



THE OBSERVER

For the members of Castle Colchester MCC – **If it doesn't work at least we said we tried...**

October 2015 Edition

The first thing we must do this month is offer our congratulations to Chris Ryland and Selina Williams who are getting married on 3rd October. Best Wishes to you both and we hope you have a fantastic day.

The 2016 Harvest Trial took place on 13th September and there's a little bit of info in the September Round Up to let you know how it all went. Thanks go out to Richard Norman, again, for his article on the recent trip to France.

Suzuki Burgman

It's been a little while since I inflicted any Burgman news on you good people of Colchester so I'm about to put that to rights. No doubt you all remember the May 2014 Edition when I ran through the refurbishing of my maxi-scooter with a variety of new parts and a healthy dollop of TLC. Since then, and touching wood, the bike has been behaving nicely and we've been enjoying some of the summer weather with the odd ride out whenever time permits.

One perennial biker problem is this: where do you put all your stuff when you go off somewhere? The Burgman has a good start over most bikes as there's enough storage under the seat for two full face helmets (or 48 500ml cans of real ale). But if you want to walk about in the sun, at your chosen visitor attraction, you don't want to be getting all hot and sweaty under layers of thick protective clothing - so what do you do? No prizes for guessing that this leads to only one conclusion and that is to go and get a top box.

So I started looking on Ebay and Gumtree, to see what I could find, and pretty much the first thing found was a set of 40 litre Kappa side cases (posh term for panniers) on Gumtree. I wasn't particularly looking for cases but they were such a bargain it seemed sensible to buy them first and wonder what to do with them second. A couple of weeks later a spanky, 55 litre, Givi top box arrived and this turned out to be a pretty good deal, too. This cost the going rate, so on the face it nothing special there, but it came with both a lining kit and brake light kit which retail at £30/£40 each so it was 'happy camper' time once more. In between times I got hold of the appropriate fitting kit, racks and leads then started bolting it all on to the Burgie which was a little bit fiddly but not too bad all in all. Now, it has to be said that a 650 Burgman isn't the sleekest machine in the first place, but with all the luggage fitted it's taken on the dimensions of the Graf Zeppelin and ought to be garaged at Cardington. However, it has now got quite a bit of presence on the road which is never a bad thing I suppose. Just got to make sure we get plenty of use out of it all next summer.....



Andi's luggage space...



My luggage space...

Competition Time

Just for my own entertainment, and to prove to myself that somebody does actually read The Observer, I'm offering a £5 prize in a little competition. A manky fiver will be handed over to the first person that spots the one intentional musical reference in the October Edition and can email me the name of the song and the band wot done it. Apologies to Rich Eley, Caroline & Phil Mann because, in typical competition style, family members are excluded – and I think they'll get the answer too easily. Everyone else: at least try and think about it before hitting Google. Send your answer to castleobserver@gmail.com

End.

After noticing a posting by former Castle member Hamish Eadie on Trials Central I was encouraged to take a look at the 2 Jours D'Arbecey organised by former top trials rider Joel Correy. It is predominantly a twinshock trial and Andy Bugg from Ipswich dragged his Fantic out from the back of the workshop to join me on the adventure.

After a 4.30am departure we were pleased to find that that Euro Tunnel were running without delays and we were soon hitting the French toll roads. At 2pm and €42 worse off we rolled up at the start area, pitching our tents and creating our very own Camp Bastion in a field populated by a number of British motor homes.

Despite the promise of showers none were to be found so the external shower we set up with a wind break and pump up greenfly sprayer proved to be a master stroke.

By chance Hamish and his travelling buddy Stuart pitched their gazebo next to ours and we were soon reminiscing about the old days and trials in the Eastern Centre.

A very chilly Friday night in the tent lead to a beautiful Saturday that touched high 20's to 30 centigrade. In typical French fashion the start was delayed for some reason and it was almost 11.45 before we hit the trails. The route was in a figure of eight format following red cards on the A route (sections 1 – 6) with blue cards on the B route (sections 7 – 12). We followed the blue route which turned out to be the slightly harder. 2 laps of 12 sections were ahead covering around 28 miles of mainly forest trails.

There were 4 routes in each section with our route, the blue the second toughest, every section was a mark taker not a gimme in sight.

Our first section was a drop down a loose rock hill followed by some tight turns and rock steps, it looked pretty tough and I was more than pleased to notch up an opening clean. The second section was close by, no steep drops this time but more rock steps and a tricky left turn out and much to my surprise another clean. The wheels came off at section 4 which was a long double hill and I ran out of steam just near the top to record my only five of the day. Next section was a surprise as not only was it to be ridden without inspection it was also called "Zone X", so called as many of the trees were covered in huge porno posters to try and break your concentration.

So a lap of eight was a steady start with the heat really taking its toll, by the middle of the second lap poor Buggy had terrible cramp in his hands and saw his score card climb fast. With over 180 riders the loose drops were pretty cut up with big holes to catch the unwary. After some advice from "Vesty" who was riding his trick Bulto on our route I was happy to make it up the steep section 5 for a clean and went on to have a second lap of 3 giving a total of 11 for the day.

There was just time for a quick bit of maintenance before we headed off for a parade around the village with fellow competitors and it was a big laugh to assemble at the church steps to be blessed by the "vicar" and splashed with holy oil from an ancient Castrol can.

Sunday dawned brightly and it was a much more organised start with us getting off sharply at 9.45. With 3 riders having cleaned Saturday the organisers had to make sure that there was to be a clear winner so we faced 2 x 18mile laps of 16 sections many of which were new to us. Zone X was kept in but tweaked a little and the posters changed to catch our attention. Hamish left us behind which was a clever move as after just 5 sections we faced a torrential downpour and it continued for most of the day. Scores climbed fast on the already tough sections with many competitors calling it a day, in fact 16 of the 32 starters packed it in. 16 marks lost was a poor first lap but that was to increase by another 30 for the second lap with the last 4 sections of the day impassable to us mortals. However we were lucky to be riding around with past master and eventual class winner Charles Coutard aka "Charlie Custard" who not only showed us some class riding turned out to be a bloody nice bloke to be riding around with. Hamish had an impressive day and moved up several places to 5th. I was 9th on the ever reliable Beamish with Buggy (cramp free on Sunday) 15th but the main thing was that we all finished. Sunday certainly proved to be a TRIAL for both man and machine but certainly worth the 1000 mile round trip.



Une homme sur une banane....



Les deux amis....



Hamish avec son SWM....

2015 Dinner Dance & Awards Presentation

Saturday 7th November 2015

At Colne Valley Golf Club, Station Road, Earls Colne, Essex CO6 2LT

Please note: 6.30pm for 7.00pm dinner – Carriages at midnight.
Traditional Roast Dinner + Dancing

Tickets £25.00

Don't worry: Award Presentation & Speeches will be kept to a minimum!

September Trials Round Up

Norwich Vikings – Gt. Ellingham – 6th September

Couldn't find any results for this one, sorry.

Castle – Pebmarsh – 13th September

The usual Castle stalwarts put on another good event and the general consensus among the riders was very positive. I was tuning in to the chat after the event and overheard praise not only from the expert riders but also from one of the more 'senior', twin shock white route riders. Keeping such a diverse talent/age range happy is no mean feat. The riders have been lumped together by 'route', here, so the 'classes' are all mixed together. How did they get on? Incidentally, Buck volunteered to observe and Rich Norman rode as a kind of travelling marshal.

Yellow: Chris Ryland was 2nd, on 26, with Tom 4th on 38.

Red/Blue: Neil was 3rd overall, and best Inter, losing 25 marks for his troubles. There was a tie for 14th with Jim and Chammers both clocking up scores of 71.

White: Chris Eley didn't trouble the observers greatly with a score of zero and Alan Day came in 9th on 26 points.

Stowmarket – Kenton – 19th September

Couldn't find any results for this one either.

Wymondham – Middleton – 20th September

Only a couple of the Brethren made the loooong trip up to Middleton. It was a lovely sunny day and the going was surprisingly dry after mid-week rain.

Yellow: No Castle riders.

Red/Blue: Buck had a fairly subdued day, by recent high standards, coming home 5th Inter on 26 marks.

White: Chris Eley lost a solitary dab and topped out the Inter B runners.

Braintree – Purls Hill – 27th September

The round up for this trial will have to wait until the November Edition, brethren, because I'll be on holiday when the results come out and I have no intention of doing any kind of work while I'm away.

Nothing To Do With Anything Much



Now, that's a 2 stroke dirt bike....



Self indulgent photo....thanks RN



New Vertigo 1000 being tested...

Club Night

Club Night Diary:

October Club Night – Tuesday 13th

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

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