



THE OBSERVER

For the members of Castle Colchester MCC – **The (not particularly) Wild Bunch.**

September 2016 Edition

This month we are particularly grateful to Dave Tye and Neil Kemp. Both Dave and Neil regularly 'chip in' some content for the newsletter and I'm very happy to say that they've gone and done it again. Thanks Chaps. Next to no enduro news in the Round Up this month, unfortunately, but there is a bit of trials stuff as usual.

Dave Tye.....

Team 131 Racing Update

It's been a while since I gave you an update on some of the younger members of the club so here it is! 2016 so far has been a pretty good year for Leon and Dean so far with the usual ups and downs you get from racing. For this season both boys are contesting the GEST MX motocross championships with Leon riding in the Small Wheel 85s and Dean riding in the Juniors (65s). This would be Dean's first full season and Leon's first full year on the 85 after missing a section of last year due to other commitments.

The season started in April at a rather soggy Staplecross. Initially scheduled to be at Iden the round was moved due to the large amounts of rain that fell in the preceding weeks. The track was technical and particularly tough for the smaller bikes as it rutted out. Both boys rode well with a few minor offs keeping Deano further down the order than his lap times suggested he should be, he was still inside the top 20 at the end of the day and grinning lots! Leon loved the slippery conditions at the start of the day and had his best result in race 1 with a top 10 finish, benefitting from a consistent ride whilst many others made errors. He remained consistent for the rest of the day but the drying track resulted in the pace of other riders increasing and nudging him to just outside of the top ten in the remaining races.



Next up was Ringmer, Dean loves it here – especially the jumps and had a great ride in all 3 races. Race 2 was the highlight of his day with a totally error free race for the first time ever, staying on the lead lap until the last corner against some excellent national level riders. His overtakes were very clean and well thought out, with this performance he moved up to 7th in the Championship. Leon had a more eventful day, especially in Race 1. On only the second lap he was coming over a jump in to a corner only to be confronted by a member of the crowd who had jumped the ropes to help a crashed rider. In an ill thought out attempt to help race officials the the jump. Leon narrowly missed him but lost the front end and crashed

hard, smashing peak and goggles in the process. Once he had actually got his breath back he ran back to the paddock, collected another helmet, got back on his bike and re-joined the race. He rode out the race to collect some championship points and didn't finish last but was clearly very sore (See picture below pic from late in race one, complete with spare helmet, minus goggles and not looking too happy!). The next two races saw more cautious rides as the effects of the crash were felt but he still picked up points and moved up in the Championship.

Round 3 was Hawkhurst and it was slippery with very big hills. This track was bigger and more technical than anything Dean or many of the smaller riders had ever ridden, making it a very tough ask. Dean rode well in the first race but twice got caught up in other people's crashes and coming off. This left him side-lined for the final two races with a sore knee and feeling generally unhappy. Leon rode well and picked up more good championship points with 3 steady rides and thankfully no dramatic events with spectators. Dean was now 14th in the Junior Championship with Leon 7th in the Small Wheels.

Round 4 was back to Staplecross – The track was very wet in places and practice for the Junior class was total carnage with 75% of the field unable to make it around without assistance. The organisers immediately took steps to

change the track for them, cutting out the deepest sections and routing them away from the bottom loop of the course. The track change meant the Junior group had to have a second practice before their first race, unfortunately Dean tangled with another ride on the last corner, got his foot caught in a rut and twisted his knee and hip. This left him sat with the St Johns as his race went off the line and sat at the side-lines for the rest of the day. Leon loved the tricky conditions again though and rode to his best points score of the season to this point, getting over 100 points for his championship effort with 3 top 10 finishes, moving up to 4th overall as some of his closest rivals had bad days.



Round 5 – Canada Heights... Wet Sand... Hills... Very large ruts... The organisers were great and actually ran the adult practices and first block of racing, before the kids even got on track, to help clear things up and make some usable lines for the smaller ones. Even so they had to cut out sections of the track for all of the youth classes. The high profile of the track and the fact a Youth National Championship Round was due there a few weeks later meant a big entry in all classes with some top riders looking for a spot of extra practice. Both boys rode well and scored some good points although the large entry of top level riders left them further down the order than usual. Leon battled through to finish in the top 20 in all 3 races with Dean running around 25th in all 3 races. Dean was now 18th in the Championship with Leon dropping to 6th. Attached is a pic of Dean battling through the deep stuff early in the day.

Round 6 – Iden... No wait... Staplecross again... This time due to the lack of rain! Staplecross has a pond on site which allows much better track watering and I have to say the track prep was excellent, especially as the GEST Championship was on the second day of a 2-day meeting. Dean rode well again having some good battles throughout the day and finishing with a few more top 15 finishes, maintaining his 15th in the junior Championship. Leon had his best ride of the year so far in terms of his form on the bike, battling all day with a small group who are all fighting for top 10 positions in the championship. The close racing made Leon step up and battle really hard, improving his race pace all day. Some great last lap passes gave him results of 11th, 10th and 9th. We are still waiting for the latest championship positions; I believe he has dropped to 7th but in a close championship he is still only about 25 points behind 4th.

With 4 rounds left the boys are both having great years and really enjoying their racing. Next up is Park Gate... No wait... Venue change again... Next up is Iden (hopefully) on August 7th. Dean is still aiming for top 20 at the end of the year in a very competitive junior class (on a 31-year-old bike too!). Leon is pushing for top 10 at the end of the season with half an eye on making the GEST team for the BYMX team event in October, this is a big challenge but he's giving it 110%. His biggest asset is his consistency; this is shown by the fact he is one of only two riders to have scored points in every SW85 race this season. Both boys could have another 2 years in the classes they are in before having to move up so are keen to keep learning and building on the progress to date.

In addition to the kids Chris & Dave have been out on the Norton for a return to racing after a couple of years off of the sidecar due to mechanical issues. Sadly, the day started with more mechanical issues as the Head Gasket blew on the first lap. A borrowed bike got them back out for the races and a lot of fun was had but Dave needs some more time in the gym to get fully back on the pace. Some good battles were had and a couple of top 5 finishes too.

Finally, we have also been out and about on trials bikes with both the boys getting some practice in before hopefully doing some events next season. The loan of a 125 Sherco for Leon and acquiring a Clipic 80 for Deano has led to some great times over at Poles Wood. The boys love the relaxed nature of trials and how close you can get to nature... (see pic). Dave has even ridden a couple of events this year much to the amusement of those watching.



For updates on how the boys are doing check out I31 Racing – www.facebook.com/teamI31racing

Neil Kemp.....

Ron Haslam Race School

The sun was shining which is a bonus if you are on your way to Donnington park race circuit for a Ron Haslam race school. I was part of a group of ten work colleagues out for a blast around Donnington on CBR600R Hondas. The day starts by signing on, getting issued with all the kit, one piece leathers, boots, gloves and an Arai lid, next to

Neil's bit continues on the next page.....

the briefing room for a safety talk, then out into the pits to meet up with your instructors who are a mix of current and retired racers. The format is two riders with one instructor, three 20 minute sessions with the first session a steady ride round to learn braking points, tip in points and hitting the apex's. The end of the first session is an assessment by your instructor - some good points some bad. I was told that my body position on corner entry could be better he then gave me a quick demo on a static bike, move bum over so one half of arse cheek is off the seat, bend inner knee and turn out other knee into the tank, inner elbow down other elbow into tank then keep top half of body over the tank.

By now my little brain was fried and we haven't even got to what gear for what corner yet.

Out for second session with lots of things to try. Following your instructor out onto the circuit one lap to warm up then pick up speed trying to put all the info you were show in the pits in to action, it very quickly goes tits up, too fast into a corner off line on the way out, to slow into corner then you are 50-pencing the corner (as the instructor put it) which is on and off the gas. Out of the 8, or so, laps only 3 felt good, right gear, right place, and what felt like a good pace (But the truth is it was dead slow).

The final session is meant to be the fast one the instructor pushes on and you try and stay with him, so out I go all fired up thinking 'I am as fast as Barry Sheene'. How wrong could I have been? Out on track 1st lap and down to the Melbourne loop hairpin. Down to second gear, tipping in right, opening throttle nice and steady to drive out and with no warning at all I lost the rear and down I went. I laid on the track swearing to myself 'my last session wasted'. Everyone had to leave the track while the bits of Honda were cleaned off the circuit. Worst still I had a ride back to the pits on the back of a golf cart being shown off to all the waiting riders as the twat that has stopped their fun...Still a great day playing at being a racer. Off to do a speedway day in November - should be plenty of crashes there as well...

Enduro Round Up

TBEC – Houghton Conquest – 14th August

Only Jason in this one scoring 12th place overall.

So, not much to report but the picture was too good to leave out.....

Trials Round Up

Four trials to include in this month's round up. It should've been five but couldn't find any results for the NSJMCC trial at Santon Downham.

Ipswich – Little Bealings – 6th August

There were 4 laps of 8 sections on a very pleasant Saturday evening with just under 40 riders taking part.

Yellow: The hard route saw Tom ride into 2nd place on 25 marks.

Red/Blue: Richard Norman had a steady ride, dropped thirty marks, and finished 4th.

White: Richard Eley buzzed the 125 into 5th position on a miserly 3-mark score. Jason only lost 5 marks more than that and came home in 10th.

Chelmsford – Beazley End – 13th August

Only 19 entrants for this Saturday evening trial. Two of whom were Castle-ites.

50/50: Jason rode in this class finishing second on a score of 52.

White: Richard Eley lost 26 and also placed second.

Ipswich – Offton – 14th August

Top marks to the Ipswich Club for running their second trial within 8 days. There was a relatively low turnout of 33 riders which meant next to no queues and a swift ride around for most. This is no problem at all coz it means there's more time for the pub, and fish & chip shop, which are just over the road.

Red/Blue: Buck lost 12 marks and took the Class win with Paul Lonergan 2nd having also dropped 12 but losing out on the tie break. Chris Eley was 6th on 20 marks.

ACU Eastern – Purls Hill – 21st August

This was the annual Ray Clampin Memorial Trial and we had a fairly strong turnout of 9 riders on a wide variety of bikes. I'm going to keep it simple and just group the riders by Class, regardless of twin-shock, solo, whatever.

Red/Blue: Dave Clampin rode the Gas Gas into joint-second losing 16 on the way. Richard Norman left the Beamish at home, took the Beta instead, and finished 6th on 26. Arguably, Tom scored a moral victory over Dad by being only 4 marks, and one place behind, riding on the Fantic.

White: Jim rode his James (appropriately enough) into 7th place on a score of 6. Chris Eley and Jason tied for 9th losing 9 marks each. Alan Day was 12th on 13 – and also on a shiny white Beta. Terry Thompson scored 16 and came home joint 14th.

Or something like that.



IMHO

From time to time I get to have a look at Trial Magazine whenever I get the loan of a copy. I have to confess that I won't spend my own cash on it because, to be frank, I don't think it's very good. Admittedly you do get lots of nice trials pictures but the written content is pretty woeful IMHO. It always seems that the writers are, or want to be, best mates with the importers/dealers and are never critical about any of the products featured. Even if you allow for this the bike tests are totally devoid of any useful in-depth analysis. Also, you have to laugh when, say, a Gas Gas team-rider tests the latest new Gas Gas models. What's he going to say – 'Actually, this is crap. I'm off to buy a Sherco'? Unlikely.

This recent Jitsie advert also made me smile. It lists 55 Jitsie items to buy and fit to your Gasser and, for my money, maybe 5 of them could be described as necessary. Is it just me? Grumpy Old Man? Probably guilty on both counts.



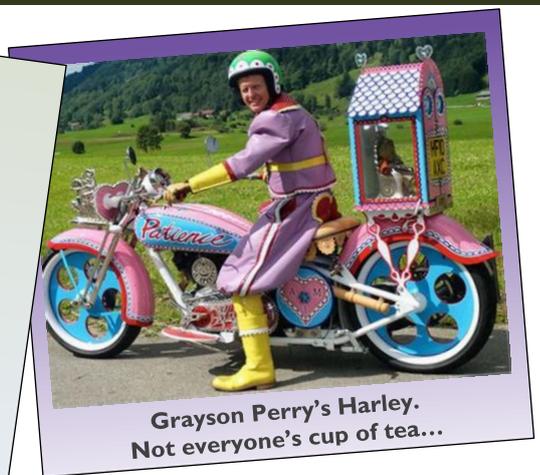
Snaque Pit Pics



Small bloke or big scooter?



Inadequate protection....



Grayson Perry's Harley.
Not everyone's cup of tea...

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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