

Once clear of the customs the whole party assembled on the car park. There was Pop, and wife Lola, Pop's son Claude and girl-friend Ann Onnymouse, Dave Lee and grass bike, Bert, myself, speedway bike, my van and Pop's ancient car, plus Claude's large Citroen van. There was no sign of any other riders. It was eventually decided to leave Claude and girl-friend at the docks to meet the next ferry, and the rest of us should have a meal and then set off for the track, which, according to Pop, was 120 miles South. Actually, I clocked over 200, but a mile or two between friends

This is where another snag cropped up; who was going to drive Pop's car? Not Pop, he can only just see to drive in bright sunlight and it was beginning to get dark by this time. I had to drive my van, so that let me out. Bert was not very keen as he still remembered an incident several years before, when he needed petrol. He had changed down into second gear and turned into a filling station, glided gently between the pumps, and turned back into the stream of traffic, stopping some 20 or 30 yards down the road, thus proving that Pop's brakes needed a little maintenance! Dave Lee had never driven on the wrong side of the road before, and so was rather backward in coming forward. So that left Bert as a reluctant volunteer. Dave Lee came in the van with me, while Bert, Pop, Lola and Boobool the dog led the way in Pop's car.

On the road out of Cherbourg, we stopped at a small cafe and Pop led us inside and ordered coffees all round. While we sat waiting, he went shopping and brought back loaves, butter, tomatoes and ham. I supposed they were to take home, but no, he made sandwiches out of the lot, passed them round, and then calmly asked for a bone for the dog!

I was a little concerned about the journey to the track, in case we got split up, so I eventually got him to write brief directions on a sheet of paper and borrowed a map just to be on the safe side. It is just as well I did.....

TO BE CONTINUED.....

The proposed Continental Holiday now looks like being postponed. Keith (I've got rather a lot on my plate at the moment) Rhodes has not had time to build up the ex-Renshaw A. 10, and Moses and myself will no doubt be short of money. We hope this trip can be carried out next year with a few more people likely to be available. In the meantime, Moses and I are considering going to Scotland for about 10 days Camping in early September, anybody interested???

DISASTER!!!!

Yesterday (Sunday, 11th January) our Trials Secretary was out planning the sections for this Sunday's trial and he succeeded in putting a footrest through his boot and into his foot. Result: a lot of blood; three stitches; one X-Ray; five hours in hospital. Diagnosis: broken toe bone.

Dave has now all week off work and plenty of time to get all Sundays' paper work in order, but despite his optimism it seems likely that he will miss the trial and thus fail to score in the first round of his latest scheme, A Club Trials Championship.

FRIDAY JANUARY 30TH 1970

DINNER DANCE AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS - DANCING TO 1 A.M.
DINNER DANCE AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS - DANCING TO 1 A.M.

TICKETS 30/-
STOCKPORT CO-OP SOCIETY HALL - CHESTERGATE, STOCKPORT

P A U L

PRESIDENT'S SOCIAL CUP

TABLE AT JANUARY 10TH 1970

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>EVENTS.</u>
1	Dave Abrahams	Vincent	140	6
2	Alan Kempster	Honda	136	6
3	Dave Nurse	Suzuki	131	5
4	Dave Lawson	B.S.A.	125	5
5	Paul Sandbach	Triumph	112	5
6	Dave Rowland	Triumph	77	3
7	Pete Pownall	Honda	75	3
8	Len Morton	Triumph	58	4
9=	Nev Hankinson	Car	55	4
9=	Paul Tootall	B.S.A.	55	2
11	Brian Moores	Norton	48	2
12	John Roberts	Car	40	3
13	Dennis Rourke	Triumph	36	3
14	Chris Bowden	Triumph	35	2
15	Keith Rhodes	Car	33	3
16	George Long	Norton	27	1
17=	John Yates	B.S.A.	20	2
17=	Martin Goodstadt	B.S.A.	20	2
19=	Pev Attwood	Car	19	1
19=	Jerry Hallows	Car	19	1
21	Margaret Lawson	Car	13	1
22=	Brian Hatton	Car	10	1
22=	Eric Castle	B.S.A.	10	1
22=	Malc Saunders	Triumph	10	1
22=	Ken Swinneton	Velocette	10	1
22=	Wilf Oates	Car	10	2
22=	Trevor Cowdrey	Car	10	1
28=	Brian Kennedy	Car	5	1
28=	Pat Brassington	Car	5	1
28=	Robert Hankinson	Car	5	1

 Here is Part II of Dave Linney's epic -

SPEEDWAY HOLIDAY or ALMOST AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT

On the wettest evening of the summer, we managed to pack the following into a Bedford Beagle:- One speedway bike, two suitcases full of clothes and personal belongings, two sets of leathers, two pairs of boots, two helmets and gloves, and assorted coats, hats, maps and three cwt. of other rubbish. We set off soon after midnight and headed for the M6. The torrential rain stayed with us all the way to Southampton, and the only let-up we got was when we tested one or two all-night cafes (46 or 47, I just forget which)

We arrived at the docks bright and early, (well early anyway), and went off in search of a cafe. This is where we had a slight shock, for there, on the car-park, was one grass bike plus owner. So much for Pop's 'Speedway bikes only'!

Once on board, we made straight for the office and booked ourselves a cabin. Being yellow at heart, we took some travel sickness tablets, and went to our cabin to get some kip. Several hours later, we surfaced and found the cafeteria, where we also found quite a number of green faces littered about the place. It must have been a rougher crossing than we realised. As we entered Cherbourg harbour, we wondered just what was going to happen, for if Pop was not there to meet us we would be lost - not knowing where to go. Fortunately, as we approached the customs shed, his happy smiling face appeared over the horizon. Of several hundred cars on the ferry, they usually inspect three or four. They chose us, and in particular, my suitcase! The very polite French customs official inspected every article of clothing in my case carefully, before throwing everything back in a heap. So much for my neatly folded shirts, etc..

silence

- Time - any Sunday night
- Place - Northumberland Arms, Compstall
- Scene - Henry returning from a North Wales Trial.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

In contrast to the Christmas Party, our Hogmanay do was a bit of a flop. Seventy people were expected, and the venue was perfect.

Our prospective scrambles course landlord hired out his cafe - come - lounge at 2/6 per head and all the guests brought some food and their drinks. Alas, the flu bug and baby sitter shortage prevented no less than forty people from attending and we few were lost in that big room. The party never really got going despite Jack's infamous bottle game so unless you were very chatty or drank a lot, the impression was of a disaster.

Making the best of a bad job, twelve of us stayed 'til 2.30 a.m. and helped Mr. Dean reduce his stock of spirits. Perhaps we can produce something better next year - Jack?

The committee feel that constructive suggestions on the running of trials ought to be put to Dave and ideas should not be fired critically at other members, particularly if the "aggrieved" do not see fit to complain themselves. Dave did ask, in last month's newsletter, for such suggestions.

It is also pointed out that for several years now, protests about trial results have been made to trial secs. along with 10 shillings sterling. The Manchester '17' see no reason to be different.

This coming Friday - 16th - marks the last Social Cup Event of the "year". Alan Kempster has a Rocket Trial organised and details will be given at the club on Tuesday 13th.

Alan will receive 20 marks for this effort and will finish on 156. Moses has only to finish to win the trophy (poss. 160) UNLESS Dave Nurse wins to make his total 161. Cash awards of £3, £2, £1 could also fall to Dave Lawson or Paul Sandbach if they score well.

I don't think we could have hoped for a better finish after seven events. The lack of correspondence in reply to my request for alternative scoring systems can only mean that nobody can be bothered to work one out and put it on paper. Unless suggestions are received before the next committee meeting (January 28th) we will continue with my "poor system" next year.

This is the position then as we enter the last event. My apologies to Jerry Hallows who was omitted completely in December, and an enquiry revealed that Dave Rowland and Len Morton should swap places in the last rocket trial. Len drops a point and Dave gains one.

Come to the Dinner Dance and see who wins the PRESIDENT'S S. CUP.

I wish to apply for full/sporting membership of the Manchester '17' M.C.C. and enclose cheque, £1.0. value

in respect of subscriptions for 1970.

NAME

ADDRESS:

FULL MEMBERSHIP 17/6 (with newsletters) SPORTING 7/6
SEND TO: MR. D. J. ABRAHAMS,
20 ALMA ROAD,
LEVENSHULME, MANCHESTER 19.

Not so much a trial - more a social occasion, this Boxing Day lark with everyone smiling and chatting as they go through the sections. I only saw one bloke not smiling at all - surely taking it all too seriously. Bettfield fell silent in awe when Jack Mathews arrived and started to conduct his own trial in section three which none of the chairmen cleared.

Moving on to Gautries to watch everyone finish, we saw Dave Rowland add one more mark to the five he lost here on the first lap. These sections were in fine form with a hard but slippery top surface. Sidecar winner Jack dabbed on the first section where his surviving rivals were all clean - the complete reverse of their first visit here.

Well done Bob Holt - novice premier winner in his first trial after several years lay-off, on the ex-Lydiatt Suzuki. My Most Improved Rider choice - Andy (9th) Renshaw with 47 marks lost on the ex-Lydiatt Bultaco. Funny? Funny?

Who is this Lydiatt guy anyway? Hard lines Henry, a puncture slowed and disrupted his effort apart from the now customary "discrepancy in the marking". However, I think we all enjoyed Boxing Day and can look forward to some good competitions from our new trials secretary. Who won the event? The Dinner Dance programme reads:- John Hartle Memorial Trophy - Dave - I only do it for fun these days - Rowland!

(Dave again beat Eric Adcock in the Shaw trial last week where the novices used the sidecar sections.)

Films have now been arranged for February and March -

February 3rd -- Powerboat 66
Isle of Man T.T. - 195?

March 3rd -- Power to Fly.
Route des Cimes
Two Laps of Honour

THE NORTHERN EXPERTS TRIAL 1969

Trials reports are always difficult; that is my only excuse for the following summary!

December 14th 1969 - Cluelow Cross Cafe - 10 sidetars, 51 solos - rain nearly all day with cold winds and mist - 7 retirements - colour film abandoned: too dull - Gaunt-Java 9th - Norman Eyre punctured and finished 16th - Castrol award to best club member, Jack Mathews (3rd 54 marks) - six time penalties incurred - traffic jams at Hawk's Nest - flooded electrics common place - Daily Express in attendance - best performance of career:- Henry Rosenthal (12th 73 marks)

Solo winner Brian Hutchinson (125 Sprite) lost 40 marks and counterpart Phil Mountfield (500 Ariel) dropped 45. The observers raffle saw £4 split between G. Waisley, M. Ezra and Alan Kempster.

The four young men were playing cards. The stakes were higher than usual. The room was thick with smoke and they were drinking hard. The nearer it got to 10 o'clock the more the tension grew. You could see cigarettes glowing brighter, longer. More drinks are ordered, and drunk faster now. Will he have succeeded? If he fails there will be no hope. Dry mouths, sweat rolling on heated brows, the cards are forgotten. Soon they will know. If he's late something must have gone wrong.

A car screeches to a halt outside. Doors slam. The room goes quieter. Cigarettes are lit quickly. Will he be all right? The door opens and the whole room falls into an expectant silence. If it has not been a good trip he'll be swearing, cursing, snapping and complaining. He frightens them. They are not as convinced that it's the right way, but He buys a drink. Strange refreshment really, a shandy doesn't seem right for such a man. Now they'll know. His face gives away little. He comes across. Still that

The corny caption competition was moderately successful, but the next one will have just one photograph to apply your wit to. This will no doubt induce a bigger entry. Don't wait for us though; if you have a likely print, just stick it on a background, make up some rules and pin it up some quiet Tuesday.

Our next trial for solos only will be a closed to club event at a completely new venue, on the Chapel - Hayfield road near the Lamb Inn at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, January 10th.

Regs. are now available from Dave Rowland at the club or send to 9, Coniston Drive etc. (see page 1.) Entries from as yet non-members should strictly be accompanied by the appropriate 7/6 or 17/6 subscription for 1970. A tear-off form is available on the back page for this purpose. As usual we would like all the subs. in to Moses by January 31st, and as usual we will be kind and send newsletters out in February, but after that you will not hear from us if we haven't heard from you!

Attractive cloth badges still available from Doreen or Frank at 8/6 each. There are dozens on view about the club, worn in various places with various background shapes. Washing them is easy and effective, so get one straight away and brighten up your leathers and anoraks with our emblem.

Here are your advertisements:-

FOR SALE

MCS Greeves Scrambler. Offers around £35. Ideal for beginners. Contact Jerry Hallows - Home Tel. 061-483-6611.

1962 VELOCETTE VIPER SPORTS.

Maintained in perfect condition throughout. Unused since recently refurbished for winter. Carrier etc., -- £60, -- See Alan Kempster, 24 Cadnam Drive, Peel Hall, Wythenshaw, Manchester 22, or at the club. Only reason for sale -- owner skint after his Honda blew up!

JOHN HARTLE MEMORIAL TRIAL - BOXING DAY

D. R's first trial and the annual hangover frolic (for all except Dave - tot & rum - Murray) was a great success from the new venue at Peak Forest. A great success was the majority opinion; the minority are dealt with later.

From the entry of 52 the actual starters numbered 46 with 11 retirements, seven of them being novices - thereby lies a tale. The weather was perfect with a very clear frosty dawn preceding a crisp, sunny winter day. This event also marked the debut of Moses, Alan Watkinson and chairmen Dave Lawson and John Bell.

Brian Glynn and Tom Dugdale were welcome visitors and watched aghast as a certain nameless newsletter editor sent off the novices in a massed G.P. start, right under the eyes of ACU steward, Ken Ousbey! He'll know in future! Still on the scene at this point was luckless Steve Kenworthy - already 10 minutes behind his rivals - with primary transmission trouble. Steve, you'll remember, was washed away at Park Lane, in the Experts, and later retired with clutch trouble. This time, however, with the help of the Mathews hammer (and tongue!) he finally got away and rode into a good second place.

Experts away, we ciled into the steward's travelling inspection box (owned and chauffeured by Bob Lydiatt) and caught the first novices approaching Bettfield on lap one.

JAN 70

MANCHESTER "17" MOTORCYCLE CLUB NEWSLETTER JANUARY 1970

Happy New Year everybody, whether you've paid your subs. yet or not!! More on that later, but I hope you all had a good time over the festive period and are now looking forward to the Dinner Dance to take over where you left off.

The party at the Club on December 23rd was a great success. On this showing we now have a fine substitute for the ill-fated Boxing Day parties. About 70 members and friends attended, and were entertained by Trevor's friends - Stan Gee's Celebrated, Stomping, Oojah whatjemacallits! The free (on the club) buffet and "one hour" extension added to the making of this social which has prompted many compliments from people who enjoyed it. The party also marked the return of our old friend Brian Glynn and his wife Anne. Brian is over for about a month to sound out the climate and employment situation with a view to moving back to England permanently.

With so much to recall with so many old friends it's a wonder Brian didn't go home with a sore throat, but round about midnight with - "See you on Boxing Day" - "Who's he kidding?" and "Are you coming for a currie?" we went our separate ways.

My apologies to those whose newsletter was delayed in the Christmas post and thereby missed the party reminder.

Doreen would like to apologise for the lack of film shows lately, but the films are simply not available from the libraries and she can only wait until they come through. It is hoped for one showing, however, this Tuesday - 13th.

I have received a reply from Ivan - much in the news lately - Mauger who regrets that he cannot come to the Dinner Dance. As you may have read, he goes to America on Sunday 11th to test the new Kawasaki on the long tracks, and then on to Australia and New Zealand before returning to Belle Vue for the Aces first match on Easter Saturday.

At the committee meeting on January 7th, Frank revealed that we are in a very happy financial position at the start of the year. The Hyde Town Council are still discussing our application to remove the footpath from the middle of our new strambles course (there has been a favourable hint) and I feel sure that if we get the course we should have no money or membership problems this year.

Reminder time now, and the last time you'll see this one before the event;

DINNER DANCE AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
STOCKPORT CO-OP, CHESTERGATE.
JANUARY 30th, 7.30 p.m. 30/-

Tickets are available from Doreen Rowland every Tuesday or write (with P.O's etc.) to her at :- 9 Coniston Drive, Handforth, Cheshire. Tel. 95-23412.

D I N N E R D A N C E J A N U A R Y 30TH - 30/-
GUESTS - DENT OLIVER and SHELAGH HARTLE.

Don't forget also the photographic competition which closes on February 8th. Classes for 1) Transparencies and colour prints. 2) Black and white prints. Each class is divided into a) competition shots, and b) touring and club runs or holidays. Four awards in all to be won.