

## Centre Treasurer's Report

Good evening and welcome to this my Treasurer's report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

Anyone who would like a copy of the accounts, I will be pleased to print them off for you. Alternatively if you give me your email address I will forward copies on.

I'm going to keep my report short and sweet; nothing outstanding to tell you about, after 20 years of practice the Centre and our sport very nearly run themselves.

Income was up 2% and Expenses were down by 11%, which gave a Gross Surplus £11,543, which was up 240% on 2014. By the time we take into account Other Unearned Income and allowed depreciation on our equipment, we end up with a Net Surplus £13,270, and £115,419 in the Bank.

Part of the reason for the reduced expenditure is the re-alignment of insurance. We had collected more in than we had forwarded to Rugby, there being a payment to Rugby of £14K in January 2016, which will balance things out.

The planned restructuring of the Centre is working out well with the Combines taking on their own finances and reducing my job considerably. The net surplus from the last couple of years should enable the Centre to tick along comfortably while restructuring settles in to place. We can then re-assess the situation as things progress.

If there are any questions, please ask and I'll try and answer them

I propose the acceptance of my report and the Accounts and confirm that I am willing to stand for a further year in office.

**Roger Brown**  
Centre Treasurer

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## The Sporting Motorcyclist

### John Bramall:

During 2015 TSM totaled 612 pages over the 12 months (compared with 620 in 2014). There were 218 sets of Regulations (240 in 2014) broken down between the three Centres as follows:

Southern	24
South Eastern	136
South Midland	54
Other	4

Overall the figures reflect stability, although there has been a bit of a drop from the Southern Centre (45 in 2014) due either to less events being run or less use of TSM. SM and SE figures were pretty much the same as 2014.

As always we are very grateful to all our contributors, photographers and advertisers who have all helped to

continue to make TSM successful. The standard of journalism has remained high and we have some surprising items at times reflecting the wide range of interest that motorcycling can inspire. Not all of our larger Clubs punch to their weight in terms of TSM; it would be good to see more mainstream items from major Clubs and promoters.

**John Bramall** *TSM Editor*

### Andy Wood:

TSM continues to attract enough funding through subscription and advertising to produce a journal averaging 52 pages each month. As mentioned in the past, the readership is made up of those who take part in events and those who just enjoy being 'in the know'. Compliments have been received from time to time regarding the wide variety of content. We are fortunate to have a number of very able, regular and enthusiastic contributors.

Through prudent purchase of materials and continual attention to labour saving in production, TSM has managed to absorb various increases in postal rates and for the foreseeable future will continue to do so. The colour cover is a regular feature and from time to time some of the text pages feature colour as well, subject to suitable pictures being available. Production of TSM is a team effort and tributes should be paid to those who work behind the scene.

Printed regulations and entry forms seem to sit along comfortably with online versions. Consideration is given to what improvements can be made and we shall be looking for some volunteers to trial the latest versions we have devised which we believe will reduce production time and thus help maintain the current price.

Each year we lose some subscribers but we also gain some new ones and we are confident that the current run of a thousand copies will rise as the year progresses. Thus the production team confidently look forward to another successful year.

**Andy Wood** *TSM Production and Distribution*

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## Centre Chairman's Report

If you are reading this report prior to the AGM then please note the change of venue for 2016. After repeated requests from club delegates Peter Burrell and I went to the Peacock Lodge, Eastbourne Road (A22), Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6HL.

We have booked a private function room for our Management Meeting and the AGM. Hopefully we will have a quieter meeting.

There is not a lot to report, the changes that we agreed on at the last AGM have all taken place and seem to be working well. The management has only met twice in the last year but this has not been detrimental to the sport

being run in the Centre. The Combines are meeting as they see fit and promoting their section of the sport.

Peter Burrell, Tristan Robinson and I have represented you at ACU National Council and Chairman and Secretary meetings, aided by Steve Moore who attends as a member of the Trials and Enduro Committee. We also have Dave Edwards looking out for our interests on the Motocross Committee and Paul Hurry on the Track Racing Committee.

With your acceptance, I am happy to continue as your Chairman for the next 12 months and to continue to oversee the restructuring changes. I have some ideas for a centre "Reunion" function, but more of that when I've got something tangible to report.

Our Secretary, Peter Burrell reaches his milestone birthday this year and he has stated that he intends to stand down at the next AGM. Part of my restructuring plan was to lessen the job of Centre Secretary, which I think we have done and hopefully we have a candidate lined up to take on Peter's role.

**Roger Brown**  
Centre Chairman

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## **Centre Secretary**

**CLUBS IN and OUT:** During 2015 two new clubs joined the ACU and the South Eastern Centre; the Sussex Pitbike Club, having left the MSA and the Bognor Club, but stayed as an AMCA club jointly. In 2014, an official from the CSMA told me the club would be a SE Centre club rather than joined to the ACU under a 'special arrangement'. However at the end of 2015, a different official said the club would continue the arrangement with the ACU as a Non-Territorial club!

Sussex Pitbikes has already made a mark with the ACU by advising on pit bike specification and events. The rules for pit bike events have been changed accordingly in the 2016 ACU Handbook.

Almost all clubs re-affiliated on or about the required date of the end of October. 5 used the facility provided on-line directly to the ACU, 13 paid by BACS transfer to the Centre and the rest paid by cheque. Any method is welcome and will be able to be used for the 2017 renewal later this year.

Having re-affiliated very late in 2014, the Oval Track Racing Association has not responded so far this year. All these ins and outs mean the Centre has 55 clubs, still the most of any Centre of the ACU.

**MEETINGS:** With the four Sport Combines ably looking after their branches of motorcycle sport, the Centre Management Committee met just three times in 2015, in March, June and September. Each Combine

has two official delegates and any other SE Centre members may attend.

The Centre is well represented at all ACU National Council and Centre Chairmen and Secretaries meetings held in Rugby. We speak up on most items, especially when the accounts of ACU Limited were presented. For the first time ever, copies of the abbreviated accounts for ACU Events Limited were handed to delegates to a National Council meeting. We asked to see the full accounts, but 'commercial confidence' was given as the reason for a firm 'no' to this request. It is disappointing that all other Centres seem to accept each year's accounts without querying anything in them!

Paul Hurry was re-elected onto the ACU Track Racing Committee and Dave Edwards is back on the Motocross Committee, so there are still SE Centre people on the three 'off-road' Sport Committees of the ACU.

**CHANGES!:** Two things where we have had some influence are when we highlighted the high cost of repatriation insurance for trials which caused the Talmag Club to run the Talmag Trophy Trial of 2015 under an AMCA permit. The ACU Board greatly reduced the rider's premium and the 2016 Talmag trial reverted to an ACU permit!

We queried the cost of the one-day Road Traffic Act insurance payable for Long Distance Trials. The ACU unexpectedly announced that the premium would be reduced to zero from the start of 2016.

You may have noticed that the name "South Eastern Centre of the ACU" has been modernised to "ACU South Eastern". This is not a surreptitious way of getting rid of Centres, it's only a name change – honestly!

**Peter Burrell**  
Centre Secretary

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## **Permit Secretary**

On behalf of the Centre in 2015 I issued 212 permits:

195 Trials  
7 Enduro  
3 Motocross  
7 Grass Track

At the time of writing this report there are 5 clubs with outstanding payment for 2015.

Most weekends there are around 4 events catering for the members of this Centre in the various disciplines we run. It is very rare to have a permit request refused in this Centre, so if you wish to run an event, email in the detail and I will endeavour to accommodate it.

Having said email it to me, this is likely to change during the year as the permit system is undergoing tests to allow clubs to input the permit information directly

onto the system. Then the Permit Secretary approves the detail and issues the Permit as usual.

Trials clubs now have a revised event return form which allows payment by credit transfer which could reduce bank charges. For those clubs who may be struggling for observers, the online entry system allows you to have an observer class at no cost to club or observer which may help. The online entry system greatly reduces the paperwork clubs must keep.

All clubs can find event forms on their log-in portal and by using the green tab on the trials website, [www.SouthEastTrialsCombine.org.uk](http://www.SouthEastTrialsCombine.org.uk). If there are any questions, just ask.

*Steve Westley*  
Permit Secretary

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### **M.o.D. Land Liaison Officer**

There have been fewer dates submitted to me for the coming season. Most clubs are booking direct with Oliver James of Landmarc as they can discuss with him alternatives if the date or land they want is unavailable. Other clubs are looking for cheaper land because of the shrinking entries in trials.

Enduro events have been hit by the withdrawal of Bagshot because of public complaints and land erosion. This is one of the few pieces of land that does not have a SSSI and was a favourite with a lot of clubs, some of which were not ACU affiliated and who are not regulated to run a proper event.

Bagshot is still being used by Trials clubs because of less disruption to the dog walkers and is kinder to the flora and fauna.

There are less M.o.D. sites available for Enduros, but Broxhead Common is going to be used by Normandy M.C.C. with the use of Martinique Barracks as car park hard standing.

Most Enduros are now held at Slab Common but later this year Surrey Police and London Fire Brigade are teaming up with Dorset Police to run at Bovington Heath, but the land is in doubt and an alternative is being sought.

Normandy has used a relatively new piece of land near Deepcut called Old Dene which is a compact site and suitable for small trials only.

Landmarc is still keen to have the land used on a regular basis and will accommodate clubs with small entries by reducing the minimum fee to thirty instead of forty riders. If you are struggling to find suitable venues give me a ring and I will try to accommodate you (hopefully!)

*Alan Dudley*  
M.o.D. Land Officer

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### **Enduro Recorder**

As most of you know the Enduro Combine has been running a championship for nearly 10 years and in the last few it has taken over the Centre Championships. We have added a Hare & Hounds Championships, and this is last year's tables and winners.

Sponsored by Teamsnapper and by class sponsors.

#### **Timecard Championships:-**

##### **Freestyle Husqvarna Championships Class**

Winner	Ben Wibberley	86 points
Runner up	John Hunt	75 points

##### **SMD Off Road Expert Class**

Winner	Matthew Ward	70 points
Runner up	Elloit Beken	54 points

##### **Jizlube.co.uk Veteran A Class**

Winner	Mick Stradwick	77 points
Runner up	John Horton	68 points

##### **Jizlube.co.uk Veteran A Over 50 Class**

Winner	Paul Armstrong	80 points (most wins)
Runner up	Colin Cowley	80 points

##### **Tri-County Clubman A Class**

Winner	Adam Brady	75 points
Runner up	Daniel Cooper	65 points

##### **Tollring Veteran B Class**

Winner	Jeff Cannons	100 points
Runner up	Richard Mace	61 points

##### **Tollring Veteran B Over 50 Class**

Winner	John Muizlaar	100 points
Runner up	Richard Jones	62 points

##### **Woods Butchers Clubman B Class**

Winner	Ben Harding	77 points
Runner up	Craig Chawner	61 points

##### **Tollring Evo pre-1990 Class**

Winner	Hans Gilham	83 points
Runner up	Steven Bird	55 points

Sponsored by Knight Security and by class sponsors

#### **Hare and Hounds Championships:-**

##### **Freestyle Husqvarna Championships Class**

Winner	James Giddings	103 points
Runner up	Steven White	85 points

##### **SMD Off Road Expert Class**

Winner	Brad Armstrong	114 points
Runner up	Felix Warren	105 points

##### **Jizlube.co.uk Veteran A Class**

Winner	Chris Stanger	111 points
Runner up	Andrew Sharp	110 points

##### **Jizlube.co.uk Veteran A Over 50 Class**

Winner	Paul Armstrong	117 points
Runner up	Steve Bird	101 points

##### **Tri-County Clubman A Class**

Winner	Brad Warton	123 points
Runner up	Daniel Cooper	107 points

### Tollring Veteran B Class

Winner Martin Turner 109 points  
Runner up Michael Toussaint 95 points

### Tollring Veteran B Over 50 Class

Winner Chris Welch 135 points  
Runner up Richard Jones 91 points

### Woods Butchers Clubman B Class

Winner Ben Harding 97 points  
Runner up Zain Daniels 94 points

### Tollring Evo pre-1990 Class

Winner Manual Bernardez 20 points

### Club Championships (combined total of both Championships)

Winners Witley 3,353 points  
Runners up Kingston 2,386 points

*Alan Dudley*  
Enduro Recorder

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## **ACU Benevolent Fund Officer**

I attended the ACU Benevolent Fund meeting in January last year shortly after my appointment, and met the Trustees and representatives from most other Centres.

Of course, they had all known Jim Bacon whose place I had taken for the South Eastern Centre. A few memories were put forward from others about his work. I learned what went on behind the closed doors where awarding grants was concerned and how claims were reviewed at each meeting – a learning curve.

Every 2 months, I receive a list of donations, which includes the names of Centres involved, and a list of assistances given.

Since I took on this job, I've realised how important the Benevolent Fund is. I saw that some other Centres had each had lots more claimants than the South Eastern Centre. It might mean that we have fewer injuries, or do we have fewer competitive riders than other Centres? I noticed that where some SE Centre clubs raise money for laudable charities through their events, none of those have been the ACU Benevolent Fund. Perhaps club reps at the AGM could raise this with their club secretaries or members, because at some time there might be a flurry of claimants from the South Eastern Centre.

Fines for non-production of licences at events are supposed to be sent to the Benevolent Fund, but this doesn't seem to be happening in the S.E. Centre.

During 2015, the Benevolent Fund helped sixty-nine people, some on a short-term basis and some for as long as 12 months which is normally the maximum. In extreme cases, this can be extended where necessary. With regard to assistance granted in 2015 to South Eastern Centre people, one person received assistance periodically over 4 months and another received a one-off grant.

As far as this Centre is concerned, 2015 saw two donations, with one being in memory and the other a donation from a non-motorcycling event (go karting). The SE donations for 2015 amounted to £781.00.

The 2016 TT Ben Fund badge is now available at a cost of £3 and can be purchased from ACU Benevolent Fund Secretary, ACU House, Wood Street, Rugby, CV21 2YX. Alternatively, you can call the Benevolent Fund Secretary on 01788 566419 if you prefer to pay by credit or debit card.

If anyone needs financial assistance, or knows someone who may, please contact me to discuss the matter.

*Hazel Collins*  
Centre Benevolent Fund Officer

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## **South East Trials ACU** (formerly South Eastern Trials Combine)

The Trials Combine meets once a year in October for the AGM. The Officers of SE Trials ACU were re-elected en-bloc.

The vote to go forward in 2016 with self-funding was agreed after discussion at the meeting. All trials event returns should be made payable to 'South East Trials ACU' and this can be by cheque or credit transfer using 60-02-48 account number 70611998.

It was agreed that no radical changes would take place during the year and administration costs for self-funding in Trials would be evaluated at the 2016 AGM.

The number of trials for 2015 held up well at 195 with few cancellations and a slight increase in the number of practice events. During the year the ACU Board agreed we can accept non ACU riders at practice events subject to certain requirements and this may encourage more to take on an ACU card.

For the Long Distance Trials events there is further good news in that providing that the competitors adhere to certain requirements, the ACU will cover the annual premium for this cover at no extra cost to the organiser or the competitor.

There will be no change in the method of marking Centre Championship observed trials for 2016 which is under Non-Stop TSR22B. However, if any club has any viable alternative to observe and mark competitors whilst allowing the full performance of the modern trials bike to be utilized please get in touch.

Group trials can still use which ever method they wish.

If there are any questions about trials, just ask.

*Steve Westley*  
Secretary, South East Trials ACU

## **South Eastern Motocross Combine**

We have only met once since the last AGM as sadly with only 3 clubs organising motocrosses now we have not felt the need to get together for discussions. That meeting was hastily arranged after receiving the news that the Centre was going to move to each Combine becoming self financing.

We agreed to keep the Centre levy at £2 for adult riders and review the accounts after a year to see how we were managing.

We have continued to invite the Mid Sussex Club to our meetings but as yet they have not decided to join the Centre or this Combine. Crawley seems also to have dropped by the wayside with a very small band of helpers unable to put a meeting on.

Twickenham had a brief reprieve on the loss of their Rusper track and ran a very successful meeting. But unfortunately it now looks as if the loss is permanent. They struggled to find a venue on which to run their remaining fixtures. Sidcup also cancelled a meeting due to lack of water during a very hot period when their lagoon ran dry.

GEST organised the new SE MX Youth Championship on its own together with a very good Open meeting at Iden at which they also ran a Sidecar Clubman's Championship.

We have a voice on the Centre Management Committee and this duty is shared by me and Jamie Clarke. The minutes of these meetings are published in the TSM.

Our website has continued to keep visitors informed of events. However, with electronic timing, the results are published on the My Laps website together with updated Championship positions so the importance of the Combine's website has diminished somewhat. The Facebook page has proved a good point of immediate contact to get important facts out to the riders.

The permanent number scheme has now been online via the ACU members' portal for a second year and has proved successful. We increased the fee to £10 before we had the news of the self funding scheme to generate some more revenue which it has done; the 2014 total being £580 whilst last year we generated £1,480.

GEST, Twickenham and Sidcup all use the ACU On Line entry system successfully which seems to work well.

The Timing team timed all the Centre Championship events and a GEST 2-day meeting. Transponders were loaned to the ACU and GEST when they competed in the Team event.

I have been a bit lapse and not chased anyone for their subs in 2015 and at the present time I do not see a need to increase our subs and perhaps with our healthy financial position we might think about doing away with them.

*Marge Clarke*

Secretary, SE Centre Motocross Combine

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## **South Eastern Grass Track Combine**

Eight meetings were held in the 2015 season.

The one run by the Astra Club and GTSA's two both attracted reasonable attendances.

At the second meeting there were two accidents. One right hand sidecar passenger was taken to hospital but later released as he had no serious injuries. One solo rider was hospitalised with a broken leg.

The second meeting staged a leg of the 500cc sidecar super league.

Frittenden held three meetings at their usual venue at Sandhurst Bridge Farm which were all well attended. All tracks were well prepared and there were no serious accidents at any of the meetings.

Maidstone Aces planned to hold three meetings but had to cancel the second due to lack of entries. The other two meetings went well with no serious accidents. The third meeting included a Quad class which was reasonably entertaining.

*Rick Colvin*

Chairman, SE Centre Grass Track Combine

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No reports were received from:  
Grass Track Recorder  
Motocross Liaison Officer  
Trials Recorder  
Enduro Combine