



Moto Trials Newsletter January 2010

I sit and ponder our last 6mths. What have we achieved? Have I made a difference? I do know that my 'Trials life' has changed from a riding focus to an administration focus and I guess this was brought home to me at NZ champs where my mind was on anything but competing. That is not to say that I find the job distasteful, more it is a challenge. I still believe that I am surrounded by one of the best sporting groups that one could wish for but in some ways you are hard work.

Since the invention of email you have been 'spoon fed' all of the info that you have needed to know about your local sport. Most of you have been able to walk to your computer to find the results of your weekend and where you will have to show up next just by opening your emails. I want you to work a little harder! I want you to go to your computer and SEARCH. Why? Because if you search for and find, then it is likely the Joe NZ Citizen will also be able to search and find. Think of that. Instead of your local 'secretary' putting a 'flyer' or results on YOUR computer [and maybe only 30 others] they go to a web site where the world can see. We then stop being the 'secret society' of motorcycling. Before you all hit your reply buttons, I know that some clubs are already using very good web sites. I hope that in 5 years time emails will be the secondary form of communication. Hopefully we can lead the way at MNZ but I have to admit that we do not have the most exciting 'Trials' site in NZ at head office. Maybe I can change that!

To some of you it will come as no surprise that I start the newsletter about websites. We, in the N.I. have decided to use John Ravenscroft as a coordinator and publisher of results for our championship rounds. To aid the process and to move to the 'next level' we are trying to initiate online entry. There has been a lot of work done behind the scenes to make this happen and I would like to thank Andrew Poad for his input. At time of writing it is still not a 'sure thing' but we are confident. What it will mean to you is that you will enter via your computer using your user name and password. [At this stage I would advise that if you have forgotten them you might like to use the month of February to sort them out]. When entering you will need to pay with a credit card [or your Dads] and we will have some alternative method as well. Also of interest to the rider will be the ability to see who else has entered. To the organiser it will mean that all entries are entered straight onto a database and it is downloadable at any time. MNZ will handle all money and send takings to host club [less commission]. John Ravo' will arrive at the venue with all of the i's dotted and t's crossed. By the way Ravo has agreed to work with Dave Clarkes 'Trialsmaster'.

A problem is that although we started dialogue at MNZ in November, we are getting very close to the new season and cannot confirm until 1st week of February that MNZ office will have systems in place. I am asking you to show patience with what will be a new process with a very short lead in time. There will no doubt be a few things to iron out and if you have a problem do not be afraid to phone and ask for help. I personally have found the staff at MNZ very helpful and at this stage Ravo and I are making ourselves available.

Rule changes

I have recommended that the following rule changes/corrections be made to the rule book for the New Year:

30-2-2 Arrow colour for A grade should be '**red**' not 'ted' [correction]

30-7-2 Footing or leaning more than three times; should be **3 pts** not 5pts [correction]

In 'Championship classes' section, the age of a junior should be **under 17** not under 16 [correction]

30-2-7 Gardening to "**Gardening**". [Correction grammar]

30-2-2.....blue for President/Junior & Clubman **with President having one deviation marked by the addition of one green arrow [or two to indicate a "gate"]**. Expert will follow.....

[Insert this. A rule change]

30-6-2 Now Forty or more sections. Change to **Thirty or more**.
[Rule change]

The name of the sport now to be officially known as **Moto Trials**
[Name change]

At time of writing these are my recommendations but are yet to be ratified by MNZ

There will be those who are less than happy with the above but **all** of the above have been used as an 'unofficial' or supplementary regulation in the last year. I am giving you the tools to make your sports objectives achievable and legal.

I would like to comment on the 30 section minimum:

I believe that organisers can run good 40 section trials and I would like to think that they still aspire to do so. A 30 section minimum will be available for them to use should they need it but they may well have a very successful 33 or 36 or 39 or 40 section trial. We need to get our 'heads' around the concept of logistics when we 'set out' an event and a very good starting point would be for anyone who is setting a section to count the "difficult elements" per grade, per section. There should be **three**. So many times I watch an Expert rider take time in a section, not because he is slow, but because the section contains five or more "difficult elements". **Good sections have three.**

More sections per round [i.e. 11, 12 or 13] mean more riders riding at any one time but it also means more observers to find. But it may be worth the effort in providing a quality event with minimal 'queuing'.

I do hope that organisers use this rule SPARINGLY and continue to give visiting riders their 'monies worth'. I believe it is a 'tool' that you need so that we can take some of the anxiety out of the sport that is created when the "day becomes too short" and the 'queues too long'.

The "brainstorming" that we did at the MNZ champs was useful and I hope that you have all read the analysis of that [emailed some months ago]. One of the topics that does need addressing is that of **grading**. Cyber – democracy is not working so well for me and I need many of you to be at one place to discuss this issue [which seems to have the nation divided]. I know what **I** think on the issue but at this stage that would not keep enough people happy. I have heard that there may be an extra day of workshops at the AGM and I would put **grading** at the top of the agenda. Could you leave 21st & 22nd May free and plan to be in Wellington to help me sort through the possible variations.
Thank you.

Other news

Our Waihi Gold Experience smacked of 'professionalism' and thanks must go to Gary Samson and team. Hopefully there is a report and pictures available elsewhere on the web.

Oceania Team has been selected and Australia has wanted a woman to represent NZ for some time. This year we have two. We are represented by:

Jake Whitaker.... Expert
Warren Laugesen...Master
Stef Downes.....Senior woman
Gabby Gundry.....Junior Woman

This event will be contested at Glenmaggie, Victoria over Easter and the team will have the questionable benefit of travelling with Steve Armistead, Francis Sydenham and myself.

I hope that 2010 is a great Moto Trialing year, keep your feet up and keep smiling.

Jim Henderson