



Megaphone

Newsletter of the Pioneer MCC

Autumn 2024

Dry spell

Although the days are getting cooler we are still monitoring the fire risk situation because parts of north Canterbury and the Port Hills are very dry. We are looking at running a club trial on 14 April because the South Island Championship rounds have been postponed. We will provide an update about this closer to the time.

50 years milestone

A number of Alan's old mates turned up to ride in the trial on 17 March to celebrate his 50 years of riding trials (see p.6). Al has also been one of our longest serving committee members, first joining it in 1976 as secretary.

Farewell Jules

Over the past 9 years Jules has made a huge contribution to our club, running 'Have a go' mornings for the minis with Josh and training days. He has also improved the way we do things: setting up the online entry forms and credit card payments; making changes to the

website; and he designed and ordered the club riding suits.

We are going to miss the sound of the GasGas being revved up before a section, but Jules has promised he'll be back again sometime to ride with us.



In this issue

- * Al's trial at Western Valley
- * Marlborough Trials Centre
- * Brendon

New members

The Club welcomes Chris Aitken, Rob Boyle, Peter Van der Heydn, Fabian MacDonald, Tom O'Brien, and Jeffrey Wilson. Ryan Dunn has rejoined the club and will be riding trials again this year on a 4RT.

AGM and Committee

14 members attended the AGM in March and there were 4 apologies. Most of the members of the committee have agreed to stay on but Alan is taking a break this year and Hamish is not continuing. Pete Gledhill takes over the role of vice-president from Alan, and Derek Pike has joined the committee.

Pioneer Cup winners 2023

The Prizegiving was held on 28 January at Simon and Trudi's house. It was a very warm evening, perfect for a swim in the pool.

Trophies and medals awarded were:

Cecil Bonnington Cup: Dick Gardner
(open to all classes)

John Blandford Memorial Trophy: Izzy Hopkins
(best under 19 for the season)

BMA Challenge Cup: Bodie Harper
(best mini electric for the season)

St Albans Car sales Leo Hopkins
(best mini petrol for the season)

Club Championship

Laurensen Challenge Cup (expert, orange) Mats Petit

Russ Lovegrove Challenge Cup (expert, red) John Ross

Intermediate Cup Kahu Jones

Clubman Cup Dave Chambers

L.E. Evans Memorial Cup (clubman B) Dick Gardner

Presidents Cup Peter Hosking

Whyte Ladies Cup: Izzy Hopkins

France Cup: (junior) Izzy Hopkins

BSA shield (*best 125cc*)

Izzy Hopkins

Mini medals for the Club Champs

1st Mini A

Bodie Harper

2nd Mini A

Liam Ross

1st Mini B

Leo Hopkins

1st Mini C

Koby Pascoe

Kaikoura Cups

Triumph Challenge Cup (expert)

Mats Petit

Wynne Yorke Cup (intermediate)

Stu Lawton (Ixion)

Dave Chambers Cup (clubman A)

Wayne Harper

Falconer Challenge Cup

(best first year rider)

Luke Pearce (Ixion)

Moir Cup

(best novice rider, clubman B)

Bodie Harper

S.A.M. Trophy (side chair A grade)

Paul Jackson / Glenn Smith

Side chair B grade Cup

Dave & Brian Chambers

Kaikoura 50th Jubilee cup

(best prepared twin shock)

Darren Johnston

Dennis Collings, 1925-2024



Dennis, who was called 'Mush' by his friends and family, passed away in January at the age of 98. He was the Club's treasurer from 1979 to 1984 and a Pioneer member for a number of years. Dennis was born in Ilford in east London and after leaving school joined the merchant navy. On one of the voyages, he liked the look of New Zealand and decided to settle here. In the mid 1950s Dennis rode a Triumph Terrier in scrambles and trials. Later in the 1970s he rode a TY250A in trials with his sons, Craig and Grant. During his time on the committee he was also involved in organising enduros and road trials.

Club trials

Summer series round 2, Glenelg Spur – 21 January (section setters: Hamish, Kahu, Peter B, Officials: Kahu, Peter H)

After two 30° days on Friday and Saturday before the trial we were expecting another hot one and it was a warm, muggy day in the high 20s. As it was the first event of the year and a number of riders were feeling the effects of the heat midway through the trial, Kahu and Simon wisely decided to reduce the laps from 4 to 3. There were no complaints about that.

28 riders signed on and it was good to have a contingent from top of the South Island join us: Tom O'Brien and Alex Robertson from Nelson, and Brendon, Fabian MacDonald and Tallulah Tuffery from Blenheim. Also joining us was Callum Walcroft, who has ridden in Manawatu-Orion trials. Callum has recently moved to Christchurch.

Class winners were John Ross, Brendon, Callum, Dave Chambers and Dick. An orange line wasn't set, but Paul added a few deviations in some of the sections to give himself some additional challenges.

Thanks to Hamish, Kahu and Peter B for setting the trial in the hot conditions on Saturday, and to John Ross for coming early to unlock the gate to the property on both days.

	Lap 1	Lap 2	Lap 3	Total		Lap 1	Lap 2	Lap 3	Total
Expert Orange					Sportsman				
Paul Mountstevens	3	9	2	14	Callum Walcroft	16	5	4	25
					Simon Jones	10	13	8	31
Expert Red					Fabian MacDonald				
John Ross	3	3	2	8	26	25	19	70	
Kahu Jones	17	4	5	26	Clubman A				
Arron Eades	20	14	15	49	Dave Chambers	0	3	0	3
Hamish Barnett	31	21	9	61	Christine Thompson	6	2	3	11
Intermediate					Wayne Harper				
Brendon Wadsworth	6	6	4	16	Chris Pascoe	4	2	6	12
Ross Bristol	5	7	5	17	Steve Fisher	10	7	5	22
Angus Wakeman	21	10	6	37	Peter Barnett	8	14	11	33
Tom O'Brien	15	17	9	41	Clubman B				
Peter Hosking	13	15	14	42	Dick Gardner	4	1	2	7
Tui Scott				dnf	Peter Dunn	6	4	5	15
Ashley Duncan				nc	Liam Ross	5	10	2	17
Josh Stones				nc	Alex Robertson	4	8	5	17
					Bodie Harper	11	5	2	18
					Tallulah Tuffery	23	19	7	49
					Craig Newbould				dnf

Summer series overall

Expert Orange	round 1	round 2	Total	
Paul Mountstevens	25		25	
Tom Beedles	22		22	
Expert Red				
Kahu Jones	22	22	44	
Arron Eades	20	20	40	
Peter Gledhill	25		25	
John Ross		25	25	
Hamish Barnett		18	18	
Intermediate				
Peter Hosking	25	16	41	
Brendon Wadsworth		25	25	
Ashley Duncan	22		22	
Ross Bristol		22	22	
Tui Scott	20		20	
Angus Wakeman		20	20	
Tom O'Brien		18	18	
Sportsman				
Simon Jones	20	22	42	
Fabian MacDonald	18	20	38	
Tom O'Brien	25		25	
Callum Walcroft		25	25	
Paul Jackson	22		22	
Ed Hughes	16		16	
Clubman A				
Dave Chambers	25	25	50	1st=
Wayne Harper	22	20	42	
Christine Thompson		22	22	
Stephen Reij	20		20	
Dave Davies	18		18	
Chris Pascoe		18	18	
Steve Fisher		16	16	
Peter Barnett		15	15	
Clubman B				
Dick Gardner	25	25	50	1st=
Bodie Harper	22	16	38	
Peter Dunn		22	22	
Liam Ross		20	20	
Alex Robertson		18	18	
Talluah Tuffery		15	15	

Western Valley - 17 March (Section setters: Alan, Ross, Simon H, Peter H, Mike Venz. Officials: Sandra, Alan)

After having to cancel the February club trial because of the fire risk we had our fingers crossed that we would be able to hold the March trial which would be the last ride for Jules before he leaves for France and a celebration of Alan's achievement of 50 years of trials riding and membership of the Club.

Fortunately, the fire risk in the bottom part of Matt Latham's property, which Al was keen to use, was lower than in other parts of Canterbury. This area hadn't been used for a few years so it was very overgrown. Alan, Tui and Shane put in a day clearing and the following weekend Ashley, Pete G, and Alan did some more. It was a lot of work but the result was some very good sections were opened up again.

On the day of the trial there was a big turnout of fifty riders and this included some who had come from other parts of the South Island. Tony and Joy Cameron had driven down from Nelson in their house bus, Keith Henson had travelled from Picton, Brendon and Cathy from Blenheim, Mike Venz from Wanaka and Graeme Hibbs, Jason Hibbs and Colin Kelland had made the trip up from Invercargill. Nick Smith, Craig Collings, Hadrian and Jason Roberts also turned up for the occasion, and Graham Honeybone gave his Beta 200 an outing. Francis Helps and Roy Hallie were spectating, and Shane, Scotty and Josh who weren't riding because of health/injury issues also came to look.

Brendon lent his TYZ to Jules so he could ride the same bike that he rode in his first NZ trial in 2016. Davey Trewin was also riding an older bike, the Montesa 315R that he has bought from Kevin Gundry.

The 10 sections had some uphill climbs and some creek sections where the rocks were very slippery and took points from everyone.

Davey headed the expert field, a good effort on the Mont, finishing 3 points ahead of Tom and John Ross who tied on 76 points. Guy Gibbs, who was riding in his first trial, won inters on his EM. Guy who is an experienced downhill mountain bike racer has some very good skills. Tui rode well to finish ahead Graeme and Colin on the green line, and Wayne won clubman A, just two points ahead of Christine and Ryan who tied on 9 points. In Clubman B, Stu Brock finished 1 point ahead of Peter D and Bodie. This was Stu's first Pioneer trial, but he has been riding classics for a couple of years. In the minis, Max and Liam had a close contest and enjoyed riding the mini sections which were set alongside the senior sections. As did Leo in Mini B.

After the trial we adjourned to the Little River Inn for some food and drinks which was a good way to end a memorable day.

p.s. Thanks to Sandra for being the Steward and managing a very busy sign on.

Expert Red	lap 1	lap 2	lap 3	lap 4	Total	
David Trewin	23	15	19	16	73	
Tom Beedles	23	17	21	15	76	(10 cleans)
John Ross	25	18	16	17	76	(9 cleans)
Glenn Smith	25	23	23	14	85	
Jason Hibbs	29	25	17	16	87	(7 cleans)
Jules Huguenin	32	20	18	17	87	(6 cleans)
Simon Hopkins	29	26	23	30	108	
Kahu Jones	33	23	26	29	113	
Hamish Barnett	38	32	25	23	118	
Rhys Bayliss	33	32	25	30	120	(1 clean)
Arron Eades	31	38	26	25	120	
Peter Gledhill					dnf	

Intermediate						
Guy Gibbs	8	5	2	3	18	
Brendon Wadsworth	5	8	4	8	25	
Ross Bristol	15	10	10	6	41	
John Regan	11	14	13	7	45	
Gabby Gundry	21	10	10	5	46	
Alan Honeybone	18	15	9	7	49	
Peter Hosking	14	17	13	14	58	
Ashley Duncan	23	16	15	13	67	
Simon Jones	18	19	20	16	73	
Brent Downes	34	16	16	12	78	
Alfie Simmons	28	20	20	19	87	
Tony Cameron					dnf	

Sportsman						
Tui Scott	11	7	6	7	31	
Graeme Hibbs	11	7	15	7	40	
Colin Kelland	11	15	8	8	42	

Clubman A						
Wayne Harper	1	1	4	1	7	
Christine Thompson	6	1	1	1	9	(35 cleans)
Ryan Dunn	6	1	1	1	9	(34 cleans)
Kendall McDonald	1	7	1	2	11	
Keith Henson	7	2	4	4	17	(30 cleans)
Nick Smith	11	1	3	2	17	(30 Cleans)
Shirley McDonald	7	3	3	10	23	
Steve Fisher	9	4	7	4	24	
Mike Venz	12	7	8	1	28	
Hadrian Roberts	22	8	2	3	35	
Dave Davies	11	6	12	7	36	
Peter Barnett	17	19	12	11	59	
Craig Collings	18	11	17	15	61	
Jason Roberts	31	18	22	17	88	
Izzy Hopkins	34	29	39	50	152	

Clubman B						
Stu Brock	5	1	0	0	6	
Peter Dunn	0	6	0	1	7	(36 cleans)
Bodie Harper	3	1	3	0	7	(35 cleans)
Graham Honeybone	12	5	2	3	22	
Dick Gardner					dnf	

Twin Shock						
Kendall McDonald	1	7	1	2	11	

Women						
Gabby Gundry	21	10	10	5	46	
Christine Thompson	6	1	1	1	9	
Shirley McDonald	7	3	3	10	23	
Izzy Hopkins	34	29	39	50	152	

Junior						
Izzy Hopkins	34	29	39	50	152	

Mini A						
Max Blanchard	13	13	19	10	55	
Liam Ross	15	16	15	18	64	

Mini B						
Leo Hopkins	16	17	10	11	54	



Mike Venz watches Al as he rides section 2.



Jules with Oscar. Oscar is only 2 years and 10 months old.



Davey exits section 1 on the 315.



Gabby in section 1



Pete Gledhill filmed some of the trial and has put the video on YouTube

https://youtu.be/DMBypiLNI5s?si=ODvWffBcy0Tms_VG

The Marlborough Trials Centre story

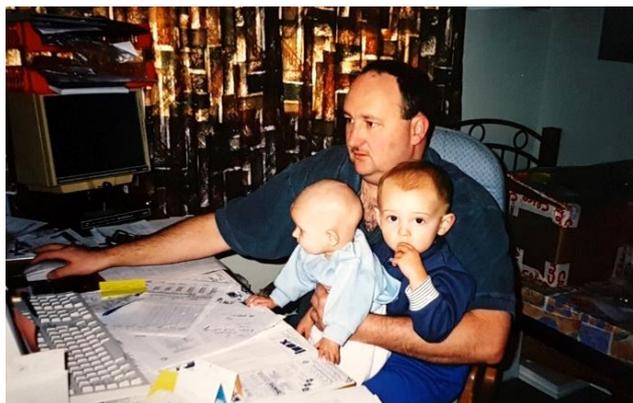


MTC was born when Brendon and Cathy acquired the sole agency for Montesa Cota in 1999. This was a home business to start with, because Brendon was also working full time, and originally it was called the 'Nelson Marlborough Trials Centre.' Around this time Brendon and Cathy contacted makers of trials accessories and clothing overseas and were successful in becoming NZ agents for Clice. This resulted in MTC importing a large amount of specialist trials gear. Trials riders in New Zealand responded to this by supporting the business and

helping it grow. A huge amount of time and effort, and borrowing on the house mortgage also helped!

Brendon (and occasionally Cathy) attended many trials events around the country which allowed Brendon to talk to riders about what they were doing with the business. In 2001 they acquired the sole agency for Scorpa from Cyril Murray and in 2002 they began bringing in the Scorpa SY250 with the Yamaha engine which sold well. They also tried importing some 50cc and 80cc Clipic bikes for kids but these were very expensive.

MTC operated from home for 4.5 years. During this time Brendon and Cathy (and Gareth and Jenna) moved from Nelson to Blenheim when Brendon started a new job there. In July 2004, Brendon left his fulltime job with the aim of growing the home based business for at least a year and then trying to move it to new premises if it was viable to do so.



2002 – doing paperwork for the trials business with help from Gareth and Jenna



The first shop in 2002, in a storage unit with a little showroom on one side and a workshop on the other

Due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. a neighbour), MTC had to quickly find premises away from home or close down. This turned out to be the best thing that could have happened for the business but at the time it involved a great deal of personal risk and borrowing (again). With the move into Auckland Street, MTC picked up some local business which necessitated the hiring of a mechanic after 6 months, and two part-timers.

In 2011 MTC took over Sherco from Jason Baker and the sales took off in 2013. The same year Brendon visited Spain and was invited to Jordi Tarres' house for lunch and to see the

clay model of the Jota Gas. Jordi asked Brendon if he would be interested in selling the bikes and he gave Brendon and Blake Fox a ride on the new prototype 300. After a few more years Jordi emailed Brendon about his new project which was the TRS. In 2017 Brendon and Cathy became the importers for TRS and this has become a very popular brand in NZ.

While continuing to provide a service for trials riders, MTC was expanding in other ways, supporting Marlborough locals involved in motocross, enduro and trail riding. Sales to farmers (Can-Am and CF Moto quads and side-by-sides) and on-site servicing of farm bikes became an important part of the business too. Then in 2016 Brendon and Cathy bought Peter Grinter's motorcycle shop in Grove Road and amalgamated the two businesses to form Marlborough Motorcycles. Peter had the Kawasaki dealership for Marlborough so this was included in the deal. In November 2021 there was another move to Warwick Street.



Last year, Brendon and Cathy decided to sell Marlborough Motorcycles but retain ownership of the MTC part of the business. The changeover took effect in July, but Brendon has stayed on as the workshop manager at Marlborough Motorcycles to assist the new owners with the transition. He will finish there at the end of April.

Now Brendon and Cathy are working on developing MTC as an online trials shop and will be travelling to events with their new trailer fully loaded with trials products. They are also planning to do on site mechanical repairs of trials bikes at people's homes for riders who need help with suspension or piston replacement work. This will be before or after an event.

Wadsy

Brendon posted this photo on the NZ Trials Facebook page in 2021. I was interested to find out what was he doing in Australia? And what were all those trophies for? - ed.



I've read you grew up on a sheep and beef farm in Marlborough and rode motocross when you were young. What age were you when you began riding?

I began riding when I was five and my first bike was a Suzuki TS75, but I couldn't start motocross until I was 8 as that was the starting age.

Did you take up motocross because your older brother Moston was riding?

Yes we rode all the time on the farm.

Then you went to Australia to work as a spare parts person. When was that? And was that how you met Cathy?

It was in 1987 and we met at trials.

How did you get involved in trials?

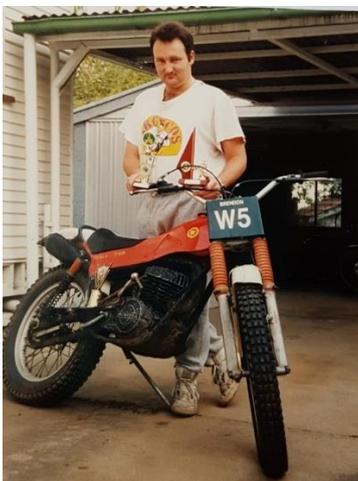
I started trials in early 1991. One of my customers I was calling on at a car dealership had a photo of himself on his desk of a trials bike, I said I rode a little in trials between the age 6 to 8 years old on my XR75. Moston used to go to the odd trial and ride his XL350.

The photo of you with the Pinky was taken in Queensland? and what were the trophies you won?

Yes in Queensland, I was a member of the Logan River Trials Club. The trophies were for local trials club events. 1st in novice on a Montesa 348 Cota, 6 wins in row, then MCA moved me up to clubman, again 1st and 2nds against other clubs, and in 1992 I went to the Aussie titles in New South Wales and won clubman on my new TY250. I was sponsored by Moorooka Yamaha. David Ahmet, the owner also sponsored Stefan Merriman when he was an enduro rider. I had trials training from Stefan many times. After I won clubman at the Aussies, MCA put me up to C grade which was about NZ inters at the time. Still riding the TY, I had good help from Moorooka Yamaha who also offered me a road for track days, I didn't take them up on this, trials was so easy and lots of fun.

When you did you come back to NZ?

When I moved back in 1994 I contacted Bob Cooke and brought a bike from him. He too helped me lots but I also helped him by selling the bikes and the services he offered. So in 1994 and 1995 I rode GasGas for Bob, then I imported the last of the Yamaha TYZ250s from Moorooka Yamaha - this was 1996. I rode this bike until 1999 when we got to import the Montesa Cota 315R and as you know today we still sell and service Montesas.



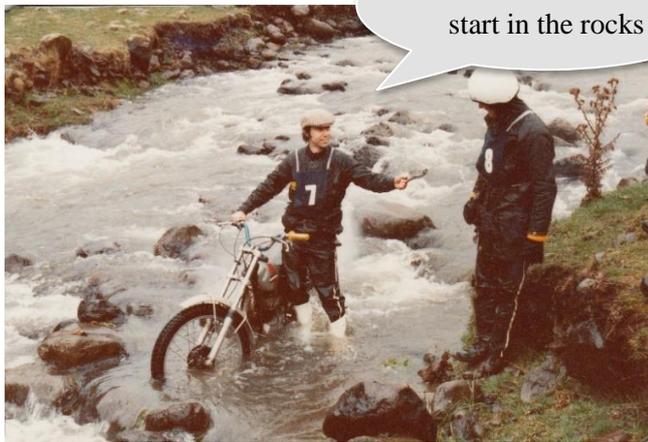
1991 - the Montesa 348.



Motocross in Marlborough, on the XR75, with Lester and Paul Schroder on 125s

Since 1999, Wadsy has ridden regularly at intermediate and presidents level in championship events and has usually been one of the front runners. He was runner up in presidents at the nationals in 2009, 2010 and 2019 and was 1st in 2020. For the past six years he has also been driving in car rallies, with some impressive results, such as 2nd overall in the 2021 Asia Pacific Rally Championship in his category.

Some photos from Al's album

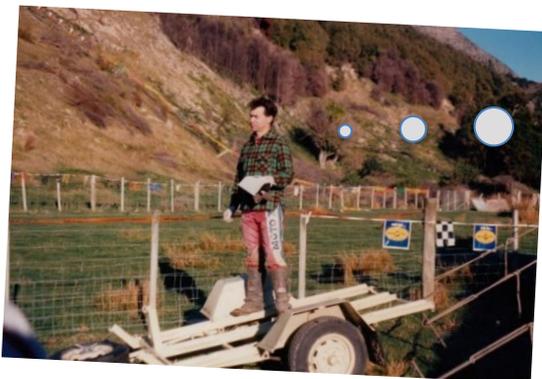


I don't need a kick start in the rocks

Logs are easy. Just body position and throttle control. Here I position my body under the bike



I look taller when I stand on a trailer



Bikes, parts, clothing, etc.



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ph. 03 572 7599

Brendon 027 230 3151 (sales/tech)

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sherco@trialsnz.co.nz

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SPANISH TRIAL NZ LTD



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thelaugos@gmail.com



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Club Captain:	Derek Scott	ph. 027 432 3646
Committee members	Rhys Bayliss, Tom Beedles, Arron Eades, Paul Jackson, Kahu Jones, Rob McKay, Paul Mountstevens, Derek Pike, Tui Scott	

Next events:

14 April	Club trial (tbc)	
27 April	Training day (tbc)	
12 May	Club trial	Motunau

For more information see the [upcoming events](#) page on the Pioneer website or Events on the Pioneer Facebook page.

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.

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