

MAR '69.

MANCHESTER "17" MOTOR CYCLE CLUB .. NEWSLETTER MARCH, 1969

HELLO MEMBERS!

I am much dismayed that I have not received any complaints that this issue is over a week late. Perhaps you were all hoping that I would let you off this month, but I would certainly complain if my favourite periodical was late!

February may have caught me out, being only 28 days in length, but there has been plenty happening for me to report on:-

THE DRAGON RALLY THAT WASN'T ...

as far as the Manchester '17' were concerned. You may remember my request to meet in Gatley on February 9th, and you may also remember the extremely bad weather which blessed that weekend. Moses and I called the run off on the Saturday and I was supposed to address the expectant multitudes in Gatley on Sunday morning. Lucky for me that nobody turned up, because I overslept and wasn't there on time.

I must mention here, the wonderful effort of Jim Phillips and passenger who reached Glyn Padarn on his Bantam having only started motor cycling on our last but one RAC/ACU training scheme. (After that plug Jim, how can you put off your subscriptions any longer!)

Paul Sandbach and I burned down the Chester Road in the afternoon and after passing a low flying blue A35 van, Bultaco and trailer near High Legh, we arrived at the deserted car park of the Poplar Cafe to find the first and fifth men in the Bar None Club's trial about to leave for home. Congratulations to Dave Rowland, on one of his five recent wins and also to Henry (handlebars) Rosenthal undoubtedly now a force to be reckoned with.

NEWS BITS

Frank (£) Turner is hoping to co-ordinate a slide show (of transparencies taken by club members) in the near future. Will members who have slides of interest, not necessarily of motor cycles, please see Frank with them so he can load the cartridges, and plan his performance.

The first main road event of the year is the promised Brian Hatton rocket trial, now fixed for Friday March 21st. No venue decided yet, but don't forget that this is the first of the events counting towards the Social Cup points scheme.

V.I.D. (VERY IMPORTANT DATE) ----- Wednesday March 19th.

You will all remember or have heard about the very enjoyable evening we had at Shaw M.C.C. last November. Now we have an invitation for another visit to their club - the Bull's Head, Higginshaw Lane, Shaw at 8.30 p.m. on the 19th March. Please do yourselves a favour and attend, I promise you a good evenings entertainment.

The current RAC/ACU training scheme started on Sunday 9th March at Cheadle Heath - you know where, as always, instructors are required to help in this worthwhile cause - 10.00 a.m. Sundays on your bike!

See Keith next Tuesday for a provisional volunteer party to see if we can still find the course at Wincle: otherwise he will be conscripting a party who will have a lot of hard work to do at the last minute before our first scramble April 4th - Good Friday.

HEARD BY THE EDITOR:-

I don't think I've ever actually seen 'Wilf Oates' bike!

PROGRESS REPORT ON MOSES' VINCENT

Dave hopes to be ready for this year's T.T. (He's not entered) I can definitely say that he is actually moving towards this aim with some speed at last.

BANK BALANCE

On February 26th we had £239 4s. 3d. in the bank.

EDITOR'S PLUG FOR HIS FAVOURITE SPORT

It would be nice to see the whole club down at Belle Vue supporting the MANCHESTER 17's future World Champion Kenny Eyre. March 29th is the first match and Kenny will be sporting club transfers on his bike so that you can pick him out even when he's not out in front!

Best of luck in the new season, Ken!

I have attached a form to this issue which you can fill in and send in with your subscription to Frank Turner at 102 Romney Towers, Romney Way, Brinnington, Stockport. Please return them by March 31st.

Sporting members 7/6d. Full membership 15/0d.

TAPPET CLATTER

Did you see the 'Wheelbase' programme about motor-cycles? A pleasant change from the usual television presentation of suicidal yobos. The programme was entitled 'Who buys a bike?' but I don't think the question was answered really. Phil Read approached the truth with his reference to that peculiar creature the enthusiast, but there again what is an enthusiast? Now that cars can be bought for far less than bikes second hand and not so much more new, it is not surprising that bike sales are way down compared with say fifteen years ago. The sale of competition bikes can be classed as rather expensive creation equipment in the same class as say skin-diving equipment. But why do people still buy road bikes when a car would probably be cheaper? There is something involved in riding a bike which for some people is like a drug and I am certain that if a motor cycle licence was a prerequisite to a car licence, the sales of motor cycles could only increase. There must be many people in cars today who have never owned a bike and who would become 'addicts' if only they tried it.

The fact that this T.V. show was on at all supports my belief that things are looking up for motor-cycling in general. Manufacturers are showing more interest in the sporting side now, than they have for a long time. There is a very wide choice for the trials rider and scrambler, even Dot's are attempting a come back with their Minarelli engined bike. The name of B.S.A. has been linked with a new 250 c.c. two-stroke racer and many firms are producing bikes suitable for production racing. On the road we now have a choice of several very powerful machines straight from the factory as opposed to specials like the Munch Mammoth etc. There are the new British three's and the Honda four at not such a fantastic price, cheaper than a B.M.W. or a Harley, anyway. It seems rather a pity that we also have the 70 limit.

I wonder how much longer we have before the police start making wholesale summonses under the new noise regulations? I know at least one Triumph owner who should be worried.

CON-ROD.

2 BIKE TRAILER, MINI WHEELS UNSPRUNG, BUT VERY STABLE. £7 10 Od.

1 PAIR CUP-ONS FOR TIGER CUB (UNUSED) £1 0 Od.

DUNLOP K70 REAR TYRE 3.25 x 17 NEARLY PERFECT (OFFERS)

APPLY: Paul Sandbach, 1 Sherborne Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport.

OR ANY TUESDAY AT THE CLUB.

CLOSED TO CLUB TRIAL - FEBRUARY, 23rd.

Although much of the snow had gone from the lowlands of Stockport, Charleshead Farm was completely cut off to cars and trailers and many of the sections to be used were under drifts of up to 10 feet high!

John Roberts, Keith, Brian and Dave did a wonderful job of informing all the entry of 30 riders of this setback, and 28 starters made their way to the hurriedly planned course at Ashton Road, Bredbury by 1-0 p.m. the same afternoon. However, to make sure that I could give you a vivid first-hand description of the road/bobsleigh run through Kettleshulme, they "forgot" to tell me! I haired off up there at 10-30 a.m. and it needed more than a "dab" to keep me vertical on the road over from Chaley Bridge. After seeing the notice of postponement I gathered up a few more despondent riders in Pott Shrigley and we all beetled off home to thaw out for a couple of hours.

The improvised course at Bredbury was made quite interesting by the mud and snow still on the surface. From my position on Section One, I saw that there must have been much skill and misfortune being displayed on the main hill to draw the interested crowd gathered up there. Dave Rowland had obviously been up late on Saturday, and Henry Rosenthal took time to settle on his "overpowered" Greeves with ex-works square barrel. John Roberts ran out a deserved winner on his Mini-Sprite, which must take some coaxing in conditions like that. Well done also Keith and Andy Renshaw for getting amongst the silverware on their Bultacos and thank-you everyone who turned out to observe..... a good "do" all round.

NEXT '17' TRIAL - MARCH 23rd.

Open to Cheshire Centre - at Charleshead Farm.

MOTOR CYCLE CENTRE.

John is so busy adding up the profits from his new enterprise that he hasn't had time to pen an article this month! I hope he can make it for the next issue when he is more settled in.

SCRAMBLES REGULATIONS.

Regulations for our three scrambles this year are now available from Pev Attwood whose address is on the back page of this letter.

PS. I've just read "Nitor" in this week's M.C.N., and he reckons that an average club subscription should be £2 2s. 0d., so rush off to Frank with your Cash before the committee think again on this score!

I hereby enclose cheque /P.O. No.....  
for .....(amount) as payment of my members' subscription  
for 1969

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
SIGNATURE .....

Please add a few lines on your particular interest in motor-cycle sports or rallies and the type of machine(s) you own.

A PERPLEXING PUZZLE FROM PEV TO PCNDER UPON.

All the blank spaces in the following passage represent names of motorcycles past and present correctly spelled although we have taken some diabolical liberties with the pronunciation so you have been warned. The number of dots in each space represents the number of letters in the name.

It was the day of the club . . . . . and Bob arrived on the . . . of three to find Sue already waiting. "I'm so glad you are a . . . . .", he said, "hop on!" Off they went, the bike sounding . . , . . . ly, confident that they would reach their destination.

They passed through Birmingham and then . . . . . -eyed for a sight of the cathedral, soon they were passing the decrepit church spire at Small Heath, known locally as the leaning tower of . . .

Soon the sun had passed it's . . . . . and since they were not feeling as . . . . . ly as before, they decided to camp for the night. Their first misfortune occurred when they came to light the stove only to discover that they were both . . . . . , they had for . . . . . to bring any!

Undeterred they went to seek help from the farmer, a . . . . . ish gentleman who told them he had just . . . . . friend . . . . . "You should have heard what that . . . . . to me!" he cried, "he told me that a . . . . . has escaped from the local zoo and has been seen lurking in the . . . . . growth - we might have to send out an . . . . ". In spite of this news, they returned to their camp where they sang several songs accompanied by . . . . . lele. Finally, they both turned in fully dressed as they were not anxious to be faced by a savage animal with . . . . . "it . . . . . me to think what might have happened" said Bob, "however, I am not one to bear a g . . . . . , let's press on."

So hoisting the . . . . . on the transistor, they drove away . . . . . antly illuminated by the morning . . . . . s.

NAME . . . . .  
ADDRESS . . . . .

Completed puzzles to be sent to R. L. Attwood, Quince Cottage, Coombs Lane, Charlesworth, Via Hyde, Ches. SK14 6DG

The first correct solution opened on . . . . .  
MONDAY 17TH MARCH will receive a prize.