

The Motor Cycling Club Ltd  
**MONTHLY NEWS LETTER – OCTOBER 2008**

[www.themotorcyclingclub.org.uk](http://www.themotorcyclingclub.org.uk)

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EDINBURGH TRIAL: A cold night followed by a wet day with several sections, Moneystones and Carlton in particular, having an unexpected sting resulted in a couple of hours' lateness at the end and only 18 motorcyclists and 5 car drivers claiming Gold Medals. Surprisingly in these conditions there was little moaning at the bar and everyone seemed happy with the event. We should have a more detailed report and results with next month's newsletter but meanwhile we extend a special word of praise to marshals who were having to work harder than usual by being a little thin on the ground but for whom conditions became worse as the weather deteriorated and lateness increased. Thank goodness the MCC can rely on such a bunch of heroes.

EXETER TRIAL: **The General Secretary writes:** On the basis that very few of the Exeter entrants are likely to need or desire my professional ministrations before the Trial, could you please publish a corrective to this, so that my contact number is my usual one as in Triple, namely **01952 613511**.

**The Clerk of the Course writes:** Just had a call from Rob Taylor, Dartmoor National Park Ranger. He says he has pick axes, shovels, etc, but bring your own if you have them. He also has arranged transport for stone, hardcore, rubble etc. He just needs manpower. The working party is to meet **10.00 am on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October** in case you've forgotten at Fingle car park across the bridge from the pub. If arriving late we will be somewhere up the hill. More volunteers will be welcomed.

**Contact: Tim Whellock 07768 612065 or 01460 53645 or 01460 66434 Thanks**

2009 DATES: Following discussion of the pros & cons of moving the venue for the Annual General Meeting around the country and with the knowledge that this had had no appreciable effect on the attendance figures, it has been decided to use the same location as for 2008, i.e., Shinfield Village Hall, for the 2009 AGM.

**It is planned for the AGM to be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July with the Testing Trial the following Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. These dates have yet to be confirmed but please make a note of them now.**

Present discussions suggest that the annual **Summer Social Run will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** in the north Somerset area. Again the date has to be confirmed.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: IMPORTANT CHANGE in REGULATIONS: Fire extinguisher(s) to a level of safety specified in C(c)Table56(a) are MANDATORY. The minimum requirement is for a hand operated extinguisher or extinguishers having a total capacity of 1.75litres AFFF. Extinguisher(s) should be in good condition firmly secured and located so as to be easily accessible to the crew.

Competitors should be aware that this is a minimum standard, only intended to facilitate safe exit from the vehicle, and may wish to consider carrying extinguisher(s) with improved capability, either by increasing the quantity of AFFF (2.4 litres is the next standard size) or by using one of the FIA/MSA approved gas extinguishants. Any extinguisher exceeding the minimum performance standard and complying with the FIA list (see below) will be accepted at scrutineering.

**Extracts from a list of extinguishants homologated by the FIA. Published by courtesy of FIA/MSA**

**Permitted extinguishants**

AFFF, FX G-TEC, Viro3, Zero 360

**Minimum Quantity of extinguishant**

AFFF: 1.75 litres (2.4 litres recommended see above); FX G-TEC: 2.0 kg; Viro 3: 2.0 kg; Zero 360 2.0 kg

BOOK REVIEW: **MOTORSPORT in BATTLEDRESS, The story of the Bar None Motor Cycle Club.**

Today when books seem to cost a fortune reviews always have to justify the price so it's a pleasant change to be looking at something we can all afford without a second thought. The scene is the Egyptian desert at the end of the war when, the fighting having moved on, boredom became the main enemy for the many British troops still stationed there. One of them, **Cliff Gaskin**, recounts how a group formed a motor cycle club and with cast off service bikes and a motley assortment of machinery "Acquired" in that way peculiar to the British soldier, organised competitive motor cycle events. These seem to have been a mixture of scramble, hillclimb and speed trial combined by an element of military wit with local rules which would never have satisfied the ACU but certainly entertained the troops and local crowds, 6000 on one occasion, while the Sphinx smiled on. In the latter pages of this fascinating booklet the author concludes the story with tales of his own restoring and special building after demob – another background familiar to older members. Don't miss this one; send your money off today. It's less than a couple of pints and far more entertaining.

**Available from R J Gaskin, 1 Stoneley Road, Stoke Golding, Nunneaton CV13 6JN at £4.50 incl P&P.**

**Please note. Book Reviews usually appear only in the chattier Email News of the Week but as this book is so reasonably priced and has such wide appeal we felt everyone would like to know about it.**