



**NEWSLETTER**

JUNE 2021



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Theo Van Niekerk

Our year started with a zap, or was it a splat? We have had four very successful, well attended trials this year. Sadly we could not visit our beloved Oxbow this year, but a long overdue trip to Phil Joubert's spot in Phalaborwa more than made up for it (who can forget those hamburgers?). Riverside Repairs were on duty as always, as were the cameramen to capture the moment. Two-stroke infused Bon-fires and mampoer bottles under a bush veld night sky made for a perfect end to the weekend. Thank you Phil and Dane for the effort. This must become a regular event!

Now that we have the Nationals Rounds 1 and 2 looming, I can't help but wonder who were the fools that chose the shortest day of the year for that? Maybe it was reminiscent to the SSDT weather? They should be fired from the Committee....Cold weather notwithstanding, we look forward to two days of the best riding this year, at two brand new venues that promise not to disappoint!! Charlie had been very busy with his chainsaw at Meyer's Farm, but he promised no massacres...

So let's reflect a little on the state of the club:

- **NEW RIDING FORMAT** - The A&B-lines appears to be a successful adaptation, and we will continue with it for the rest of the year, and then make a decision on the format. If you're still contemplating it, give it a try! We are also introducing a Junior Class (for under 13 year olds) (1 lap per trial) to encourage youngsters to participate. This format will make use of the standard Clubman lines. Maybe Dave Budden could now enter again too...
- **NEW WEBSITE** - The club's identity needs a facelift, so we started working on a few fresh ideas. You may have seen the new logo on our Facebook page (thanks to Ryan), and in the coming months you will see a brand new website with a number of new features - members login, calendar with all events, some media pictures of

recent events, etc. With that being said, we will pay homage to NRTC and our historical legacy by giving it a special page and presence.

- **KIDDIES TRIAL** - In addition to the Junior class mentioned above, Brent is trying something new by starting a "kiddies trial" that will kick-off at the Nationals, to give the little ones something to try. It will be three easy sections set specifically for this class, ridden both directions, with a little prize-giving, t-shirt and trophy. Maybe we have a young Toni Bou in our midst....
- **SOCIAL MEDIA** - I recently listened to the Trials Australia podcast with Bernie Schreiber (1979 world champion, 4 time NATC champion, 1982 SSDT winner and an AMA Hall of Fame inductee) also successful sports marketer who launched RYP and Sherco in the USA among others. He observed that the current trend of posting YouTube clips of the amazing feats by the professional riders, while very impressive, is actually hurting the sport. He contends that interested onlookers perceive this as dangerous, and are scared away by what they see, rather than being encouraged to take up trials. But we all know that this is not the reality but merely the talent of the top few riders. The answer lies in posting more media of what we "ordinary" riders get up to, which is much more achievable, and hopefully attainable to a newbie. So, to that end, I encourage you to take short video clips of yourself and your mates and post it on our Facebook Group and YouTube. Let's encourage more riders to join our wonderful family!

**Good luck with your preparation for Nationals, and keep both feet on the pegs!**

# STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

We have hosted 3 Trials since our last newsletter. Entries to these trials have been good, but not what we were hoping for, so let's see if we can get all you wonderful people to join us for the remainder of the events in 2021.

For those of you that don't attend regularly, or for people on this mailing list that do NOT enter any of our events, please could we ask you to take 5 minutes of your time to give us feedback as to why you are not attending, and if it's something we are doing wrong or suggestions you have, please let one of the committee members know.

To quote David Grice of Trials Australia Podcast:

- 1** Get a bike
- 2** Ride with people who know trials already  
This will accelerate your learning curve
- 3** Be kind to yourself  
You are not going to be Toni Bou on day 1, it will take time
- 4** Mark out sections of various grades  
Work your way to the cleaning each one. Try and clean them 3 times in a row so you know you've got it.
- 5** Enter a comp within your first 3 months.  
Use it as a learning opportunity to figure out where you need to improve
- 6** Have fun, & recruit your friends to join you!

## SURVEY

### WHAT IS KEEPING YOU AWAY?

Have your say and let us know why you aren't attending, what we can do better and other suggestions you might have for us!

**TAKE THE SURVEY**

# RESULTS

## CLUB TRIAL

Held at The Glen on the 28th March

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW RESULTS](#)

## THE DES CAMPBELL TRIAL

Held at Wolwekloof on the 18th April

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW RESULTS](#)



## BILL BELL TRIAL

held at Danielsrust on the 16th May

### RIDERS FEEDBACK: BILL BELL TRIAL

All we can say is that from the moment the cars started to arrive, we realised this was going to be a Vertigo show. Never before has the dominance in terms of numbers ever been anything but Beta, but with Fanus and the boys importing the new bikes and them having arrived a few days before the trial, we waited in anticipation to see how these beautiful machines were going to perform. A lot of set up needs to still be done to suit each rider, but I am sure we are going to see some strong performances from the Dougie Lampkin wannabees.

Danielsrust also played its part and provided us with some fantastic, varied terrain. From sand banks, rocks, logs and rivers sections, everything was thrown in. The feedback was great, with our only casualty being young Lambros Maouris having a small incident which resulted in a broken arm. Some feedback on his condition- he had to undergo surgery to repair the damage, and his recovery is coming on well. He is one tough Greek so I am sure he will be back with a vengeance fairly soon. Get well soon Lambros. A big thanks to Darryl VD Merwe for the use of his farm, and to the course setters for all the hard work.

[VIEW RESULTS HERE](#)

A special thanks also needs to go out to our **dedicated team of observers**, who without them these events would not be possible. Thanks ladies and gents **your dedication is truly appreciated.**



# CLUB RIDE - PHALABORWA

A social club ride was put together for the weekend of 28 February, and we asked none other than Rob Lloyd who put things together with The Joubert' s to tell us about the weekend.

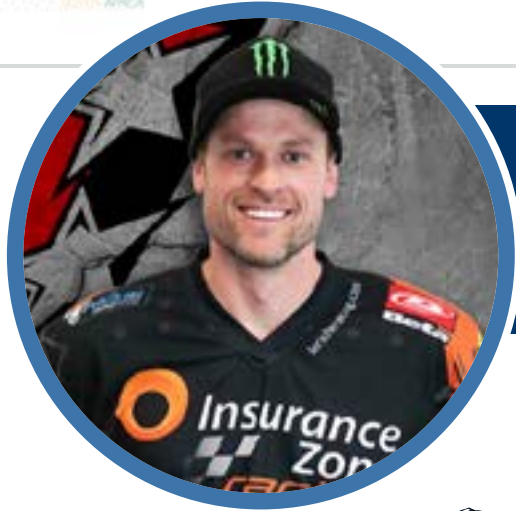
The weekend of 28 February saw 20 eager trials riding beavers and family members descend on Selati River Ruins, AKA Phil's 200 hectare farm in Phalaborwa. It was fantastic to have riders from the Lowveld and ex rider Andrew Blane join the group. We arrived on Friday at lunchtime, kitted up and hit the sections. Anyone who has ever wondered what it would be like to be let loose on a trials bike in the Kruger Park just needs to spend a day at Selati River Ruins.

Saturday was a copy (add in some sore bodies/headaches) and paste of Friday, except this time we had the entire day to ride. It was the most amazing experience. From river sections to sand banks to rock sections, it has it all. Highly recommended for riders of all levels. Devon provided some awesome exhibition riding skills. His river crossing performance was rather spectacular!

Selati Ruins even has those Golden Orb spider webs from tree to tree! Ask Zane about them when you get the chance, he managed to ditch his bike to avoid one of them.

Thanks to Phil for putting together a magic weekend. It was really special to have his staff set up a bush braai for Saturday lunch (Sponsored by Phil, cheers to that!!). Great idea and enjoyed by all. The accommodation and meals were superb. This is a definite venue to consider (Only 4 and a half hours from Johannesburg) for future nationals/weekend rides as it would test all aspects of riding and has the catering, accommodation and entertainment venue to ensure a great all round weekend.





## BEHIND THE HELMET

### Getting to know NRTC Riders

In this edition, we feature our most successful trials rider who actually needs no introduction. But for those of you who have been hiding under a rock, (or have been smoking Fanus' Medicinal Marijuana), let me present to you our Number 1 rider, **Brent Le Riche**.



#### RIDERS BIO

### BRENT LE RICHE

#### FULL NAME

Brent Le Riche

#### MARRIED

Yes, to Natascha-Lee but I call her Lucky

#### KIDS

Yes, Tyler and Mason

#### HOW LONG RIDING TRIALS?

My first competition was in 1994 on a Fantic at The Documentation Trial held at Tussenkoppies. (Editor: Brent, a challenge has been laid down for you to get an old twin shock Fantic and come and compete with the best from the past? - Challenge laid down, can you say no?) Charlie still did the morning's riders briefing and I got a 5 on my very first section for missing the finish flags.

#### OTHER HOBBIES/ INTERESTS

I enjoy horticulture. Just ask the Pretoria boys who ride with me at our plot in Pretoria East, as I water and care more for the trees there than riding. (Were these "trees" planted by Fanus and Paul by any chance?) Making my boys sections with cones for their electric bikes. I'm also loving my MotoGP at the moment with the Binder brothers, and with Liverpoolian blood in my veins...I rarely miss a Liverpool football match! #YNWA

AGE  
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WHERE DO YOU LIVE?  
Olympus in Pretoria East

#### OCCUPATION

Where do I start! Weekdays I work with my father John, we own a supply company that services the large printing, packaging and wire manufacturing companies around Johannesburg. Supplying anything from bearings and nuts to very specialised hardened pulleys, gears and rollers. (so that's where they make the big bucks!). Most Weekends (pre-covid) - I own Le Riche Racing which is an entertainment business doing explosive action-packed extreme motorcycle shows on a dedicated 4 ton truck at events and festivals. In our peak we were averaging 2.5 shows per month, and developing into Monster Energy South Africa's #1 choice for their activations and promotions. Since my brother and I returned from competing in the USA in 2007 we started an investment property business with our father. This involved all things property (buying, renovating, changing to sectional title, etc) which enabled us to build up a fair and diverse property portfolio over the years with commercial and residential investment units. Luckily most of this is now run for me and our engineering supply company takes up 95% of my time.

#### TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOU THAT WE DON'T ALREADY KNOW?

I have a Lifetime Achievement award from Motorsport South Africa and I have observed a World Round in Duluth Minnesota. Besides my 15 SA National Championships, I would say my best achievement was finishing #4 in the USA in my rookie year! Bruce and I also managed to crack the front cover of the 2006 FIM World Round Spectators Guide!

Some of the countries I have competed or done shows in: USA, England, Spain, Australia, Pakistan, Angola, Zambia and of course Botswana and Swaziland. Oh and I can twist my tongue upside-down (Ed: your wife must love you for this), and I have 2 Gold Roof of Africa medals under my belt!

There we are ladies and gents, proof that he doesn't ride his bike everyday despite what we all thought!



## IN OTHER NEWS

### New bikes on the scene

In this newsletter, we will be focusing on the all new Gas Gas TXT 300 Racing. We have been unable to interview any riders that have bought this machine, so until a test unit comes available (which has already been offered by FAST Gas Gas), we will have to rely on the marketing info provided by the manufacturer. Hopefully in our next edition we can give some back to back comparisons with the other new

machines available in the market. Watch this space. I can tell you that I had the opportunity to ride the demo unit at the last Twin Shock event, and I have to say that it far exceeded my expectations. The bike feels very well balanced, and I certainly think we will be seeing quite a few of these in our club in the not too distant future.

### Gas Gas TXT 300 Racing

“ *Class leading power. Top-level handling. And a serious amount of torque! Our TXT RACING 300 is a trial workhorse that delivers a plentiful supply of strong, clean and tractable power, ensuring all skilful riders can push their limits. Not for the faint hearted, the 300cc 2-stroke is built to scale the hardest climbs and meet the toughest challenges head-on. With impressive manoeuvrability, low running costs, leading suspension, a strong and reliable transmission for precise shifting, as well as hydraulic clutch and brakes from Braktec, the TXT RACING 300 truly does deliver serious off-road performance.* ”



**CLICK HERE TO  
FIND OUT MORE**

about the Gas Gas TXT 300 Racing

Info provided by Nathaniel Do Amaral from FAST Gas GAS/ KTM




# UPCOMING EVENTS


## THE GAUTENG NATIONALS


**ROUND 1** 26th June 2021 - Tierpoort Adventure Farm, Pretoria

**ROUND 2** 27th June 2021 - Meyers Farm, JHB South

This has to be one of the most eagerly anticipated National Championships in many years. Let's consider all the factors:-

 **RIDERS** Besides the one pony show in Masters, there is some seriously close riding between all the other classes. There are a lot of newer riders moving up the ranks, and the youngsters are starting to show the old timers how to ride.

 **BIKES** As mentioned earlier, it has been many years since we have had such a variety of bikes fighting for honors. Let's see how this battle works out!

 **VENUES** As we all know Trials is steeped in history and tradition, so for Nationals we seldom vary from our tried and tested venues. Both of the Venues we will be using are new to the club, so no advantage will be gained for local knowledge. On day 1, we have a new venue in Tierpoort Adventure Farm, Pretoria. The Pretoria crew are pretty excited about this new venue, so let's see what it provides on the day. But my personal favourite that has got me excited (yes it doesn't take much), is riding at Meyers Farm. Anybody from the south of JHB will know that Meyer's farm is an enigma, and to actually get to compete there is special beyond words. Thanks to Viv and his extended Meyer family for allowing us the privilege of using your venue.

Guys and girls, a lot of work and many, many hours of setting and preparation has gone into arranging these events. PLEASE, we ask all of you that have a trials bike to make the effort and register for these events. We need a large turnout to give Trials the boost and attention that it deserves. Trials, like many other sports and businesses in South Africa and the world has taken a knock due to Covid. But we cannot let Covid win and destroy our sport. We know people are struggling financially, but there are not many sports that are as cheap to participate in as Trials.

There are literally thousands of trials bikes in South Africa, and we are asking that if you have one, dust it off and come and join us and let's make Trials better than it has ever been. If you feel you are a little unfit, then why not join us for at least 1 day? We guarantee that if you do you will be hooked.

If you need more information about getting into Trials (or back in as is the case with many of you), Please contact one of the Committee members and we will be happy to assist however we can.

Remember, if you haven't yet entered, please do so on our website [www.nrtc.co.za](http://www.nrtc.co.za) or our **Facebook page Trials SA**

Finisher's awards will be awarded to everyone that finishes. Awards for the Top 3 riders in each class.

I would like to thank some of the sponsors that have made financial contributions to the Nationals:





# PRACTICE



As committee members, we often get asked where the best places are to practice for trials. We all have our local spot, but below we have listed the main die hard riders that typically arrange the practice sessions in their area.

Should you wish to join any of the groups to train, please contact one of the teams below and arrange directly with them. If we have missed out any regular riding groups, please drop us a mail and let us know so we can publish this in our next issue.

## **SOUTH SIDE BOYS**

Training at The Glen - Sunday mornings meeting at 08h30

### CONTACT

Gordon on 082 838 4798 or Vince on 082 495 6094

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## **OLIFANTS / RED BARN**

Wednesday afternoons

### CONTACT

Graham Harris on 084 528 0843

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## **PRETORIA**

Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays

### CONTACT

Fanus on 083 448 9408

## TWINSHOCK TRIALS CLUB

Since my last report on the state of our sport, we have all been hit with the Covid pandemic, which I am sure does not need any further comment from me. It put pay to most if not all sporting activities worldwide and sent the most hardened of us into withdrawal.

But a new era is upon us, where we can observe more than adequate social distancing upon our bikes, as long as you do not end up in the casualty ward like me, where you put your life at risk, not thru any injury, but being surrounded by strange, ashen looking, sick people. Jokes aside, this is going to be with us for many years, so please be safe so that we can see you smiling aboard your Karl Benz invention.

We have managed to have three very successful and fun events so far this year and I think I can say without fear of contradiction that these events are growing in numbers. So many new faces can be seen, along with new Twinshock bikes. Sunday's trial and the Memorial Trophy was won by Gordon.

The Japanese bikes are now outnumbering the Spanish and Italian, something I suppose that equally reflects modern life. After these three events, we once again have a neck-a-neck tussle between Gordon and Charlie, but the likes of Brad, Vince and Alan are lying in wait to put cats amongst the pigeons.

The next event will be after the NRTC National Trials, so keep your eyes posted on the web site.

Thanks

**Bruce ( Captain ) Watts**



# NRTC COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2021:

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To stay up to date with what's happening, please follow the club on Facebook, WhatsApp or via our website [www.nrtc.co.za](http://www.nrtc.co.za)

