

The 1969 SIMMONS CUP TRIAL

Sunday 8th June 1969

Start and finish at the Black Prince, Bexley

Present Day Note:

There is no programme or Results in the Sidcup Club archives. **Has anyone out there either?**

The Trial was run in conjunction with the Erith Club (hence the change of month from Sidcup's usual.)

Sidcup's Trials Secretary, Brian Goldsmith, wrote about the trial in his "Trials Talk" in the July Compass

The only trial that has passed which the Club was involved with was the Sidcup/Erith Group Trial, the Simmons Cup. The idea was that the Erith Club should do the paper work, whilst Sidcup would provide the ground and observers. Unfortunately, a few things went adrift; a case of the right hand not knowing what the left is doing. In fact, part of the route marking for the trial was still up the last time I looked.

The trial started from the Black Prince on the A.2, and to begin with, competitors rode a group of sections nearby.

From here they travelled to Jackson's Gully, where Mike Sturdey and myself had sorted out three quite good (I thought) National Combine sections. As it happened, the Novice riders did not always agree with my view; this impression was formed during the thumping of fists on tables and the demands for rebates of entry fees, but as usual, they were ignored.

After completing these three, riders went on to four quite difficult sections in Calfstock Lane. At the Combine meeting the following Tuesday, it was generally agreed that the trial was overall too difficult.

A Combine trial is very difficult to mark out, the trouble being the absolute extremes in riding ability. At one end there are riders of the calibre of Adams and Ketley, and at the other end riders who would be in trouble helping old ladies across the road, let alone riding a trials iron.

Present day explanations

"A group of sections nearby" – almost certainly the Gun Club up the hill on the opposite side of the A2.

Jackson's Gully – Owned by Trials ace, Gordon Jackson, the gully is alongside the old A20 between Sidcup and Swanley.

Mike Sturdey is now a Director of Sturdey Motorcycles of Tonbridge.

Calfstock Lane is the byway starting alongside the main gate of Canada Heights. It was later filled in with spoil from building the Swanley bypass.

The North Kent Trials Combine always had a meeting the Tuesday evening after a monthly Combine Trial to discuss in depth the previous trial.

Adams and Ketley – Bob Adams and Alan Ketley. Two of the top trials riders of the SE Centre.

Printed in the July 1969 issue of the Sidcup Club's magazine, The Compass was this.....

In sidecar trials she rides with Dad,
When things go wrong she gets quite mad.
When it comes to work she is not bleating,
You often see her as Sec. of Meeting.
At Club Nights to see her you have to wait,
She nearly always gets there late,
Members have been heard to mutter,
Like the ad., you can't tell her from butter.

There's no author credited, but it had all the hallmarks of the aforementioned Trials Secretary!