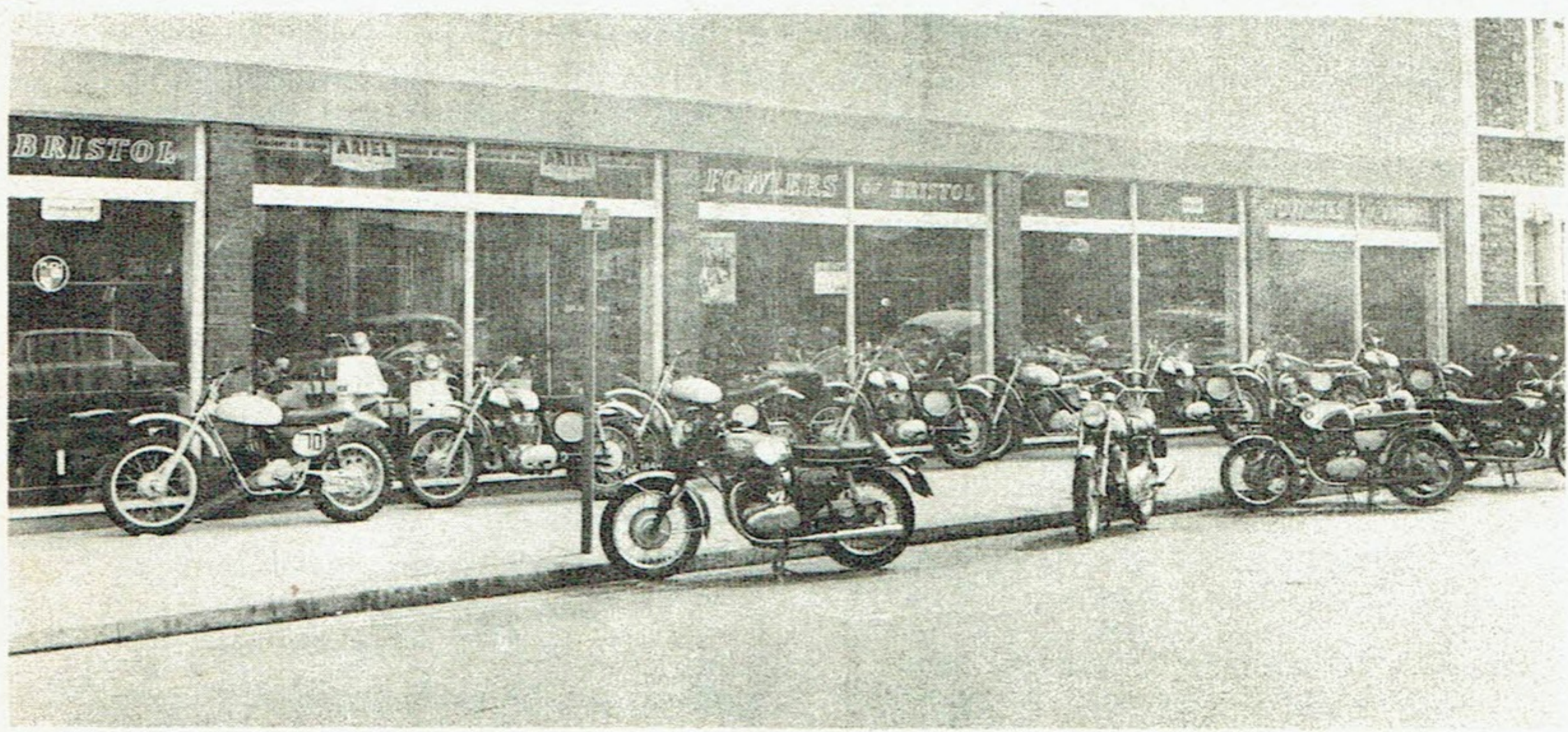


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WESSEX CENTRE

JANUARY 1974.

No. 403

GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY



EDITOR: J. E. WEBB, 1, Whitbourne Farm, Corsley,
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All copy typed if possible please at the request of the Printer. Advertising Rates will be supplied upon application to the Editor.

The Centre disclaims all responsibility for the views expressed by contributors to the "Gazette".

Report on the Board Meeting

REPORT ON THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,
11TH DECEMBER 1973 AT THE PORTER BUTT, BATH.

CENTRE DINNER. It was generally agreed that, except for one or two points, it had been a great success. The meal itself was given full marks and arrangements were to be made to book the Dragonara in 1974 if possible. The anticipated loss to the Centre had been around the budgetted figure at £1 per person.

GENERAL COUNCIL 23th November, 1973. The most important business had been the withdrawal of the proposed licence scheme and the proposal to impose a 5p levy on all entries for all events, from 1st May 1974. The income thus obtained would be £8,000 a year, the amount of deficit that the A.C.U. expected in next year's working. This would be discussed after a copy of the Union's budget for 1974 was available and a decision about the levy would be taken at the General Council in February.

The maximum exhaust noise at Grass Tracks and Scrambles (Motor-Cross) is reduced from 100 dB to 95 dB from 1st January 1974, and for Trials from 95 to 90 dB. It was noted that the F.I.M. has introduced even more stringent limits for International Events — 92 dB for Motor-Cross and 84 dB for Trials.

The Centre's Delegates complained that far too much time at Council Meetings was taken up with Committee Reports and that Road Racing had an undue proportion of the remaining time.

Other matters reported were the greatly increased grant to the T.T. by the I.O.M., and the dissatisfaction of the Welsh Centres to the rejection of their offer to help to run the 1974 I.S.D.T. in Wales.

ROAD RACING. The Centres attitude to the possibility of a return of road races within the Centre was to be discussed at the January Board Meeting.

The future would depend on the amount of help forthcoming from the Centre members.

T.T. SUPPORTERS CLUB. Mr. Parker reported that the Club hoped that Centres would form a small sub-committee to deal with Club matters. There were proposals to raise funds by means of raffles and further details were awaited.

BOUNDARY REVISION. The S.W. Centre's verbal approval of the Boundary in the Street area had been obtained.

BENEVOLENT FUND. Jim Webb, the Centres Fund Officer reported a very disappointing response to appeals for prizes at the Dinner and the amount raised — £24 was the smallest ever. He announced that he did not wish to continue as Centre Officer next year.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY. Buster James, who had held this position for the past 8 years announced that due to additional commitments at work and with his Club, he would not be standing for office in 1974.

KICKHAM TRIAL. The Frome Club offered the use of Asham Woods if the Trial had to be wholly on private ground.

FUTURE MEETINGS.

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEES. Tuesday, 1st January 1974 at Barton Farm, Bradford on Avon, 8 p.m.

BOARD MEETING. Tuesday 8th January 1974 at the Porter Butt, Bath 8 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 3 p.m. on Saturday, 26th January, 1974. followed by a Board Meeting at The Porter Butt, Bath.

NOTE. There would not be a Board Meeting in February, 1974.

COMPETITION LICENCE PROPOSALS

During the morning of 23 November — prior to the meeting of the General Council — the Management Committee met to give very careful consideration to the correspondence received on the subject of the Competition Licence proposals and to the General Manager's report on the debates which had taken place at a number of recent Centre Board Meetings. It was clear that the proposals for extending licensing had met with only reluctant or conditional approval in some Centres and hostility in others. It was decided therefore that these proposals be withdrawn and this was done at the meeting of General Council that afternoon.

However, the fact remains that the Union's income must keep pace with increasing costs and additional revenue must be found for 1974. Financial budgetting is not an exact science and is based on making estimates with the latest information available. Appropriate action must be taken in good time and as these matters have to be considered at Centre level before a General Council decision, the initial evaluations have to be undertaken many months in advance.

The current year's budget, which was presented to the General Council in May, envisaged a deficit of some £5,000. In fact this now seems unlikely and the end of year position may be nearer "break-even". The estimates for 1974 show a probable shortfall of about £8,000 — a figure which depends very much on how optimistic or pessimistic a view one takes or the prospects in some of our sources of income. Needless to say, extremes of view are undesirable and prudence is essential. The Hon. Treasurer will, of course, be sending a copy of the 1974 Budget to Centre Secretaries and General Council Delegates shortly.

ENTRY LEVY

Notice of motion was tabled at the recent meeting of the General Council to introduce "a levy payable to the Union on the entry fees of drivers in all competitions. The levy shall be at the rate of 5p. per driver per meeting and shall be operative from 1 April 1974". The motion will be put to the February meeting of the Council.

Some Centres already operate an entry levy to supplement their own funds and it has been suggested that the system should be extended to provide income to the Union. It is estimated that an entry fee levy at 5p. would yield approximately £8,000 and the system would be simple to operate and administratively economical.

1974 COMPETITION LICENCES

Application forms for 1974 Competition Licences are being printed — obviously this had to await the final decision on fees, etc.— and will be sent to existing licence holders as soon as they arrive from the printer. The fees have been increased only by the addition of the 10% V.A.T. which is payable.

General Council approved the proposal to ease the medical declaration requirement for Road Race Licences. In future, the medical will be required for the initial application and thereafter every three years up to and including 30 years of age. Above this age, the medical declaration will be required annually. Licence holders with a 1973 ACU medical certificate will not need a new one for 1974 but will have to return their 1973 medical certificate with the licence renewal application.

INSURANCE CLAIMS

Our attention has been drawn to difficulties which have been arising

in connection with accident report forms. These difficulties fall into two categories — firstly that forms are not being sent by some Clubs until a considerable time after a meeting, and secondly that the information requested on the form is not given in adequate detail. The inevitable result of the former is that in many cases riders do not receive claim forms and are having to write and ask for them. It is then found that no accident report has been received and the insurance company has to write to the club to confirm that the rider claiming was in fact injured.

It is realised that it is not always easy for a club secretary to assess whether a claim is likely to result but if the form — particularly the column giving a description of the injury — is completed with reasonable intelligence it would save a lot of unnecessary correspondence. It must be worthwhile to try to reduce overheads as in the long run these are bound to be reflected in the premiums.

ACU APPROVED TYRES

Additions to the list of ACU Approved Tyres are two recently introduced by Michelin. They are as follows:—

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3% LEVY RETURNS

The card used for the 3% levy summary return has been redesigned and it is hoped that supplies of the new card will be available shortly from the printers — certainly in time for 1974 events. The new card is very slightly smaller than the old one so that it will fit inside a standard small envelope without folding. However, both sides are utilised with details of meeting receipts on one side and the summary on the other.

1974 ACU HANDBOOK

The new Handbook is in an advanced stage of preparation and we expect to receive the first "galley proofs" this week. There is still a lot to be done before final printing but every effort is being made to have everything ready in time for the beginning of January. The 1974 Handbook is excellent value at a modest 25p. and no self-respecting clubman should be without one. It is a mine of information with full details of Centres and Clubs with addresses; insurance rates; fixture list; approved helmets, clothing and tyres; records; timekeepers and measurers; chief officials. and many other interesting items. For the first time, it includes the up-to-date Standing Regulations for Trials, Grass Track Races, Moto-Cross, Road Races, and Spring Meetings. The Competitions Committee and its Sub-Committees will endeavour not to introduce new regulations mid-season so that S.R's as printed in the Handbook can be taken as the operative regulations for the year. Requests for the 1974 Handbook can be sent to headquarters accompanied by a cheque or postal order for 30p. (inclusive of postage).

INTERNATIONAL RACING AND SPORTING MOTORCYCLE SHOW

This very popular show opens the 1974 season from the 5 - 12 January. Sponsored by "Motorcycle Mechanics", it takes place at the Royal Horticultural Society's Halls, Westminster, SW1, and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The ACU Stand will be No.2 in the New Hall and members of the staff will be in attendance. Ample supplies of ACU publications, including the 1974 ACU Handbook, will be available for sale. Representatives of the TT Supporters Club will also be present to deal with membership enquiries.

FUTURE EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1 B.S.S.A. Timed Trial C.
- 6 Frome Wyndham Haines Trophy Trial O *
- 13 Shepton Mallet B.S.A. Trophy Trial Solos Only O *
Wilts Border Trial C
- 20 West Wilts James Cup Trial O *
Bristol M.C. & L.C.C. Allen Trophy Trial P.
North Somerset Timed Trial C.
- 27 Swindon Timed Trial O
B.S.S.A. Reg Lewis Sidecar Trial C.
Mendip Vale Trial C.

FEBRUARY

- 3 Tor Scramble at Yarley O *
Kingswood Ken Avery Trial O

Due to the fuel situation some of these events may have to be cancelled or may not be run at their usual venues.

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Club Notes

BATH.

Once again it seems as if Dick Green has proved a point by running a National trial on a piece of private ground without benefit of any public highway mileage at all. Under these conditions a very worth-while event was run with which the riders seemed well satisfied, and all this after the hiatus caused by the way in which A.C.U. passed on the pronouncements of the Dept. of the Environment. We must however, thank all who turned out to help in any way to make the event the undoubted success that it was.

In the present fuel situation it passes comprehension how Government departments seem to find it amusing to pick on the minority sports such as ours which use a very small amount of fuel in transport and participation by comparison with the big time professional so called sports linked with the gambling industry and having so picked, to say "no you must not". Having failed to reason this out, one fails again to understand why our legislators did not see fit to reply in some such terms as "Yes, of course we will curtail our activities in the National Interest as soon as ever the large fuel using interest in professional sport are seen to do the same".

What a bitter sort of note to end the year. Can we hope for at the least no worsening in 1974? The Bath Club will try to do its best by holding the Annual Dinner, Dance & Presentation of Awards at the Guildhall on 1st February (Friday) at which we hope to see all our old friends and many new ones and for which the tickets are now being circulated at £2-00 a go, which cannot be a bad bargain.

Before that, on Monday 21st January, we shall hold our Annual General Meeting at the Porter Butt, at 7.30 p.m. This is the crucial meeting which will shape the form of the club for 1974. So all members please take the interest to attend this meeting and raise your voices to make your wishes known.

To conclude then, on behalf of the Club I tender best wishes for all prosperity good sport and health throughout 1974 to all our friends throughout the Centre.

BRISTOL GRASS RACING COMBINE.

Sorry about the notes last month but I put so many red lines through them myself that I did not think it worth sending them in. (These notes have never been the same since I was told to tone them down about You Know Who!).

Anyway, those who went to our Presentation Dance said it was another good do, though it did start a bit slow until I got the poet Haskins up to the mike for some light! entertainment (didn't he do well). The song he sang about the Group was great and it highlighted what a good group they were.

I do not want to bore you with who won what so here goes. A special award was given to Tig Perry for his masterly and brilliant development of brakes, and riders present had a quick whip round to buy a pair of bolt cutters.

Superstar Julian Wigg walked off with three trophies they were from the March Meeting, the Solo Expert donated by Cheese Straws Cheddar (Ltd.) and from the October Meeting, The 500cc open donated by Pete (Blowup) Robson, and our own Club donated unlimited Trophy.

From the March Meeting the Solo Junior (by T.G.Meadows) was won by Dave Brown.

The Sidecar Junior (by the Don Jon Cross) was won by Dave Westaway and John Sturtridge who came to the Dance from Cornwall to collect their awards, and the Sidecar Expert (by the late Alf Ellis of Elstar Fame) was won by Pete Brown and John Milton on their Kawker.

The October Meeting produced a 250cc winner (double "H" Garage Fishponds) in the shape of Adrian Moss. The 350cc open (Trevor Jordon, Builder) was won by our Club Goon! Richard Evans (that's the elder brother). The Sidecar Junior (B.G.R.C.) was won by the Vicar! Mike Taylor and Clive Draker. The Sidecar Expert (F. Creed, Butcher) was won again by Mr.Blowup Pete Robson and Dave Hope, and the Club Junior (Mr.French) was won by another brake man Malcolm Woodward.

During the season we ran our two Club Trophies, the Club Junior that showed the most promise was thought to be Robert (Flob) Evans (that's the younger one). It was very difficult to choose this winner, but we thought that Robert should have it because he has tried hard all of the Season (not that the Cup was put up by his Dad) and capped it with two brilliant rides in the Wessex Centre Championship in what can be best described as ridiculous conditions as those who went can probably tell you, and who must be still trying to dry out, with two second places in the rounds behind Tig Perry to be actually runner up in the Wessex Centre Championships.

The other Trophy being the Speedway Award put up by Reg (King Swede) Hodson. This Award goes to the rider with the highest points average for the season.

The Club's team has done very well again this season only losing two meetings (the first and the last) and even with all the talent we had riding for us the highest average rider was a novice in the shape of Cliff Elliott, 2nd highest was John Taylor and third highest Keith (The Layer) Lewis. What was even more remarkable was that Cliff had in fact scored the highest score in the team on two occasions.

With 19 riders trying to fill 10 places in the team its getting more difficult to get a place now.

One thing though, if petrol rationing comes in and Grasstrack will be the only sport possible because our fuel is not oil based but manmade, (its used as disenfectant in Hospitals) our Club can run 2 teams to race against each other (imagine it a bloody bath), Crahsers V The Rest.

Back to reality and our Club wishes everyone a Happy New Year and I hope everyone remembers the widows of friends lost and they seem to get more and more every year.

And to our very few members who buy the Gazette don't forget our A.G.M. Monday, 10th January.

We haven't had many challenges to Skittles yet but more about the ones we have had in next month's spectacular.

BRISTOL M.C.C. & L.C.C. Ltd.

Well, we have held our A.G.M. for 1974 and in spite of inflation are pleased to note that our holdings are stable. Our plans to go into real estate did not materialise but since property is still falling in price it may be wise to hold a little longer.

Membership fees are now due and in view of the decision taken at the November General Council meeting will be retained at the £1.00 plus an extra 25p A.C.U. affiliation fee.

We are sorry to advise that our 'Allen' Trophy trial has had to be cancelled for the second year running, this time due to the fuel crisis and the withdrawal of the permit by the R.A.C.

This same problem affects our Grand Cup Trial as it was planned to run over the 1st league trial course, but problems are meant to be solved and if I can get the co-operation of a club member the event can still be run on a closed circuit.

Of course since peoples weekly slice of petrol isn't going to go very far it will be doubtful if marshals will be able to use valuable fluid to come and observe consequently we may have to use self observation system. This assuming that competitors and organisers are able to afford petrol for pleasure instead of work.

If no regulations appear in the February Gazette then consider the event postponed, due to lack of a suitable venue.

May I say a Happy New Year to everyone, when we shall get back to normal is anyone's guess. One motor club we know of, have frequent walkabouts, at least that way we shall be able to keep in touch!

B.M.C.C.

The Christmas Cup Trial run in December was won by Lawrence Telling with Sam runner up. We used a few new sections in Lambs Lair and all of these seemed to go down alright with the riders.

I think that this present situation may be the thin edge of the wedge for trials using the public roads, except for a few Nationals. This must inevitably limit the number of entries available for a trial, in the same way as scrambles have gone, with too many riders chasing too few vacancies. Thinking about the number of clubs that can run a complete trial on private ground with the entries in the Hundreds. I can see that some clubs will have to limit numbers fairly severely for Open to Centre events, or only run Closed to Club trials.

Our A.G.M. is being held (or has been held, depending on when you get your Gazette) on Wednesday 2nd January at the Blue Boy Locklease, and our Dinner and Dance on Jan. 25th at the Royal Hotel, Bristol. Tickets will be available from Phillip Smith.

Our next event is the REGIONAL RESTRICTED DON MOUNT-STEVENS TRIAL on SUNDAY 17th FEBRUARY 1974, REGULATIONS AVAILABLE FROM MIKE NAISH, 25, CHARLES CLOSE, THORNBURY, BRISTOL, BS12 1LN. ENTRIES CLOSE 27th January 1974. Entries will be limited so GET THEM IN EARLY if you want to ride, as the trial is open to South Western and South Midland Centres as well.

Phil Smith has been seen around recently in a Riley Elf, I think he must be going for comfort in his old age. Although he is at the moment a two car man, I do believe he has trouble lifting the bike into the back of the Pick up, so the car will be used to tow the baby Montesa on a trailer.

All that remains is to wish all Club and Centre members a very happy New Year and long may your candles burn.

KINGSWOOD M.C.C.

The British Experts Trial at the beginning of November was well supported by the Wessex enthusiasts, at least two dozen could be seen at various parts of the countryside around the Elan Lakes, for Chris and myself it was a very good day out with the fine natural sections and the best Trialers in the world showing their paces, not only that, but we met friends we made at the Scottish Six Days Trial earlier in the year and the surprise winner Colin Smith. I must say he looked a winner all the way, seemingly completely unruffled (or if he was it didn't show), and as clean and smart when he finished as at the start. I must also mention my friends of the chair brigade, Mike and Moira Wellman who finished a very creditable fourth. The organisers seem to have found the formula for keeping the competitors moving, the event was a credit to them.

GRASS TRACK GRADING (WESSEX) 1973 SEASON.

Due to keener competition now encountered at Grass Track events in the Wessex Centre very few Junior competitors scored the necessary 24 points required to obtain expert status (A).

However, two solo and one sidecar competitor have succeeded, these being:-

Robert Evans	-	BRISTOL - SOLO
Malcolm Woodward	-	WINCHCOMBE - SOLO
Colin Chapman	-	MELKSHAM - SIDECAR.

Several other competitors, namely, R.Hawkins, J.Woodward, R.Stratton and D.Wolstenholme came very close and should with luck qualify in the 1974 season.

For the information of competitors points counting towards "Expert" status are obtained from final races. (Excluding National and Invitation) with points being awarded to fourth place on a 4, 3, 2, 1 basis. Points are obtainable from events in the Wessex, Southern, South Western and South Eastern Centres, which all count towards the necessary 24.

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18th November saw several of our Club at West Barn along with our Wilts Border friends, the observers were well in evidence with Ruby Andrews, Chris Ayres, Helen Winton and Pete Lark ready at the sections, pencils poised, Several new faces could be seen atop the machines, there being several bikes with two riders, one such pair being the Chequer combine of Father and Son. I rather fancy father ran out of "puff" before the bike, however, it was enjoyed by our riders with Mike Fear winning and Roy Andrews 2nd.

Then the fuel situation starts getting difficult and at the Frome dinner, attended by our W.D.D. party (wining, dining, dancing) we learnt of the A.C.U. decision to restrict Trials to off the road events only, but back to the Dinner, very nice meal and good company as always, thank you Frome.

Sunday 25th saw the first of the aforesaid restricted O/C trials by the North Somerset Club.

Our riders told me it was a good event and I seem to remember it marks the return to the sport of the Fewes, Palmer, Wilmot squad with, I think, two of those names in the awards. Welcome back chaps.

Our main claim to fame at the beginning of this month is I am certain the first class photo of our Secretary and Treasurer along with Pete Lark peeping round a tree seeming to regard "Rastus's" trials riding with some disdain despite the critical looks he went on to win Dick Green's knut Trial, which Dick and his helpers had to rejig rather rapidly to comply with the new ruling.

Last night the W.D.D. party ventured into the unknown of the Western Centre, to the Dinner of the Stroud crowd, to say we enjoyed it would be the understatement of the year, and we did something we never do in our own Centre, we won some raffle prizes, thank you Stroud, provisional booking for next year please.

End of Term report from the Scrambles department, I hear that Phillip Davis is following the footsteps of older brother Martin and friend Mike Church because he in his turn has won the Corsham Schoolboy Scrambles Championship this year prior to moving up the ladder to A.C.U. events next season. I have heard that a big "Husky" (not the four legged type) is probably being included in the machinery for next year.

Club meetings at a changed venue, "The Codrington Arms", North Road, Yate, on 2nd, 16th and 30th of the month, at 8.30 p.m. enthusiasts welcome.

T.T.

MENDIP VALE M.C.C.

At the A.G.M. of the above club in November only a few important changes were made. One being Malcolm Latty to Chairman and the other was Roger Shellard as Trials Secretary. Most of the other posts were kept by last year's holders.

The first trial for 1974 is closed to club on Sunday 27th January, 10.30 start at the Perch, and on Saturday, 9th February, 14.30 hours. Confirmation of these can be found in the M.C.N. and M.C. papers, or by contacting Weston-Super-Mare 31905 or 25451, evenings. The open to Centre trial is booked on a closed circuit for March 10th. The four summer trials will be all held on Saturdays and special rates have been arranged which were passed at the last club meeting.

The club's dinner and dance is on Friday, 1st February at the Commodor Hotel, Sandbay, nr. Weston-super-Mare, tickets on request at £2-00 each.

Hope you all had a good Christmas and good luck for the coming season.

NORTH SOMERSET MOTOR SPORTS CLUB

At the Tor Trial Alan Evans collected another first class award, but in our own trial the Presidents, not one club member collected a cup which goes to prove that they were not allowed too much practise trying out the sections. He also collected another at the Bristol Xmas Cup Trial, 9th December, 1973.

In the conducted trial a good day was had by all and Doug Dyson made his mark on the Westbury Montessa's when he ran out of petrol on the first and looped the second on a large rock step on the last section of the trial Alan Evans took the premier by one mark from R.Ward. The novice went to Andrew Westlake and Keith Warwick did in fact win a first class award when the results were checked and Pete King had to forfeit his. Merv Adams also broke a Bulto front wheel spindle when demonstrating on the rocky screen section.

Since the petrol crisis, trials have moved off the roads onto private land, our Presidents trial being the first to comply. The general verdict by the majority of riders is that this had improved trials tremendously as they seem to have a much friendlier atmosphere and you have more chance to watch experts perform.

Our next time/trial is at Row of Ashes Farm, Sunday 20th January, 10.30 a.m. start, 10.00 a.m. sign on, working party Saturday, 19th January, 2.15 p.m.

Congratulations are due to Bob and Jane Bull on the birth of another rider weighing in at 10½ lb.

Annual General Meeting Friday 25th January at the Gas Works Social Club, Eastville, 8.30 p.m.

Last but not least a belated merry Xmas and a happy and successful New Year to all.

SHEPTON MALLET MOTOR CLUB.

Welcome all members to 1974. I do hope this year will be an enjoyable one for riders and officials alike. I myself, at this moment am rather apprehensive to what lies ahead, what with the petrol problem and the cost of living, still we shall overcome.

The first trial for us in '74 will be the BSA Trophy on Sunday 13th, Solo only, which, due to non road work rules, will now be run entirely at the Scramble track, Worminster Farm, North Wootton. We are hoping to make this trial as enjoyable as our previous BSA events, and North Wootton should lend itself to some interesting sections. Observers who would like to help, please see Dave Male before 10 a.m. on the day.

One slightly demoralizing note for the New Year will be the club membership is now raised to 75p. Sorry about this but you all know just how much things have altered recently.

The League Trial due to be run by the club on February 24th, will probably be run on the Beacon land, unless of course, the petrol shortage has been resolved.

One of our better known members will at the time of reading these notes be many thousand miles away, on a trip of a lifetime, but to keep the peace, I'm not divulging any more at the moment. News of this trip in later notes.

Back to earth, up the garden motors man, John Young has been experimenting with a small bore Mikuni carb on his outfit. I'm not sure for what reason, could be better low down torque or just saving fuel!!

Looking forward many moons, Social Secretary Betty has provisionally booked for the Annual Dinner in early April. This will be held in Shepton as before.

Don't forget to send off your Gazette forms!

**SEE YOU ALL AT WORMINSTER, NORTH WOOTTON, JANUARY 13th
BSA TROPHY TRIAL.**

SWINDON.

Casting my mind back to November 11th, we held a Green Roads Run covering some 50 miles. Riders were set off in pairs so as not to cause too much noise and they were also prevented from bunching up by several checks en route. Several riders found the going hard some got lost and some did detours when the going got too rough. A mid-day stop was arranged at a Pub, unfortunately they didn't sell snacks. A point to watch next time.

By the time that this goes to print we shall have either cancelled or

have well in hand the Layton Time Trial for Jan. 27th. We shall do all that we can to run the event, but with the fuel situation as it is we can only hope. One small point regarding the Trial — I was surprised to receive some entries on the 3rd December but my Gazette didn't arrive until the 4th. Perhaps the pigeons are on a go-slow.

Most of our members were in attendance at the Minety Trial at the end of November and we were pleased to see Alan Ryder finish the day by winning the Novice Award. It looks as though we shall have to find some more C class riders for use in League Trials soon!

Our four representatives went to the Centre Dinner and we understand that the Dinner Committee are to be congratulated on a good event. At least Dave Main enjoyed it — he won a bottle in the raffle.

The evening previous to that we were entertained by Burmah-Castrol to the World Premiere no less, of their 1974 films. Also seen was a large familiar figure from Warminster way. We doubt if he was only there for the beer. Merv. Willimore is Castrol's motor cycle man. Swindon 30101 is the number.

Advance warning of the A.G.M. which will be held in January. Full details will be in the Newsletter, but you all know what does on at A.G.M's and all will be welcome.

TOR.

Here's wishing all club members and their families and friends a happy and prosperous new year, I hope you all had a good Christmas. Now to the Yarley scramble, at the time of writing petrol is not rationed, so provided its still not rationed up to one week before the meeting (February 3rd) the scramble is on, if however rationing is in force, then all entries will be returned and the meeting cancelled. We have to just wait and see. An additional trophy has been donated by club member Joe Edwards for the winner of the Tor club junior race together with £3 for the second man home and £2 for the third man.

A reminder to you — the renewal of club subscriptions was due on November 1st and you must be a member of a club on the Wessex centre if you want to ride in Wessex Centre events, so if you haven't renewed your subscription, it's time you did.

The Annual General Meeting was held on December 4th and the old firm was re-elected plus three new committee members. The date for the Annual Presentation of Awards Party & Dance will be February 22nd at the Town Hall, Glastonbury . . please book this date in your diaries, tickets will be available next month and will be limited.

Next club meeting:— Monday 7th January, 1974 at the Street Inn, 8.0 p.m.

"MONTHLY MUTTERINGS" BY MICK PERRY.

Firstly I must apologise for the absence of copy in last month's issue. This was due to pressure of work and added household chores after my wife fell whilst shopping for the Xmas sausages and broke a bone in her foot. But nevertheless she was able to accompany me to the Centre's Golden Jubilee Dinner, which I thought was a great success.

I've heard a few grumbles mainly about the band and the lack of atmosphere, but quite honestly I don't think that anyone could complain about the meal itself. It was hot, and there were second helpings available for those who had above average appetities. The waitresses were really efficient. The drinks were a little bit pricey, I even saw the centre treasurer look at his change on one occasion.

The one sad spot was that a number of clubs and individuals did not support the Benevolent fund officers appeal for draw prizes. I am afraid that I am among the latter, by the fact that I dashed out of the house at the last moment and left it on the sideboard after trying in vain to find someone outside of the centre to take Norman Dixon's place. He had telephoned me a short while beforehand saying that he couldn't make it as fog and road conditions were extremely bad in the North of the country. Cliff King — one of the three founder members saved the day by toasting the Centre. Afterwards Malcolm Davis had the audience rocking with his tale about the vicar and the young wives group. Colin Osborne aired his views on the recently proposed Super Scramblers League, whilst some of the gentlemen on the top table admired the dress that his wife was nearly wearing. One, who shall remain nameless just couldn't prevent his glasses from getting steamed up. I see that the scramblers topic brought a reply from a member of the Frome club in "Motor Cycle" recently and I find myself in agreement with him on a lot of points that have been raised. Like the writer I would love to see 30 Bob Wright types dashing around our scrambles courses at weekends, but the fact is that we haven't got em. A high percentage of our present top men have reached their peak, some are even on the decline, and they are being replaced by fewer capable youngsters, and before it gets better it will get worse. As I see the situation this year and next we will really be in the doldrums but by 76 we will really be on the upsurge as the present schoolboy stars gain experience. I do wish that some of our leading riders would stop quirking for sponsors at the end of a season in readiness for the next years proceedings. Many are quite able to stand on their own feet and they give a wrong impression to many a keen youngster who is thinking about entering the sport. It has been said that if the super scramblers league proposals were adopted the crowds would come flocking back, but would they? Slick organisation, close racing, and general facilities are essential. Too many of the top organisers still dawdle through too lengthy programmes. The present day fan doesn't want scrambling until eight o'clock in the evening. Many will have to take a close look at the efficiency of the public address systems, toilets, catering, and car part accessibility and no one will get what I call real close racing until organisers stop paying down to 12th or 15th place in races. Do away with overall prize money and pay experts a nominal expense allowance, and pay the first three men on each lap of races on a sliding scale. This would

KINGSWOOD MOTOR CYCLE CLUB.

SUNDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 1974.

Held under the GCR's of the A.C.U. and Wessex Centre Rules together with the following Supplementary Regulations. Restricted to drivers of solo motor cycles only who are members of clubs affiliated to the Wessex Centre A.C.U.

1. OFFICIALS:—Stewards: Centre-J.Parkin. Club-L.Powell. Clerk of the Course-T.Gregory. Secretary of the Meeting-Miss C.E.Ayres, 1, Springfield Close, Rudloe Park, Corsham, Wilts, SN13 OJP. Machine Examiner-J.Pope.
2. ENTRIES:- On Wessex Gazette entry forms. Kingswood members 50p; other club members 60p. to reach the Secretary of the Meeting by Tuesday 29th January 1974. Fee returnable only if trial is cancelled. One motor cycle may only be ridden by one driver during the trial.
3. AWARDS:-Ken Avery Trophy and Souvenir - Best Solo. Bob Down Trophy and Souvenir - Runner Up. D.Duck Trophy and Souvenir - Best solo over 40 years of age. 1st Class Awards - to next 15% expert finishers. 1st Class Novice Awards - to next best 15% finishers. Wessex Centre "C" class league trial driver at time of trial. All upgraded drivers taken as "A" class unless otherwise proven. No driver may win more than one award. The above trophies to be held for one year only.
4. START:- To be notified with acceptance of entry.
5. SPECIAL TEST:— Will be the greatest number of cleans, if still a tie then the first to gain the advantage.
6. PROTESTS:— To be made in accordance with the G.C.R's of the A.C.U. to the Secretary of the Meeting.
7. DUE TO COURSE RESTRICTIONS ENTRIES MAY HAVE TO BE RESTRICTED!

ENTRY FORM

KEN AVERY TROPHY TRIAL.

Sunday 3rd February, 1974.

DRIVERS NAME (block letters)

ADDRESS

REGISTERED MEMBERCLUB. NOVICE Yes/No

MAKE OF MOTOR CYCLE c.c.

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED TOTAL

INDEMNIFICATION.

I have read the Supplementary Regulations issued for this Meeting and agree to be bound by them and by the General Competition Rules and the Standing Regulations of the Auto-Cycle Union. In consideration of the acceptance of this my entry, I agree to save harmless and keep indemnified the Kingswood Motor Cycle Club and the Wessex Centre of the A.C.U., and the Auto-Cycle Union (including the owners or lessees of any land used for the meeting) and their respective officials, servants, representatives and agents from and against all actions, claims, costs, expenses and demands in respect of death or injury to myself, howsoever caused arising out of or in connection with my entry or my taking part in this meeting and notwithstanding that the same may have been contributed to or occasioned by the negligence of the said bodies, their officials, servants, representatives or agents.

I declare that I have attained the age at which I am legally entitled to drive a motor vehicle.

I declare that whilst taking part in this meeting I have an operative policy covering me in respect of Road Traffic Act Liabilities.

Entry forms must be countersigned by a parent or guardian in the case of entrants and drivers under 18 years of age.

Signed Driver Signed Parent/Guardian

Date

WEST WILTS MOTOR CLUB.

JAMES CUP TRIAL.
Wessex Centre Star Trial.

SUNDAY, 20th JANUARY 1974.
Permit No. M524.

Held under the G.C.R's of the A.C.U. and Wessex Centre Rules together with the following Supplementary Regulations. Restricted to drivers of solo motor cycles and sidecars who are members of Clubs affiliated to the Wessex Centre A.C.U.

1. OFFICIALS: Clerk of the Course-P.Abbott. Secretary of the Meeting-Mrs. R.J.Andrews, Hergiswil, The Knapps, Semington, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 6JG. Centre Steward-M.Parker; Club Stewards-A.C.Dyke and C.Jones. Machine Examiner-G.Lloyd.
2. AWARDS. James Cup—best solo performance. Auto Cup—best sidecar performance. Traders Cup—best West Wilts member. May Cup—best solo "C" rider. Awards to 2nd, 3rd and 4th best solo; 2nd, 3rd and 4th best solo "C" riders; passenger of best sidecar and best sidecar "C" rider. 1st class awards to 12% of starters in both solo and sidecar classes. No driver may win more than one award with the exception of the Traders Cup. There must be a minimum of 6 in any class. Club cups to be held for one year.
3. ENTRIES. West Wilts members 50p, other Club members 60p. Club sub 50p. Insurance will be paid by the Club. To be sent on the appropriate form to the Secretary of the Meeting. Closing date: Solos — 14th January 1974; Sidecars — 8th January 1974. One motorcycle may only be ridden by one rider during the trial.
4. START. Crookwood Farm, Potterne, Wilts. First man's time 10-01 a.m., rest at minute intervals — 2 per minute in opposite directions.
5. TIES. If there is a tie, the driver with the greatest number of cleans will win. If still a tie, the driver who has gone furthest round the course clean will win.
6. ROUTE. Entirely on private ground, details of which will be issued at the start. Marking will be on the basis 0, 1, 2, 3, 5.
7. PROTESTS. To be made in accordance with the G.C.R's of the A.C.U.
8. The term "novice" in the entry form below means a League Trial "C" Class rider at the time of entry.

JAMES CUP TRIAL.

SUNDAY, 20th JANUARY 1974.

DRIVER'S NAME (block letters)

ADDRESS

PASSENGER'S NAME (block letters)

ADDRESS

REGISTERED MEMBERCLUB NOVICE Yes/No

MAKE OF MOTOR-CYCLEc.c.Solo/Sidecar

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED Club Sub 50p.

TOTAL

INDEMNIFICATION.

I have read the Supplementary Regulations issued for this meeting and agree to be bound by them and by the General Competition Rules and the Standing Regulations of the Auto-Cycle Union. In consideration of the acceptance of this my entry, I agree to save harmless and keep indemnified the West Wilts Motor Club, the Wessex Centre of the A.C.U., and the Auto-Cycle Union (including the owners or lessees of any land used for the meeting) and their respective officials, servants, representatives and agents from and against all actions, claims, costs, expenses and demands in respect of death or injury to myself, howsoever caused arising out of or in connection with my entry or my taking part in this meeting and notwithstanding that the same may have been contributed to or occasioned by the negligence of the said bodies, their officials, servants, representatives or agents.

I declare I have attained the age at which I am legally entitled to drive a motor vehicle I declare that whilst taking part in this meeting I have an operative policy covering me in respect of Road Traffic Act Liabilities.

Signed Driver. Date

Signed Passenger. Signed Parent/Guardian.
If an entrant/driver/passenger is under 18 years of age the form must be countersigned by the Parent or Guardian.

encourage riders to try harder rather than to stay in a "safe position". If our aim is to make scrambling safer the big prize had to be done away with, as this type of thing has brought bad feeling into many grass track meetings this year, fortunately only a few of them in this centre.

Although we are left with trials being run on pocket handkerchief courses for the time being, I am glad that the Centre hasn't thrown in the sponge completely, like some. What they hope to achieve is difficult to understand as unlike yesteryear they will gain nothing from becoming martyrs in the present decade. On November 24th, the day that many clubs and Centres panicked and cancelled their events, even though many had access to land off of the public highway, no fewer than 514,000 people attended Football league matches, and I would say that rather more than half got to their destination by car or other similar transport, many went fishing shooting, sailing, Kart racing and flying.

Like the previous weekends North Somerset trial, the KNUT was an excellent event, and the Bristol club made a good job of their Xmas cup trial in Lambs Lair. Thanks to the North Somerset "cowboys", the second League trial was saved and if we pull together I am pretty sure that we can do our bit to keep the sport and the ACU going but if we all become scapegoats they may have to move from Belgrave Square to Marian Pryse's territory near Merthyr Tydfil, but at least in Wales they'll have plenty of beds—even if they are all "singles".

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all readers a prosperous New Year and to those who have helped me by phoning with results and bits of vital news I say Thank You.

BORDER CUP TRIAL. WILTS BORDER MC & LCC. Sunday February 10th 1974.

Permit No. Starred Event.

Restricted to members of Clubs affiliated to the Wessex Centre ACU riding solo machines only. Held under the GCR's of the ACU and Wessex Centre Standing Rules together with the following supplementary regulations.

1. OFFICIALS. Wessex Centre Steward—C.Valentine. Club Steward—P.Crook. Machine Examiner—E.Parker. Secretary of the Meeting—Mrs.G.Lovelock, 88 Bristol Road, Chippenham. Clerk of the Course—J.Lovelock.
2. ENTRIES. To the Secretary of the Meeting not later than Wednesday February 6th 1974, on the official form with the sum of 60p. Club Members 50p.
3. AWARDS. Best Solo Border Cup. Best Club Member, Bailey Cup. Awards for the next Best 2n, 3rd Best performances. 1st Class awards for the next best 15% of starters. Novice award for the best "C" rider. All named cups held for one year only.
4. Start and Course owing to the fuel position these will be announced later. Entries may have to be limited.
5. TIES. In the event of a tie the fastest round clean, if still a tie the greatest number of cleans.
6. PROTESTS. In accordance with the GCR's of the ACU.

ENTRY FORM.

DRIVER'S NAME (block letters)
ADDRESS
PASSENGER'S NAME (block letters)
ADDRESS
REGISTERED MEMBER CLUB.. A. B or C.
MAKE OF MOTOR CYCLE c.c. Solo
ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED Total

INDEMNIFICATION.
I have read the Supplementary Regulations issued for this meeting and agree to be bound by them and by the General Competition Rules and the Standing Regulations for Trials of the Auto-Cycle Union. In consideration of the acceptance of this, my entry, I agree to save harmless and keep indemnified the Wilts Border M.C., the Wessex Centre of the A.C.U. and the Auto-Cycle Union (including the owners or lessees of any land used for this meeting) and their respective officials, servants, representatives and agents from and against all actions, claims, costs, expenses and demands in respect of death or injury to myself or my passenger howsoever caused arising out of or in connection with my entry or my taking part in this meeting and notwithstanding that the same may have been contributed to or occasioned by the negligence of the said bodies, their officials, servants, representatives or agents. I declare that whilst taking part in this meeting I have an operative Policy of Insurance covering me against Third Party Risks including Road Traffic Act cover.

I declare that I am over 16 years of age. Date
SignedDriver. Signed.....Parent/Guardian.
SignedPassenger.
If an entrant/driver/passenger is under 18 years of age the form must be countersigned by the Parent or Guardian.



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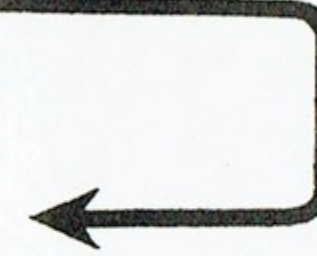
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