

Trials Tales

Let pain be your teacher

Often people ask me where I get so many ideas for trials tales. Other than probably having some symptoms of ADHD, I generally write from personal experience. Today I write on a subject where my depth of experience has me as something of a world authority. I speak, of course, of crashes. A scrape, dump, bang-up, bingle, prangs or whatever you call them; a trial is full of them. The average single trials event has enough get-offs to fill entire episodes of Funny Home Videos.

With my hard won and intimate knowledge I thought I would enlighten newcomers to the sport to some of our better known stack variations:

- “The Tuck and Tail” – Our most common stack caused by the front end tucking under after exiting a climb up a rock or log. The tail of the bike follows the rider over the handlebars.
- “The Tippy-Toe Topple” – Most often experienced by expert riders, who upon cresting some huge obstacle try to find foot purchase on fresh air. Also called the “Long-drop lurch”, a name no longer favoured for having negative toilet connotations.
- “The Whizzer” – Hitting an expected slippery patch at speed will have the rider sucked into a vortex of centrifugal force, the positive G’s of which will deposit them unceremoniously on the ground. No mention of toilet connotations here.
- “The Hangman” – Dastardly sections setters who put the most obvious line under a low hanging branch, with the inevitable results.
- “The I think I can” – I think I can save it, I think I can, I think I, I think, I...lost it.
- “The Flying W” – back, neck and head thrown back to almost horizontal, with legs and arms high in the air. This is a dust-off most often experienced by beginner trials riders with mischievous tutors, who mouth these fateful words: *Just grab a fist full of throttle and dump the clutch.*
- “The Bashplate Bar Brace Bruiser” – The bashplate grounds out on a square-edged rock sending the rider into the handlebar brace knocking the air from their lungs. Repeated BBB prangs leave a bruise pattern looking uncannily like a Geelong football jumper.
- “The Grips Ahoy” – The sit down wheelie is probably one of the best show-offs in trials. Try it with unsecured grips and... Ahoy!
- “The Grippa-loop” – Mostly done by overweight middle-aged riders unsuccessfully attempting a slippery slope. A ponderous shift of mass suddenly finds traction and the rider checking the front mudguard.
- “The Stand and Deliver” – A natural variant of the Grippa-loop, where instead of falling off the back the bike the rider finds his feet and stands. The bike still revving freely and clutch out is “delivered” to another postcode. Both the Grippa-loop and the Stand and Deliver usually result in yet another variant, “The Fender Folder”.
- “The Neutral Neuter” – Forward momentum is suddenly stopped as the rider fails to find second gear. The meeting of the nether regions with the fuel cap leaves no doubt as to why male trials riders shire mainly girl children.
- “The Section-end Endo” – Finally, who can honestly say they haven’t successfully negotiated a tough section only to face-plant after exiting the section or even worse, face-planted across the exit. This is my particular favorite and specialty.

Hope this has helped clear up some of the nomenclature of moto-trials and is of great encouragement to anyone taking up our wonderful and safe sport.

The Tuck and Tail in all it's glory.



The end result of the Tippy-toe Topple.