

# **Trialst Motocross News**



**1980**

**OFF-ROAD REVIEW**

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# OFF-ROAD REVIEW

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*By the staff, correspondents and photographers of T + MX*

This book is dedicated to the organisers, observers, marshals, course-layers, stake-bashers, scrutineers, lap-scorers, odd-job bods and amiable landowners who endure much for love of the sport.



Trials and Motocross News — or T + MX to more than 100,000 faithful readers — was the first UK newspaper to identify the strength and needs of the off-road market.

This book is a logical follow-on. The team which gave you your first off-road newspaper now presents your first off-road review. We hope you have as much pleasure reading it as we did producing it.

Many people have contributed to this book — so many, in fact, that a full credit list would be well-nigh impossible. Many of our usual outside photographers and correspondents have been involved, together with the editorial and advertisement staff of T + MX — either directly, or by undertaking extra work while their colleagues got on with the book.

And although it is probably fairer to mention no-one, we will take a risk and single out four lads for special thanks.

T + MX motocross boffin Alex

Hodgkinson made a huge contribution, while foreman compositor Keith Simpson's assistance with production was invaluable. Freelance photographers Eric Kitchen (trials) and Jack Burnicle (motocross) confirmed their reputations as the best in the business.

Having said that, I would like collectively to thank every single person whose contribution appears in these pages.

It has been a huge task to produce this book, and we hope that your interest confirms that the effort was worthwhile.

**BILL LAWLESS,**  
*Editor, January, 1980.*

*Bill Lawless*



Like many another competitor, I have watched the progress of Trials and Motocross News with interest during the last couple of years.

No-one had ever attempted to run an off-road newspaper before, presumably because they thought there wouldn't be enough people to read it.

But T + MX proved them wrong by quickly getting established and then going from strength to strength. This Off-Road Review is further evidence that our sport is big enough and virile enough to support its own voice — and who better to speak for us than T + MX?

I hope the annual enjoys as much success as the weekly.

**MALCOLM RATHMELL**  
*British Solo Trials Champion*

*Malcolm Rathmell*

# Smokin' Schreiber hits the Ice Man

**IN A STATEMENT** which has now passed into trials folklore, Bernie Schreiber, then a tall, gangling teenager, declared back in 1977: "If I'm not World Champion by the time I'm 20, then I'll quit the sport."

The Californian ace was almost as good as his word. His victory in the last of the 12 world title rounds in Czechoslovakia last September toppled Finland's Yrjo Vesterinen off his lofty perch and gave America its first world title.

Bernie was just four months short of his 21st birthday.

The championship year started traditionally with the Hurst Cup classic in Northern Ireland — and it turned out to be nothing short of a disaster for Bernie.

On the fourth section of his second lap, Bernie chose a new line and assaulted the steep rocky climb with a full-blooded frontal attack instead of picking the alternative nadgery approach favoured by most of the riders. He came an enormous gutser, and his Bult landed fork-leg first, jamming the slider in the stanchion.

Forks locked in a fully-compressed position, Bernie belted back for repairs, but not even emergency spannerwork by Oriel Bulto in person could mend the damage. Bernie rode a few more sections and then retired.

Victory eventually went to Yorkshire's Rob Shepherd on the works Honda, chased home by John Reynolds (Suzuki), with the old firm of Lampkin and Rathmell in third and fourth places respectively. Fifth was Vesterinen, launching his bid to hold the world title for a fourth year in succession.

A week later the action was switched to Rhayader in Wales for the British Round, and the result was scarcely less disastrous for Bernie. On a bitterly cold day he finished in 11th place, just out of the points, in a trial which was dominated by Malcolm Rathmell for Montesa. Vesty finished runner-up, just ahead of Lampkin and Cumbrian ace Nigel Birkett.

Yet again good fortune deserted Bernie in



Bernie heels the Bult while Vesty leans in sympathy. Seven months after this picture — at the Rhayader round — Bernie had deposed Vesterinen.

Belgium where the temperature never rose above freezing point and Schreiber's soul cried out for the sun of California.

But he managed to finish in seventh place, despite three front wheel punctures, to take his first championship points thus far. The honours went to Vesty, a man whose temperament earned him the name of "Ice Man."

He won from Lampkin, with Rathmell close behind in third place.

The Dutch round a week later turned out to be the stinker of the series, with truly awful sections manufactured mainly out of miles of tape as the organisers faced up to laying out a premier trial on land as flat as a pancake.

Ulf Karlson (Montesa) responded best to the conditions, but Vesty was close behind in second place with Nigel Birkett close behind. Bernie logged his best result of the year, eight points for his fourth place.

At that stage of the game Bernie had scored 17 championship points while Vesty topped the table with 45. No-one could have predicted an American world champion — except Bernie himself.

But the winds of fortune changed direction in Spain for the fifth round on March 11. After four rounds of ice and frost the sun shone, and nowhere more warmly than on Bernie, who was out on a new and bog-standard Bult 325.

The American won the trial, but only after an agonising two-hour wait for a verdict on a protest by Spain's Jaime Subira who claimed that Bernie had flattened a marker. He survived the protest and collected his 15 points, which boosted him to fourth place in the title hunt. Meanwhile, Vesty slumped to fourth spot. Subira was second and another talented American Marland Whaley, third.

The sixth world round in as many weeks took place in France, where Sweden's Ulf Karlson became the first man so far to win



Vesterinen paddles through some mud at that terrible Dutch round in March.

# TRIALS — THE WORLD SERIES



Ulf Karlson in the Belgian snow in February. The big Swede had a consistent series and scored in every round bar one to finish third.

two world rounds. Bernie, now beginning to show some consistency, finished second, while Charles Coutard, the game little Frenchman, delighted his home crowd with third place on the factory SWM. Vesty had to cope with a puncture and took another fourth place.

The series halted there and was resumed almost three months later with the Canadian round in June. This time the British lads stormed back and Rathmell took a narrow victory from Lampkin to raise hopes of a British world champion. But Bernie was close behind in third place, just ahead of Vesty, fourth for the third time on the trot.

A week later the circus had moved to Indian country round Pueblo in Colorado for the US round, and no way was Bernie going to be upstaged at home. Fighting off a dogged challenge from Rob Shepherd, he went on to win from Rob, Lampkin and Rathmell. Vesty finished sixth, and although still leading the championship table with 74 points, the lead was starting to look somewhat fragile. Lampkin was second on 71 with Bernie in third place just three points behind.

After another pause, the series resumed with the Italian round in July, and it turned out to be one of considerable significance. That the winner was Coutard was almost incidental. Schreiber was second, Vesterinen fifth, Rathmell eighth and Lampkin finished out of the points. It all meant that Schreiber now led Vesty in the world league by a single point and that big Martin Lampkin was now a long way behind in third place.



Frenchman Charles Coutard, winner of the Italian round for SWM, eases up some Belgian rockery against a snowy backdrop.

# TRIALS — THE WORLD SERIES



Jaime Subira, the Spanish Montesa star, so nearly won his home round, finishing runner-up to Bernie Schreiber.

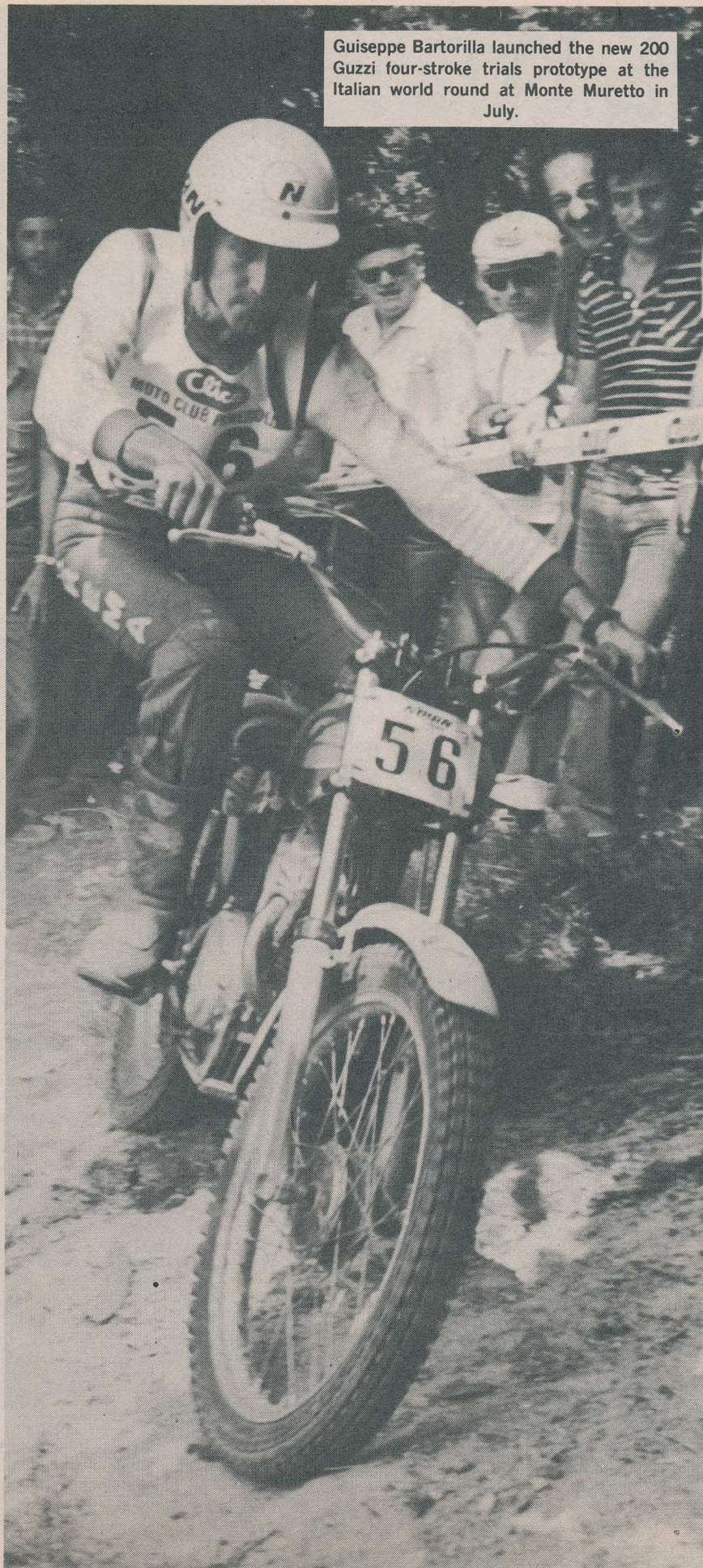
With Sweden, Finland and Czechoslovakia to come, and with Vesty's known partiality for his storming finishes on Scandanavian territory, Vesty was still favourite to hold on to his crown. But Bernie had other plans . . .

He went right out and thrashed Karlson on his home soil while Vesty's expected challenge took him to no better than fourth place. Suddenly, for the first time in the series, the odds had swung dramatically and Bernie was now favourite for the world title.

Yet the penultimate round in Finland, right by Vesty's home backyard, was something of an anti-climax. Manuel Soler, the Spanish Bultaco ace, notched his first world championship win, with Karlson second and Vesty third. Schreiber was seventh, and the hunt was still wide open . . .

The crunch came in Czechoslovakia and Bernie started with a three-point lead over Vesty. At the end of a mainly dry and dusty day, Bernie ran out the winner with Karlson second and Lampkin third. Vesty finished fourth yet again, and the three-times World Champion handed his crown over to Schreiber who had a nine-point advantage over the 12 thrilling rounds.

It had been a hell of a series, and the big lad from California had proved what he had been saying for years—he was destined to win the trials world's premier title and nothing was going to stop him.

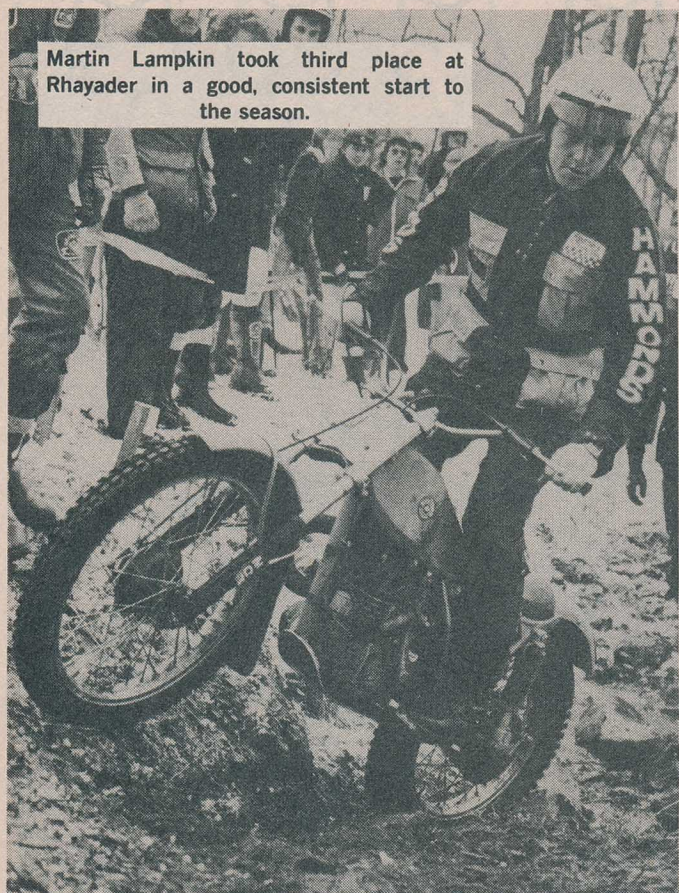


## TRIALS — THE WORLD SERIES



Mick Andrews, ever a big favourite with the Continental fans, contested some of the championship rounds — and picked up some good title points. But the big job was to continue developing the Ossa and showing the marque was still going strong.

# TRIALS — THE WORLD SERIES



Martin Lampkin took third place at Rhayader in a good, consistent start to the season.



Malcolm Rathmell, pictured here at the Hurst, was to win two rounds and finish fifth in the world league.



Cumbrian Nigel Birkett had a bright start to the series, including a third place in Holland, before going badly off-song.