



TAIL LIGHT

APRIL 2009



“Sammy mulls over that ‘5’ he had at the Turkey Trot!”

Sam Cook, La Tania, France.

Who's who?

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Once again another month flies by and I'm putting the **TAIL LIGHT** together on a Sunday night; but for a change it's not after a long days racing!

I've received some fantastic articles over the last month, not enough space to include everything so I've even got one or two items ready for next month! All I can say is keeping sending me all your pictures and reports!

Abby, Editor.

Lowestoft Invaders Trial Report

Six Braintree trials riders travelled up to Aldeby to contest the 1st expert /inter round of 2009. Although on the very edge of the Broards with a good blast between the 2 groups of sections the trial offers some good steep climbs & the Invaders club don't hold back on the severity of the sections! Perhaps this is why they have produced some inter/expert champions in recent years?

Braintree Club had no one contesting the experts but Roy Palmer, Steve Butcher & Sam Cook were in the inters. The best of these three was again our star rider Roy carrying on the good form from last year just losing out on the win by 1 mark on 39. Roy on the climbs in the old pit in 4th gear on his new evo really was the daddy & he is now fired up for the next round at Bramford, where's Jane going to put all the trophies?

Steve & Sam, last year's winner, put there scorpas in 6th & 10th place on 54 & 60. Wesley Butcher riding the 125 four banger had 3 fives on section 10, the little scorpa not having enough steam to make it to the top won the expert B from Richard Norman on 41.

Chris Cook had a steady ride in the novice class & Dave Field retired not making it past the burger tent on the 1st lap. The trial was well worth the trip with none of the sections needing hopping & jumping to produce a clean.

Danbury Pre 70 & Twin Shock Trial, 22nd February

Allen Collier had his 1st ride on his special pre 70 Bantam: The bike seized twice before the event but Allen didn't let this put him off & still won the trial overall dropping just 2 marks all day, quite a feat when last year's inter champion on the latest Raga rep Gas Gas dropped 7 on the same route. Well done Allen! We hope to feature the story behind this bike in a later news letter.

DICK'S BIT

The sun shone on the Braintree Club for our Foxborough Quarry trial in mid March. Does this mean it is going to be our year for good weather? Chris Cook led his team of section builders to produce a varied course of 11 twin-route sections to be ridden 4 times. Being a Centre Championship event, it was designed to challenge, taking its toll of marks. Generally, it went down well with the large entry of 84, boosted dramatically by the Twinshocks, which formed the largest class. Sadly, the one sidecar entry didn't make it to the end of the first lap - the section I observed (number 9) was ideal for sidecars too, being nice and wide. It seems like the sidecar days are gone, like grass track racing. One of the section building gang, Allen Collier, didn't hang about for the Sunday - he went Pre-65 motocross racing at Marks Tey, notching up two fine second places, leaving the trials lads to sweat their way through the Foxborough sections which may have had just a bit of the Collier influence.

On the day Chris handed over the Clerk of the Course position to newly-qualified Dave Clark, who coped exceedingly well, enabling Chris to contest this first Novice Championship round. Unluckily for Chris, his day didn't turn out so well after all. About a lap into the trial saw Chris going to the aid of senior citizen rider Trevor Harvey, only to pull the calf muscle in his right leg and sideline him for the rest of the day. And he wasn't even aboard the bike.... Not a nice reward for his weekend's efforts. Meanwhile at section 9 among the riding casualties were Club members James Page and Jeremy Maddocks, well not exactly casualties involving physical injury but picking up fives in spectacular fashion. If nothing else, young James was consistent. On lap 2 he parted company with his machine on the tricky camber out towards the ends card. At the first sign of trouble ahead James was quick to jettison the bike, which went one way while he dived for cover the other! On lap 3, watched by mum Alison armed with camera, he did an exact replay, but was too quick to have it recorded in digital memory (well I am being kind to Alison - the truth is that she didn't move in quick enough to snap the action....). A sweating, tired out Jeremy on the other hand got it right 3 times out of 4 (with a little encouragement from minder Stuart Penfold), after finishing upside down in the brambles on the third lap with the Beta threatening to push him in even deeper. He's still only in his first 6 months of trials riding but still managing to keep smiling through the pain! James Yearley had rear brake trouble on his Beta so he took advantage of Chris' available Scorpa. He was to find to his cost though that Chris' throttle default setting is wide open and comes without warning! I wondered why James seemed to be treating my section as enduro practice.... Good to see Martin Baker out again after a long absence from Sunday events. He was enjoying a private battle with a certain "P.G." Read, returning to the modern class on yet another acquisition (Gas Gas)

after dispensing with his cherished James. Chris Wicks was another returning rider having been busy with babies in recent years. Well done to Sam Cook who wins the Mrs Maud Warner Memorial Trophy and to Graham Palmer for taking the Covenbrook Cup away from brother Roy this time round.

I have raised the issue before but now that we have a Centre Championship for the class and clearly a growing following, Chris and I discussed introducing a Club Championship for the Twinshock class. After all, there are plenty of trophies residing in various members' homes that are currently not being awarded - it would be a case of selecting a suitable one. Assuming the Committee are in favour, I have gone ahead and added the Twinshocks to the tables, which this month shows the positions from the start of the year, including Twinshock rides.

Richard Sillett, 18 March 2009



**FOR SALE > JAMES CAPTIN 1956 TRIALS 197cc ORIGINAL REG ON SORN
N.J.B. SHOCKS ELECTRONIC IGNITION HEAVY DUTY CLUTCH GOOD TYRES
SOME ENGINE SPARS CONTACT PHIL 01376 345113.**

Three great long distance reliability trials . . .

Acting chairperson John keeps on at me about doing a bit for the Tail Light. (He keeps giving me whisky on a Thursday night as a bribe!) So I thought I would do a bit about our club's treasurer Mark Wilson who along with Garry Plumber ride in REAL trials i.e. The Edinburgh, Lands End and Exeter. None of this pocket handkerchief trick sections, some at night and lots in the winter!

Last Easter 2008 I was asked if I would drive a van for Mark, Garry and mate Joe Stollery to Cornwall so that they do the Lands End. So Good Friday morning off to LAUNCESTON in the van with the lads plus Mark's XT and chair plus Joe's 700cc Royal Enfield twin (a real bike) for the 6pm start. Having seen the lads off I drive on down to my hotel and Truro for the night thinking that in the morning I would go and look at the last group of sections on the cliffs overlooking St Ives bay, but no. 07:00 phone call. We had broken down in a village called Holsworthy. So no breakfast and a drive all the way back to LAUNCESTON then north to Holsworthy. Collect Mark, Garry and the outfit then drive all the way back to HALE to the finish to collect Joe who went on to finish the event. We did get back to see the last two sections. Bearing in

mind it was Easter, it was bitter and windy, one gust of wind knocked me off my feet! So we loaded all the bikes and men in the van and off we set back to BRAINTREE. Me driving, Mark, Garry and Joe all asleep after an 18 hour real trial.

Next up in October came the Edinburgh trial. This event starts in Tamworth in the evening so after the start I drive on towards Burton-on-Trent for the night, then in the morning onto Flagg in the Peak District. (Twixt Asbourne and Buxton) to the finish, collect the lads about 2pm and return to Braintree.

This year January 9th – 10th was the Exeter trial. Same team again leave Braintree at about midday and arrive at the start near Oakhampton for 6.30pm start. It's cold! After the start I retire to my hotel room for a night's sleep. The lads drive to the Haynes Museum for a midnight start to the trial. The visors on the crash helmets kept icing over! The course then made its way back to Exeter, then over Dartmoor and finished in TORQUAY at about 1pm the next day. We load up, they go to sleep and I drive home again. I know it's a hell of a job but somebody has to do it. Roll on Easter 2009! It's the LANDS END again!

RESULTS - LANDS END 2008

Mark/Garry XT & Sidecar DNF

Joe 700cc Royal Enfield GOLD

RESULTS - ENDINBURGH 2008

Mark/Garry XT & Sidecar SILVER

Joe 700cc Royal Enfield GOLD & BEST IN CLASS

RESULTS - EXETER 2009

Mark/Garry XT & Sidecar SILVER

Joe 700cc Royal Enfield GOLD & SPITFIRE TROPHY

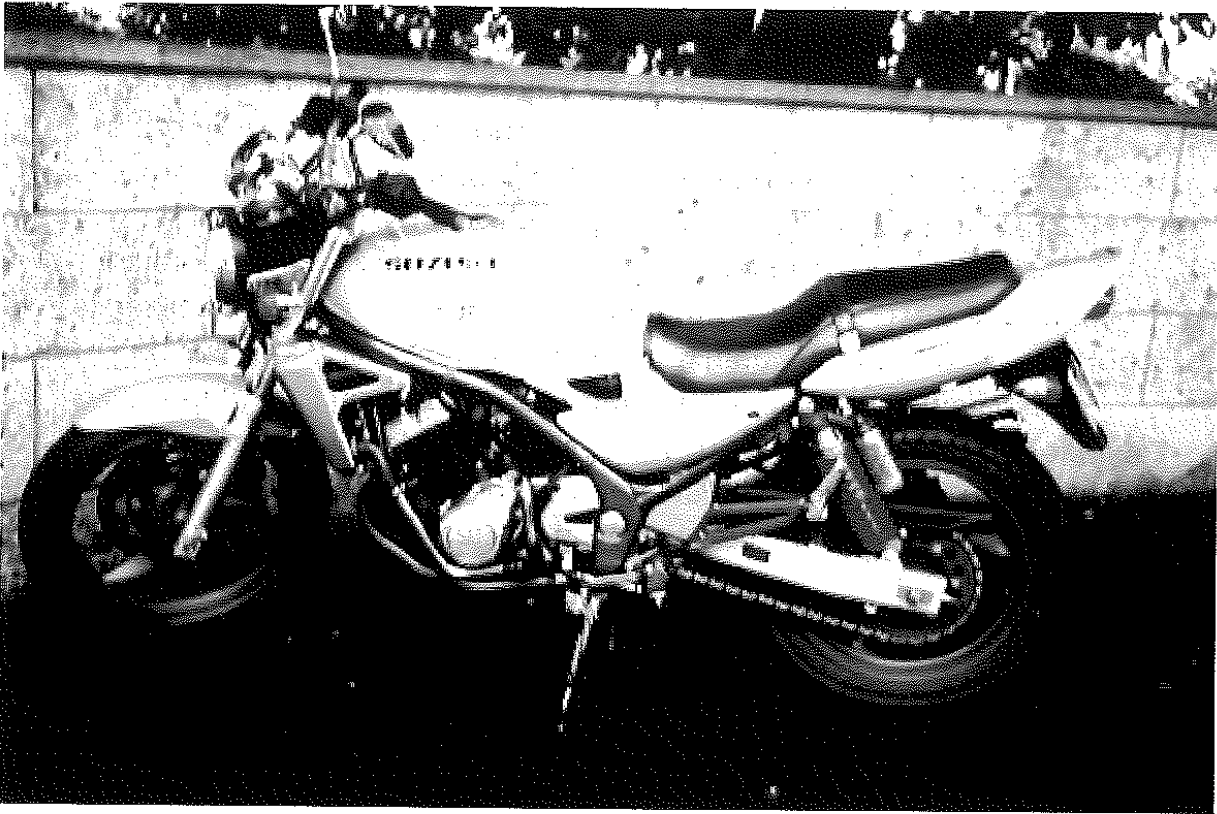
No there are no photographs I forgot to take a camera, I promise to do better next time!

Dave Clark.



CAPTION COMPETITION:

Italian police on the look-out, searching far and wide for beer drinkers!



Photograph taken in Yokohama of a 250cc four cylinder motorcycle that is probably not available in this country.

FACTS ABOUT JAPAN.

- 1) The Japanese make motorcycles.
- 2) The Japanese make cars. If they want one they need to show that they have a place to keep it – not on the road!
- 3) The Japanese obey the speed limit, traffic lights and pedestrian crossings. They drive on the left to annoy the Americans!
- 4) The Japanese religion is SHINTO, which recognises 4,000 gods, but it does not stop them from being BUDDHIST as well and celebrating CHRISTMAS while they are at it.
- 5) A good kimono can cost £30,000, so they don't often wear it, preferring western style, especially as it costs £20 for a dresser to shoe-horn a lady into one.
- 6) The hills/mountains are alive with bears, boars and monkeys.
- 7) The Japanese speak Japanese, but like to learn other languages, such as English. They are keen on education.
- 8) They are very honest and hard working.
- 9) Japanese often have to put up with earthquakes, typhoons and volcanic eruptions.

John M. Baya

CURRENT POSITIONS FOR 2009 CLUB TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIP

NOVICE		594	EXPERT "A"		740
1	Chris Cook	505	1	Wesley Butcher	550
2	Quenton Ramsey	642	2	James Yearley	562
3	Richard Wreathall	680	3		
4	Chris Wicks	692			
5	Eldon Jackson	695			
6	Alan Peck	697	PRE-70 ALL CLASSES		1040
7	Jeremy Maddocks	757	1	Allen Collier	802
8			2		
9			3		
10			4		
11					
12					
13					
14			TWINSHOCK		660
15			1	Stephen Butcher	262
16			2	Graham Palmer	270
			3	Wesley Butcher	436
			4	Adrian Parker	449
INTERMEDIATE "A"		800			
1	Roy Palmer	371			
2	Sam Cook	498			
3	Stephen Butcher	543			
4	Adrian Parker	661			
			SIDECAR		660
			1		
YOUTH A		800	YOUTH C		620
No Contenders			No Contenders		
YOUTH B		800	YOUTH D		620
1	Tim Rooney	717	No Contenders		
2					
Maximum possible marks are shown against class titles					
ELIGIBLE EVENTS HAVE BEEN:					
			21		
1	Southend	04 Jan 09	22		
2	Chelmsford	08 Feb 09	23		
3	Southend	22 Feb 09	24		
4	Lowestoft	01 Mar 09	25		
5	Braintree	15 Mar 09	26		
6			27		
7			28		
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20					

Richard Sillett 18 March 2009

Your **TAIL LIGHT** is only as good as the pictures, articles and news you contribute.

Email, Royal Mail or Telephone we're interested in what you've been up to bikes included or excluded!