

JULY 1969

MANCHESTER '17' MOTOR CYCLE CLUB NEWSLETTER - JULY 1969

I'm writing this at 12,000 ft. over the Irish Sea at 8.15 a.m. on a Monday morning on my way to work with one of the worst head-colds I can remember, so don't expect miracles this month!

I reckon that Wednesday, June 11th was a red letter day for road bikes in the club. More than FOURTEEN of us were in action! Nine spectating in the Isle of Man, Brian Warburton riding in the Production T.T. to a fine seventh place in the 500 cc class, and four acting as escorts on the Stockport Children's Southport trip. This must be some sort of record when we add in Jim, Wilf and Alan who were no doubt out on their machines some time that day.

However, can we break this record at our next road-trial? Paul Sandbach's long awaited competition is now complete and due to take place on Sunday July 6th. A report will appear in the August newsletter.

The RAC-ACU Training Scheme ended in the test on Sunday June 8th (Next course September 7th) 100% passed (16, I believe) and the instructors were complimented by the police. The committee are helping Trevor to give the bikes another facelift - unfortunately it seems we can no longer expect the RAC to raise a finger to this end, even though the Bantams are TEN years old!

The last session was, we feel, the most successful and enjoyable for some time and with the plugging I gave it at the scramble, and the renewed keenness in members, I expect even more improvement on this in the future. In fact, even Moses went down for the first time in 30 months, although the course had finished the week before!!!!

As most of you will now know, Glynn and Diana were married in Glossop on Saturday June 7th - the 750 cc sidecar T.T. day. Ah well, we always knew that they were both a bit off beam! Our heartiest congratulations go to both of them.

They would have liked to thank everybody personally for the card and the wedding presents - sheets, pillowcases and towels - but the majority of the signatures were completely illegible! So....

"On behalf of Diana and myself, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the most useful gifts which we received along with your congratulations on our wedding. We hope to see you all at the club again soon when we are more settled down."

GLYNN.

Frank's slide show is now to be on July 29th. Please forward your slides to Frank by July 22nd for him to compile his show in groups of similar interest etc.

Another date for your diary's is July 27th - our Open to Cheshire Centre Trial at Gawtries Side Farm, Sparrowpit, near Chapel-en-le-Frith - 11 a.m. Two laps of the course for solos only. Cash prizes are the order and entries - 8/6d. - as usual to Pat Roberts by July 24th. Arrangements are being made to have refreshments available at the finish.

Club Meetings, by the way, are on Tuesday nights at the Red Lion; 8 p.m. to 10.45 p.m. We must not take advantage of the landlord's already very generous hospitality by leaving at 11.15 p.m. because we only arrived at 9.30 or 10 o'clock.

STOP PRESS..... It has been decided that the scramble scheduled for SUNDAY, 3rd. AUGUST will be cancelled. This decision has been brought about by the poor condition of the course and a clash with a neighbouring club on the same day. Our efforts to acquire a new venue become even more urgent so keep your eyes open.

STOCKPORT TAXI DRIVERS OUTING.

It was Wednesday 11th June, and the Stockport taxi drivers outing for the handicapped, orphaned and crippled children to Southport.

The taxis crammed with children, and adorned with balloons, streamers, and advertisements gathered at the Great Egerton Street car park. The local traders provided each child - numbering 103 - with sweets, ice cream, and novelties. At 9 o'clock the convoy of 31 taxis, one mini bus, and an old ambulance was seen off by the Mayor of Stockport. The leading taxi carried Dave Eggar (a television D.J.) and this was preceded by the club motor-cyclists John Bell, Trevor Cowdrey, Eric Castle and myself - acting as outriders.

Stockport Transport had thoughtfully put diesel oil on the road at the end of Chestergate taxi rank, or was it one of the taxi drivers not on the trip? Anyway, a touch of speedway riding was needed to avoid embarrassment.

The police provided an escort most of the way and at the Stretford end of the M.62 we were met by the Lancashire constabulary in the form of 5 Triumphs including a 'Saint'. The sergeant in charge of the escort seemed a little perturbed at the sight of our convoy. At one stage, a banana skin was thrown from one of the cabs in his direction and this caused him to sort "the plot out".

A stop for refreshments was made at a cafe off the East Lancs. Road, and the convoy also paused at Ormskirk where money collected by a public house had been used to buy fruit for the children.

We safely arrived at Southport, John Bell regretting that he had fitted soft plugs. Each child was given tickets for the amusements at the Peter Pan Playground, and dinner and tea were provided.

The convoy eventually made its way home, each child - we feel - tired and happy.

On the way back we were able to reverse the T.T. production race, result: Norton 1st and 2nd with the Police Triumphs tired losers.

I am certain every member of the club agrees that this is a worthy cause, but you must appreciate that money is raised by dances, raffles, etc., held by the taxi drivers, and raising sufficient £ S. D. becomes more and more difficult. Next time you see advertisements for the cause, think of the happiness that this day out brings to the children, and please give a little.

DIGBY

THE ISLE OF MAN 1969

I almost feel lazy about writing this as so many members were there to see the races themselves. However, here is a brief summary of the highlights, trying to include all the members in some way not too detrimental!

I overtightened a sump nut and the broken stud allowed about one-eighth pint oil leakage every day - Moses seized about 20 times during the week - Paul S. went two-up with a huge rucksack on a single racing seat and polished his monster every day - Jerry went to work on the Tuesday - Malcolm slept right through his first T.T. - Ian's new Trident was dented by a van whilst parked - John's Honda 50 was bowled over while parked - by another four-wheeled maniac - Dave Rowland proved to be a secret golfing expert - Moses is mad about swimming - Jeff Bibbey got sun-stroke, or something - Paul S. drank too much and rejected it in the early hours into ----- his mate's crash helmet - John bought a new crash helmet! - Moses and I did 48 m.p.h. laps on Thursday - Neville Watts averaged over 74 m.p.h. in his first race in the Island. He finished a fine 10th in the 125 race to win a silver replica. Well done Neville! (We hope to see Nev. at the club with his Honda in the near future; possibly July 8th)

-Moses can't play golf - Malcolm fell off his parked machine - through falling asleep! - Nobody knew Pev was on the Island - The day trippers - Alan, Wilf, Diana, Glynn and Diana regretted every minute of it. -

The weather was glorious and we all got sun-tanned. One of the row-boats at Port Erin leaks! Laxey wheel still shakes! - Nobody managed to find a girl friend - Moses is a maniac in a go-kart - I lost sixpence!

We all reached home safely and agreed that the weather made up for the poor racing. Congratulations again to Brian and Neville and to Peter Ormsher for his fine showing in the I.O.M. Grand National Scramble.

I regret that Con-Rod has not produced an article this month. He has slowly starved through lack of scandal or misfortune to stir up, and lies critically ill with malnutrition. His only victuals in six months have been TWO of your letters, so it is up to you whether this popular (?) figure lives or dies. Please write to Con-Rod in his hospital bed care of myself, Paul Tootall, at 151, Compstall Road, ROMILEY, Ches. and we still might save him from the big end -----!

Many of you will know that on June 27th at Belle Vue Speedway Doreen presented a 10 guinea cheque to the winner of the Manchester '17' Guineas Scratch Race Trial - - World Champion Ivan Mauger. Our popular social secretary then did a lap on the back of victorious Ivan's machine. With our Kenny Eyre and Renthal 'bar connections at Belle Vue, this event was for a combination of prestige and advertising our scramble the next day.

We have now had two very good write ups in the Belle Vue programme, and I hope that the effort has done some good in terms of new members and £ s. d.

SCRAMBLE Our second scramble of the year was held on June 29th at Wincle. Despite widespread and costly advertising, the crowd was only average and Frank reckons that we should just about break even.

Thanks to sufficient (only) help, the meeting ran smoothly and we were again blessed with a very hot dry day. The racing was more interesting this time with the winner not so much a certainty as usual. Alas, Frank Yarwood had an unlucky day with engine trouble and didn't contest the Clubman's Event at all. I haven't got the results here but riders to show up well were Peter Ormsher, Allan Wilkinson, Eernie Andrews, Norman Barrow, John Done, Frank Cocker, Tyson, Boothman, Winwood, Johnson and Bob McMinn.

Two riders were taken to hospital but I believe that their injuries were not too serious. One of these was as a direct result of the stones on the course, and I hope you are all still on the lookout for a better venue for next year's series.

The National Rally - July 12th/13th - has attracted 10 members and several individual accounts will be given in the forthcoming newsletters.

P O L I C E N O T I C E
W A N T E D

4 Solo motorcyclists with reliable machines, preferably in the 350 c.c. to 1,000 c.c. range. These motorcyclists will be required on Sunday September 14th, 1969 to act as travelling marshals at a Road Safety Rally run by the Cheshire Police Motor Club for the public at large. The Rally will start at approximately 10 a.m. and continue into the afternoon.

For those people who's bikes use more petrol than they would like to admit an allowance of 10/- will be given to cover costs. Those wishing to attend please give their names to:-

P.C. Ian Bradshaw,
(or on a club night) 21 Linden Grove, Woodsmoor, STOCKPORT

SEE YOU TUESDAYS, AT 8 O'CLOCK - EDITOR.

