



A guide to getting started in Motorcycle Trials

January 2020



Getting Started

Before spending your money on a bike and all the required safety equipment why not come along to a club trial, see what's what and talk to some of our friendly members. You will be made most welcome and you can find the date and location of our next trial on the Events page of our website.

Trials riding is suitable for anyone aged between 5 and 95 with the Youth classes being determined by age. We can supply more detailed information on Youth classes if required. Once you have decided that trials is for you, you will need to join a club, Bon Accord membership currently costs £25 for a calendar year. We will supply you with a licence application form which is returned to the SACU with two passport sized photographs; this will cost you £12 and is valid from January to January. With club membership and a licence you are ready to take part in your first trial. You can ride without a competition licence using One Event Licences but these cost £10 a time, are incredibly time consuming to fill in and will soon get expensive.

Once you have a suitable bike, you will need a crash helmet and a pair of boots. Gloves and riding gear are optional and you may want to wait a while before purchasing these items.

To compete in any given event you must fill in an entry form. We offer an online entry facility on our website (www.bamcc.co.uk) which costs £20 per trial or £25 if you prefer to enter on the day and fill in a paper form. All riders must "sign on" before taking part. Signing On is merely putting your name on a form to show that you understand the risks involved in motorsport, it is mandatory for all riders as part of our insurance cover.

Taking Part

With the formalities out of the way you can get down to the serious part of the day, having fun! Bon Accord trials generally consist of 3 laps of 15 sections. On occasion, when weather or ground dictates, this may be changed but will never be less than 30 sections. You must ride the sections in numerical order once per lap and never ride against the direction of the trial. Where possible, each section will have 4 routes to cater for all abilities, from beginners, to novices, intermediate and expert riders. All riders commence each section by riding through the same numbered start cards and exit each section riding through the same numbered end cards. You can pick a class to ride in based on your ability; the class you ride in will decide the route colour you follow as shown in the table below,

Route Colour	Eligible Classes
Green	Club expert riders only
White	Club Intermediate or Youth A riders
Red/Blue	Novice / Over 40 / Over 50 / Youth A / Youth B / Youth C riders
Yellow	Beginners / Pre 65 / Twinshock / Youth C riders
Conducted	Youth D / Youth E (always with adult supervision)
	Social** Social class riders can ride round and try any sections they fancy as they do not keep score. However you must respect trials etiquette at all times**

We also layout sections for the youngest riders in the Youth D and E classes who generally ride Oset electric bikes, usually there are ten sections.

How to ride a section and section splits

Each section will start with a pair of green start cards. All riders enter the section at this point and begin being marked. **Exception:** *There may be rare occasions where different classes start at different point but these will be clearly marked and riders informed at the riders briefing before the trial starts.*

Riders should keep the red cards on their right hand side and the blue cards on the left hand side until they reach the yellow end cards where the section ends and scoring stops. If however pair of different coloured cards are found in a section they identify a route split. **Yellow** cards are used to identify a beginner route split, **white** cards are used to identify an intermediate route split and **green** cards are used to identify an expert route split. These cards should be laid out so that no confusion can exist about which card should be on the right and which is on the left. Riders who qualify should follow their specific class split until the colour they are following joins back to the main route. This is signalled by a combination of cards being displayed with the split cards backing up the red and blue main route cards. There are often times when a rider sees many cards on the same location. This is just showing where all the routes combine back in to one. Splits may be short or long and there may be more than one split in a section for a class. i.e. the hard route goes over a big step and rejoins the main route afterwards but then splits again to go over another obstacle before rejoining. Multiple cards will not be displayed when splits end at the section end cards as all riders must pass the end. Marking stops when a machine's front wheel spindle passes the end cards.

Scoring Basics

The aim is to ride each section without stopping or putting your foot on the ground, termed a 'Dab'.

Clean ride - 0 marks

Single Dab - 1 mark

Two Dabs - 2 marks

Three or more Dabs - 3 marks

Come to a stop / stall the engine / roll backwards – 5 marks

Miss a route marker / cross your own line of travel / fall off - 5 marks

At the trial you'll be given a score card to allow you to punch your score on each section. The rider with the least marks in each class is the class winner. The overall winner is the rider with the lowest score on the hardest route.

Timings

Keep an eye on the BAMCC website and Facebook page. Generally 10am start in the winter and 11am start in the summer. There is no time limit to ride a section or complete the trial; however, the markers will be picked up at the end so you need to have completed your three laps beforehand. Generally the trial is finished and packed up by 2 to 3pm depending on number of riders and length of route round the trial. We recommend arriving 1 hour before the start to get yourself and your bike ready for the riders briefing.

Trial Locations

All trial venues used by BAMCC are within an hour's drive of Aberdeen. Maps and directions are on the BAMCC website and Facebook page. Look out for the yellow BAMCC triangular marker tied to a fence post to point you in the right direction close to the venue.

It all sounds a bit daunting we know but remember everyone starts somewhere, we've all done it which is why we are all here to help you and after a couple of trials it all becomes second nature anyway.