



THE OBSERVER

For the members of Castle Colchester MCC – We're so pretty, oh so pretty.

August 2016 Edition

There's been a couple of months between Editions and those months have been pretty quiet, really, especially with Eastern Centre enduro as the season went in to a kind of hibernation, with only one event that I'm aware of. Trials activity has largely carried on as normal and there are a few events in the Round Up – but not a lot of detail. Probably the most newsworthy thing that's happened lately is Derek's Banbury Run adventure and I've shamelessly included the report from T+MX News below.....(thanks to Richard Norman for the scan).

The Banbury Run



Derek Clampin prepares for his 50-mile ride on the 1919 belt drive Bown two-stroke

Derek's charity marathon

DEREK Clampin, Eastern Centre stalwart – he is a Life Vice President of the centre – and former well-respected ACU trials committee-man and National Steward, has recently completed a 50-mile motorcycle 'trial' charity ride.

And if you think that doesn't sound much of a challenge, it was completed on a machine that is 97 years old while Derek himself is a mere 89 years young!

The trial was the well-known Banbury Run and Derek, who has recently built a 350 BSA for green laning, rode a 1919 Bown two-stroke machine with belt drive and very rudimentary brakes.

And that really means rudimentary.

At one stage in the event Derek, who is President of the Castle Colchester club, found himself bowling down a narrow country lane with a large John Deere tractor bearing down on him.

Quickly realising that the brakes were doing next to nothing to retard progress he 'trials' the bike up a banking as the tractor thundered on its way!

The Bown has actually been in the

Clampin family since new having been purchased by Derek's uncle when he was an apprentice.

It spent many years untouched in a barn until Derek dug it out when his long-time friend – scrambles legend Dave Bickers – asked if he knew of anyone with a belt-drive machine as he had always fancied one.

Derek gave Dave the bike and between them they restored it to running condition.

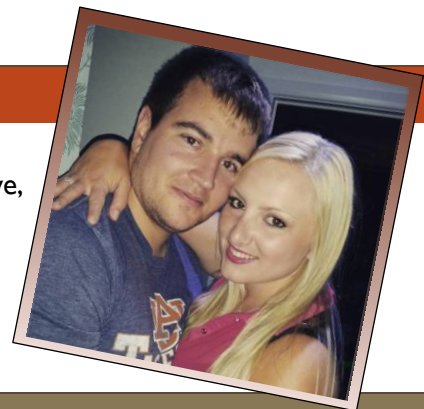
When Dave sadly passed away Derek found that the Bown had been willed back to him by a very thoughtful Bickers. Derek decided to ride the Banbury Run for charity and has so far raised around £1,000 with the money to be divided equally between his local St Helena Hospice and the ACU Ben Fund.

If anyone would like to contribute after Derek's feat – the ride took around four hours after a couple of wrong turnings and he celebrated with a quiet, well-earned pipe – just log on to www.justgiving.com/Derek-Clampin

Congratulations!!

Easily the second (or should it have been first?) most newsworthy thing is the recent engagement of Richard and Ashton. All very romantic, I believe, with Richard proposing while the happy couple were on holiday in Malta. Congratulations from everyone in the Castle Club.

Please accept my apologies for stealing your pic from, inevitably, Facebook.



Enduro Round Up

Sudbury – Little Hadham – 19th June

Only Paul Whitehead, from Castle, riding in this one it seems. Riding a Honda one-twenny-five and finishing in 4th position in the Expert Veterans Class.

Trials Round Up

There's been more trial activity at least. The results for the first event in the Round Up came in just too late to include in the previous Edition.

Kent & Sussex – Crowborough – 29th May

You may well remember from previous Editions that this trial is an annual out-of-centre favourite with the Castle riders – and some of the Braintree riders, too. Castle were a couple of riders 'down' this year, as Neil and Buck didn't ride, and we also suffered from no 'Brainers' riding the event this time. However, ACU Eastern numbers were bolstered with an influx of Southend members just for a change.

Out of interest I'm going to run through all the Eastern riders and you can pick out the Castle names for yourselves. The event itself is quite egalitarian in that everyone rides the same route – so no class divide here!

To give you some idea of the difficulty bear in mind that the winner rode around clean and that the tail ender clocked up 150 over a 40 section course. For the many a lot depended on how early you got to section 15 as it looks to have been do-able early on then became a bit of a stopper for many.

Brandon Youngman topped the Eastern contingent in about 12th overall on a score of 8 with Kieron Tovey only a dab behind. Tom Norman was a few places back on 13. Then Paul Nash on 18, James Brown on 21 and Nick Baker on 23. Richard Norman and Darren Tovey tied, on 24 marks, with Richard taking the tie breaker. A sizeable jump in the scores now with Chris Eley losing 48, Katie Nash losing 54, closely followed by Chammers on 59 and Terry Lilley on 66. Finally, we have a close run thing with Alix Head clocking 120 and Will Grange 129.

Ipswich – Bramford – 11th June

Four of the Castle faithful made it to Bramford for this event and the boys done good.

Expert: Tom had a good ride and lost a 'most cleans' tie break with Julian Harvey on scores of 18 apiece. Chris Ryland was three places back on 42.

Inter: Neil ride into 2nd place, losing 21 marks, and being only 1 mark behind the class winner.

Pre 70: Not only did Jim win the Pre-70 class but swept all the other white route riders aside regardless of class.

Braintree – Beazley End – 25th June

Beazley End isn't everyone's cup of tea, I know, and so it proved with only one Castle entrant in the line-up.

Inter: Chammers is getting to grips with his Montesa and finished 7th on a score of 74.

Norfolk & Suffolk Group – Corton – 3rd July

Another successful, and well attended, East of England Trial up at the trials park, but only two of our guys.

Inter: Chammers riding into 8th position. Looks like it was tough, though, with a total of 106.

Inter B: Jason narrowly lost out in a four-way scrap for 3rd place with one extra mark moving him down to 6th.

Braintree – Snaque Pit – 23rd July

Seven Castle riders in one trial has to be a record for recent times, surely? Braintree laid out an 8 section course, to be ridden 5 times, and put three sections in the woodland stream (therefore outside of the main pit) just to make a change from normal. It was a lovely sunny evening and this is how the guys got on.

Red/Blue: There was a four-rider battle for 9th spot, all on 25 marks lost, with Neil Kemp and Richard Norman losing out placing 11th and 12th respectively. The evening wasn't without incident as Neil lost his back brake early on and Richard had a spectacular get-off on the section 6. Chammers was 17th with an 81 mark total on the Mont.

White: Richard Eley topped out the Castle Whites with a miserly 3 marks lost in 4th place with Gary 2 dabs behind that in 5th. Chris Eley clocked up 7 and Jason 12 to complete this Castle-Cluster in 6th and 7th places.

Snaque Pit Pics



Neil – mind that mudguard...



Chammers...



Rich Norman...



Photos stolen from Sharon Bartrop's Facebook album.....hope you don't mind, Sharon!!

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.

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

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