

Megaphone

Newsletter of the Pioneer MCC

Autumn 2021

Prizegiving

Forty-five members and supporters attended and enjoyed the club prizegiving and dinner on 30 January at Al and Isabel's house in Cass Bay. See p. 5 for a list of the cup winners.

Kaikoura 3 day trial

Planning is underway for this year's Kaikoura which will be the 75th year the event has been held. Simon Jones is this year's organizer. The entry form will be on the website in the next week or two.

Club trials gear

Jules is working on the design and graphics for a club trials suit which will be made by S3. More information soon.

Children's boots

We are looking for some secondhand small size boots for children who come to our Have a go days. If you have any please get in touch. Motocross boots may be suitable.

Oset number 2

We have decided to purchase a second Oset for the have a go days. This one will be a 16" for younger riders.



Isabel Hopkins rode her new 24" Oset at Hurunui

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New members

The club welcomes new member Alistair Gilmour and welcomes back Kevin Jarvis.

Kevin was a member of the club in 2005-2006 and has recently returned to Christchurch from the UK where he was a member of the Berkhamsted Club. Kevin began riding trials on twin shocks and has owned several Montesas. He now has a 4RT and a TLR 250.

Alistair is from Dunedin and also started riding trials during the twin shock era.

“It was the 1970s when I started riding trials with a modified Honda SL125, then a Yamaha TY250A when they first came out, then a TY250B followed by a TY175. John Shand found me a used Ossa 250 MAR, which I really enjoyed. Not sure why I gave it up but Ossa was sold. I had several road bikes, rode the odd enduro, restored a 1960 BSA 650 Road Rocket which was similar to the Gold Flash I had as a teenager. Carola, my wife, and I enjoyed a tour of Tasmania on the BSA which was organised from Christchurch. Built a 1958 Lister Jaguar Replica in mid 80s and our family have been well involved in rallying over the years which kept me busy building and preparing. Motorcycles have always been part of our lives and we have had some great times on them and met some wonderful people. I have always been able to hold on to one, even through the hard times.

There used to be a group of trials riders from Dunedin that travelled together to events in the South Island and once John Shand and I travelled to Wellington to compete in the Trans Tasman Australia versus New Zealand trial at Paekakariki. We stayed with the Harris Family who were the Ossa importers at the time which was lovely.

Another time Noel McCutcheon myself and our two wives travelled to Blenheim to compete. Four across the bench seat of a HT Holden ute (our bums were much smaller then.) One return trip from Christchurch was memorable for all in the car (a Morris 1800 pulling a trailer). We prided ourselves on being last to leave the after-trial prize givings and had just travelled south through Burnham when the windscreen was smashed. We all sobered up pretty quick as it was a cold wet night and a long trip home. Carola ended up doing most of the driving (women are made of much sterner stuff).

I did try trials again early 2000s on a Montesa 315r but rupturing my achilles put me off. I've done a fair bit of adventure riding on BMWs, built a couple of BMW Airhead hpn replica's, the last one finished during covid. I had bought the Ossa back and had it stored at our Nephew Gwynn's house for many years in a pretty sad state.

Greg Power called not long after I had finished a bmw build and got me all fired up to try the classic trials. At this stage I am really pleased he did. I have enjoyed getting back into it, rebuilding the Ossa, attending our local events where everyone has been very friendly and helpful with riding advice. Our Nephew Gwynn is giving his TL200 a freshen up and plans on competing this year as well, which will be great.

I enjoyed Jules's 2 days of coaching clinics held earlier this year, although with hindsight, Jules was right and one day would have been about right for my fitness level.

I am looking forward to the upcoming season and as long as I can stay injury free I hope to attend the Kaikoura 3 day again, it was always a great event.

Thanks for the opportunity to introduce myself, and please remember all advice will be gratefully received, please don't wait till I'm lying on the ground with the bike on top of me!"

Graeme (Gorgy) Johnston, 1942-2021

In March we received the sad news that Graeme had passed away. Graeme was one of our life members and was well respected in the New Zealand motorcycling community. His circle of mates included Ivan Mauger, Barry Briggs, Ronnie Moore, Bob Harris, Kevin McCleary, Jungle McGregor, Evan Norriss and so many more. In fact, every time they "bumped" into each other it was like they were in their 30's still and loved to relive the past with vivid stories.

Graeme's motorcycling career began in 1957 when he started working at McCleary Motors as an apprentice motorcycle mechanic. Kevin McCleary encouraged him to start riding motocross in 1959 and he made his debut on a 1952 BSA 350cc Gold Star. In the early 1960s he acquired a 250cc Greeves and on this bike he quickly became one of the South Island's leading motocross riders. In the 1963/64 season he was second in the NZ 350cc miniature TT and he finished second in the Woodville Motocross.

In 1964 Graeme decided to go to the UK to ride there. Tim Gibbes gave him a letter of introduction to the Greeves Company but they didn't have any vacancies, however, they put him in touch with Comerford's who did have a position. Graeme was the first New Zealander to be employed by Comerford's and he worked in their workshop for 10 years. In later years other kiwis such as Cliff Batchelor, Ivan Miller and Chris Harris would also be employed there.



Graeme is second on the left in this photo of the workshop staff

Graeme rode in British motocross from 1964 to 1974 on various machines: a TRIBSA, a 250cc Bultaco and a 250cc Montesa Capra. He received some works support from Bultaco and was assisted by Comerfords who were the UK Bultaco importers. In 1972 he also rode grasstrack on a 500cc Jawa and the following year competed in trials on a Montesa Cota.



Early days, Graeme (no. 171) with Jungle McGregor



Graeme (no. 10) on the Bultaco in a UK motocross meeting.

While living in the UK Graeme met and married his wife, Liz. In 1974 Graeme decided it was time to return to New Zealand. By this time Graeme and Liz had 3 boys: Darren, Joel and Colin. After returning to Christchurch Graeme rode grasstrack in 1975, and continued riding motocross and miniature TT up until 2009 where he enjoyed competing with Darren. Often he would only go out to do laps and give the famous thumb up as he went past. The Bultaco Pursang that Graeme had for 41 years has now been in Darren's hands for 3 years and will continue to be used in Classic TT events.



In 1985 Graeme started riding in Pioneer trials on a TL125 which he shared with Darren and with Joel. He later modified this to 148cc after a discussion with Sammy Miller himself when he visited his museum. Older members remember that this bike, which Darren now has, was meticulously prepared. Graeme rode regularly in club trials until 1992 and continued riding the Greybeards up to 2010. He was also a committee member during the 1980s and he assisted the club president Maurie Smith to run events for the club's 75th jubilee. We will miss his presence at AGMs and the Greybeards.

2020 Cup winners

Bonnington Cup <i>Awarded to the rider achieving the best results for the season (open to all classes)</i>	John Regan
Blandford Memorial Cup <i>Best under 19 rider for the season</i>	Kahu Jones
Mick Andrews Cup (<i>summer series</i>)	Derek Scott
Peter Bennett Cup (<i>best 1st year rider</i>)	Clark Fountain

Club Championship

Laurenson Cup (<i>expert</i>)	David Trewin
Intermediate Cup	Kendall McDonald
Clubman A Cup	Dave Barber
President's Cup	Dick Gardner
Mitchell Trophy (<i>clubman B</i>)	Dick Gardner
Hallie Cup (<i>twinshock</i>)	Simon Jones
Whyte Cup (<i>women</i>)	Gabby Gundry
France Cup (<i>junior</i>)	Kahu Jones
BSA shield (<i>best 125cc</i>)	Kahu Jones

Mini

BMA Challenge Cup (<i>mini electric A</i>)	Evie Hubbard
St Albans Car Sales Cup (<i>mini petrol A</i>)	Hine Jones
Medal (<i>mini electric B</i>)	Leo Hopkins
Medal (<i>mini electric C</i>)	Koby Pascoe
Medal (<i>most improved mini rider</i>)	Amelia Hubbard

Kaikoura

Triumph cup (<i>expert</i>)	Paul Mountstevens
Wynne York cup (<i>intermediate</i>)	John Regan
S.A.M. Trophy (<i>sidechair</i>)	Kendall McDonald / Hamish Barnett
Moir cup (<i>clubman B</i>)	Wayne Harper
Falconer cup (<i>best first year rider</i>)	Mason Price
Kaikoura 50 th Jubilee cup (<i>best prepared twinshock</i>)	Stephen Reij



The Bonnington Cup was donated by Cecil Bonnington in 1917. Cecil was a well known Christchurch chemist (*photo from the Geoff Hockley photo album*)

Change to championship classes

The proposed changes to the championship classes have been submitted to MNZ and will be considered by the Board fairly soon.

The classes that we currently have are shown in red below. If the changes are approved they will be replaced by the classes and grades in blue.

Championship classes

Class	Name board colour	Colour of lettering	Arrow colour
Expert	Orange/Red	Black/White	VCS (Orange/Red)
President	Green	White	Green
Junior	Same as nominated grade		VCS
Women	Same as nominated grade		VCS
Air-cooled	Same as nominated grade		VCS
Post-classic/twin shock	Same as nominated grade		VCS
Classic-pre-65	White	Black	n/a
Sidcar	White	Black	n/z

Support classes

Sportsman	Green	White	Green
Intermediate	Yellow	Black	Yellow
Clubman	Blue	White	Blue
Social	White	Black	White

New championship classes

Class	Restrictions	Grade
Expert	None	All grades
Junior	12-16 years old	All grades
Women	Gender	All grades
Twin shock	Technical	All grades
Air cooled	Technical	All grades
Veteran 1	50-64 years old	All grades
Veteran 2	65+ years old	All grades
Minis 1	4-7 years old	All grades (minis)
Minis 2	8-11 years old	All grades (minis)
Minis 3	12-14 years old	All grades (minis)

The highest placing will be awarded to the highest placed rider in the highest grade and work down (through the grade if required) from there - known as the Vertical Class System (VCS).

New Grades

Name board colour	Colour of lettering	Grade (Arrow colour) Degree of difficulty
Red	Black/White	Most difficult
Orange	Black/White	Second most difficult
Yellow	Black	Third most difficult
Green	White	Fourth most difficult
Blue	White	Fifth most difficult
White	Black	Least difficult
Red (minis)	Black/White	Most difficult (minis)
Yellow (minis)	Black	Second most difficult (minis)
White	Black	Least difficult (minis)

Note the change from the orange plates to red plates for experts. Also there will only be one green grade (at present there are two (23.7)).

Some of the rule definitions will also be reworded:

23.7a Definitions

Class: A group or division of riders based on, either ~~skill level~~, age, gender or motorcycle specification (e.g., Expert, ~~Sportsman Junior~~, ~~Intermediate Women~~, ~~Presidents-Twin Shock~~, ~~Clubman Air Cooled~~, ~~Junior Veteran 1~~, Veteran 2, Minis 1, Minis 2, Minis 3, ~~Women and Twin Shock Classes~~).

Grade: Variable standards in level of difficulty of courses (lines) for riding trial (e.g. Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, White ~~Orange, Red, Yellow, Green and Blue grades~~).

23.44 b. Vertical Class System (Qualifying Classes):

Winners from the 'vertical class system' will be taken first, from the 'highest' (most difficult) grades and will be ranked from the best scores in the highest grades down to the worst scores in the lowest grades. Competitors will be able to choose which grade (line) they contest when entering each event and will gain Championship points according to their ranking at each trial. Competitors will automatically qualify for any class according to their age and/or their gender and/or their motorcycle specifications. ~~Expert Class riders and the previous A-Grade Class riders will compete for Expert using the vertical class system choosing from the Red or Orange grades only. Riders following the Red grade may be awarded special awards.~~ Competitors will only be classified as finishers in each trial where they reach a threshold of less than ~~65~~ 80% failures (5s) unless competing in the lowest available grade.

Club trials

Two warm up twilight trials were held at the Waimak trials park on 13 January and 10 February. Because of the fire risk on the Port Hills, we were unable to use Glenelg Spur this year.

Summer series

Round 1 - Living Springs - 14 February (section setters Shane B, Ross, Peter H)

We had a small entry for the first round of the summer series because there was also a classic trial that day at a new property in Coalgate which some of our riders attended. We try to avoid overlap with classic events but on this occasion the date of the classic trial was changed because of Waitangi weekend.

Logging has taken place at Living Springs since we were last there but fortunately most of the area in the lower part where we set our sections is still usable and with a little bit of clearing we were able to open up some areas further up the gully which haven't been used for a while. In expert it was good to see Glenn back after being restricted by his back injury last year and Rhys has also returned to this grade. There were close contests in intermediate and clubman A, with Ross and Steve emerging as the winners. And it was also close in the minis where Evie was only a couple of points ahead Hine.

Thanks to the officials: Ross and Peter B.

Expert

Paul Mountstevens	8
Glenn Smith	24
Tom Beedles	26
Rhys Bayliss	55
Kahu Jones	67
Derek Scott	75
Hamish Barnett	114

Intermediate

Ross Bristol	14
Shane Brons	19
Ian Springer	29
Peter Hosking	41
Simon Jones	79

Clubman A

Steve Fisher	14
Dave Barber	18
Peter Barnett	23

Mini

Evie Hubbard	22
Hine Jones	24
Leo Hopkins	33

Round 2 - Hurunui Bluff - 14 March (section setters: John R, Hamish)

Hurunui Bluffs was the middle round of the Summer series. We were fortunate to have 19 riders including 3 minis travel the longer distance than usual to Hurunui to take part in the event. It was a warm sunny day meaning that having 8 of the 10 sections under the trees was fortunate. Of the 10 sections, 5 were in the thick pine needle covered hills, 3 in the mostly dry creek up the back and 2 on the grassy hills nearer the car park.

Paul Mountstevens took out expert with an impressive score of 5 for the day. Intermediate was closely contested with Ross Bristol and John Regan only 6 points apart. A similar situation in Clubman A with Derek taking out the win with Dave Chambers and Steve Fisher close behind. Dick took out Clubman B as the only Competitor. The Minis all rode extremely well. A special thanks should be given to Dick Gardner who brought the Hopkins the final stretch after a wheel came off the vehicle they were travelling in. Thanks to Glenn Smith and Patrick Hall for being officials for the event.

Hamish Barnett

Expert	Total	Clubman A	
Paul Mountstevens	5	Derek Pike	48
Tom Beedles	19	Dave Chambers	52
Glenn Smith	36	Steve Fisher	55
Kahu Jones	47	Peter Barnett	86
Hamish Barnett	63		
		Clubman B	
Intermediate		Dick Gardner	22
Ross Bristol	22		
John Regan	28	Mini	
Shane Brons	42	Isabel Hopkins	13
Peter Hosking	46	Hine Jones	17
Simon Jones	80	Leo Hopkins	30
Ian Springer	112		



Hamish riding the red line in section 4 at Living Springs



Ian on one of the banks under the pines at Hurunui

Round 3 - McQueens Valley – 28 March (section setters: Ashley, Paul M, Ian, Peter H)

It was another hot day at McQueens Valley with temperatures in the high 20s and it was so dry that by the fourth lap some of the lines in the sections had turned into loose powdery dirt.

Ashley knows where all the good spots are on this property and how to make good use of the terrain so he had a lot of input into the section setting. Thanks too to Ian who didn't ride but assisted with the pegging and Paul who set most of the red line.

At the start of the day Paul and Ross were the frontrunners in the summer series with both having won their respective classes in rounds 1 and 2. Ross was unlucky at McQueens when his bike stalled on the last lap in section 6 when he was only on 4 points and still in contention for a win in intermediate. Meanwhile Paul continued his good form with another first place in expert and this gave him the series win overall. Tom and Glenn were only 4 points behind Paul this time and they tied on 27 points. Tom had more cleans so he took second spot. In Intermediate Kendall and Shane also tied, with Kendall having more cleans than Shane. There was some good riding in Clubman A with Dave B dropping only one dab, Derek on 3 and Steve one point further back on 4.

Thanks to the officials: Peter D and Christine and to Ian and Peter for towing the trailer to and from the venue.

Expert

Paul Mountstevens	23
Tom Beedles	27
Glenn Smith	27
Clark Fountain	41
Rhys Bayliss	58
Kahu Jones	65
Hamish Barnett	95

Intermediate

John Regan	4
Kendall McDonald	8
Shane Brons	8
Ross Bristol	9
Peter Hosking	18
Simon Jones	46
Brent Downes	nc
Ashley Duncan	nc

Clubman A

Dave Barber	1
Derek Pike	3
Steve Fisher	4
Geoff Blokland	11
Dave Chambers	12
Nigel Bunny	14
Peter Barnett	15
Chris Pascoe	19
Shirley McDonald	nc
Kevin Jarvis	nc

Clubman B

Dick Gardner	50
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Mini

Evie Hubbard	6
Hine Jones	8

Summer series overall

Expert	round 1	round 2	round 3	Total
Paul Mountstevens	25	25	25	75
Tom Beedles	20	22	22	64
Glenn Smith	22	20	20	62
Kahu Jones	16	18	15	49
Hamish Barnett	14	16	14	44
Rhys Bayliss	18		16	34
Clark Fountain			18	18
Derek Scott	15			15
Intermediate				
Ross Bristol	25	25	18	68
Shane Brons	22	20	20	62
Peter Hosking	18	18	16	52
Simon Jones	16	16	15	47
John Regan		22	25	47
Ian Springer	20	15		35
Kendall McDonald			22	22
Clubman A				
Steve Fisher	25	20	20	65
Peter Barnett	20	18	14	52
Dave Barber	22		25	47
Derek Pike		25	22	47
Dave Chambers		22	16	38
Geoff Blokland			18	18
Nigel Bunny			15	15
Chris Pascoe			13	13
Clubman B				
Dick Gardner		25	25	50
Mini				
Hine Jones	22	22	22	66
Evie Hubbard	25		25	50
Leo Hopkins	20	20		40
Isabel Hopkins		25		25

The Pidcock 4RT

In 2011 Chris Pidcock the UK Honda/Montesa dealer asked Graham Jarvis to help him promote a range of limited edition 4RTs that he was launching to celebrate the centenary of the SSDT. Jarvis rode one of the 4RTs in the Scottish that year and finished third. The bike that he rode had received special treatment from Pidcock Honda. It had uprated front suspension springs, an uprated rear suspension spring, a 300cc kit fitted to the 250 motor, a Termigoni carbon silencer and titanium front pipe, billet collapsible hand levers, footrest brackets extended by 50mm, titanium pegs, and it was painted blue and white and had graphics to look like the Rothmans sponsored Hondas of the past.

This bike is now owned by Brent Downes. Philip and Nigel Shilton imported it to New Zealand with help from Francis Sydenham, and Brent bought it from Philip in February 2014. The photo of Brent riding it was taken at the 2015 Kaikoura 3 day trial. Some parts have been replaced since 2011 and it is now in Repsol trim. Brent rode it again recently at the McQueens Valley trial.













On YouTube there are videos of Graham Jarvis having his first ride on the bike <https://youtu.be/smSx9FEgQJ4> and practicing for the Scottish <https://youtu.be/hN2Wla9iaol>.

Coast to coast

Clark Fountain is not only a talented rider, he's also an endurance athlete. Clark and Finlay Brown finished 3rd in this year's Coast to Coast in the men's open class for two person teams.

Bikes, parts, clothing, etc.

 <p>Montesa, Scorpa, Sherco, TRS Contact: Brendon Wadsworth 027 230 3151 03 579 2500 scorpa@trials.co.nz</p>	<p>SPANISH TRIAL NZ LTD</p>   <p>Contact: Kevin Pinfold 021 031 9897 kpatrials@xtra.co.nz</p>
 <p>Contact: Warren Laugesen ph. 021 686024 A/H during week days or anytime in the weekend thelaugos@gmail.com</p>	  <p>10% discount for PMCC members on trials related products. Contact Dennis or Sam ph. 377 1881</p>
 <p>After market trials spares</p>   <p>Contact: John Lawton ph. 04 297 0240 NZTrials@xtra.co.nz</p>	<p>Photos of Pioneer and Canterbury classic trials</p> <p>www.flickr.com/photos/nzpeterb</p> 

Club contacts:

President:	Alan Honeybone	ph. 021 566 871
Vice president	Josh Stones	Ph. 027 403 9479
Secretary:	Peter Hosking	ph. 021 027 16940
Treasurer:	Ross Bristol	ph. 021 221 0397
Club Captain:	Derek Scott	ph. 027 432 3646
Committee members	Peter Barnett, Rhys Bayliss, Shane Brons, Mike Elliott, Patrick Hall, Jules Huguenin, Kahu Jones, Simon Jones, Paul Mountstevens	

Next events:

17-18 April	South Island Champs, rounds 1 and 2	Alexandra
25 April	Club trial	Teddington
9 May	Club trial	Omihi
16 May	Have a go day	Waimak Trials Park

For more information see the 'upcoming events' section on the Pioneer website.

Acknowledgements

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The opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Pioneer Motorcycle Club Inc.

Megaphone is the newsletter of the Pioneer Motorcycle Club Inc.

Editor: Peter Hosking, email: pioneertrials@gmail.com

Club website: <http://pioneertrials.co.nz> and we're on Facebook

