



Cycle Torque

NEWSLETTER OF THE IXION MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC.

Number 181, June 2013



A fine day and a fine body of men!

Kevin Tither, Peter Dunne (Pioneer club president), Dick Phillips, John Lawton, Oscar Alexander and Alasdair Keane at Kaikoura. Photo: Neil Sturmfels, editor's friend.

PRESIDENTS REPORT APRIL 2013

Firstly, I would like to say a big 'thank you' to the committee, this includes wives, partners and families for dedicating their time throughout this past year. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Carl Robson, his wife Siobhan and family, attended the Scottish 6-Day Trial in May 2012. Carl finished in 162nd place – a total of 276 riders started, a great achievement for a first time entry. Thanks also to Siobhan for her daily updates via the website. Sounds like you all had a great time, even though the weather was not always the best.

The World Rounds came to Australia and many kiwi trials riders went to watch and support Jake Whittaker and Nick Ball.

Kaikoura 3-Day – A great turnout of Ixion club members attending this annual event. A good social weekend was had by all. Looking forward to a good turnout this year as it is a 6-day event (celebrating Pioneer Motorcycle Club's 100 years).

Jake Whittaker won the Aussie title again, along with his minder, Nick Ball. They were part of the NZ winning Oceania team. Well done to them all.

North Island Champs – A great club effort was put into running 2 North Island Champ events in our calendar year – 7 & 8 July 2012 and 23 & 24 February 2013. We had a lot of good positive feedback from these events and brilliant observing from all the observers. We also had great sponsor support from Beta Novagar, Q8 Oils and BNT. It was awesome to see club members having a go at riding the local nationals with good results.

New Zealand Champs were held in Alexandra over Labour weekend. It was a great 3 days with dry weather and huge rocks, although a bit of bad luck for John Lawton, who damaged his hand while practicing so he ended up doing some observing and lots of moral support to the riders (and doing his sales pitch). Jake Whittaker won the NZ title once again. Good on Jake.

The BSA Shield, combined with the classics. The Ixion club members were working hard in the wet, muddy conditions. We thought we had won the shield easily on the day but the results showed we only done it by one point.

The Club's Newsletters every month have been great reading, thanks Sidey, and thanks also to the Editors friends in sending in reports and photos. Keep it up.

Kevin Tither, President



Kevin Pinfold, Kevin Tither, Tony Smith and John Lawton on the starting line. Kaikoura 6 day trial.

Photo: Neil Sturmfels

KAIKOURA 6 DAY TRIAL HAS HAPPENED.

29 MAY – 3 APRIL 2013

And what a weekend it was. According to my quick look through Google, there have only been 3 six-day trials in the world, ever. Well, the Scottish has been done 101 times and the ISDT quite a few since it started in 1913. I think Pioneer club have pulled off a Southern Hemisphere first by running this event, and already it is clear that it will be talked about for many a year to come.

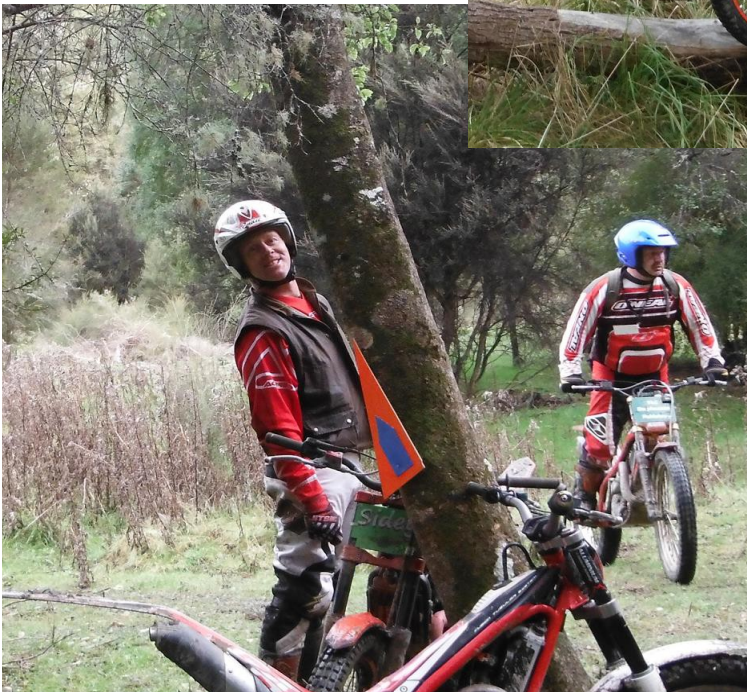
4 Expert; 13 Intermediate; 6 President; 14 Clubmen; 4 Twinshock riders competed in the six day event, making a total of 41 lucky riders. The loops all started from the yard of Snip Prentices' farm at Claverly, about 45 minutes South of Kaikoura, and followed the farm roads and bush tracks of Snip's farm and the adjoining Trewin property, which consist entirely of spectacular country with views of the snow-covered Kaikoura mountains on one side and the beautiful Kaikoura coast on the other, with many bush and grass-clad hills in between.

We were divided into teams of four riders, more or less by grade, and sent off at five minute intervals to follow the many (over 600!) bright orange enduro arrows pointing us up hill and down dale to find the sections waiting for us in many cunning and carefully chosen locations. Different day's loops intersected and overlapped at many points, so the arrows were decorated with yellow, blue and red flashes so that we would know which arrow to follow. On the starting line the chief organiser, Mr Paul "Rat" Jackson put strips of coloured insulating tape on our bars each day so that nobody had any excuse for not knowing which colour to follow! The sections were also marked by having different coloured start flags for each day. Superb organisation. Lots of thought went into this.

Day one consisted of a 27 km loop with 30 sections around it, which we then followed again to section 10, making 40 sections for the day. Day two was a 22 km loop with 27 sections, ridden twice to make 44 km and 54 sections. Day three was a (relatively!) easy 20 km with 23 sections, also ridden twice.

Carl Robson, Kaikoura 6 day trial. Phantom foreground photographer is Stephanie Downes, one of our Trial des Nations competitors. She got the big picture.

This photo, Neil Sturmfels of course.



Sidey, lurking behind a tree but can't hide because of the big day two arrow pointing to his head! I managed to fool Phil Stevenson in the background though.

Neil Sturmfels wasn't fooled.

Kevin Pinfold unveiling the 2014 Ossa to Dick Phillips and Tony Smith. Shhh, don't tell anyone!!

Photographer: Can't say 'cos he'd be in big trouble with the Ossa factory!

OK, its actually Dick's H&W (Hammered and Welded) rigid rear special. With eclectic start. It's a hybrid. Kevin's just considering whether to write to Ossa and suggest they change their design focus. Yeah right.



About now you're probably wondering if this is right. For those of you who have been involved in setting sections before and know how much work goes into concocting 12 for a champs round, the thought of setting 78 sections for one 3-day event (one of them was common for each day) and then following that up with a further 36 sections for another 3 days, to make a total of 114 sections, is about to blow your mind! To say nothing of the 600 enduro arrows and the many km separating the sections on the first three days. It is said that Paul Jackson has given up an actual month of Sundays, travelling 2 ½ hours up from Christchurch each time and 2 ½ hours back over the last year, and his chief accomplices Rob MacKay and Derek Scott have also put in huge effort. Outstanding, and producing outstanding results.

Maybe the universe rewards effort with good weather. It was fine on the first day, though quite cold in the morning, and not a drop of rain was had until the sections had all been pulled up and the caravan packed away on the last day. There was a six day gap in the weather, timed to within minutes. An amazing feature of an amazing trial! The sections were of typical South Island level, so many of the North Island riders who normally do President signed up for Intermediate. Ixion was represented by John Lawton, Kevin Tither and myself who finished 6th, 7th and 8th with 216, 226 and 258 points respectively. We were represented by Neil Sturmfels in President (5th, 342) and by Oscar Alexander, Alasdair Keane and Dick Phillips in Clubmen (3rd, 186; 9th, 378 and 10th, 496 respectively).

Some misfortune did attend. Interislander sailings were disrupted by some sort of failure, doubtless caused by deck officers, to the Kaitaki; which caught Jim Henderson out so he missed the first day. Then Jim left his Ossa idling while he looked at section 2 on the second round of day two. The Ossa decided to drop off it's stand, and seized tight by the time Jim could get back to it. But, as Jim said: "In what other sport would you get offers of not one but three other bikes to finish the event on?" I might add, in what other sport would you get the offer of one bike! So he did the remaining 3 days available to him on a borrowed Scorpa. Paul Dowell had an oops on section 6 of the 4th day, unfortunately breaking a bone in his hand and spraining his wrist so he had an early shower. We hope the hand heals as quickly as possible Paul. And the other injury.

The six day riders were joined on Saturday morning by 2 Expert; 3 Intermediate; 7 President; 6 Clubman; 2 Twinshock and 2 open class three day riders for a regular Kaikoura three day trial, which consisted of three days of regular trialling. Three rounds of twelve sections on the Saturday at the Trewin's Oaro property 20 minutes South of Kaikoura, four rounds on Sunday at the Schroeder farm ten minutes inland from Kaikoura then three rounds on Monday at the same venue.

Pioneer did a great job of feeding and watering us, with sponsorship from the Whaler pub where many hung out each evening to get the details and tell some lies. Also with a barbecue and soup and rolls every day. Yes, every day, not just for the prizegiving! There was even tea and coffee and rolls at the half-way checkpoint caravan, along with our spare fuel cans to make sure nobody ran out of petrol, and a big chest of tools in case we needed to adjust our idling speed. Sidey's idle speed was OK but his chain stretched by two notches. Big km's = big wear I guess!

How to sum this fantastic event up? I think Warwick Merriman did it justice at prizegiving, when he said "I've been around a fair while (since the earth was cooling by Sidey's estimation!) and been to a lot of trials, and this is the best trial that has ever been held in New Zealand ever." Well, it says on the club details page that all Ixion members consider the Ixion champs trials to be the best in the world. But on this occasion I think Warwick might just be right.

Report by Sidey.



It's official. Jake Whitaker finished the Erzberg Rodeo in 44th place, from a starting place of 213th. He passed checkpoint 12, known as Prospekt, on his Husaberg TE300 and nearly made Checkpoint 13 (Carl's Diner) in 3 hrs, 25 min and 31 seconds. The best finisher at Prospect was Robert Nowak of Australia, in 32nd place from 80th place starting, in 2 hrs and 52 minutes dead. Jake passed 169 riders, Nowak passed 48.

Graeme Jarvis ended his string of disqualifications at Erzberg to finish first from a 52nd place start in 2hrs and 52 seconds, also on a 300 Husaberg. Jarvis was one of 14 to reach the final checkpoint, number 20 known as Ziel. 433 riders started the race but only 390 made it to the first checkpoint! And now, yet another world first exclusive for Cycle Torque is this interview direct from Jake in Austria via iPhone! Take it away Jake ...

"Well I can say I've ridden Erzberg now although unfortunately couldn't make it to the finish line in time. However the event was great! I learned lots and know what I need to do differently for next time. There was a prologue I rode on Friday morning to decide my starting position, 1800 riders starting a minute apart.



Jake at "No Way in Hell" this year. Sorry, no pictures of him at Erzberg are available yet.

Friday morning we woke up to a snow storm and myself and about 1000 riders had to qualify in about a foot of snow, not an easy task. Visibility was very poor with only about 20 metres of vision: not fun when you are flat out down some of the straights not knowing what is under the snow. They canceled the prologue with 800 riders to go. Lucky for them: they had sunshine the following day to get their qualifying time with all the snow pretty much gone. We were suppose to have two attempts at the prologue but due to the 800 riders having to do their first one on the Saturday instead of Friday there wasn't any time to have a second go. I think they had a huge advantage riding the following day and I ended up starting on the 5th row because of it, which meant I had 213 riders in front of me so when I got to all the technical stages of the race there were huge queues of riders. I jumped the queues where I could with a few crazy line choices but others it was impossible to get around. I don't think I made too many friends on the track put it that way.

The race is stopped after 4 hours and this year there were 14 finishers that crossed the line, I got to a famous part of the course (Carl's Diner) about 1km of boulders to get across, I timed out near the end of that section in 44th position. To be honest I was still feeling pretty good by then and felt I was riding well. The Husaberg TE 300 was perfect. I was able to keep it in good

condition to where I got to in the race, had the best bike for the job, it was just all the hold ups with queues. I need to get on the first or second row and if so I think I would have a good chance of finishing inside the top ten next year."

Cheers ... Jake

MNZ NEWS!

Here's some of the goings on at MNZ conference held on the weekend 25/26 May. This is about the Trials Workshop held on Saturday afternoon, which lasted around 2 hours.

- The Trial de Nation project was discussed, there is a website "Givealittle" which Telecom run for fundraising. We now have a team announced, mens and womens and they need some money! So go to Givealittle.co.nz and let your love show.
- Nonstop rules are now on hold until 2015. Mostly we are watching to see what Australia will do, and they are sitting tight. Some think they are just waiting for it to go away! Commissioner Jim Henderson held an informal vote on the board, the consensus was overwhelmingly that those assembled don't want to go Nonstop.
- Someone mentioned that the FIM "own" the sport of motorcycle trials, we just administer it on their behalf. I said that in Wellington the Ixion Motorcycle Club owns trials. Which was denied. Actually nobody really owns it: we make it happen here and they administer the international stuff like the world champs. Spot Sidey's opinion surfacing!
- It is thought that we need to get mini trials going, like mini motocross. Electric bikes seem to be a great innovation to get some kids involved. And their parents of course! Some ideas of how to get it going were discussed but Sidey got the distinct impression that nobody really knows how, because it hasn't been done yet. It's possible inter-school competitions could be started.
- There will be a section setting workshop here in Welly on 10th and 11th of August. It is hoped to normalise the section levels so that people don't get disappointment when they go to champs events. Maybe even between islands. With any luck there will be section gurus there from all over the country. Sidey was foolish enough to volunteer to write a manual of section setting, should the assembled gurus produce anything worth writing down of course!
- There's been some progress with getting trials on the web a bit more. The silver bullet website now has club trials on it. Thanks to Sandra Hallie of Pioneer for doing some work towards that. It was mentioned that email is a disease for us because the public don't see it and so trials is hard to find now. Email means we have gone even more underground.



This is Neil Sturmfels, editor's friend. Making the clubbies line look spectacular again!

Kaikoura 6-day trial.

Dunno who took the photo but it was Neil's camera.

Here's Alasdair Keane fighting Oscar Alexander for control of his bike. Kung fu fighting!

Kaikoura 6 day trial. Day 2. Photo: Neil Sturmfels.



Here's the results from May's club trial. Thanks to Brian for collating and to the Regional Council for making the fantastic facility available! All I know about this one is that the Timor sea was a bit rough on the day, and that everyone had a great time. ... Sidey

MAUNGATOOKS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOT
6 May 2013									
NICK BALL	3331	3212	2030	3322	0053	1102	1152	3212	59
CARL ROBSON	1120	0202	3552	5032	5110	2001	1201	3325	60
JOHN LAWTON	0000	1100	0000	0100	2011	5120	1001	1101	20
MATT RICHARDSON	0000	1500	2000	0100	0001	0021	2002	2110	21
KEVIN TITHER	0000	3002	0000	0200	3313	0102	3020	0110	27
ANDREW ADLAM	0000	2201	0000	0010	3203	1320	3322	2300	35
PHIL STEPHENSON	3002	3330	2111	0200	3555	5522	3333	2310	71
ANDY ANDERSON	0000	3000	0000	0011	2300	0112	2302	0000	21
JAMIE MEAD	0000	2005	0000	1030	0200	0030	1333	2011	30
OSCAR ALEXANDER	0000	1001	2000	5120	0005	2100	2133	1001	31
NEIL STURMFELS	2000	3300	0000	1100	1005	1533	0301	1030	36
BRIAN FOLLETT	0000	1000	0000	3321	2100	5112	2333	3000	36
PAUL WHEATLEY	1201	2020	0000	1000	1000	1210	3122	1000	23
MIKE DENCH	5035	3300	1000	1011	1103	3212	2301	0110	44
CHRIS PRESTO	1310	1311	0001	1000	2310	5323	2121	2130	44
RICHARD LATIMER	1210	2030	0000	0100	2000	0110	3101	2120	24
DICK PHILLIPPS	0501	1230	0000	3525	3332	1111	5222	1130	58
DYLAN BALL	0010	2530	1000	3500	3100	3102	1125	0011	41
BYRON ADLAM	1053	1233	0000	3553	2035	2135	3322	1122	71

Club Details

Club Correspondence to: 71 Colson St, Avalon, Lower Hutt 5011

Email: ixion@paradise.net.nz

Website: www.ixion.org.nz

President:	Kevin Tither	04 904 1760	bktither@clear.net.nz
Club Captain:	Carl Robson	972 2540	csrobson@clear.net.nz
Secretary:	Gerry Foon	388 8263	karenlabone@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Siobhan Robson	972 2540	csrobson@clear.net.nz
Convenor:	Chris Presto	04 904 8691	prestofamily@paradise.net.nz
Committee:	John Lawton	04 297 0240	nztrials@xtra.co.nz
	Mike Dench	971 8385	denchmtha@paradise.net.nz
Results:	Richard Latimer	565 0086	
	Brian Follett	478 0424	
Website:	Dave Clarke	565 0050	dclarke@nec.co.nz
Newsletter:	Mark Sidebotham	386 2407	tangomark@gmail.com

The **newsletter** is generally published the week before the club's regular event, the wonderful **Ixion Club Trial**.

The **Club Trial** is generally held on the first Sunday of the month, rain hail or shine. Sections are set to cater from everyone from raw beginner to NZ championship "A" grade; something for everyone. Be there at 9am for a 10:30 start at the latest. Finish time is 3pm or when everyone is finished, whichever is sooner. There's time for quick lunch after the first round if you don't mess about too much.

Dogs are strictly forbidden at Trials because we ride due to the kindness of the farmers who own the land. Dogs make farmers unkind.

The last 10 riders to sign in each get to bring in the pegs for one section. So turn up early if you want to leave early! Brand new people can ride without an **MNZ license** for two trials; after that it is necessary to join MNZ (Motorcycling NZ), our national body.

In addition to the Club Trial, Ixion generally holds a two-day **North Island Championship Trial** each year, which is considered (by all Ixion members) to be the premier event in the World Trials calendar. There are sometimes **Twilight Trials** during the summer starting at 3pm, often followed by a BBQ.

The friendly **Committee Meeting** is held on the Tuesday after the Club Trial at the Lighthouse in Pauahatanui at 7:30 pm. Ring Kevin to make sure, before turning up.

Club **fees** are \$40 per year and \$20 for fulltime students or social members. These fees are unchanged since the 1970's, so pay up and, as always ...

Feet on pegs, smile on face!



Dick Phillips at "Pipeline". Kaikoura 6 day trial. Day 3. Photo: Neil Sturmfels.

Calendar

Sun 9th **Ixion Club Trial.** **Note! It's on the second Sunday!** Van
Crutchens's, SH1 Paekakariki, Next to Car Haulways yard.

June 16 Manawatu Trial: Coombe's farm, corner No.3 Line and Pohangina Valley East Road
22/23 **North Island Champs rounds 7 & 8.** Taranaki. **Enter NOW!**

JULY

Sun 7th: **Ixion Club Trial.** Alexandars front property, Emerald Glen Road
21st Manawatu Trial: Galloway's farm, Coppermine Road, off Pinfold Road, Woodville
27/28 **North Island Champs rounds 9 & 10** Hawkes Bay **ENTER NOW!**

AUGUST

Sun 4th **Ixion Club Trial.** Wainuiomata Boys Brigade Camp or Scout
Camp TBC

10/11 **FIM section setting weekend.** Venue to be announced, but
probably Maungakotukutuku Valley.

18th Manawatu Trial: Infracon Quarry, Thompsons Road, off Kohinui Road,
Mangatainoka

SEPTEMBER

Sun 1st **Ixion Club Trial.** Woods, Akatarawa Road, Hutt Valley
side TBC

OCTOBER

Sun 6th **Ixion Club Trial.** Maungakotukutuku Valley
26/27/28 **New Zealand Trials Championship.** Tauranga.

NOVEMBER

BSA Shield, P.North to host (date and venue to be confirmed)