

NORTH KENT TRIALS COMBINE MEETING HELD 15th October 2009

www.nktc.org.uk

Clubs Present: Bexleyheath, Double Five, Erith, Kent & Sussex, Owls and Sidcup. (6 clubs with 11 delegates present)

Chair: Colin Mote

Secretary: Steve Westley

Apologies for absence: Andy Hogg was accepted.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Accepted without change.

Matters arising from those minutes: None.

October 11th trial Round 9: Kent & Sussex ran the event at Hourne Farm, Crowborough and the Stewards report was read out: - the event started on time with 64 starters directed to sections 1 & 9 using a split course to compete over 3 laps of 15 sections, with all competitors scrutineered at the start. All sections manned at the beginning and the trial was set out well to combine standard by the Clerk of the Course with one section giving problems to some of the Inter B and Intermediate riders, but not for the class winners though. All riders spoken to for each class said it was a very good event. Well done K & S club. Comment from those present confirmed that it was a very good trial.

November 1st trial Round 10: Sidcup to be held at Canada Heights and confirmed all ok, Kent & Sussex to provide the Steward.

ACU T&E Committee response re 250's: to recap, this was a proposal to try to reverse the decline of youth riders coming into trials by allowing the use of the parents 250 at restricted non competition events, B&W or club trials, to allow them to try out the sport without the huge cost involved in obtaining a 125. The following response was read out:- [Dear Stephen - Youth Capacities](#)

[The trials & Enduro Committee thank you for your letter dated 19th September regarding Youth capacities which was discussed at the recent Trials & Enduro Committee meeting.](#)

[This topic has been debated many times over the years and discussed at Open Trials Forums on a regular basis and could have been included on the agenda for this year's Forum which was held on 8th August. I would refer you back to John Collin's lengthy letter to you in May 2007 on this subject and whilst the committee note the reasons why you feel Youths should be allowed to ride 250cc bikes, it is not intended to change the rules in the foreseeable future.](#)

I responded to this with the following:-

[Thank you for your letter dated the 12th October 2009 with detail following my concerns over the declining youth numbers in the SE Centre.](#)

[Whilst I note that this may have been debated at many of the Open Trials Forums and dismissed, I am running events in which we are seeing less and less youth riders in the starting sheets.](#)

[For the T&E committee to refer me back to the 2007 reply leads me to again ask for an explanation of how a 15/16 year old youth A is legally allowed to ride a 125 cc bike under the Road Traffic Act – they cannot, a 16 year old is restricted to a 50cc bike, a 17 year old can ride an approved 125 after CBT etc – but he can ride any size trials bike at that age as an adult. Part of the reasoning by the T&E committee for sticking with 125's is just plain wrong.](#)

[The British Solo Trials Championship I helped to run at Cowden in Kent had 3 youth riders on the schedule of approved riders, you kindly allowed one more for our event. Two youth riders entered the](#)

event and two of the Expert A on 125's changed to large capacity as soon as they could leaving one Expert A on a 125.

This surely must bring home the fact that the number of youth riders is getting worse and unless something is done to get them back to try the sport we are likely to lose our nations standing in the trials world as where apart from these two are the future stars coming from.

I am only asking for the youth to be allowed to try out trials – not a full blown centre event – just beginner and wobbler or club trials. If they like it and want to continue then we look for the right size bike for competition work.

In the ACU Pre65 championship youth are allowed on 250's

In the AMCA youth can ride anything, at any level and we have many clubs here in AMCA and ACU

Please can I have a constructive response from the committee as I am finding it increasingly difficult to defend this position from clubs wanting to ride AMCA and not ACU.

There is so much that is good about the ACU but it only takes one thing to move to where the market is.

I look forward to hearing from you.

My response has been circulated to the members of the T&E committee and I am awaiting a reply.

The 2007 response can be seen on our website www.nktc.org.uk

Discussion took place about the lack of youth competing in our two championships.

Proposals for SE Trials AGM: discussion on the two proposals received and clubs clearly have to make the decision at the meeting.

National trial - correspondence: letter from AH read out as he could not be here tonight, outlining the excellent reports we have had on the event and that promised funding is now needed from sponsors plus the contribution from NKTC. Those present all agreed it was a very good event and lessons have been learnt on all aspects of putting on this trial. Payment of agreed sum to be sent off now and we will need to see the trial account in order to release the 2nd part. Agreed to write to SE management to support request for funding.

NKTC Team trial Dec 2009 venue: agreed to run the event will try for Horsmonden. Ad in TSM if possible and at Sidcup event. Run extra trial in Jan – both fna to raise funds

Any other urgent business: Owls need to move their combine date to August because of the land usage – put onto agenda for Nov meeting.

Date of next meeting is 12th November 2009 at 8:30pm – The meeting closed 22:32pm

Agenda for the meeting on November 12th 2009 **Note it is not Nov 5th**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of Last Meeting
3. Matters Arising from those minutes
4. Nov 1st Sidcup trial round 10
5. NKTC Team trial Dec 2009 venue
6. NKTC Dates for 2010
7. ACU T&E committee response re 250's
8. NKTC provisional championship winners
9. Info from SE Trials AGM
10. Any other urgent business
11. Date of next meeting Dec 17th 2009