

JUNE '68

MANCHESTER '17' MOTORCYCLE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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Once again we have a rather thin newsletter, contributions continue to be rarer than ever.

The most important item is the next scramble, which is to be held on June 30th at Golden Hill Farm. To enable the scramble to be a success, your help is urgently required. Please come as early as possible to the two working parties i.e. all day next Saturday, and Sunday morning. Any of you who cannot make this will be very welcome as marshalls during the afternoon.

Very briefly, the last scramble was a reasonable success with a final clear profit in the region of £50. The day of the event was blessed with sunshine, a just reward for the toils of the previous weekends. Frank Yarwood did the honours, as it were, and cleaned us out of most of the prize money.

There is a trial planned next month, anyone interested should contact John Roberts as soon as possible.

Still on trials, but moving now to the road, would anyone interested in partaking or helping to organise a road trial contact Dave Abrahams.

In the road racing field one or two club members are having a certain amount of success, notably Nev Watts, who continues to pick up quite a number of places in the 50, 125 and 250 classes, particularly at Darley Moor. Brian Warburton has not been around since the start of the season, when he had a bad fall at Darley. Let's hope he is soon back on the circuits. Paul Sandbach is now racing his Bonnie regularly, and managed to get in a final at Darley.

Following the success of last year's mammoth junk sale there will be another organised throw-out early in September. Seriously though, some good stuff can be picked up if you nod your head in the right place.

Roy Sandbach Ed.

In the absence of other sporting news, here is an exclusive report on the Isle of Woman T.T. Races, by Don Fagley, reprinted from 'Splash'.

'Spike Failgood proved himself to be the greatest motorcyclist the world has ever known today, when he retained his fifth world championship, this week by completing a clean sweep in the Isle of Woman T.T. Races, held this year for the first time under the new Ministry of Transport regulations (not the A.C.U.).

Failgood thus wrote himself indelibly into the sports history books by becoming the first man to win the 50cc. the 125cc. the 250cc. junior and senior races, all at an average speed of 70 mph. Running over a marshall in the senior race he also became the first man to equal Stanley Blood's record of 21 T.T. victims.

Asked if he felt in any danger during today's ride, Failgood, in typically modest fashion replied, "Not at all... I was really on the bugle, although the handling of my 500cc. four-cylinder twin side-valve, desmodromic water-cooled, belt-drive Vladivostok leaves a lot to be desired, especially riding side saddle over Ballaugh Bridge."

It is this peculiar style of riding which has made Failgood, popularly known as 'Spike the Trike', the outstanding personality in the motor-cycling world of today. Some ride with knees akimbo, or in, or out, but Failgood's method has been born of necessity rather than an inborn sense of balance.

The very nature of the works Vladivostok, with castors on the ends of its horizontally opposed cylinders, allows a 125 degree lean, left or right.

Today's senior victory though was perhaps a hollow one, with first Phil Kant-Read (Wamama) being arrested for loitering in a no-waiting zone on his first pit-stop, and then John Startle (Spuzuki) being similarly unfortunate when being caught by a police radar speed trap at 32 m.p.h. on the Sulby Straight. But nothing could take away the thrill of Failgood's great battle with Giacomo Agostiny (M & V Septemba) and Jim Whiteman (Yonder).

This ended when both Agostiny and Whiteman attempting to slipstream Failgood through the Ramsey Hairpin disappeared in his exhaust fumes, misjudged the camber and accidentally crossed the double white line, and were promptly stopped by a passing police motor-cyclist.

The trophies, solid brass 'Give way' signs, were to be presented by Mrs. Barabara Castle, but as no one turned up for the ceremony they have been stored in Douglas Police Station, third cell in on the left.'