



TAIL LIGHT

MAY 2009



Aaron Smith, racing at last year's motocross.

MOTOCROSS SUNDAY 24th MAY

JOIN US FOR A FREE WORKOUT

Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st, Friday 22 May

6.30pm start each evening.

. . . WORKING PARTIES.

Who's who?

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Not a bumper issue of the **TAIL LIGHT** this month please make sure you keep the write-ups and pictures flowing.

My highlight of the month was our trip to France for the first round of the European Championship; unfortunately I came home with torn ligaments in my knee after an accident walking the extreme test!

Plans for the motocross are well underway. Last year Richard kindly included a free 'natural' mud facial with every entry, if it's still included this year I might enter myself!



Abby, Editor.

From the archives . . . a photograph of the awards winners of 1977 at SAILING OAK:

From left to right Allen Collier, John F Smith, Eddie Waa, John T Boyd, John Turner, Jim Petts, Glen ?, Reg Miller.



DICK'S MOTOCROSS SPECIAL

May is Motocross Month once again where all the plans of previous weeks and months come alive. As I write this, entries are coming in steadily, with some top-name experts as well as many locals and over 30s NGR contenders signing up for what will be the first "Jack Hubbard Trophy" meeting at Stisted (Sunday 24 May). Quads are a concern at the moment though - let's hope some last minute chasing will see enough to run this class. Several new methods and materials are being adopted by the Club this year to make the job of building and dismantling the track more amenable for us all. Lighter-weight stakes have been bought for the non-spectator areas; plywood boards and roping will replace last year's heavy pallets for the marshals' posts; short runs of permanent chestnut fencing are planned by Chris Cook to go up ahead of track building to replace mattresses for the barbed wire fences at the gaps between fields; and we are having the use of a 4 wheel drive go-anywhere dumper truck courtesy of G & B Finch Ltd (Lee and Steve). This will not only carry the rope reels, which will eliminate the manual rope unwinding and rewinding methods of the past 60 years but also be used for carrying the new stakes and all other materials and equipment around the site. We have acquired a 1000 litre (220 gallon) IBC which we plan to have sitting in the dumper skip to manage any threat of dust on the day. Wouldn't it be ironic after all these recent years of rain to have a repeat of the 1994 meeting that had to be aborted halfway through practice because of our inability to put a bit of moisture on the surface. Sam Cook is borrowing a water pump and I've got the ok from the Environment Agency for extracting up to 4500 gallons out of the river. Armed with a 4.5 metre wide sprinkle hose dangling from the dumper skip and connected to the IBC we hope that Steve Butcher - a modest intermediate trials rider but a professional at operating plant - will be able to whizz round at every opportunity during the day putting down a light drizzle to re-moisturise what is constantly being lost from the surface by the sun's relentless evaporation. It's a bit of an experiment I admit, and I am sure we will have some fun and games to start with but opportunities to try new things in this sphere don't come up very often. Riders don't like big water bowsers flooding the track all in one go then seeing the track cut up more as a result to cause even more dust. The theory of maintaining it in a firm, rideable (moist but not saturated) condition that suppresses dust - as this scheme of "micro" watering is intended to do - is right. Let's hope my lousy plumbing works (better bring your tools I think James), so if dust is on the agenda and we manage to apply the water as planned it should be good for riders and spectators alike.

Please come along to help - many hands make light work and it WILL be easier than last year. If it's left to the same old few hands, they won't want anything to do with putting on an event next year, so please spare some time to keep the Braintree Club and Stisted MX alive. It is what belonging to a club is about. A club is nothing without its members contributing. Apart from building and dismantling the track, on the day we shall need marshals and general helping hands - why not volunteer to help. Chris Cook is down to run the event on the day as clerk of the course, with John Yearley assistant,

and among others we are relying on Dave Clark to head up the admission gate. David Smith on PA, Stuart Penfold signing-on and all-round support, Mark Wilson starter, Andrew Thain and family as pits marshals, Chris Dellow technical officer, Sam Cook finish flag, Tony Parkin and Christine Yearley lap scorers, Graham Palmer travelling marshal, Steve Butcher and Dave Field dumper services, John Boyd and Roy Rush Club Stewards, and as many club members as possible to fill shortages of the EC Marshals Club members (who are providing this year's chief marshal) and to be around for emergencies and track maintenance. The gaps will be filled by volunteers from other clubs. Mrs Cecily Hubbard and family will be there to present the Jack Hubbard Trophy. We are indebted to Steve and Lee Finch for their continued support in the way of plant and personnel for preparing and reinstating the track. Toilet hire is being arranged by Mark Hughes. Stuart has booked the caterers, John the St John and paramedic and I have sorted the public address people. Various members of the Committee are involved with erecting the big sign with further ideas being considered for a bright colour sign near the roundabout.

Please look at the general plan below for working parties to build and dismantle the track. This is being headed up by Aaron Smith, Steve Finch, John Smith and I. Even if you can only manage one session, it's a huge help if everyone who's fit and able gives the same. It is often forgotten that what goes up must come down, and it is always our objective to clear up as much as possible on the day at the end of the event. But weather and other factors sometimes mean we have to come back next day, and perhaps a couple of more evenings to hand back the fields to our landowner (and very importantly, Adam, the cattle farmer who needs to get his cows back munching grass).

WORKING PARTY GENERAL PLAN (Enter the site from A120, 150 metres Colchester side of Marks Farm Tesco roundabout before turn-off to Stisted, post code CM7 8AD for sat navvers)

Monday evening 18 May: Chris and Sam Cook will be getting the use of Jonathan Dixon-Smith's tractor to tow the stakes trailer. These big stakes will be used in the spectator field only. Barbed wire and electric fence on entrance to main (start) field to be lifted and folded back. Stakes to be dropped down to the peg markers that I (RS) will have already put out, working from my detailed track plan. Note: The entire track will be roped this year (no pegs or tape) but lightweight stakes and track marker posts will be used for non-spectator areas of the fields adjoining the main (start) field, avoiding the need for any other types of protection except what is to become the permanent chestnut fencing at the gaps between fields. These stakes (which after the event will be stored in the old gent's trailer toilet) will be distributed by dumper.

Evenings of Tuesday 19th through to Friday 22 May and throughout the day

Saturday 23 May: To allow for weather and numbers turning up, we need to allow this period to complete all the tasks. *Please allow for one of the above named and/or a Committee member to arrive first to gain access to container and to issue instructions - suggest 6.30pm start each evening.*

Don't be put off by the above. It usually all goes very smoothly at a gentle pace, and we have a good laugh in the process - particularly if decent numbers turn up to share the load. If you don't have a job on the day, come in the week and get your free-entry pass for helping build the track. Any questions, suggestions, or volunteers to help on the day, just give me or any Committee member a ring. A poster has been sent out with this Tail Light. Don't leave it under a pile of papers, pop one on the parcel shelf of your car, or stick it inside a window. Try and get one displayed on notice boards at work, or in shops you visit. Mrs Hubbard has sponsored the press adverts for the B & W Times and Chronicle. Hopefully, they will also print my pre-meeting write-up. Look forward to seeing you all down at Stisted.

Richard Sillett 20 April 2009



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