

No. 1

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Early recce team at West Harting Down making progress



The Croydon M.C.C. role of Honour

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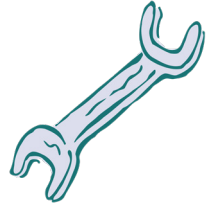
HAZEL'S CORNER

The first renewal in 2019 was Simon Minch who lives in Eltham. Sam Rogers has introduced new member Ryan Moscrop who lives in Hailsham. Welcome to the club, Ryan. Two arrived on the same day – Lawrence Wheeler of New Addington and Justin with Jacqueline Fletcher who live in Tonbridge Wells. Next to renew membership were Clifford and Luke Barnett who live in Bromley followed quickly by Glenn Stevens who lives in Portsmouth and Andy Cart who hails from Sompting. Towards the end of February saw Marc Clifford from New Malden renew. March saw few renewals but one was Aaron Murtagh of Ruislip. Steve Aylard of Tunbridge Wells renewed in the last week of March. Our enduro on 31 March brought a spate of new members and renewals. Dene Hart of Copthorne renewed along with Robin Dawson of West Wittering, Michael Toussaint from Outwood, James Archer from Lordshill, Southampton, Dave Ricketts who lives in Reigate. Brendan Fairclough of Headley, Hampshire, rejoined the club after a couple of years out of the sport. Peter Woods joined from Ewhurst after enjoying our enduro on 31 March. Sam Rogers who lives in Sevenoaks renewed in the post the day after our enduro on 31 March and brought along a friend, Lawrence Martin of Tonbridge, who joined that day as well



Well done to **Sam Rogers**, pictured here receiving the Ray Kennard Best Sportsman Award

Clives Bike Surgery



I wasn't feeling the fork action on my last ride so I decided to have a go at servicing the blighters. After a hot brew I made the work area of the Spannerman shed clean, ready for sensitive fork internals to be received. Its quite a tricky operation, oil needs to be measured accurately, delicate bolts torquing to spec. Fork height set for accurate rake and trail characteristics. Clickers... um..clicked! That's what the manual said anyway. I just topped the forks off with oil and the ride is feeling dandy! Time for a brew. TTFN! The Spannerman G!

The SEEC and its clubs would like to say a huge thank you to all of our sponsors for the 2018 season. These are:

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Kingston Enduro - Iron Hill 7th March 2019

The weather certainly played its part for the day, cold, wet and windy, the tail end of Storm Freya lashing the south coast, adding to the fun for the riders. The harsh riding conditions clearly taking a heavy toll, with many riders from all classes nothing more than a dnf for their efforts.

In the Championship class, Clive Gammage, campaigning his new KTM 150 stroker finished a creditable sixth overall, a measly 4 points behind fifth. Richard Ely the class of the field this time around narrowly pushing Ben Wibberley into second by the same margin. Time checks seems well gauged for the champ riders with everyone picking up penalties at some point.

Sadly no Croydon riders in the expert category so moving to the Vet A lads. Dan Groom, Chris Stanger and Ian Mitchell finished third, fourth and fifth respectively. Ian clearly having a bit of a mare in the final check, collecting extra points. Bad luck Ian!

Darren Osbourne and Joe Beard represented in the vet A o/50 class for Croydon this time around. Third and fourth for these guys showing a top finish. Darren was only a few points behind second place Alan Ranger in what must have been quite the scrap.

Holding up our end of things in Clubman A was James Moller, the sole rider from our club in this group. Holding his own and coming in 7th a great effort. A real race of attrition as over half the field posted a DNF on the day.

Into the Vet B and we had almost 50% of the field, Croydon club stamping its authority here. Our best on the day is the top tool himself, Richard Morgan.

The last finisher or best loser, either way an immense effort just to finish, on what was a pretty hard day. Justin Fletcher and Richard Pomphrett handing their timing chips in early, better luck next time!

Our man about the woods in Vet B o 50 was Stephen Scott, taking the win with aplomb! 200 points in front of his nearest rival, a tidy result, well done!

In the evo class it looks as though the incredible Mr Fox posted a barely credible dnf once again. You need a chat with Clive about maintenance I reckon Colin. :P

And so, to Clubman B. Edward Sarchet rolled in clean all day, finishing 5th. The top 6 separated only by their test times. Good effort Edward! Further down the field Sam Rogers came in 10th. Showing DNF's for the day were George Beakhouse, Robert Anderson, Kevin Wakely and Mark Beakhouse. Good effort all round, the conditions clearly not helping.

A good shift put in by the Croydon riders.

Normandy are currently joint first, level pegging with Kingston, Croydon third only 15 points behind. Its only the second enduro event on the calendar so its too early to tell how the rest of the year will pan out.

We are in need of a new club secretary

Can you read and write and attend club meetings once every not very often? If so then we need you.

Can you talk about Croydon mcc for 1 or even 2 hours with other like minded individuals? Then don't rule yourself out just yet, it's not as glamorous as you think.

Drop anyone on the inside page an email to make yourself known.



THE RAY KENNARD TIME CARD ENDURO 2019

We had a full house and fine weather for the Ray Kennard enduro this year, and we were blessed with fine riding too. Casting my eye over the results there are a lot of clean riders with no penalty points. Maybe the times could have been tightened up a little to introduce some greater range of deciding the outcome. Or maybe just fine as they were, riders feeling chuffed to have stayed clean. Hard to say really.

So, without further ado lets crack on with the **Championship class**;

The majority of the field going clean, only the odd minute dropped here or there the results boiled down to special tests. Congratulations to Richard Ely, with only a 5 second variance in his special test time across the day. Amazing! Taking nothing away from the other riders though, Ben Wibberly only 24 seconds adrift in second place.

Next up, **Experts**. Again decided on test times alone, the top 3 split by less than 30 seconds. Well done Ross Kerr, besting Stuart King by 14 seconds. Ben King was a paltry 17 seconds adrift of second. The experts keeping it tight after smashing it out for over four hours. Top work!

And so to the **Veteran A o 40** dudes, all three of them. All riders clean on the day, yet again separated by test times, Simon Beken coming out on top, by virtue of penalty points Robert Carey picked up. Chris Salt coming in third, less than 2 minutes adrift.

Another Pompey rider showing the way in the **Veteran A o 50** class. Lawrence Catt 12 seconds in front of second place. Once again the top 6 riders in class went clean on their time checks on the day.

Moving through our results we arrive at the **Clubman A** riders. Harry Neal hailing from Portsmouth taking the top step on the podium, clean on time and putting in the best special time overall

throughout the day. Once again a super close outcome with the top riders all clean on time.

The **Veteran B o 40** class had only 2 clean on time riders on the day, Justin Denn proving best on the day, although not fastest on the specials going clean on time put him to the top. Justin Rixon ruing 2 minutes lost, costing him a Gold. Newly mounted Croydon Rider Richard Pomphrett holding up the class with a full quiver of points but finishing the day. Well done Sir. Suits you Sir!

An extremely well represented **Veteran B o 50** squad showing the youngsters the way with many a clean time on the day. Stephen Scott of Alton taking the win, scant few seconds in front of Normandy's' Phillip Davies. Croydon Riders David Rickets, Colin Morgan and Kevin Bailey all finishing their day respectably. Well Done lads.

Clubman B group also pretty stacked with competitors, once again a lot of clean times. Daryl Burgess of Portsmouth has got to be happy with a 2 second win over Matthew Jordan. What a way to take the victory. Riding for Croydon the Beakhouse brothers finishing adjacent to one another but a huge points difference between the two. Well done to George and Mark.

The **Evo** class has 2 in class. Stephen Bird winning with a clean day, Manny Bernardez losing time in the day, although easily taking bragging rights on the special test times. Well done to both.

Sportsmen round out our results, once again the times allowing the top riders to stay clean. Sidcups' Chris Day winning ahead of Stephen Hall riding for Swindon. Freshly anointed Croydon rider Peter Woods made a good fist of it, going clean. Tidy up the tests and you'll be at the pointy end Peter.

The feedback from riders via social media has been glowing, reflecting well on the event our club laid on for the S.E.E.C.



TRIALS TORQUE

By Graham Stratford

Trials Report

2018

Last year was a very good year for the five trials riders in the club competing in the Star Group Championship. The club finished in fourth position overall which was the highest achievement for many years. The riders were: Dick Bentley, Vic Underwood, Mark Alway, Ian Rhodes and myself along with our 'team manager' George Rhodes giving us moral support.

2019

The first trial was run by the Kingston club at Blackland Farm. Only Ian and I rode in this one, with George providing support. Dick has had some health problems, Mark is injured, and Vic has been hibernating on a warm island. It was a very good trial with some interesting rideable sections and we both managed to finish, earning some points for the Club.

February's trial was run by the Sunbeam Club at Frensham Vale. This was a joint event being run jointly with the TVTC so we knew that there would be lots of late entries from the TVTC riders (which pushed up the entry list to over 100). The course was in two parts – some slippery sections on one side and very dry ones on the other side. Again, it was just Ian and myself riding with George giving support. We decided to start with the sections on the slippery side first which was a very good choice as with over a hundred riders the course cut up very badly on the second lap. On the dry side of the course there was total carnage at the top of one of the hills - they had decided to put four or five sections almost on top of each other and with lots of riders this created chaos - this spoiled a very good trial but we both managed to finish and earn some more points.

March's trial was run by the Haslemere Club at a piece of land that has not been used for about 5 years. I was the only Croydon

rider entered but once again it was a good trial with ridable sections. I managed to finish again and got some more points. We are currently in seventh position in the Championship with 94 points and sadly this I think is where we will probably stay for the rest of the year as the next club has 262 points. If only we had more trials riders in the club who would enter the Star Group Championship it would boost our points total – and one year we might even win it!!!

Graham Stratford



Croydon MCC Training Day – from a trials rider view

We all met up at the Freestyle shop in Wadhurst at the appointed time. After all the usual formalities/signing on etc we met our instructors for the day - Steve and Ben for the enduro riders and Simon and Stuart for the trials riders. We were then given detailed instructions on how to get to the land used for the training area and off we went.

Once we were all assembled again we followed our instructors to the actual training area. The trials area was perfect for what we needed. We started off just riding around and generally warming up before a small section was laid out and we were shown the correct way to ride it. It was then our turn - trying to remember what we had just been shown and with



encouragement from Simon and Stuart we all mastered this easy section.

Our next challenge was riding through ruts and up and down hills. Alan Ross slipped off his bike going up the hill, rolled into one of the trees and jarring his neck - he wisely became a spectator and enjoyed watching us all.

At this point we had to stop and wait for the enduro group to come hurtling past us as we were sharing some of the same bits of land. The next exercise was descending into a stream – it all looked very easy when Stuart showed us how to do it. After a few attempts we were halfway to getting the hang of it! I know it was a very hot day, but two of the group decided to have a closer look at the stream and take the opportunity to try and cool off a bit.

At our lunch time break Alan was still aching and decided that he would go home.

At the afternoon session Simon asked whether we would like to have a go riding over logs and like a shot Dick shouted out “yes please” (in case you don’t know Mr Bentley he is a spritely octogenarian and puts some of us younger ones to shame). Stuart showed how it should be done, then it was our turn - there were lots of balancing sumps on the log and parting company with bikes but in the end

everyone got over the log in the correct manner.

After another brief stop for the enduro riders to go past we were given a demo by Ben Wibberley on how to jump a large log on an enduro bike - this log was about 3 feet in diameter - on approaching the log at speed he just took off, hit the top of log with his back wheel and sailed over. Dick was very tempted to have a go but remembered that he had left his body armour at home.

We then had a general play around riding the sections until it was time to go home.

All the trials guys enjoyed it and I’m sure we all learnt something





Trials riders were: Mark Alway, Dick/Derek Bentley, Dave & Jon Bragg, Ian Rhodes, Alan Ross, Vic Underwood and myself Graham Stratford.

Enduro riders were: Jon Barry, Joe Beard, Justin Fletcher, Andrew Lawrance, Stuart Maunder, Jamie and Peter Moller, Colin Morgan, Harry Neal, Howard Perry, Mick Strudwick, and Tom Vandy

Chimay Classic Road Racing

Whilst at the Excel Bike Show in February 2018 we were chatting to the guy on the Wallonie/Belgium Tourist Board stand and he asked if I wanted to enter his competition to win tickets for the Chimay Classic Road Races in July. Graham is one of those people who always sneer at this type of competition and if forced to enter will use a made up name and address but I entered into the spirit and used my proper details. Much to my surprise (and Graham's!) I received an email a couple of weeks later to say that I had won the competition!!

I won Eurotunnel Flexiplus tickets for two bikes, three days B&B accommodation and entry tickets to the races so it was well worth entering!

The Eurotunnel FlexiPlus tickets did make the journey feel more luxurious (not sure if we would pay almost three times the normal price for these though). If you haven't used FlexiPlus before, you get a unique check in lane and then access to a special lounge



with as much food and drink (non-alcoholic of course!) as you want and free newspapers – on the way out from Folkestone we were there at breakfast time so there were lots of croissants/pastries etc as well as fruit and yogurt etc. We were also given a special bag and encouraged to take yet more food & drink 'for the journey'! On the return journey we had afternoon tea with sandwiches, crisps, delicate pastries and macarons!

The hotel was really good – it was part of the complex that includes the 'Chimay Experience' and of course also sold lots of Chimay beer – the food was great as well.

The race tickets we had were 'Guest VIP' ones and included access to the café upstairs in the building near the Start/Finish line along with two credit type cards preloaded with 20 euros each so that we could 'buy' as many cold drinks as we liked. We thought these were generous but then found out on the Sunday that they were loaded with yet another 20 euros each – it was great not to have to spend real money on lots of drinks when it was such a hot weekend. We had a good view of the race starts and the terrace also had one of the few areas of shade on the course so was a good place to stand to avoid the strong sunshine!

The racing bikes were all classics and it was great to hear them racing and also to be able to wander around the 'paddock area' and see the bikes being worked on and to be able to talk to the riders.

All in all, a great experience – especially when it didn't cost anything apart from fuel for the bikes and our evening meals!

Helen Stratford

Many thanks to Graham and Helen Stratford for their words. Any budding triallist feel free to get involved, Graham being your point of contact, his details on the inside page.

Croydon M.C.C. would like to thank...

All the volunteers that have helped in any way to make the event at West Harting Down the success it has been.

The early recce days - Peter and JAMES Moller, Colin Fox, Joe Beard, Clive Gammage, Dene Hart, Ian Mitchell, Chris O'Grady

Race day volunteers: Peter Moller - Clerk of Course

Jamie Moller - Clerks Assistant

Colin Fox - Secretary of Meeting / Quartermaster

Joe Beard - Enduro Secretary

Ian Mitchell - Chief Marshall

Clive Gammage, Dene Hart, Chris O'Grady, Michael Toussant,

Kevin Bailey, Cara Osborne - Time Recorder, Josh Osborne

Darren Osborne, , Chris Stanger, Andy Wright, John Horton

Ian Pearce, David Miller, Ben Brooker, Marcus Thurlby,

Euan Harrison, Robin Dawson, Carl Boraman, Tom Vandy,

Martin Brown, George Watson, M Wickens, R Mostrop,

Sam Rogers, Lawrence Martin, James Archer - Tech Inspector,

Hazel & Mike, Thanks to Calverts for catering, Thanks to First Aid

for looking after two injured parties both being RAF servicemen

from Brize Norton, both small injurys and ok.

The Woolven Hospital watch

Riding a dirt bike is a venture that can end up with a visit to the local hospital. This month I have had carpel tunnel surgery on my clicky fingers at The Sloane hospital in Beckenham. Private health care at its finest. Clean and well appointed. Next time a tale of shoulder dislocation at Maidstone general. Cheers Stuart

Next Month

- Hazel probably not selling numbers
- Its never only a month
- Some writing guff
- Clive doesnt fix things and drinks tea
- I ride my bike! I'll probably fall off

