



On behalf of us all at Manchester 17 MCC Ltd welcome to Trials, the friendliest and most social motorsport there is! Thanks to everyone who helped bring this guide together.

The Manchester 17 Motorcycle Club began in 1935 when two groups of bike enthusiasts in suburban Manchester got together and decided to form a club. The Club name comes from the number of riders at that first meeting.

Since then, we've been involved in most forms of mainstream motorcycle activity from road runs and training to televised scrambles, from speedway to touring, rallies and road-racing. John Hartle from Chapel-en-le-frith - the 2nd guy to lap the TT Course at over 100 mph - was a club member, riding trials as well as racing at International level.

We now run over a dozen trials every year, ranging from the ever-popular Dead Easy Trials to the national Dave Rowland Trophy and Northern Experts Trials as well as two more road-based trials, the Fisher Trophy Trial and the Hipwell/Hartle Trial plus assisting with the Bemrose Trophy Trial.

Everyone starts somewhere and, for many, our Dead Easy Trials are where it all began - or what they come back to. Riders can be anywhere between 4 and 80-ish. Some are already experienced bikers when they turn up at their first trial, having ridden road bikes or motocross for years. But, often, it's the first time they've found themselves face to face with a Section Begins card. And it can be a little bit bewildering - even scary.

It's at that point that many start to find out just how different riding a bike off-road and in competition is from anything they've done before. So many new things to do and learn. Rules & regulations, Licences and then the riding itself. Where to go and what to do. And what not to do!

The purpose of this guide is to just give a gentle nudge in the right direction and help you get started the right way.

And remember! The idea of it all is to have fun and make new friends - and trials is great for both of those!

www.manchester17.org.uk

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People and other animals ...

Dogs are great!

We love dogs and a trials venue can be a great place for them to have a bit of a run around. Trouble is, sheep and other livestock may not be so keen on them and nor will some of the local wildlife like ground-nesting birds.



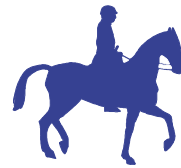
If you bring a dog with you to a trial, make sure it's under control. No! Properly, really, really under control. On a lead if needs be.

Don't let it be your dog that causes trouble and maybe costs us the use of the land.



Horses are great too!

This area is used a lot by trekking groups and some folk you'll see in those groups only sat on a horse the first time maybe half an hour ago. Horses ain't daft and they know when their rider is nervous. Think about that.



You've probably noticed this, but horses are bigger than you, stronger than you, probably faster than you and have the equivalent of a steel lump hammer at each corner. Plus teeth. Big teeth.

Some of them are OK with bikes but there's many that aren't. They don't understand what bikes are and can easily be spooked. Think about being on one when that happens.

If horses come near, stop! Stop moving and stop your engine. Acknowledge the Group Leader and the riders. Wait until they're well clear before starting up again. If you have to pass them, then do so slowly, well away and quietly.

Other users

There's a chance that, somewhere around the trial route, you'll come across other people, nothing to do with the trial.



Whoever they are and whatever they're doing - family groups, dog-walkers, Sunday strollers, hardened hikers, birdwatchers, mountain bikers, local residents etc. - **be friendly and show them respect. It's their leisure time too!**



If you get the opportunity and they're interested, maybe explain a bit about what a trial is and isn't - it's not a race, there's hardly any noise and most of the time you'd never know we've been running trials around here for nigh on 100 years!

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO

TRIALS ETIQUETTE



A quick run through some of the Do's and Don'ts of Observed Motorcycle Trials - the things that no-one tells you because everyone knows (except you)!



Prepared by The Manchester 17 Motorcycle Club Ltd. ©

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO TRIALS ETIQUETTE

You've arrived at your first Trial, unloaded your bike and got your kit on. So what next? These are a few tips from those who've been there and done it before, as riders, Observers and trial organisers. Hope it helps!



✓ Get there early and have the right money

The Secretary of the Meeting will love you for it. It's not just you they're sorting out!

✓ Filling in the Form - write clearly, then check it

You do want us to get your name right in the results don't you? Same goes for Membership Forms too, please. If you're not sure on something, just ask.

✗ Don't be a Carpark Hero

Wheelies are fun and you've waited all week to ride ... but cars and folk are expensive to have dents taken out of and you're responsible for any damage you - or your kids - cause. Please don't ride around the car park.

✗ Silent Zone signs mean just that

If there's a Silent Zone sign, then there's no riding before the Start. Don't even fire it up until Start time please, even electric bikes.

✓ Attend the pre-Start briefing

It's how we let you know important stuff like where all the Sections are and the number of laps you'll be doing. And the niggly bits - like any pot holes, cliff edges and other little things you just might want to know about.

✗ Don't be a blocker

Walk up the Section first, then back down, until you know where you want to go and how. But don't get in the way of someone actually riding it. Or block the Observer's view.

✓ Queuing - it's part of trials so be sociable and have a chat

But don't queue jump. Just don't. It's not nice. After all, you wouldn't like it if someone did it to you.



✓ Make sure your number is visible

No number equals no score. Can they see the back one too?

✓ If a Section is too hard, it's OK to ask for a 5

Don't be afraid to ask the Observer for a 5. It's sensible and everyone's done it at some time! Yes, even them.



✓ Still want a crack? The Observer is your friend

They'll have seen how everyone does (or doesn't) do it, so ask their advice if you want to give it a go but don't know how.

✓ Dave Rowland once told me "ride your own trial"

By all means ask others how to do a Section - what gear, which line, how fast etc. But they may be more (or less) experienced than you or have a different style or bike. Bottom line is, take advice but do it your way.

✓ Wait to be observed

Don't ride the section until the Observer indicates they're ready. They might miss that perfect Clean.

✗ Don't argue with the Observer over a score

What they say goes. End of. And it's in the Rule book too.

✓ When there's no Observer do your share

Park up at a suitable spot and hand the board to the next rider after writing down their score.



✗ Never observe yourself

Never put your own score on the Observer Card. You were all clean? Oh yeah??

✓ Laps

Do each section once per lap. If you don't, it's cheating. Only exception is if you've had a problem and are running very late or young inexperienced riders accompanied by their minder. Ask the Observer first, of course.

✓ Always follow the marked course

Hidden holes and quarry faces add to the fun. Also, that grass you're on is how the farmer earns his living, so we've marked you through where they want you and not where they don't. Don't mess it up, please. "Abuse it, we lose it, simple as that!"

✗ Litter - don't leave any

And if you see any, please pick it up and take it home. Including this. Wasn't yours? Doesn't really matter, does it?

✗ Don't mither the Observer

Checking your score and that they've got all your laps down is fine, but don't waste their time or interrupt them when they're observing someone else. While you're doing your thing in a Section, you want the Observer to watch you, don't you? So does everyone else!



✓ Someone broken down?

If someone has broken down or is stuck, check they're OK. It might be you next time. Maybe offer to take a message back to the Start.

✗ Don't hang around

If you're (almost) last, don't hang around. The Observers might just pull the sticks and go before you finish. Remember, they've been there all day.

✓ Thank the Observers after your last lap

It's polite and you need them more than they need you.

✓ Pulling up the sticks

After it's all over, offer to help pull up the Section/s or carry the flags/bags. It may be a long walk back to the Start and you're the one with the engine!

✓ Be safe

Don't do anything daft that might endanger yourself or someone/something else.

✗ If you're not in the trial, you can't ride there

Only those entered in the event or involved with organising it can ride on the land. Full stop, no exceptions. No, not even you! Most venues aren't available for practice at other times either. Don't go there without specific permission.

✓ Get stuck in - and make new friends too

Even if you're enjoying your trials, you'll find you enjoy it more and get to know who's who and what's what sooner if you get involved and maybe find out when the marking-out team are going to set the next trial up. Go along and do what you can to help. You'll be glad you did and so will we!

✗ Some important other stuff not to do

Youths, gloves & shirts, jetwashing, body-cameras, radios.
http://www.manchester17.org.uk/Shared_Pages/Rules/Obscure%20rules.htm

