

The 1973 SIMMONS CUP TRIAL

Sunday 9th September 1973

Start and finish at the Warren, Star Lane, St. Mary Cray

Present Day Note:

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

Sidcup's Trials Secretary, **Brian Goldsmith**, wrote about the trial in his October 1973 "Trials Talk" in the Compass.

Trials Talk extended to five pages this month, reporting on the National Clayton Trial in Wales, the Harvest Trial and the Southern Trial. The bit about the Simmons Cup Trial follows.....

On 9th September, the North Kent Trials Combine event took place, and it was the turn of the Sidcup Club to start the ball rolling with the Simmons Cup Trial. This was started from the Warren at St. Mary Cray, in which there were nine sections ridden twice, six in Bourne Wood, five in Calfstock Lane, and three in the Gully.

The ground was very dry and it was quite difficult to find the type of section for a Combine Trial. Even the swamp in the Warren had virtually dried up and where at one time we used to have sections along its edge, we now run right across the middle.

The Simmons attracted an entry of 79 solos and 9 chairs, which for the season's first event was, I think, quite good. I don't think we had any complaints about the trial, in fact many competitors did say how much they had enjoyed it, and we did have a good Steward's Report.

The trial was won by an Erith import, namely **Don Smith**, who informs me is making another come back. Don lost 15 marks, with **Tim Bateup** four behind him, **Barry Burns** (both from Kent & Sussex Club) with 21, and **Dave Randall** (Met. Police) on 26. **John Pattinson** had a good ride and finished in fifth placing, keeping the Gravesend flag flying (if only at half mast).

Messrs **Pascoe** and **Adams** won the sidecar award, and the Erith Club as Sidcup dropped out, sort of won the Team Award.

May I say thank you to everyone who turned up and helped run the Simmons, particularly the observers of which we had just sufficient, also to **Graham Holland** for successfully running his first trial (and not his last, you lucky lad) also to the landowners for the use of the ground on which the trial was run.

In the October 1973 Compass there was news from the ACU where proposals for introducing a nationwide annual competition licence from 1st January 1974. The rates for a full year were:

International Licence for all sports except trials -	£5.50; Trials - £2.75.
National Licence for all sports except trials -	£3.30; Trials – £1.65
Restricted (below National) for all sports including Trials -	£1.10