



# THE OBSERVER

For the members of Castle Colchester MCC – A bit too close to Clacton.

December 2016 Edition

We have a rather short newsletter this month, unfortunately, but not quite short enough for it to be a Post-It Note edition, I suppose.

The dinner/dance and awards night has come and gone and you can see who got the gongs just below. Rob Blackman kindly sent in another report - which would have gone in the November Edition if there had been one! Otherwise the Eastern enduro action seems to have ground to a halt. At least there were a few trials to include in the Round Up but even they seem to be winding down towards the end of the year. On the other hand, work for the Phil King Trial is winding up and the Club held a meeting in early November to keep the wheels in motion.

ZOMBIE film makers. Save money on extras by filming in M & S at Clacton-on-Sea.  
Maldwyn Palmer, e-mail

## Dinner & Dance 2016

Our annual Dinner & Dance took place on 12<sup>th</sup> November and, of course, the awards were dished out as well. Unfortunately, we don't have any photos to embarrass anyone with but we do have a list of pot-winners.

**Roy Palmer:** J Kendall Trophy - **Mark Reason:** Phil King Trophy - **Paul Lonergan:** outstanding achievement (for his ride in the SSDT) – **Derek Clampin:** Out of Centre (for the Banbury Run)

**Neil and Janice Kemp:** Club Trophy - **Rob Blackman:** GBR Cup Enduro (76<sup>th</sup> at Weston Beach/5<sup>th</sup> 125 Class)

**Paul Whitehead:** Royal Enfield Cup - **Tony Brand:** Appreciation Shield (observed all our trials, non-member)

**Andrew Blackman:** crash of the year - **Les Johnston:** Workers Cup - **Tom Norman:** Miller M/cs Cup

## Weston Beach Race 2016

Report from Rob Blackman.....

It was only me riding this year as Andrew is too scared to ride it, (although he is adamant that he is riding next year.) The weekend started with the ordeal of scrutineering and signing on, always a massive pain. If that wasn't painful enough we had a couple of beers at the bar on the beach and thought it would be a good idea to enter the 5k charity running race round half the track. This included running along the start straight and also going over the dunes. I got the 'holeshoot' from good friend Steve Mason, however Steve being the stronger runner out dragged me down the straight and left me for dust! Steve was first and I was second, it was hilarious and we will definitely be doing it next year.

Fast forward to Sunday, fuel and spares were in the pits, camelback filled with isotonic and marigold taped to helmet. I was ready, I managed to find my bike among the melee of other riders and bustle my way to a half decent spot on the beach. Gates opened and we were off, me and 500 odd other people were racing flat out down the one mile straight to the first dunes. The first lap is so important if you want to get a good result and I was well aware of this, fortunately I had a relatively trouble free opening lap. Came round the first lap and was top 50 and first 125 (I didn't believe Andrew when he told me.) The three hours continued and I tried to stay at a constant pace throughout the race, pushed hard on traffic free areas and generally stayed out of trouble. At the end of the 3 hours I finished 76<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 125, which I am over the moon with. I was aiming for top 100 and would have been gutted to miss out again on that.

Roll on next year when Andrew is hopefully riding and Richard Chamley has told me he is riding too, the more the merrier! Next race we are doing is Skegness Beach Race on the first weekend of November.

Cheers  
Rob

## Trials Round Up

### Ipswich – Bramford – 23<sup>rd</sup> October

This event was a round of the twin shock championship and had the 50/50 route for the twin shock 'easy' riders. This is a bonus for the Inter B riders, on modern bikes, coz it makes for a much more entertaining day having some slightly harder-than-normal sections to ride.

**Twin Shock Hard:** Battle of the Normans, here, with Tom just edging Richard on a 3<sup>rd</sup> place tie break. However, I think Richard takes the 'moral victory' having wrestled the Beam-Engine round as opposed to a Fantic.

**Inter B:** Castle had a three-way scrap amongst the Inter B's with Jason taking the class win on a score of 19. Chris was 3<sup>rd</sup>, having dropped 22, and Alan was 4<sup>th</sup> only 5 marks behind.

### Woodbridge – Westleton – 30<sup>th</sup> October

All the 'dinosaur' bikes were dragged out for the annual John Easty Memorial Trial for the pre-65's and twin shocks.

**Pre-65 2-stroke Hard:** Jimmy's James took 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**Twin Shock hard:** Again, the Norman's scrapped it out for supremacy but no tie break was required this weekend. Tom took the class win, on 25, with Richard in 2<sup>nd</sup> having lost 28.

### Cambridge Matchless – Hinxton – 6<sup>th</sup> November

Several of the Club's members made the trip across to Cambridgeshire to ride on the old railway cuttings at Hinxton. By all accounts it was a good trial – with nice weather, too.

**50/50:** We had 3 riders in this class and Tom put in the best ride finishing 5<sup>th</sup> on a 21 mark score. Richard wasn't far behind losing 24 and placing 7<sup>th</sup>. Third Castle rider was Paul Lonergan in 13<sup>th</sup> on 40 points.

**Clubman:** Alan pretty much hit the mid-point in the well populated Clubmen Class taking 12<sup>th</sup> on 15 marks lost.

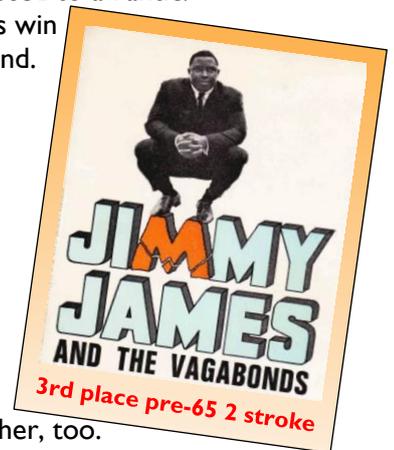
**Novice:** Jason just lost out in a two-way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> having dropped 14 on the day.

### Chelmsford – Beazley End – 20<sup>th</sup> November

Bit of a 'stinker' by all accounts as the weather leading up to it was terrible. Sounds like Chelmsford Club did well to put on any kind of event at all under the circumstances.

**Expert B:** Paul Whitehead took the class win on 49. Paul Lonergan had a tougher day finishing 12<sup>th</sup> on 122 marks.

**Inter B:** Alan Day dropped 71 and came in 5<sup>th</sup>. Gary retired with a crooked back having done an impressive barrel-roll going in to section 4.



By Chris Eley.....

### Mutton Lancers Trial

A while back I entered the Mutton Lancers Trial, just to the west of Canterbury, run by the Barham MCC. The idea was to try something a bit different to the usual ACU Eastern fare, just by way of a change. I set off to Kent in slightly foggy conditions but the sun burned through the cloud by mid-morning to reveal a bright, warm, late October day.

The event is held at China Farm, in a village called Upper Harbledown, and it's a very good trials venue. You ride out of the farm yard and down a track that skirts around the edges of some hop fields, hang a left, go through a stream and you're into the fantastic woodland - which is very much like Purls Hill, really, but about twice the area. For the most part the going is typical woodland, with some gravelly bits and a few rocks thrown in the mix. The sections were spread throughout the woods, so you got a good ride around, and were about the same severity as a normal ACU Eastern trial. So, all in all it was a good day out and one I recommend you look out for next year (but not if it's been raining heavily!).



## Nothing To Do With Anything Much



## 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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