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<u>Committee Members:</u>	Charles Courtney, Ralph Charman, Steve Jones, Richard Jordan, Nick Kennedy, Thomas Moss, Michael Smith		

## What's Up

Front page news—The new website has been launched by Nick Kennedy, and very smart it looks too. It is now [edmcc.co.uk](http://edmcc.co.uk) — not .com. He has worked very hard and long to brand the site with an identity to tie in with the membership cards and polo shirts. The 'polos' have been selling well and have even been aired at a trial a couple of weeks ago— well done Simon Rye. There is a photo on the club's facebook page. It would be good if a few more of you savvy PC peeps put a bit more on the facebook comments.

I would like to thank Alan Peach, who has kept members up to speed with dates and results on the old [edmcc.com](http://edmcc.com) site, for all his input over the last few years. We hope to see him and Dad Mike at a few trials in the summer. I am sure it won't be too long before Oscar is zooming about on a trials bike of some sort too.

## February Club Trial Squirrell Farm

Seven lads rode the morning schoolboy competition, Sections 1 & 2 used long banks to send the riders down and back up , Section 3 a narrow gully with tight turns to deal with, Section 4 dropped down right by the stream round a tree and back up the bank over roots and Section 5 was on the side of a hill with a slippery ascent for blues and whites which caused a few fives.

Charles Courtney matched Mark Cottingham on sections 1 and 3 but struggled more on 3, 4 and 5. Matt Jordan is seeing the benefit of competing in the SE centres now and had good rides on all of the sections. Jack Stiles struggled on the blue route but scored better than Matt on section 2. Sections 3, 4, and 5, were a struggle for him and his bike definitely didn't like the climb on 5 even though he gave it his all on the last two laps. Keep at it Jack a higher route takes a bit of getting used to.

Finn Kennedy was the sole red route rider and didn't hang about, section 5 took two fives or he would have been in single figures for all the sections. On yellow, Owain Wells finished for a total of 6, he is only young and when he gets a bit more confidence is more than ready for the red route. Woody Willis rides an electric bike which does struggle for grip in damp conditions. Woody always tries very hard, shrugs off any difficulties and usually has a smile on his face, I'm sure he will be able to do better in the drier weather.

The afternoon saw 23 riders tackle 8 sections. The additional 3 were set round a bowl across the bridleway. Section 6 had some wicked roots to ride up after skirting the edge of a boggy area with the resultant lack of traction and grip. Section 7 had blue and white route up a bank with a double log combination at the top and this was ridden in a variety of ways —usually due to not enough speed to clear both elements. Section 8 had another steep bank to exit up, and out between two small trees. Sections 3 and 6 took the most marks overall. The scores were fairly high, some quite close, all in excess of 56, except for Steve Jones on the Inter route on 38.

**February Group Trial was at Miscombe, and by all accounts was a very good trial. We chose to ride a bit nearer to home so I am unable to compile a proper report.**

### **March Club Trial Attwood Farm**

**Five lads turned up to face the sections made very slippery with the heavy overnight rain. The sections used the small stream to the bottom of the wooded slope and some of the gullies running into it, with plenty of turns across roots and cambers.**

**Sections 4 & 5 took the most marks, with Section 5 having several crossings over a ditch with the banks getting more slippery and the final drop in becoming deeper and muddier each round.**

**Two older youths were saving their bikes and their energy for the Youth National in Devon the next day, but they turned up to help with the younger riders. Charles Courtney coached Steve Marsh round the Red route to improve his confidence in the wet. Woody Willis has switched from an electric bike to a 50 cc petrol Gas Gas and was competing on it for the first time. It gave him much more grip on the sections than the electric bike, and with coaching from Mark Cottingham he achieved under 60 marks lost about 50 % better than of all his previous scores. Watch out you others he will soon be catching you all up.**

**Matt Jordan and Jack Stiles battled away on the blue route, with scores of 30 and 26 respectively. Jack's Grandad coaching him to a win, and Finn Kennedy rode all the red sections with great attack and a final score of 29.**

**The club trial set off with 29 riders, but 8 retired over the afternoon due mainly, I suspect, to the energy sapping section 5 which proved a tad tricky for lots of red riders, who had to manhandle their bikes back along the section to escape from the 'gloopy' mud hole at the bottom of the exit. Steve Marsh was observing here with his mum Karen, and was fully occupied in helping to drag bikes out of the section. A tricky ditch on section 1 also caught the white route riders out, with front wheels digging in the soft edges and causing a quick dive onto the handlebars, and a dunking for some. Those who succeeded in conquering section 5 were as pleased with a 3 as they would usually be with a clean. A good brand of soap powder was required for kit at the end of the day. Thanks to the setting out team and the observers.**

**The March club trial was a test of organisation for everyone, as they had to get home, put their bikes away, clean themselves up and be at the presentation evening by 7.30 pm. I'm glad to say that over 40 people attended the evening, and I didn't detect an inch of mud amongst them!**

**Thanks to our President Chris Wells who presented the awards, Simon Courtney who announced the results, Nick Kennedy who printed the photos which everyone received and Brian from the pub who catered the nibbles. I would also like to thank the club for the fantastic flowers which are still looking wonderful. I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves.**

For those of you unable to attend, I will hopefully catch up with you and distribute your awards over the next couple of weeks.

I am pleased that a few more memberships were paid up at the February trial and you should receive your membership cards soon. We are heading in the right direction but still quite a lot short of last year. My goal of 100 members seems a long way off now! Hopefully the better weather will have a few more of you turning out to ride.

It has been good to see a few faces back on the scene again after a bit of a lay off for one reason or another. I would also like to thank those who have been observing on a regular basis, which keeps the riders circulating that bit quicker, especially when the weather is not too kind. Dave Harris has been very stoical -turning up to observe on a regular basis for the club and at other events despite having a lot of pain in his back and leg, and barely able to set one foot in front of the other. Thanks Dave, hope you get diagnosed soon and able to get some treatment to return you to better order—I won't go so far as to say normal!

Our Good Friday trial starts at 11.00 am and will hopefully attract riders from other clubs who have been invited.

Due to the cost of the land it has been decided that entry fees for all riders - club, invitees , seniors and juniors will be a flat £10.

It would be good to have some volunteers to observe on the day, so that queues are not too prevalent. If you are willing to assist or have a helpful relative/friend *please* let me know.

It's been quite a busy couple of months, and more to come in April!

Happy Easter to those of you that I don't see beforehand.

If anyone has anything to contribute to Twistgrip please let me know, I will be pleased for some fresh ideas. If I ramble on too long with info about the trials I would quite happy to curtail/omit my reports and stick to essential info. Feedback welcome, it is sometimes hard to find enough to fill a page or so, and other times difficult to stop the flow!

<u>What's On</u>	Schoolboys 10.00 am	Club trials 1.00 pm	(Venue maps on website or mail/phone me for directions- details in heading)
2010			
March	Sunday 28th	SEC Richard Bartlett Trial, Gravesend club	
April	Good Friday 2nd	Invitation Trial at Hourne Farm Crowborough Morning start 11.00am	
	Tuesday 6th	Committee Meeting War Bill in Tun 8. 00 pm	
	Sunday 11th	Group trial Elsted GU29 0**	
	Saturday 17th	Club Trial—Moor Hall Ninfield TN33 9JT —	



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