

Item 7 on Agenda for the AGM of the SE Centre Trials Combine

*Item 7 on agenda Availability of Observers at our events.*

*Over the years we appear to have relied on a sizeable number of regulars who would turn out on a Sunday week after week to assist clubs in observing their trial. Sadly this number has evolved now to a handful for many varied reasons meaning some groups are coping ok whilst others are not.*

*In 2002 the ACU Trials & Enduro Committee decided to phase in a restriction on the youth riders to prevent them from using the plentiful supply of 250's and instead restrict the B and A Classes to 125's and this was completed by 2007. At that time we had 37 youth riders in our championship however, this has now dropped to 14 for our current season. The youth classes require as a minimum a responsible adult to be present and quite often the whole family was involved allowing the club to recruit enough observers from those present and with simple rules to follow when marking.*

*With the added pressure now of finding a decent 125 and at a reasonable cost and other considerations on time, it was inevitable that numbers have dropped.*

*So it appears that with fewer youth riding there are fewer adults to ask for help and with the current marking system little incentive to volunteer, with fewer regulars and fewer adults around, the observer for some events now can be in very short supply.*

*Discussing this situation last Sunday with a very experienced observer we agreed that one way to help bring the observer numbers up would be to go back to the simple method of marking which is Stop Permitted – no reservations about 5's for stopping or hopping just count up to 3 dabs and make sure they follow the correct route – an inexperienced observer will have little problem marking a section and we could write up a simple set of marking rules to follow.*

*If we wish to continue to rely on using observers to run our competition events we need to make it simple for them and keep it that way.*

*A recent event was severely delayed in starting due to a lack of observers and ended up as a trial of two halves. They nearly cancelled it.*

*We need to decide on a direction to follow should a club find itself in over observers as it is unlikely that youth numbers will increase.*

*If we stay with the current marking and there are not enough observers then the club should be allowed to state at the start that on some sections riders will mark each other for the observer sheet or punch card, or the whole event is marked by riders.*

*If we stay with the current marking, do nothing, and there are not enough observers we may lose established events.*

*Should we allow clubs to chose which method of marking they wish to employ at their event when they know they will be short of observers*

*Stop Permitted is easier to mark whereas Non Stop is open to interpretation and not properly marked for the sections laid out.*

*Alternatively does any one have a credible idea on how we can increase observer numbers in each group area.*