

The Kaikoura 3 Day Trial

Organised by the Pioneer Motorcycle Club since 1946.

The first 25 years



Researched and compiled by Peter Hosking

A note about the sources

This is an attempt to record some of the early history of the Kaikōura 3 Day Trial. For information I've looked at several sources. These include the Pioneer Club's committee minute books and annual reports for the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s which are held by Christchurch City Libraries. There are also reports of the trials in the *Press* and *Christchurch Star-Sun*, and Geoff Hockley's book *Our first fifty Years* is useful. I've also searched for information in the *NZ Motorcyclist* magazine which was published during the 1940s and 50s. Unfortunately, nearly all the *Megaphones* for the late 1940s and 1950s have been lost. They probably would have had reports and results of the trials.

There is more information about the 1960s because Peter McDonald has kept the results from 1963 onwards. From 1967, Marty Rush wrote reports of the Kaikōura trials for the *Megaphone*. Rod Dew who was a journalist with the *Press* also began to take an interest in trials from the mid 1960s onwards, and his newspaper articles have some interesting information.

Peter McDonald and Robert Rush have also been very helpful with their memories of the Kaikōuras they rode in.

The Pioneer Club's first Kaikōura trial was in 1915 when a two day reliability trial from Christchurch to Kaikōura was held, but this was a one-off event. In the period before the Second World War a major trial was held each year but usually in different parts of the South Island. The first of the annual Kaikōura trials began in 1946 and it has been held every year since then.

1946- King's birthday weekend 2-3 June

The organisers of the 1946 trial, Len Tullett, Doug Cresswell and Arthur Robinson were keen to make it a special event so they applied to run it as the N.Z.A.C.U. Reliability Trial Championship. The Club was allocated this championship at the A.C.U.'s annual meeting in September 1945.

There were 40 entries including two riders from Dunedin and one from Ashburton. The trial was held over two days, starting on Sunday and ending on Monday. On the first day the riders assembled outside the Pioneer Sports Club's rooms in Oxford Terrace and took the inland road to Kaikōura, with a lunch stop at the Waiiau bridge. On the second day they returned along the coastal road, a distance of 250 miles in total for the weekend. On Saturday evening the riders were required to refuel at Ford & Fisher's garage and their bikes were stored there overnight. On Sunday morning there was a quick start test before the riders began the return trip to Christchurch. On both days there were observed sections along the way, and when the riders arrived in Christchurch there were machine examinations at the clubrooms.

On the second day riders had to contend with heavy rain which made the roads treacherous. There was flooding in the Leader Valley and one of the support cars became stuck and had to be hauled out by the riders and observers. It was a gruelling event and only 30 riders completed the trial which was won by Peter Phillips who was riding a Royal Enfield. Mick Holland (J.A.P.) was second and Harry Mitchell (Ariel) was third. Phillips also won the handicap competition. The A.C.U. shield for the best team was won by Phillips, Ivan Happer and R. Chambers.

The Triumph no. 2 cup which was donated to the club in 1937 by the Triumph Engineering Company, was awarded to the winner of the major reliability trial each year from 1938 to 1945. Since 1946 it has been presented to the winner of the Kaikōura Trial. The Moir Cup which had been used for other purposes was awarded to the handicap winner from 1946 onwards.

Results

Championship: 1. P. Phillips, 34 points, 2. A.G. Holland 52 pts, 3. H. Mitchell 63 ½ pts, 4. H. W. Wilson 72 pts.

Handicap: 1. P. Phillips 80 pts, 2. M. Alexander 82 pts, 3. H. W. Wilson 83 ½ pts

1947 and 1948

Unfortunately, little is known about the 1947 and 1948 trials. The committee minutes only mention the trials briefly and there were no newspaper reports.

Peter Phillips won the championship class in 1947 and 1948 and became the first rider to win the Kaikōura three times in consecutive years. The handicap class winners were Mick Holland in 1947 and Bevan Billens in 1948.

Mr H.D Falconer donated a new cup for the best performance by a first year rider at the trial. The first recipient was R. Riley in 1947. Ray Rushbridge was the next to win it in 1948.

In the Club's annual report for 1948 it was noted that "maestro" Peter Phillips was once again the Kaikōura winner and Graeme Dennison was a close second. The previous weekend, on 29-30 May

1948, Dennison had won the N.Z.A.C.U Reliability Trial Championship which was held in Christchurch and Phillips finished runner up.

1949

The results for 1949 were published in the *NZ Motorcyclist* and there was a report of the event in the *Press*. Eighteen riders participated in the two day event. This time the riders took the coastal road to Kaikōura and returned via the inland road. Seven observers marked the riders at various points along the way. On the first day there was misty rain when the riders reached the Conway and the newspaper report says that “conditions were not good over several parts of the course.”

Petrol rationing was still in force so the Club had applied for an allocation of 184 gallons of fuel for the 250 mile course.

Keith Gardiner won the championship and handicap classes. In the Championship class Harry Wilson was second and Ken Robinson was third. In the handicap class, Vic Rush and Bill Rush were second and third respectively. The Falconer Cup for best first year rider was awarded to Don McLeod.

Evan Norriss had joined the Pioneer Club in October 1948 and he finished 13th in what may have been his first Kaikōura trial.

Results

Championship: 1. K. Gardiner 43 points, 2. H. Wilson 51, 3. K Robinson 89 pts, 4. R. Entwhistle 97 pts, 5. V. Rush 102 pts, 6. R. Bruce 116 pts, 7. W. Rush 123 pts, 8. T. Cox 129 pts, 9. O. Greenwood 210 pts, 11. R. Pierson 220 pts, 12. R. France 250 pts, 13. E. Norriss 292 pts, 14. R. Kilburn 310 pts, 15. D. McLeod 321 pts, 16 T. Robinson 340 pts, 17. G. Unfield 341 pts, 18. A. Mackenzie 392 pts.

Handicap: 1. K. Gardiner 102 pts, 2. V. Rush 122 pts, 3. W. Rush 123 pts

1950

The trial became a three day event for the first time in 1950 and there were eighteen riders. On day 1 they took the coastal road and there was one timed section and 19 observed sections. On day 2 there were quick start tests, stop and start tests and braking tests on a steep hill at Kaikōura. The riders returned to Christchurch on Monday via the inland road and there was one timed and 12 observed sections.

A photo was published on the front page of the Saturday edition of the *Christchurch Star-Sun* and it shows Vic Rush, Don McLeod and Bob Entwhistle chatting before the start of the trial. Vic, who was the Pioneer club captain, was the trial organiser.

Evan Norriss won the championship and handicap sections, on his B.S.A. Bantam. In the Championship class Keith Gardiner was second and Bob Entwhistle was third.



Bruce McKenzie and Keith Gardiner were 2nd and 3rd in the handicap class. Ray Ayres won the Falconer Cup for best first year rider.

Results

Championship: 1. E. Norriss 89 points, 2. K. Gardiner 95 pts, 3. R. Entwistle 148 pts, 4.B. McKenzie 164 pts, 5. W. Rush 182 pts, 6. H. Mason 184 pts, 7. R. Pierson 194 pts, 8. K. Robinson 201 pts, 9. R. Ayres 258 pts, 10. R. Harris 264 pts, 11. N. Pierson 293 pts, 12. M. Henderson 312 pts, 13. D.McLeod 355 pts, 14. R. Sisson 368 pts, 15. D. Hall 447 pts, 16. K. Horgan 462 pts.

Dnf: P. Bennett, P. Stokes

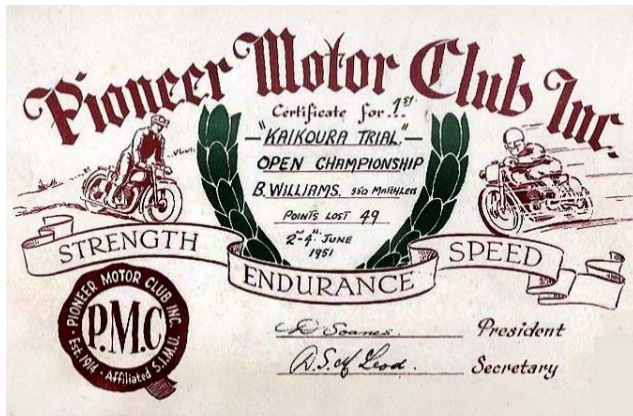
Handicap: 1. E. Norriss 114 pts, 2. B. McKenzie 164 pts, 3. R. Entwistle 148 pts

1951

Twenty-seven competitors took part in the 1951 three day trial. On day one, the riders took the coastal road to Kaikōura and there were 21 sections along the way. On day 2, there were quick starting and braking tests which were carried out on the Wilderness Road to Hapuku. The riders returned to Christchurch via the inland road on Monday.

Bernie Williams won the Championship class, Vic Rush was second and Don McLeod was third.

Don McLeod won the handicap section and Keith Vincent was awarded the Falconer cup.



Bernie Williams certificate for first place



Bernie Williams (350cc Matchless). The photo was taken at the 1949 N.Z.A.C.U. Reliability Championship Trial.

Results [incomplete]

Championship: 1. B. Williams 49 points, 2. V. Rush 110 pts, 3. D. McLeod 125 pts

Handicap: 1. D. McLeod, 2. unknown 3. V. Rush



The earliest photo we have of the Kaikōura: the lunch stop at the Waiau Hotel in 1951.

1952- Queen's birthday weekend, 31 May-2 June

There were no reports in the *Press* or *Star-Sun* so there is not much information about this trial.

Vic Rush won the championship class and Nelson Turner was second. The handicap section was won by Oscar Van Dongen and the Falconer Cup was won by B. McGilligan.

King George VI had died in February so this was the first of the Queen's birthday trials.

1953

The 1953 event was held over 4 days because Monday and Tuesday were public holidays. The holiday on Tuesday was for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

There were 19 entries and 79 sections were ridden. Evan Norriss won both the Championship and Handicap classes for the second time. In the Championship class Sid Harrison was second and Bas Chambers was third. In the Handicap class, Bas was second and Ray Ayres was 3rd. The committee had put Evan on a 30% handicap (195 points). Sid's handicap was 10% (65 points)

Ray Taylor was the best first year rider.

Results

Championship: 1. E. Norriss 140 pts, 2. S. Harrison 339 pts, 3. B. Chambers 391 pts, 4. R. Ayres 392 pts

Handicap: 1. E. Norriss 335 pts, 2. B. Chambers 391 pts, 3. R. Ayres 392 pts, 4. S. Harrison 404 pts

1954

20 riders took part in 1954 and there were 90 observed sections. According to the report in the *Press* there were more than 40 officials and spectators who also rode the 350 mile course.

Nelson Turner, Graham Stuthridge and Jack Banks were the trial organisers.

There were changes to the classes for this trial. The championship class was renamed and became the "expert" class and the handicap class was discontinued. A novice class was introduced and the Moir Cup which had been awarded to the handicap winner was repurposed as the novice cup.

Ray Ayres (Triumph Terrier) won the expert class, Sid Harrison (Velocette) was second and Robin Smith (B.S.A. Bantam) was third. N. Robinson won the novice class. Alex Ormandy was second and P. Johnson was third.

When the committee met after the trial on 15 June a decision was made that Ray Ayres and Sid Harrison were ineligible for the Triumph no. 2 cup because they were not financial members. However, after the meeting, Ayres renewed his membership and the committee agreed that he could have the cup.

Malcolm McDonald (who would later become better known as Peter McDonald) finished 4th in the expert class and was the best first year rider, but he wasn't awarded the Falconer cup because he was a Canterbury AutoCycle Club member. Instead it was given to N. Robinson.

Results

Expert: 1. R. Ayres 116 points, 2. S. Harrison 140 pts, 3. R. Smith 237 pts, 4. M. McDonald 268 pts, 5. M. Crake 290 pts, 6. B. Witte 405 pts

Novice: 1. N. Robinson 286 pts, 2. A. Ormandy 304 pts, 3. P. Johnson 410 pts, 4. B. McGilligan 472 pts, 5. R. Wing 508 pts, 6. D. Thornton 578 pts

1955

The Kaikōura featured again on the front page of the Saturday edition of the *Christchurch Star-Sun* in 1955, but there were only eleven entries.



L to R: Alex Ormandy, Ray Hannah, Sid Harrison, Robin Smith, Mike Crake, Bruce Morton, Dick France and Dennis Collings

Saturday was wet and drizzly and there were 20 sections and two timed sections. On Sunday the course was in and around Kaikōura and there were 23 sections. On Monday the riders returned via the inland road. Robin Smith (James) won the expert class, Sid Harrison (Ariel) was second and Michael Crake (BSA Bantam) was third. Dennis Collings won the novice class, but the Moir Cup was awarded to runner up Alex Ormandy. T. Taylor won the Falconer cup.

1956

Only two experts rode in 1956. Peter Wells was awarded the Triumph no. 2 cup, but Sid Harrison had a lower score and was the actual winner. Sid was a member of another club so he wasn't eligible for the cup and his score wasn't included in the results that were recorded in the committee minutes.

B. Bamford won the novice class. Bruce Morton was second and Peter Archer was third. Peter was the best first year rider.



Peter Archer won the Falconer Cup



An unknown rider starts his bike in Kaikōura in the 1950s. The Commercial Hotel is in the background.

Results

Expert: 1. P. Wells 202 points

Novice: 1. B. Bamford 134 pts, 2. B. Morton 137 pts, 3. P. Archer 162 pts, 4. D. Thornton 205 pts

1957

In early May the Committee decided to reduce the event to two days because of the low number of entries received.

The trial began on Saturday and finished on Sunday. There were 39 sections.

Peter McDonald won the expert class but because he wasn't a Pioneer member he didn't receive the Triumph cup. Although Peter did join Pioneer after the trial, the cup was awarded to Peter Archer who was runner up. Robin Plummer finished third.

D. Hearn and Peter Chapple were the joint winners of the novice class and shared the Moir and Falconer cups.



Peter Archer at the 1957 trial



Peter McDonald riding in the 1957 trial

Results

Expert: 1. P. McDonald 105 points, 2. P. Archer 139 pts, 3. R. Plummer 171 pts, 4. J. Titmus 195 pts, 5. B. Stewart 256 pts, 6. B. Roberts 471 pts

Novice: 1. D. Hearn 235 pts, 2. P. Chapple 235 pts, 3. M. Mitchell 241 pts, 4. J. Penny 356 pts, 5. B. Mckenzie 405 pts, 6. S. Harris 510 pts, dnf: P. Hunt

When the committee met after the trial on 5 June, a decision was made that in future all competitors had to travel by motorcycle and there could be no more than two riders per motorcycle.

1958

The committee decided to hold the trial as a 3 day event again, but it was agreed that the minimum number of riders should be 15. At the committee meeting on 20 May, the minimum number of entries had not been reached but it was decided to go ahead with the event because there were plenty of observers.

The trial ended in a controversial way because Robin Plummer was docked 25 points by the chief official, Nelson Turner for using the wrong type of tyres. This penalty would have given Peter Archer the win, but at a committee meeting after the event, Robin was confirmed as the winner because Bob Burns had enquired about the tyres beforehand and had been told by the Club President that they were acceptable. Plummer rode a Greeves which was owned by Burns. Peter Archer and Jack Titmus were second and third on their Francis Barnetts.

J. Thompson was the best novice and first year rider. Ken Lipscombe was second and Dave Burns was third.

This advertisement was published in the Press on 7 June by Bob Burns who was the Greeves agent at the time.

GREEVES GREEVES GREEVES
WINS 3-DAY KAIKOURA TRIAL!
 Ridden by R. PLUMMER.
 The actual machine was our well-used Scrambler, as raced by D. McNeill and A. Stewart. The motor is new being completely reconditioned for further competitions, and the machine will be for sale at a reasonable figure to anyone who will put it to good use.
 Full particulars from:
BOB BURNS and SON,
 Spreydon. Phone 80-418.

Results

Expert: 1. R. Plummer 207 points 2. P. Archer 221 pts 3. J. Titmus 239 pts 4. C. Batchelor 528 pts

Novice: 1. J. Thompson 380 pts 2. K. Lipscombe 531 pts 3. D. Burns 608 pts 4. R. Shearman 608 pts
S. Harris 686 pts

1959

A small entry of eleven riders took part in 1959 and there were 3 carloads of officials. Jack Titmus (Francis Barnett) won the expert class, B. Stewart (Francis Barnett) was second and Sid Harrison (Ariel) was third. Russell Bates rode a Dot and was the best first year rider and the winner of the novice section.

Results

Expert: 1. J. Titmus 89 points, 2. B. Stewart 103 pts, 3. S. Harrison 192 pts, 4. R. Taylor 192 pts,
5. P. Archer 211 pts, 6. C. Batchelor 236 pts, 7. R. Shearman 409 pts

Novice: 1 R. Bates 251 pts, 2. R. Meyer 434 pts, 3. D. Wing 465 pts
B. McCleary and D. Burns were refunded their entries because they did not start.



Jack Titmus

1960

The committee had made a pencil booking for 25 at The Club Hotel in Kaikoura for this event and riders from Nelson and Timaru were said to be coming. However, only 11 riders entered and rode in the trial.

Vic Rush won the expert class, Peter Archer was second and Murray Butler was third. D. Barrow won the novice class and received the Moir and Falconer cups.

Results

Expert: 1. V. Rush 104 points, 2. P. Archer 195 pts, 3. M. Butler 216 pts, 4. S. Harrison 229 pts,
5. A. Davies 350 pts, 6. R. Bates 384 pts, 7. D. Thornton 399 pts, 8. R. Meyer 476 pts, 9. R. Pierson 601 pts

Novice: 1. D. Barrow 598 pts dnf: P. Lagan

1961

In May the Christchurch Scooter Club contacted The Pioneer Club because they were interested in participating in the event. There was mutual agreement that the inland road would be unsuitable for the scooters, so they travelled both ways along the coastal road. During the weekend the riders had to contend with rain and snow but there was also some fine weather.

14 trials riders and 5 from the scooter club took part in the event. Peter McDonald won the expert class, and this time his name was engraved on the Triumph no. 2 cup. Allan Davies was second and Peter Archer third. Bill Horton won the novice class but the runner up, Alan Fazackerley received the Moir and Falconer cups. Sixteen year old Dick Gardner rode in his first Kaikoura on his Francis Barnett and was fifth in novice. The scooter class was won by Miss J. Irvine.

Results

Expert: 1. P. McDonald 80 points, 2. A. Davies 116 pts, 3. P. Archer 123 pts, 4. A. Reynolds 403 pts

Novice: 1. W. Horton 140 pts, 2. A. Fazackerley 169 pts, 3. N. Currie 177 pts, 4. I. Clarke 204 pts, 5. R. Gardner 215 pts, 6. R. McCallum 264 pts, 7. M. Morgan 369 pts, 8. B. Smith 433 pts, 9. K. Grewitt 529 pts

Scooters: 1. Miss J. Irvine 18 pts, 2. G. Adcock 31 pts, 3. K. McVicker 33 pts, 4. Miss N. Cox 34 pts, 5. B. Jones 41 pts

1962

Twenty riders competed in the 1962 Kaikoura, and one of them was Francine Woodbury who was the first woman to ride in the trials classes. There were 55 sections and the course was 280 miles. Evan Norriss, returned to ride the Kaikoura again and won it for a third time. Peter McDonald was runner up and Peter Archer was third.

Bob Smith won the novice class, Ken Bush was second, Keith Gillard was third and Francine Woodbury was fourth. Bob Smith won the Moir and Falconer cups.



Riders briefing outside Fisher's Garage in 1962



Peter McDonald rides a section during the trial. Francine Woodbury is on the right of the group who are watching.

Results

Expert: 1. E. Norris 116 points, 2. P. McDonald 127 pts, 3. P. Archer 154 pts, 4. A. Davies 179 pts, 5. R. Taylor 205 pts, 6. W. Horton 224 pts, 7. C. Batchelor 225 pts, 8. R. Gardner 293 pts, 9. A. Fazackerley 297 pts, 10. G. Woodbury 356 pts, 11. R. McCallum 517 pts, 12. N. Currie 564 pts

Novice: 1. R. Smith 236 pts, 2. K. Bush 242 pts, 3. K. Gillard 247 pts, 4. Mrs F. Woodbury 297 pts, 5. P. Milner 301 pts, 6. B. Neil 386 pts, 7. R. Williamson 404 pts, 8. P. Brunsdon 570 pts.

1963

Seventeen riders participated in the 1963 trial which had a timed road section on the first day from Gore Bay to Cheviot. There were also cold start tests on Sunday and Monday morning.

During the trial Ray Taylor and Evan Norriss shared a new Triumph Tiger Cub. One rode it on the road while the other drove a car. They took turns, swapping from the bike to the car after each group of sections. Three or four scooter riders accompanied the riders on the weekend. One of the scooter riders was Paddy Archer who rode a NZeta.

On Monday's ride through the inland road it snowed. At the lunch stop which was at the Rotherham Pub, the publican brought Ray Taylor's bike inside and rode it around the bar.

Peter McDonald won the trial for a third time. Ray Taylor was second and Peter Archer was third on his Greeves. Ken Bush won the novice class and the Moir Cup, Robin Milner was second and Russell Gillard finished third equal with D. B. Smith. The best first year rider was G. Smith who rode in the expert class. Robert Rush also rode the trial for the first time on his B.S.A. Bantam 175.



Riders at Cheviot on day 1 in 1963

Results:

Expert: 1. P. McDonald 97 pts, 2. R. Taylor 150 pts, 3. P. Archer 171 pts, 4. E. Norriss 192 pts, 5. D. Thornton 207 pts, 6. W. Horton 212 pts, 7. G. Smith 267 pts, 8. R. Rush 348 pts, 9. C. Batchelor 357 pts.

Novice: 1. K. Bush 123 pts, 2. R. Milner 124 pts, 3. R. Gillard and D. B. Smith 188 pts, 5. K. Buckley 224 pts, 6. A. Cox 232 pts, 7. R. Proctor 312 pts, 8. C. Buckett 412 pts.

1964

21 riders participated in the 1964 trial which began on Saturday with sections in the Waipara river bed. After this there were sections at the Hurunui River and at Oaro. The next day, sections were held in the Hapuku riverbed and on the final day, the sections were at Cribb Creek, Mason River and at Waipara. Peter Archer won the expert class, Peter Milner was second and Peter McDonald was third. Russell Gillard won the novice section and the Moir Cup. John Harcourt was awarded the Falconer Cup for best first year rider. Paddy Archer was the second woman to ride in the trial and she finished fourth in the novice class. Peter and Paddy shared the Greeves during the weekend.



Peter Archer at the railway bridge near Kaikoura. The observer was Joe Bond.



Paddy Archer

Results

Expert: 1. P. Archer 75 pts, 2. P. Milner 93 pts, 3. P. McDonald 101 pts, 4. R. Milner 103 pts, 5. E. Norriss 104 pts, 6. W. Horton 121 pts, 7. R. Taylor 153 pts, 8. R. Rush 156 pts, 9. P. Chapple 172 pts, 10. B. Horton 210 pts, 11. C. Batchelor 238 pts, 12. A. Davies 310 pts, 13. B. Smith 386 pts.

Novice: 1. R. Gillard 123 pts, 2. J. Harcourt 165 pts, 3. D. Smith 229 pts, 4. Mrs P. Archer 282 pts, 5. C. Buckett 318 pts, 6. A. Forgie 388 pts, 7. L. Small 392 pts.

Dnf: K. Adams

1965

In 1965 there were some riders who wanted to take their bikes by trailer to Kaikoura while others wanted to continue to ride there and back on the road. This was described as "a very controversial subject" in the committee minutes for 19 May. Those who opposed the use of trailers felt that the riders who didn't ride on the road had an advantage because their bikes could have lower gearing.

It seems, however, that the majority were in favour of using trailers and decided to take their bikes to Kaikoura rather than ride them. A consequence of this was that some of the places where sections had been set in the past could no longer be used because there needed to be enough room for cars and trailers to park at each stop.

In 1965 there were only 14 entries. Evan Norriss won his fourth Kaikoura, Robin Milner was second and Peter Archer was third. Vic Rush rode the trial for the last time and was fourth. Lindsay Small won the novice class, Graham Brown was second and was awarded the Falconer Cup. Kevin Adams was the only finisher in the intermediate class. Ray Shearman was injured and retired.

Results

Expert: 1. E. Norriss 108 points, 2. R. Milner 146 pts, 3. P. Archer 156 pts, 4. V. Rush 183 pts, 5. P. Chapple 256 pts, 6. R. Taylor 259 pts, 7. R. Rush 275 pts, 8. R. Gillard 375 pts.
Intermediate: 1. K. Adams 456 pts.

Novice: 1. L. Small 305 pts, 2. G. Brown 318 pts, 3. P. Doecke 418 pts

Dnf: A. Davies, R. Shearman

1966

According to a preview of the trial that was published in the *Press*, more than 25 riders were expected to take part in the event. One of the entrants was Ralph Forbes, a Scottish rider, who was a temporary resident. Forbes had brought two Butler trials bikes with him when he arrived in New Zealand. He sold one to Evan Norriss and rode the other himself. During the trial his Austin ute broke down, so he rode the Butler on the road to the property where the sections were. The local riders were amazed when he arrived because he wasn't wearing a jacket even though it was a cold winter's day.

Evan Norriss won the trial again and led throughout the weekend, but on the last day with only five sections to go he misjudged the depth of a water hole and drowned his bike. It took 15 minutes to get the motor going again after he drained the sump. Robin Milner was runner up and Robert Rush was third. C. Davis won the novice class and the Moir Cup. Graeme Small was awarded the Falconer Cup. Peter Chapple had a fall on the third day and did not finish because he had a badly bruised leg.

Results

Expert: 1. E. Norriss 130 points, 2. R. Milner 160 pts, 3. R. Rush 165 pts, 4. P. McDonald 194 pts
5. P. Archer 211 pts, 6. J. Harcourt 221 pts, 7. A. Davies 225 pts, 8. S. Harrison 258 pts
9. R. Forbes 265 pts, 10. R. Taylor 266 pts. *Dnf:* P. Chapple.

Novice: 1. C. Davis 462 pts, G. Small 484 pts, K. Adams 514 pts

1967

After being runner up for the previous two years Robin Milner finally managed to win the trial and it was a popular victory. In April he had won the South Island Championship, but after noticing his score had been wrongly recorded in one section, he had informed the Clerk of the Course and was relegated to second place. His win at the Kaikoura seemed to be a reward for his honesty in the championship.

167 sections were ridden and there were six different venues. On day 1, there were 12 sections at Waipara, 12 at Hurunui and 12 at the Conway. Evan Norriss was the leader at the end of the first day on 17 points, with Robin and Peter Milner both on 26 points. On day 2 there were 12 sections at Mackles farm in the morning, and 96 sections after lunch. In the afternoon Evan lost 84 points and slipped from first position to fifth. Robin Milner took the lead, one point ahead of Robert Rush. On

the third day there were 12 sections at Mason River and 12 at Waipara. Robin maintained his lead, Robert finished second, and Peter McDonald was third. In the novice class, Ken Kilgour from Dunedin was the winner, Kevin Adams was second and received the Moir Cup. Ted Wharnsby was seventh in expert and was the best first year rider.

Results

Expert: 1. R. Milner 81 points, 2. R. Rush 96 pts, 3. P. McDonald 97 pts, 4. P. Milner 106 pts
5. E. Norriss 115 pts, 6. P. Archer 137 pts, 7. E. Wharnsby 140 pts, 8. P. Chapple 142 pts
9. A Sabiston 182 pts, 10. R. Taylor 246 pts, 11. A Davies 322 pts, 12. L. Small 334 pts
Novice: 1. K. Kilgour 366 pts, 2. K. Adams 418 pts, H. Anderson 470 pts, I. Alexander 748 pts

1968

A feature of this trial was the introduction of a road bike class which was organised by Ivan Clarke and Russell Gillard. There were separate sections for the road bikes and there were Yamahas, Hondas, a Kawasaki and a 750cc Norton Atlas. Russell Gillard rode a Triumph Tiger 80. Also noteworthy was the variety of trials bikes. Ralph Forbes had returned to New Zealand and he rode a Bultaco, the first Spanish bike to be ridden at the Kaikoura. Peter McDonald had acquired Ralph's Butler. Russell Bates and Peter de Gues rode micro 80cc bikes. Russell was on a Suzuki and Peter had built his own Yamaha special. Bob McCallum rode an AJS.

In the expert class there was a very close contest with only six points separating the first three places. Robert Rush led for the first two days, but on the third day was overtaken by Peter McDonald and Ted Wharnsby. Evan Norriss was the organiser and did not ride. He loaned his Butler to Peter Chapple who finished 4th. Bruce Reeves who had recently moved from Ashburton to Rangiora was the winner of the Moir and Falconer Cups.

Results

Expert: 1. P. McDonald 123 points, 2. E. Wharnsby 127 pts, 3. R. Rush 129 pts, 4. P. Chapple 183 pts,
5. B. Chambers 251 pts, 6. A. Ormandy 288 pts, 7. A. Davies 295 pts, 8. R. Forbes 304 pts,
9. P. De Geus 317 pts, 10. B. Reeves 358 pts, 11. R. Bates 369 pts, 12. L. Small 476 pts,
13. H. Anderson 513 pts, 14. M. Lamberton 521 pts, 15. O. Byfield 742 pts
Dnf: R. McCallum, G. Small
Road bikes: 1. R. Gillard, 2. D. Gibbs, 3. S. England

1969

Peter McDonald organised the 1969 trial and did not ride, but Evan Norriss was back on his Butler. Peter Archer had also missed the previous year and returned to ride the event on his Greeves which he had modified substantially. Robert Rush had a new Triumph Cub which he had modified to Comerfords specifications.

This time there were three Bultacos, which were ridden by Bas Chambers, John Kearns and Mark Lamberton. Bas had purchased his Bultaco from Ivan Mauger who had brought it with him from the UK when he returned to New Zealand to ride speedway. John Kearns had moved from to Christchurch from Auckland. After acquiring a Bultaco he sold his Greeves Scottish to Bob McCallum.

Evan Norriss won the expert class for the sixth time, Bas Chambers was second and Peter Archer was third. Robert retired on the second day due to a battery issue which caused his bike to misfire.

Ken Hosking rode his first Kaikoura on a Butler and won the Falconer Cup. Stewart Grazier received the Moir Cup.

Gary Rush won the road class on a 200cc Triumph Sports Cub. Gary had ridden in the novice class in club trials the previous year so he had trials experience and he also had a more nimble bike than the others. Russell Gillard was second on his 350cc Triumph and Stuart England was third on a 500cc B.S.A. Well known road racer, Dale Wylie finished fourth.

Results

Expert: 1. E. Norriss 70 points, 2. B. Chambers 89 pts, 3. P. Archer 106 pts, 4. R. McCallum 130 pts, 5. E. Wharnsby 152 pts, 6. K. Hosking 180 pts, 7. J. Kearns 230 pts, 8. B. Reeves 242 pts, 9. S. Grazier 441 pts, 10. H. Anderson 445 pts, 11. K. Adams 466 pts.

Dnf: R. Rush, T. Dick, M. Lamberton, M. McGibbon, P. Wear

Road: 1. G. Rush 19 pts, 2. R. Gillard 38 pts, 3. S. England 39 pts, 4. D. Wylie 54 pts, 5. I. Staples 56 pts, 6. E. Holmes 60 pts, 7. J. Hale 69 pts, 8. W. Guy 95 pts, 9. W. Alp 99 pts.

1970

As in previous years, the trial began and ended at Waipara. On day 1 there were also sections at Hurunui and Fernihurst. Day 2 was at John Mackles farm at Kahutara. On Day 3 there were sections at the Mason River before the final stop at Waipara.

At the end of day 1, Ted Wharnsby, who was riding a Greeves Anglian, was leading on 17 points. Evan Norriss was second on 24 points and Robert Rush was on 33 points, one point ahead of Peter McDonald. On day 2 Ted extended his lead and was 27 points ahead of Evan by the end of the day. Robert dropped out of contention in the slippery conditions at Mackles because he was using trials tyres. The other riders were using motocross tyres which gave them an advantage in the mud. On the third day Ted was able to maintain his lead despite having a flat rear tyre. The valve stem had pulled out of his tube at Mackles farm and he was unable to repair it. Peter McDonald had closed the gap on Evan at Mackles and at Mason River and both were on 85 points when they arrived at Waipara. Evan lost 14 there and Peter dropped 17, so Evan was runner up overall, and Peter was third. Bob Cooke, who had acquired a Bultaco, came down from Motueka to ride on the Sunday and Monday. He had the lowest score at Mason River losing only 3 points in the 14 sections that were ridden there. Russell Marr was the Falconer Cup winner.

In the road class, the bikes ranged from 250cc to 650cc. The big bikes were unsuitable for the trials sections so Russell Gillard and Ian Miles made their bikes available so that all the riders could ride the sections. Russell had a Greeves and Ian had a 250cc Triumph Trophy. Dale Wylie was one of the riders on a bigger bike, a Triumph Bonneville. Geoff Anders rode his first Kaikoura and would attend several more in future years.

Results

Expert: 1. E. Wharnsby 85 points, 2. E. Norriss 99 pts, 3. P. McDonald 102 pts, 4. Robert Rush 124 pts, 5. Malcolm McGibbon 137 pts, 6. B. Chambers 142 pts, 7. K. Hosking 178 pts, 8. R. McCallum 196 pts, 9. R. Marr 271 pts, 10. I. Clarke 290 pts, 11. T. Dick 310 pts.

Road: 1. R. Gillard 18 points, 2. D. Wylie 48 pts, 3. I. Miles 57 pts, 4. G. Anders 60 pts, 5. J. Hale 104 pts, 6. P. Robinson 107 pts.

Conclusion

1970 was the beginning of a new decade, but the Kaikōura trial that year was the end of an era. It was the last year that a rider on a British bike won the trial. In the next few years new Spanish, Japanese and Italian trials bikes would become readily available and the number of riders attending the 3 day trial would increase significantly. Riders from other parts of the South Island would become involved, new properties would be used and more classes would be introduced.



Riders and their partners at the Adelphi Hotel in 1964