

## MORE SNAQUE PIT MOMENTS

Tim Rooney showing off on the scary Snaque Pit hills just before the start of the final Summer Series trial. Watching from down below in the dark jacket is Richard Penfold and an unidentified rider. The photographer couldn't find the right buttons to press on his camera for continuous shooting mode to get a decent action shot to pick out, hence the poor technical quality – but managed just afterwards to get an unwanted couple of dozen images of Tim posing still (below) – typical!



Left: Former speedway/grasstrack man Phil Ranson saying: "Look, no more steel shoe!".

Below: Dave Field looks proudly on his latest Bantam hybrid before its maiden journey.



Phil is getting a dab (!) hand at trials now he has shed that sliding shoe, found what those strange things called brakes do and learned that sometimes it pays to keep the back wheel behind the front going round left handers!!

Meanwhile, Dave is taking time out from feeding his Bantams and getting more trials riding in these days. The picture shows him enjoying a cuppa and a burger before setting out in the Pre-65 class and polishing the sides of the rear tyre on the swinging arm (yes, it's that close – should fend off the mud build-up!).



Braintree & District Motorcycle Club

www.braintree-mcc.co.uk

## TAIL LIGHT

September 2011

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**Trustees of the Club:** Bob Drane, Tony Parkin, Richard Sillett



A woman's work is never done.... Carol Read, official signeron at our Snaque Pit trial on 6 August, is flanked by "helpers" husband Phil and Stuart Penfold. They both look on admiringly – what would we all do without Carol to take our entry fees and forms, and issue riding numbers and observer boards with that ever-happy smiling face!

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

**Sunday 11 September:** Our Centre trial, at Snaque Pit. Regs in Aug Gazette. Clerk of the Course Chris Cook will be planning a course worthy of a full day's trials riding for this all-classes event. Give him and the Club your support and turn up to observe a section if you are not planning to ride yourself. First man away is at 10.30am. The venue is always well signed by the organising team from the Bulmer Fox. This is the last Club event until December when we have the annual Turkey Trot trial, so please don't be shy all you new (and old) members - make an effort to attend and don't leave it all to someone else.

The day before, well the afternoon and evening to be precise, several of us Braintree Club members will be taking a big role in the running of the 500cc Sidecar Association's Floodlit grasstrack at High Easter. Grasstracks are rare in this centre these days, so why not pop along and watch. See [www.500ccsidecars.org.uk](http://www.500ccsidecars.org.uk) for details. Adults £15, concessions £10, under-16s/students £5, under 14s free.

## NEW MEMBER

Dazzled by the Club's stand and trials demo at the recent "Bike Meet" show at Langford's Museum of Power, Stan Joslin from Tolleshunt Major has joined the Club. Stan is interested in all things bike. We all look forward to seeing you Stan at future events – on or off a bike we need you! Welcome to the Club and hope you enjoy being part of the action.

## RICHARD ACHIEVES ARMY ENDURO OBJECTIVE

Since joining the British Army and thriving on overseas action that makes riding even the steepest of those Snaque Pit hills in the wet look tame, Richard Penfold's dream has been to get amongst the Army Enduro team. According to Richard, these boys are world class and very professional, and realistically it would take some doing to reach their level. Well, Richard is delighted to report that not only has he been able to join the squad as part of the support team, he has competed in one of their events, albeit in one of the less-expert classes, their 2 hour Hare & Hounds at Bagshot, surprising not only his colleagues but himself too by putting one over several of the established regulars! Well done Richard. You certainly have the determination to reach your goal. At Snaque Pit, after helping Chris and Phil lay out the sections, Richard - wise enough to throw his helmet in the car just in case he got the offer of a ride or two – was seen in his old familiar "hopping" mode aboard several bikes before settling down to observing a section.

## MR P SNR MEETS THE TROOPS.....

Or is it Graham Palmer having a quiet word in Stuart's ear in this peaceful moment before the trial got underway at Snaque Pit?

It makes a change to find Graham in such a calm and still mood – and the picture hasn't come out blurred as most action pics do of this man – the fastest MX rider in trials!! Stuart obviously had a calming effect on him, but not enough to stop brother Roy beating him by 10!



## MUSEUM OF POWER "BIKE MEET" SHOW LANGFORD 7 AUGUST 2011

The Club were invited to exhibit a stand of bikes and put on a mini trials demo for this now-annual event in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. John Yearley and myself laid out 3 simple, but natural, sections. Sam Cook and Phil Read provided the solo action on their modern machines, while Mark Wilson, passengered by John, demonstrated their sidecar skills on the recently-acquired Paul Gray Triumph outfit. A variety of machines were brought along to show at the Club's stand. Bob Drane got the scoop of the year by bringing along former European 250cc MX Champion Dave Bickers with his No1 plate winning Greeves. Dave's hand must have ached more than from a couple of laps of Shrublands Park as so many people wanted to meet him and shake his hand! Dave said afterwards that he had thoroughly enjoyed his day and was glad Bob had asked him along. Bob himself had his trials Greeves on show – this machine has been in Bob's ownership for most of its life and has been restored in recent times by Bob, whose engineering skills are known to many. Also showing were Alan Hornsby with his Triumph pre-65 trials outfit, Mark had his XT600 LDT outfit, and friend of the Club Don Daley brought along his KTT Velocette sprinter. His colleague (Mr Sargent I think) had his Triumph twin sprinter on the stand too. Wives Christine Yearley and Carol Read added a touch of glamour to proceedings. Sam later found some logs to up the severity of things and pulled off some clever stuff in front of the crowd. The Essex Police Safe Bike team were drawn to the Club's activities, and in the end no less than 3 of their officers tried a bit of passengering with Alan! One did the inevitable and fell out of the chair (who wouldn't with Alan at the helm...) but thankfully without coming to any harm. The Police were extremely interested in what the Club were about and this was a real education for them. Don't be surprised if we hear from this team for future collaborations. The Museum organisers were really impressed with the Club's turn-out. I myself was wearing two hats, being part of the Museum's volunteer workforce, but from what I saw of things the Club certainly did itself proud here. At least one new member was recruited.

Away from the Club stand was a grand display of bikes of all types by invited individuals, from mopeds to Heskeths. Among these were Jack Webb (a former member in his grasstrack racing days), who had a speedway machine and his immaculately restored Hagon/Jap grass bike on show. One man stood out above all others: he had a vee twin Ducati with specially-built sidecar. In the sidecar was his wheelchair! The Norton Owners Club, the Colchester Vintage Club, London Douglas Club and the BSA Bantam Club all had stands and lots of machinery being admired. I would like to say a big thank you to all those members who supported us and laid on a great show. A great day all round.....until the heavens opened later in the afternoon!

*Dave Clark*

## POORLY PAUL

Sorry to learn Paul Gray is under the weather at the moment and off work. He recently sold his immaculate Triumph trials outfit to Mark Wilson. Let's all hope Paul soon makes it back to tip top health and we see him back on a bike before too long.