Norton and Velocette did offer on some of their machines, either a plunger system or early versions of the swinging arm and rear shocks we see today but our industry was on the whole slow to see the need and it was up to a few private enterprises, such as the Macandless brothers to provide kits to convert rigid rear ends in to sprung form. In early post-war trials, Royal Enfield were considered pioneers and much against the opinion of the time, in competing with rear wheel springing. As is usually the case, their resultant success encouraged other firms to convert.

That was fine for the time but the rear end damped rear suspension unit, as it was attached to frame and rear swinging fork, gave only a few inches of movement. Off-road sport, over the years demanded much more movement and preferably: “progressive” - i.e., easy and softish on the little bumps but offering more of a longer and ever-stiffening stroke for the big ones. Various fitting points were at first tried – the telescopes at the front of the bike were less of a problem – extended movement was much easier to achieve but the use of a conventional rear suspension unit with more movement, ended up with a very tall and for many, a largely unwieldy motorbike.



As ever, it seems the big four Jap firms – having been a little slow in getting on to the ‘rough’ side of motorcycle sport, saw the problem of needing to improve rear suspension and set about devising major re-designs. To my recollection, it would have been Honda in the very early 1980’s who first brought out the answer to the back end problem with their: “Pro-link” - a clever system of leverage connected to the shock unit and swinging arm, which gave soft and rapid response to the little bumps and adequate resilience to the whoopers, allowing the rider full control – (most of the time...). Of course, other versions quickly came out and today, the system of geometry and hydraulics is combined as a matter of course. The Japanese as they would, followed up their technical innovations with brisk marketing and such was the overwhelming improvement on the new competition bikes that both Motocross and Enduro were, in effect, reshaped.

I count that major emergence in rear suspension as the most significant improvement in motorbike design I have witnessed in my time – though perhaps closely followed by the amazing progress also made in two-stroke engines. However, the Japanese were not entirely responsible for that one – but that is another story – with a somewhat darker side.



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Norwich Viking MCC

OPEN Permit Trial

Monday 1st January 2024

Jack Kersey Trophy Trial

Caddes Hill Lyng

What 3 Words: nets.tutorial.tinny

Permit No.: ACU 202026

Sign On: 10am

Start: 11am

OFFICIALS

Club Steward(s):	James Douglas
Clerk of the Course:	Barbara Douglas (<i>Licence 70441</i>)
Child Protection P.o.C.:	Barbara Douglas
Secretary of the Meeting:	Barbara Douglas The Old Cottages, The Moor Tel: 07484220349 email: barbara.douglas@hotmail.co.uk
Course:	Sand banks and tree roots
Routes:	Red/Blue;White;Orange;50/50
Classes:	Expert b;Inter;Inter B;Novice;Twinshock;Pre65;Youth A/B/C/D/E
Awards:	None
National Grid Ref:	TG 066174

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ENTRIES

All entries will be via the ACU Online Entry System. Entry Fee Adults £20 Youth £15. Entries will not be refunded unless the entry is refused, or on presentation of a doctor's certificate. In the event of cancellation refunds may be made less £3 to cover administration costs.

Entries Open: December 12th 2023, @ 9 am

Entries Close: December 31st 2023 @ 12:00pm

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

Competitors to sign on at van on arrival

Alan Cocksedge Photos of Eastern Centre Events Pt. 4

Roger Chaplin

Photos in this issue are from the scramble on May 28th 1961 organised by the Sudbury MCC. There is also a reprint of an article in the Suffolk Free Press outlining the pivotal role carried out by Barry Chaplin at just 18 years of age.



Jack Hubbard (#5)



Jim Aïm (#37)



Alan Cocksedge



Mick Scott (#59) leads
J. Adamson (#23)

ROYAL
ENFIELD



Norton

Barry Greep (#30)



Jack Hubbard (#5)

BSA



Paul G. Taft (#12), Jim Aim (#37), Barry Greep (#30)

TEENPAGE

BARRY HOPES FOR ENGLAND'S BEST AT SUDBURY SCRAMBLE

PROVIDING you know of their great interest in the sport of motor-cycling, you do not have to look far on Sudbury's Cat's Lane housing estate to find the home, in Hillside Road, of the Chaplin family.

Leaning against the wall beneath the front room window, and covered by a tarpaulin, you will just be able to recognise the outlines of a trials motor-cycle. Standing next to that there is another "heap of metal" which at one time was a motor-scooter.

Just in case you miss these two landmarks, you are certain to find a varied assortment of bicycles propped up round the house, and inside the garden shed you will see yet another motor-cycle. Also in the area of the garden there is an auto-cycle.

The four Chaplin brothers are all, as you will have guessed, keen motor-cycling enthusiasts, and more especially 18-year-old Barry Chaplin, who is competition secretary of the Sudbury Motor Cycle Club.

In that capacity he is responsible for most of the organisation of the club's forthcoming scramble at Tye Farm, Great Cornard, on Sunday May 28.

Trophies

When one of our reporters went to the Chaplin household last week we found Barry sitting in the drawing-room surrounded by various trophies (not all won by himself) and typing out a letter to Andy Lee, one of the well-known stars of the motor-cycle scramble world.

Barry, who must be one of the youngest ever organisers of such a big event as

the club plan to put on, was calmly confident that everything will go off to plan.

Although this is the first scramble ever to be promoted by the club, it looks like attracting most of England's top riders.

Already entries have been received from Johnny Giles, the Triumph works rider; Geoff King, the Taft brothers, Andy Lee, Freddie Mayes, Peter Smith, Mike Scott, Jack Hubbard, John Ford and Jim Alm.

England's best

If that is not enough, Barry hopes that Dave Curtis, England's best 500 c.c. rider who finished second in the 1959 World Championship, will be taking part, alongside another big star, Gordon Jackson.

Due to the heavy amount of work that he will have to do on the day, Barry will not be taking part. He is actually more of a trials specialist, and during the winter he entered for nearly every event in the Eastern Centre.

Also riding with him on many occasions was 19-year-old Roger King, of Pot Kiln Road, Great Cornard.

They had to ride to the events on their trial machines, and often rode about 100 miles, not counting the distance they travelled in the events. Both the boys have now reached expert status, and so far Barry has won six trophies.



BARRY CHAPLIN—Sudbury Motor-cycle Club's teenage organiser, seen in action during a local trial last winter.



Wymondham & DMC

OPEN Permit Trial

Sunday 14th January 2024

January Trial

Hill House Farm, Great Ellingham,
Attleborough, NR17 1AQ

What 3 Words: husband, fatigued, tides

Permit No.: ACU 202184

Sign On: 09.30

Start: 10.30

OFFICIALS

Club Steward(s):	R Ayres
Clerk of the Course:	Peter Yarham (<i>Licence 10873</i>)
Child Protection P.o.C.:	Peter Yarham
Secretary of the Meeting:	Darrel Glover 33 Barley Way, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1YD Tel: 07990555406 email: drgbodyshop@tiscali.co.uk
Course:	Banks, ditches and roots 4 laps of 10 or 12 sections
Routes:	Red/Blue, 50/50, White and Beginners
Classes:	Expert, Intermediate A and B, Novice, Twinshock, Pre 70, Beginners and Youth all classes
Awards:	None

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Entries Open: December 12th 2023, @ 08:00 am

Entries Close: January 10th 2024 @ 18:00 pm

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

Please follow orange arrows and do not enter venue by any other route



Autumn Trial - Wades Lane, Nov. 5th

Paul Fenn

Sunday November 5th for our autumn trial we awoke to perfect weather, the previous days wind & rain we had for setting up had passed and the sun shone, by start time the sandy climbs were drying out and grip returning. Although we all loved to see the sun this also caused a problem, early on some climbs required looking straight into it.

With entry numbers in the high 60s in the confinements of Raydon pit there is always the potential of section queues, therefore we were grateful to have sufficient observers for the 12 sections laid out.



With only Jack Austin entered as Expert "A" David Woods Expert "B" decided to move up a class and ride yellow route with him, although unable to match Jack's impressive score of 21 got through every section except section 1 with at most a couple of dabs

One of the best rides of the day must be Daniel Carter (twin shock "A") who on his 500 Aerial completed the Red route with just a 5 mark loss with Andrew Keeble second on 33.

Twin shock "B" was a closer battle with Craig Crowfoot pipping Richard Snowden, with them finishing on 14 & 15 respectively

Novice class was won by Ralph Petts 17 with Colin Brand 24. Section 11 being Colins downfall dropping 8 marks compared to Ralphs 0.

The intermediate was another close one with Stephen Bland 16 finishing just one mark ahead of Richard Beales

The youth continue to shine with Daniel Adcock red route 34 marks well up with the intermediate adults and Jack Holmes white route 19 marks is just 2 off the adult novice class winner.

Photo above: Arthur Teager by Mandy Fenn
Photo right: Craig Crowfoot by Adam Keeble



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Notes from ACU Eastern Trials Forum - Nov 1st 2023

Clive Dopson

The 2023 Trials Forum on November 1st at Chequers Indian Lounge, Great Blakenham, was attended by 33 riders or organisers representing 12 clubs, the full minutes will be posted on the ACU Eastern website, here are some points of note.

1. For 2024 the format of all centre trials championships will remain the same as 2023, except for the three points below,
 - a) Youth. For 2024 the Youth Championship classes within B Class rounds will remain as 2023, that is Youth Expert, Intermediate and Novice. Where a club organising a B Class round can offer a beginner's route (lower than white) there will be a new Youth Beginner class. For 2024, dependant on how many B Class rounds can incorporate the Youth beginner class, additional rounds may be added to ensure there are sufficient rounds for a Championship. Organising clubs that can offer an appropriate venue and route will be considered. This is included for 2024 to gauge interest from riders and clubs. Once proposals have been received the calendar will be reviewed and updated. Points will be calculated but there will not be a trophy in 2024. Once a rider has ridden as Youth Novice or above, they cannot score points as Youth Beginner. All youth classes remain open to all ages of youth rider's dependant on parents or guardians ensuring they are capable of riding the class entered.
 - b) Pre 70. For 2024 it was decided to make a small change to simplify the machine eligibility rules that will not affect any current machines. Also, for 2024, in addition to the normal inspections during trials, before some C Class championship trials, riders will be asked if they believe their machine complies with the current ACU-EC Pre-70 machine eligibility rules. The trials committee is always open to more volunteers to get involved in checking machine eligibility; the only requirement is to have some knowledge of the type of machines being used.
 - c) Air Cooled Mono. For 2024 to identify demand, for no annual trophies, championship points to be calculated for any riders of ACM in A Class rounds riding red/blue and white routes, if appropriate riders will also score championship points as Intermediate A or Intermediate B.
2. After discussion it was agreed that consistency of observing may be improved and new volunteers may be encouraged if an "Observer's Guidelines" document is prepared and made available to all clubs, volunteers agreed to produce a draft document for review by the Trials Committee.
3. Comments were made about the amount of looping occurring in some trials, after discussion it was agreed clerks of course to be asked to consider how to control this when marking sections, and riders to be instructed to ask the observer before riding the section if there is any doubt and the rider maybe taking a new line through a section.
4. After discussion it was agreed for 2024 clubs will be allowed to accept paper entries for championship rounds. These entries can be in addition to online entries and all entries must respect the closing date. To support this a generic trials entry form will be included in the centre gazette.
5. Currently some clubs are not publishing on Sport:80 accepted entries before or after the closing date, after discussion it was decided that if clubs are using Sport:80 all accepted Sport:80 entries must be shown after the closing date
6. Recognising observers are ageing and therefore will disappear over time, after much discussion there were several suggestions of what clubs could try, the list is detailed in the minutes.
7. Trials official seminar is to be arranged based on demand, currently there have only been two applicants identified by clubs. P Nash offered to organise a seminar if date and venue can be agreed, it was agreed that an evening would be preferred. Any interested new applicants to please contact their club.
8. Following a successful 2022 Trials Awards Presentation evening, after much discussion including understanding what other disciplines are considering, it was decided whether there is a multi-discipline 2023 centre annual awards presentation event or not, a 2023 Trials Awards Presentation will be planned. The organising committee will be as 2022, that is R Snowden, D Cordle and K Plummer, the proposed date is 20/1/24, venue to be decided.

9. Please can clubs write trial's reports for the website and gazette, especially if photographs are available.
10. Please can results be published in the format defined in the Trials Conditions.
11. Arrangements were made to get perpetual trials wards back to R Snowden for engraving for presentation, it was decided to do this by class, A Class D Cordle, B Class R Snowden, C Class C Dopson, D Class P Nash. Trophies required to R Snowden before 1st January latest.
12. As there were five nominations for the Observers award, it was decided by a show of hands to make the 2023 award to Mr T and Mrs R Harvey. The award to be presented at the annual awards presentation or a local trial if more appropriate.
13. For 2024 the trials committee will be Paul Nash, Clive Dopson, Alan Foskew, Richard Snowden, Paul Fenn, Eddie Hood, Matthew Neale, Ian Johnston, Nick Ogden, James Newstead, Andrew Barrell and David Cordle. Roles for 2024 are to be agreed at the next call or meeting.

Away from the Forum the 2023 Novice Champion, Ralph Petts, is promoted to Intermediate and 2023 Intermediate Champion Jordan Bailey is promoted to Expert, both from 1/1/24, congratulations to both, other promotions may be made before 1/1/24.

Clive Dopson

In any sport there are times when the most memorable performances are not made by the winners.

Often, the finishers down the list have overcome great odds - either mechanical or physical.

From reports of the International Six Days Enduro recently staged in Argentina, the event was a extremely tough one, staged in savage temperatures of over 40 degrees (Centigrade)! With full bulldog spirit, the British men's team finished third – securing a well-earned bronze medal but surely we in this Centre must congratulate Nieve Holmes, in being the sole rider from the GB ladies team, to finish and in 7th place in her class. Showing perhaps her birth place: "Yorkshire grit" in the energy-soaking temperatures, Nieve is now an Eastern Centre resident and has truly earned our admiration. Getting over the line, she had to have medical attention for severe dehydration - but thankfully soon recovered. Congratulations Nieve on what was clearly an epic ride!

Nieve's Great Endurance Sidge



So proud of Nieve after loosing both her team mates on day one she battled on alone in the most extreme heat ,it wasn't nice seeing the pain and suffering on her face every day but she dug in and finished her 4th ISDE.

Mick Seward - Ladies Team Manager



Motocross Reserved Number Scheme

Renewals Only - available from Noon on Monday 4th Dec.

Now is the time to renew your number for 2024. If you want to ensure you keep the same number for the 2024 season, you must renew it by 31st January 2024 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 5 years so if you don't want to lose your number, renew it NOW.

You can renew your number online at www.easternacu.org

The cost of reserving your number for 2024 remains unchanged at £5.50 per season. This ensures that the chosen charities (East Anglian Air Ambulance, Essex Air Ambulance & ACU Benevolent Fund) receive just over £5 per transaction.

Numbers 1 –20 are kept for experts only. Number 1 is reserved for the Centre Champion.

Since its introduction this scheme has enabled the ACU Eastern, on behalf of riders, to make donations of more than £37,500 to the chosen charities.

NEW NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 5th 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)

A big thank you to all Eastern Centre Motocross riders for purchasing a number for the 2023 season.

This year we have raised £3600 which will be shared equally between East Anglian Air Ambulance, Essex Air Ambulance & ACU Benevolent Fund.



What's on



NOTE: All dates are provisional, and subject to change.
Always check events are still on before travelling at www.easternacu.org.

Date	Club	Disc.	Status	Venue	Championship
Dec 3, 2023	Norwich Viking MCC	Trial	OPEN	Lyng	
Dec 10, 2023	Southend & DMCC	Trial	OPEN	Poles Wood	ACU Eastern 'D' Class Trials Championship Round 3
Dec 17, 2023	Braintree & DMCC	Trial	OPEN	Beazley End	
Dec 26, 2023	Ipswich MCC	Trial	OPEN	Raydon	
Dec 30, 2023	Sudbury MCC	Extreme Enduro	OPEN	Foxborough Quarry	
Dec 31, 2023	Woodbridge & DMCC	Trial	OPEN	Butley	ACU Eastern 'C' Class Trials Championship Round 6
Jan 1, 2024	Norwich Viking MCC	Trial	OPEN	Lyng	
Jan 7, 2024	Eastern Fourstroke Assoc.	Trial	Closed to Club	Little Bealings	
Jan 14, 2024	Wymondham & DMCC	Trial	OPEN	Great Ellingham	
Jan 28, 2024	Lowestoft Invaders MCC	Trial	OPEN	Aldeby	



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