

(Report adapted from Ray Kennard's report to Thames)

27<sup>th</sup> April 2008 Holman's Grove Combined Trial  
(also now round 3 of Thames Club Championship)

Croydon MCC combined closed-to-club and Thames plus guests trial, had only seventeen riders signing on, including just four of from Croydon, all of them from their regulars from Star Group trials. This was despite the fact that they had published the regs twice in their newsletter, and Thames had published them in a special edition of their own newsletter.

Bob Brown of Thames had suggested that we publish regs in TMX News, but by then it was a bit late especially if you look at the response from previous dates submitted .

A bit of a mystery too, as it was a round of the Thames club's championship which is usually strongly contested, and doubly so when there was no apparent clash with other trials. (ed's note: there may have been I believe a trial run by Bognor/Worthing on the same day). Only one Expert entered which wasted the effort taken to provide a route through the sections for the class.

Was the low entry because we were at Holmen's Grove, and the venue has already lost its attraction? "With such a poor entry, it hardly seems worth the effort and expense to run the event. **What's the problem?**" asks Ray Kennard. Tell your Committee because we need to know!

Graham Stratford, Mark Alway and Ray Kennard had laid out the 8 sections including clearing a completely new one on the Saturday.

This last one looked easy but proved to be very slippery and needed heavy footing to keep going, not that the spell of rain helped, making things very greasy.

Paul Sims of Thames was riding a brand new 80cc Beta, a capacity bike that he has ridden since having a new knee installed five years ago, and the engine had been run for fewer than five minutes before the trial - no special water-proofing, nothing done to prepare for the conditions, especially for the stream, but incredibly at some time during the day he cleaned seven of the eight sections at least once.

Unfortunately, two of Croydon's four retired, Victor Hurst with a bent gear lever which defied all attempts to straighten it, and Mark with jammed-on front brake.

(ed's note: it was a tough trial, and even the trails between the sections equally tough- but a warm vote of thanks from Thames goes out to the organisers, and to the good folk who laid out the trial and tidied up afterwards-)

Jolyon Walters 124	Expert			30	26	24	23	23
Paul Sims 20	Over 50			3	5	4	5	3
Bob Brown 96	Over 50			19	21	22	13	21
Pete Haines 24	Over 50			8	2	6	5	3
Victor Hurst	Over 50			36	37	28	Retired	
James Brown 54	Intermediate			14	6	6	8	20
Jim Howell 52	Intermediate			7	11	9	14	11
Mark Ward 54	Intermediate			9	11	10	13	11
Nigel Haines 60	Intermediate			8	11	12	15	14
Mark Alway	Intermediate			20	20	22	Retired	
Derek 'Dick' Bentley 67	Novice			19	12	19	14	12
Graham Tickner 79	Novice			14	14	13	20	18
Graham Stratford 67	Novice			13	10	15	13	16
Elliot Tickner 91	Youth Beginner			14	18	18	23	18
Charlie Woodward 38	Youth Novice	8		4	11	10	5	
Brian Cohen 127	Wobbler			22	26	24	32	23
Simon Dowling 20	Pre67A	3	4	3	5	5		

Our thanks to Forest Enterprise for use of the land.