



# POST-IT NOTE

For the members of Castle Colchester MCC – **Smelling like Teen Spirit**

April 2015 Edition

Welcome, Brethren, to the second of the Post-It Note stylee newsletters. After the bumper March Edition there's been a bit of a news-vacuum, so to speak, and therefore not much to report.

Something to look forward to in April is the NEL road trial, near Puckeridge, and if it's anywhere near as good as last year it'll be a cracker.

Don't forget that our own Thorrington trial is happening on the 26<sup>th</sup> so contact Gary Wakely with any offers to help or observe, please, on 01206 752698.

An interesting development this year is the introduction of the new Expert B and Inter B championships, with the Spanseys and Bramford events being the first two rounds for the Inter B riders. It'll be interesting to see how these championships shape up. Will we see some riders moving 'down a route' in the hope of some pot-hunting glory? Will the 'B' classes start to get taken a bit too seriously? Do we care? Who knows....

Keith Nicholls has kindly offered to have a batch of sweatshirts made up for sale if there's enough interest to make it worthwhile. I think it's fair to say that the consensus of opinion is that we'd like a change from the green ones we had before. For my money I'd like a dark grey – with the new Club logo on of course. If you'd like one, too, drop an email to [castleobserver@gmail.com](mailto:castleobserver@gmail.com) and register your interest and we'll see what we can do.

Sorry to hear that Matt Rayner broke a couple of fingers, a few weeks ago, but is on the mend and hoping to back in action fairly soon. Get well soon(er), Matt, from all the Club Brethren.

## Rob's Enduro News

Only one event to report on this month and that was the second round of the eastern centre championship at Butley. There were 4 Castle members competing me, dad, Andrew and Paul Whitehead. This is the first time I had ridden at this bit of land as I've been working abroad the last 2 winters, but I knew what to expect, fast straights, big bumps and long sandy berms, I couldn't wait! Both of my special tests were good, but I made small mistakes on both of them, after the tests I was 3rd which I was chuffed with. The last lap was really tight for the Experts and only one guy cleaned it, I pushed hard but still came in a minute late. I finished 3rd in the Experts which is awesome as its my best result in that class and I managed to claw back points on other guys in the championship. What is good this year is that the top 8 riders are all similar speed so its going to be an interesting championship, just wish there were more rounds! Andrew and Dad both had good rides and Andrews first test time was up there in the Clubman, his second test however was not, he had a massive over the handlebars crash that he recorded on his gopro, (it's hilarious!) Andrew finished the day in 17th, which is pretty good considering he hasn't ridden for a while. Dad in the over 50's class admittedly didn't go for it on the tests due to his many ailments and still finished 4th, only half a second off 3rd so good going on his part. Paul Whitehead is back on the enduro scene after going feet up for a few seasons and rode in the Expert Vet (over 40) class. This is a pretty stacked class with some past championship riders such as Gavin Hockey and Phil Roper also Eastern Centre Enduro legend Mark Chapman. Paul finished the day in 7th and dropped 2 minutes of time.

Next weekend I'm off to the north of Scotland to Elgin to ride in the first round of the British Championships. So I'll do a report on that as well.

Cheers Rob

## Ray Parfitt Sidecar Report

Many thanks to Ray for sending this in – let's hope it's the first of many.....

My Sidecar season so far

This year, for the sixth year I am mechanic for Brett Wilkinson, he has had four different passengers over those years, This year, for the second year his passenger is Steve Kirwin, a very experienced passenger. Last year they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the British Championship and 11<sup>th</sup> in the World . This year another new bike, 2 new engines, the best engine from last year and a new truck sees us well sorted

Practising started at the end of January at Besthorpe Norfolk, followed by Dunkirk France and Londinaires France. On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb we practised in Holland, the day after they rode at the first round of the Dutch Championship at Lochem where many of the World runners were riding, they rode well to finish 9<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, An ignition problem meant we had to change an engine between races as the top of the piston had started to melt. The week after we were at Oss, the second Dutch Championship, another top class entry, deep sand which the Dutch are experts at riding. Again they gave 100% and came away with two 11<sup>th</sup> places despite rear suspension problems in the first race. Between the two races we changed the rear tyre, exhaust & silencer, rear shock, repaired the radiator mounting bracket, stripped checked & refitted the clutch assembly, put another main jet in the carb as well as all the routine maintenance.

A week off on the 15<sup>th</sup> March then it was off to Belgium for the first round of their Championship, The track was the roughest any of us had ever seen, It was a real good workout and they had 6<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> places.

Coming next is the first 3 GP's , Switzerland, France and Spain three weeks running, more on them next time

Ray

## March Round Up

### Braintree – Spanseys Wood – 8<sup>th</sup> March

The conditions were dry, overall, but there was still a fair bit of mud to be had in the many down-and-up ditch sections laid out by first time CoC James Yearly. I'll do my best to interpret a rather confusing set of results so do excuse me if there are any errors.

**Yellow:** Tom had a good ride to top-out the experts but, unfortunately, Chris Ryland dnfd.

**Red/Blue/Twinshock:** Richard Norman brought the Suzuki home in 8<sup>th</sup>, on 61 marks, with Buck one place and fifteen marks behind riding 'Big Orange'.

**Inter:** Nice to see Jim out again, so soon after the Stonebridge, and he picked up 3<sup>rd</sup> position with a score of 55.

**Inter B:** Castle couldn't quite block out 'the podium' but we didn't do badly with Chris Eley 1<sup>st</sup> on 19 and Gary Wakely 2<sup>nd</sup> on 44 – but GW needed two bikes to achieve this as the four-banger cried enough and the stoker came out of the trailer to finish the job.

**Novice:** Lone Castle novice, and new name to me, George Holmes finished 10<sup>th</sup> having lost 77 marks.

### Ipswich – Bramford– 15<sup>th</sup> March

We got lucky with the weather, here, as the forecast rain held off and the going was dry for the most part. Nice to see Jack Shepherd supporting a local event, as he often does, but I'm hoping JGas give him a better bike for the WTC – Sunday's bike was a well beaten up one! The flip side of this coin is that the Expert sections were (get ready for some natty wordplay) 'Jack'd up' and looked extremely difficult for the regular riders.

**Yellow:** Chris Ryland finished, commendably, on 112 marks while poor Tom had to retire with a bashed knee.

**Inter:** A fine ride put Neil on top of the class losing 48 all up.

**Twin Shock Red/Blue:** Richard Norman did well to wrestle the Beamish round for a mid-class finish on 60 marks. To my eyes the sections were very tough for most of the twin shock riders.

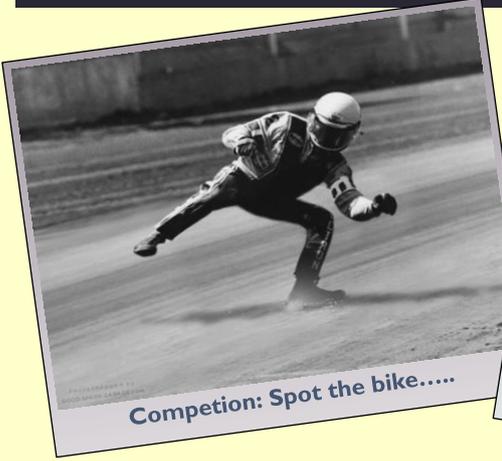
**Inter B/Novice:** I'm combining the white route classes here. Paul Lonergan ran in his new Gas Gas, in the Novice class, and finished joint second on the white route with Chris Eley; both losing 11 marks. Gary is making progress with the Big-Bang Sherco, not only finishing on it, but picking up 10<sup>th</sup> on 33 marks.

### Wymondham – Middleton – 29<sup>th</sup> March

Results have come out just in time to make the April Edition – and only one Castle rider made the journey.

**Inter:** Buck rode in a tightly contested Inter battle finishing 8<sup>th</sup> on 56 marks.

# Nothing To Do With Anything Much



Competition: Spot the bike.....



At last: a candle that BLOKES like..



Thomas the, er, sidecar outfit

## Club Night

**Club Night Diary:**  
**NO APRIL CLUB NIGHT.**  
May Club Night – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Bar, Stanway Rovers FC, New Farm Road, Colchester CO3 0PG

[castleobserver@gmail.com](mailto:castleobserver@gmail.com)

[www.castle-mcc.co.uk](http://www.castle-mcc.co.uk)