



2015 Review & look forward Into 2016

The Club has had another very busy and successful year running both the Winter & Summer Series Championships together with the Wight Two Day (open) trial & our annual Boxing Day trial (which attracted 38 riders) that amounts to 19 events – not bad for a relatively small Club like ours! I would like to say a special thank you to all those behind the scenes that have helped to make all this happen together with the all-important Land Owners.

We started 2015 with a determined effort to raise the profile of our Club, in an attempt to attract more members. We have seen throughout the year a steady increase of new members with a really good number of returning members, many after an absence of several years. The challenge now is to keep this momentum going into next year. If you have any suggestions, ideas or criticisms as to how we can do better then please speak to any Committee member. The Committee meet every month and will discuss any issues brought before it – after all, the Club is here for the benefit of all its members - and your views are important!

All of this year's trial reports have been published in the County Press & on the Island's online magazine 'onthewight.com'. Club reports & results have also (since April this year) been published on the Trials Central website – the 'online home' of National & International trials news, together with our own brilliant website - thanks to Ben Gourley and our Facebook group. Regular emails containing results, reports and Club news are also being sent out to all those that have subscribed through our website.

By far the biggest single venture we undertook was the 2015 Wight Two Day open trial that turned the clock back 24 years - reintroducing 'roadwork' for some riders - whilst not forgetting all the 'off road' riders. This was an idea initially put forward by Nick Symes, hoping to attract the ever increasing twin shock group of riders. The last Wight Two Day trial held with roadwork was back in 1991 at the event's Silver Jubilee trial. Much work & head scratching was involved in organising the revamped two day trial – it was exactly like trying to arrange & manage four separate trials, with no less than forty sections across five different venues – all over one weekend! But with plenty of enthusiastic people stepping in to help out and some fantastic weather - the weekend was very well received. Feedback from riders was really positive, although some valuable lessons were learned!

The Club introduced a raffle for the Observers (on both days) in recognition of their crucial support, for giving up their weekend, and helping the trial run smoothly. Work began back in September, with a Two Day Sub Committee, to build on this year's entry for 2016, in preparation for what will be the Golden Jubilee trial in 2017. Roadwork for some riders will once again be a feature. The aim is to try and attract a bumper entry in 2017 to celebrate the events 50th anniversary – a milestone that very few Club's will have achieved!

New for 2016

We were recently approached by the ACU Southern Centre who were keen for the Wight Two Day trial to once again be part of the Southern Centre Championship, in 2016, the Solo Star status was put aside in 2015 in order to concentrate all our efforts into the new format, the Committee unanimously agreed that this could be done alongside the Two Day's new direction – A competition within a competition if you like.

With rider numbers continuing to increase there will be a push to try and get section observers again at Club trials. There will be incentives to riders - Adults will receive a 50% reduction in their entry fee and Youth riders will enjoy free entry for each trial - where an observer is provided. I believe the more people we get involved, the more (other) people will want to get involved. Speak to your family and friends – you never know until you ask!

The Club has been offered a potential new venue for 2016 which is great news. More details will follow once all the formalities have been sorted out.

Plans are also underway to organise a 'try our sport' event in 2016. The Club will be issued with a permit that allows people to have a go – without first having to obtain Club membership, ACU licence, bike and all the other gear normally required – as all parents will appreciate, they would have to commit to all of the above first, often not knowing if their child will even like riding! The aim is to give potential club members and their parents an insight into who we are, what we do and how it all works. This event will predominately be aimed at Youth riders but will also be open to Adults (depending on the response we receive). Further details will be available soon.

I would like (on behalf of the Committee) to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting the Club over the last twelve months and hope you will continue your support into 2016.

Finally a reminder to all those that have not already done so – it's time to renew your Club memberships and ACU licences. Nigel Crouch now has the ACU codes that you will need when renewing your ACU trials registrations. Nigel, however, can only issue the codes once you have renewed your Club membership!

Don't forget that the 2016 Winter Series gets underway on Sunday 3rd of January, Sweetwater Brook at 12 noon, courtesy of Mr Trevor Strickland. I look forward to seeing you there.

Well I think that's about it for this year – except to wish all of you the very best for 2016.
