



THE OBSERVER

For the members of Castle Colchester MCC – We aaaaare the one and only-y's.

June 2016 Edition

Not quite so long between editions this time around, which hopefully is a good thing, but we're a bit 'light' on photos for this edition.

The major Club happening has been the John Kendall Memorial Trial which took place on the 24th April, at its usual Thorrington venue, and there are a few words about it down in the Trials Round Up.

We must offer 'big ups' to Paul Lonergan who competed in, and completed, this year's Scottish Six Days Trial. Paul was a little unlucky in that he only missed the 2nd class awards by a dozen marks. There's a couple of pics of Paul, also down amongst the Trials Round Up stuff.

Rob Blackman's Enduro Report

Not done a report for a while so apologies. Here is a report for the start of the year till now.

Thetford - Eastern Centre Rnd I.

This was to be my first race riding in the championship class so I was really nervous at the start and on the first laps. My special tests went well and I didn't make too many mistakes on them, but I was towards the back of the field (where I expected to be) after the 2 tests. What really shocked me with riding in the Championship class was how fast the riders go on the laps you have lots of time on. I decided not to do this and save my energy for the last 2 laps as I knew it would be difficult to clean the times. I dropped 5 minutes of time on the final lap and finished 24th. I'm pretty happy with this as it's a big step up and I rode smart to come away healthy for next week's British Championship in Yorkshire.

Helmsley - British Enduro Rnd I

A completely different event to the dry and sandy conditions the week before, I travelled up with Rick Roper. We got the camper stuck in the car park almost immediately, so it was going to be one of those weekends! The 2 special tests looked awesome, one was an 'extreme' test, which didn't look that extreme it just had loads of logs and stumps to ride over, the second test was a motocross test which was on a stubble field and in woodland, more that we are used to. Day 1 we awoke to a light dusting of snow, the going was really hard, long hills with no run up to them so you couldn't really get up them and massive, wet, muddy ruts in the woods. It was some of the hardest riding I've ever done but the most enjoyable. Not sure of the results but I was well down. Best part of the weekend was overtaking Rick Roper on a hill and giving him a big 'yeeehaaaa'

Dave Roper Scramble Foxborough

Always a highlight of the year, to remember a great man. Myself, Dad and Andrew were riding in this, it was also Andrews' first competitive ride back after having to sit out last year due to reconstructive surgery on his knee. I think I finished around the top ten in all my races having some great battles with some of my mates! Dad somehow managed to blag a 3rd in his first race, in his final he even managed to pull the holeshot much to the amazement of the capacity crowd. Andrew rode smart and safe as he was concerned about his knee, but it's good to see him back at it and it won't be long before he's back to his normal self.

Hawkedon 2 Man

Dad and Andrew teamed up for the 2 Man Enduro at Hawkedon last week. I don't know too much about the day apart from Dad kept getting cut up by motocross riders! They finished 6th in the Clubman class so a solid start to the championship.

I will try to email every month as it's good to get more enduro stuff in the newsletter. I'm riding all the British Championship rounds so will do write ups for those as well.

Enduro Round Up

As with the last edition of The Observer you need to allow a little 'leeway' with this coz I don't know what I'm talking about when it comes to the enduro stuff....

Sudbury – Foxborough – 10th April

Looks like this event consisted of several 'heats' taking place to grade the riders for the finals. As far as I can see we had five Castle riders in the mix...

A Final: Harry Moore in 8th with Rob Blackman three places back in 11th.

B Final: Don Blackman clocked 22nd and, keeping it a family affair, Andy Blackman placed 31st.

C Final: Kevin May finished in 31st position.

Chilton Hills Enduro Club – Houghton Conquest – 10th April

George and Jason drove over to Bedfordshire for this one. The results show the overall positions clearly but the class positions looked a bit suspect so they've been ignored.

Overall: 5th place for Jason and 9th place for George.

Bury St Edmunds – Hawkedon – 24th April

Rob has already touched upon this one in his report above.....

Expert: Jason teamed up with Braintree's James Yearly (who our trials riders will also know well) to take 2nd place.

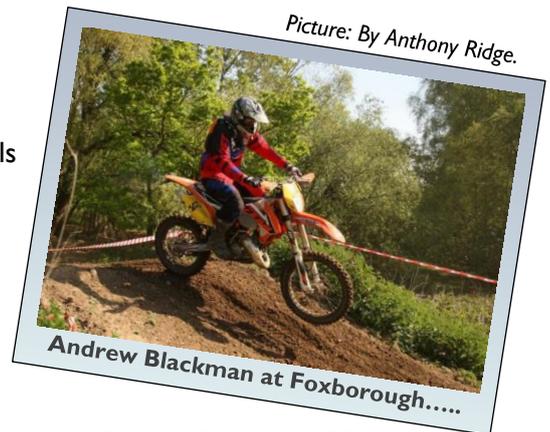
Clubman: Don and Andy Blackman rode into 6th place.

Sudbury – Foxborough – 8th May

This was the 3rd round of the GH Motorcycles/ACU Eastern Enduro championships.

Expert Veteran: 3rd place was taken by Jason with Paul Whitehead coming home in 7th.

Clubman: Andrew Blackman continued his comeback with 12th position and George finished in 20th place.



Picture: By Anthony Ridge.

Andrew Blackman at Foxborough.....

Trials Round Up

Wymondham – Middleton Pit – 3rd April

As is usual with trials in the North of the Centre there weren't many of the Southern riders there.....

Inter: Buck was second in class with a score of 28.

Southend – Poles Wood – 3rd April

Two of our guys rode here – doing pretty well, too.

Red/Blue 50/50: Chammers took the class win with a 28 mark ride on the day.

White: Jason finished second, on 30 marks, only 1 behind the winner.

North East London – Puckeridge – 10th April

This event has become a 'must ride' for several of the Eastern guys. Unfortunately, our two Richards (Eley & Norman) had to miss it due to other commitments. That left Chris Eley and Jim, from Castle, plus Adrian, Steve and Roy from Braintree. All had early numbers so rode most of the trial in a kind of ACU Eastern posse formation.

Inter: Steve Butcher 'manned up' and rode Inter dropping 29 marks on the way round.

Clubman: That left the rest of the Eastern Centre action on the Clubman route and Roy was best finishing 13th in class on a pleasingly coincidental 13 mark score. Chris Eley lost a 3-way tie for 10th, and placed 12th, losing 14 marks in the process. Jim was 13th only a couple of marks behind and Adrian came in 17th.

E&SB – Raydon – 17th April

Quite possibly the polar opposite of the NEL event the previous weekend – a trial at Raydon....

Expert B: Tom lost 'a score' and finished 2nd.

Inter: Buck and Neil maybe didn't have the best of days finishing 7th and 8th on 53 and 54 respectively.

Castle – Thorrington – 24th April

We got a pretty good turnout and a few pre-70 bikes for good measure. The JKMT Trophy went to Roy Palmer as not only did he have a good ride but he was on one of John's old bikes. Overall, the riders had a very good day although (under GW's own admission) it was tough going for the Inters. There's a plethora of routes and classes so take a deep breath and read on....

Pre-70 Easy: Paul Whitehead rode his Triumph into 2nd place on 7 marks.

Twin Shock Hard: Richard Norman lost 19 and placed 4th on the mighty yellow Beamish.

Twin Shock Easy: Terry Thompson was 5th in this class losing 21 marks on the way round.

Expert: Chris Ryland took the Scorpa into 2nd place with a score of 33.

Inter: Neil had a strong ride into 2nd place losing 64 marks on the way. Chammers was 7th on 'a ton'. Buck had to retire, unfortunately, as he wasn't feeling at all well on the day.

Inter B: Chris Eley had a decent ride round, ending up in 1st place, and losing 7.

Novice: Dave Tye made a rare outing and finished 5th on a 115-mark total.

Southend – Poles Wood – 7th May

Back to Poles Wood for this Saturday evening trial.

Inter: Chammers had a good ride but lost a furthest cleans tiebreak to finish 2nd.

Inter B: Jason Warren lost 12 and took 2nd place.

Novice: Dave Tye made his second appearance in quick succession clocking 15th.

Chelmsford – Beazley End – 14th May

Only two Castle riders in this one. Chammers hadn't intended to ride having done the Nuclear Rush race earlier in the day – and having sold the Beta a few days earlier. However, someone offered Richard a bike so he nipped home to get gear, hopped on and rode.

Inter: Chammers 4th on a 32 mark score.

Inter B 50/50: Chris Eley second in class having lost 28.

Ipswich – Offton – 22nd May

This trial was the Eastern Experts event and was won convincingly (but not surprisingly) by Jack Sheppard on a score of one solitary mark lost. As for our guys...

Expert : Tom made a rare appearance and finished 6th, on 61, with Chris Ryland two places and 7 marks further back.

Expert B: Section 6 looks like it was a 'stopper' as just about everyone got 5's just about all the time. A close tussle between Paul Whitehead and Richard Norman resulted in Paul notching 8th with Richard 9th on 67 and 69 respectively.

Inter: Castle top-dog was Buck taking his Beta into 2nd with a 28-point tally. Neil lost 35 and came home 4th and Paul Lonergan rode into 8th with a score of 53.

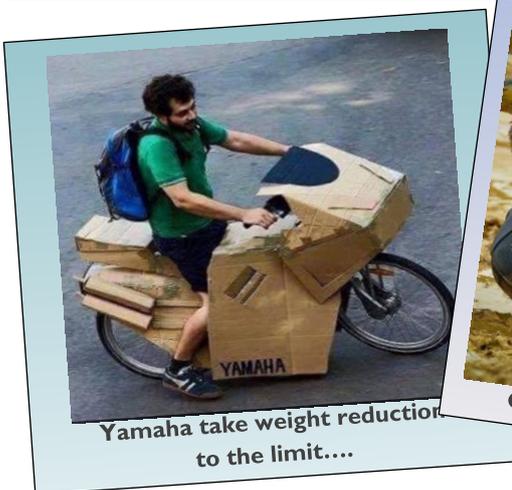


Paul in one of the sections.....

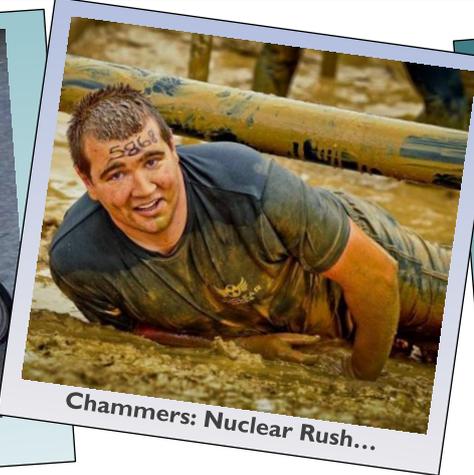


And out on the moors.....

Nothing To Do With Anything Much



Yamaha take weight reduction to the limit....



Chammers: Nuclear Rush...



Left ankle tattoo...

Club Night – Doesn't really exist anymore....

Club Night Diary:

Due to a general lack of interest Club Nights will now be on an ad hoc basis.

Keep an eye out on social media.....

Could be anytime, anyplace, anywhere. Or not at all.

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