

We flew past all the marking lines which the organisers had laid out on the hill and carried on for quite a distance beyond the highest, until the combination of gradient and camber made it inevitable that we should turn over, chair-over-bike. I abandoned ship and was thrown quite a distance from the outfit. The Clayton was held on August Bank holiday Sunday. This particular day was warm and sunny a real jacket - and - trousers day, much too nice for riding gear. This made it possible for my exposed trousers to hook on a grab handle as I left the sidecar and all my buttons were ripped open! I managed to twist round during my flight through the air, landed face down and started trying to fasten up the buttons, but when I did not immediately get up the marshalls rushed to me!

A struggle went on for some minutes with me trying to stay face down whilst the marshalls tried to turn me over, I was outnumbered and lost the battle, then I had to sit there and button myself up whilst everyone roared with laughter!

Editor's Note. Perhaps I'd better read on before the next part of Tom's story gets to my typist. It may need some censoring!!!!

Next monthSand-racing (trousers permitting)!!

RAC-ACU Training Notices.

1. Presentation of certificates. - Thursday March 23rd 19.30hrs. Central Police Station, Edwards Street, Stockport. All recipients of certificates may bring one friend. There will be a film show with tea and bickies. All instructors are welcome with a friend. (Please ring 485-1601 if you intend to come).

2. There will be a meeting of all instructors and those interested after the presentation in The Royal Oak, High Street, Stockport.

3. Training this year will not start until the new training ground is ready. (The new Fire Station on Whitehills Estate M/cr. Road is being sought.) The Fire Chief is in agreement but the Corporation are the hang up at present.

4. The garage has been raided Twice in the last two months.

MACHINES AT LARGE:

- BANTAM - MGO 511 - Green - D1
- BANTAM - KDB 663F Blue - D7 type

Trevor Cowdrey, Chief Instructor.

- FOR SALE.
- * 1965 250cc Honda - Rct eng ohl - 4 mega - gd cond - £110 See Dave Rowland.
 - * JAP 500cc Speedway - gd cond £135. Mauger TT leathers 37"; 5'8" £20 + speedway extras - A. Grimshaw, 15 Nell La, Chorlton Mc. Tel.2646
 - * 1970 Montesa Mk.11 trial: - new chain £170 - Kempster, 061-437-2774
 - * Honda CB250 K2 June 70 - 21,000 miles - very fast (Ed) £220 ono - Kempster - as above
 - * Used twice - 8ft. Fibrocell Fibreglass sailing dinghy. sails and oars - £42 ono - Ed. 427-2040

STOLEN!

Off-white Morris 1100 Reg. JMB 612C - George Long 445-7550

To: Mrs. D. Rowland, 9, Coniston Drive, Handforth, Ches.

I.....enclose 88p/58p in respect of my 1972 Subscription as a FULL/SPORTING Member of the Manchester "17"

I genuinely wish to receive Newsletters YES/NO

My address is:

still wish to/

represent the "17" on the Cheshire Centre Board, or is it merely a convenient position to ferry inside information back to the A.M.C.A, who can then proceed with their deplorable habits of paying farmers exorbitant fees to take over 'A.C.U.' ground and, stealing their route markers when they run events on the same day?

Finally, Keith, if the only way in which you can promote the AMCA is by slandering "17" officials then it is high time you were pushed off the fence - preferably on to the other side.

"The Poisen Pen"

DINNER DANCE.

The Annual Dinner Dance was held at the Co-operative Restaurant Stockport on Saturday 12th February. The 1972 Dinner must go on record as the craziest dance ever held - rumour has it that Beryl telephoned the Electricity Board to cut off the electricity to save her from further embarrassment - she says the scissors slipped but throughout the evening it was not the scissors that were slipping! With an oddchord from our 'pianist - Toots (who stood in when the band announced their departure due to the power cut) we hummed the tunes.

Eric organised a best legs contest in which the judges - who were numerous - found it difficult to reach a decision but eventually Johnny Robert's wife was voted the winner. The ladies organised a Knobbly-knee contest, (or was it the most shapely leg contest?) As the evening closed the lights came on, but in view of the circumstances the dance was enjoyable for those who went to enjoy themselves.

DIGBY.

STOP PRESS !!

Phil Mountfield was declared the winner of the Knobbly-knees competition, but a strong protest has been received accompanied by the usual £5 fee, from Pev. Attwood. A sub-committee has been set up and the verdict will be announced next month!!!

NOW WE CONTINUE WITH TOM DUGDALE'S INTERESTING ARTICLE.- Vintage Sport

I must tell you about my most embarrassing experience. It happened in the Clayton Trophy Trial in, I think, 1938. By this time Squib had bought himself a Royal Enfield Bullet special trials outfit and found himself a new passenger whilst I had stuck to the old Velo and got a new driver. Squib's passenger couldn't make it for the Clayton, so I sat in. At that time a sidecar passenger had to be "normally seated", which meant that his feet had to be inside some sort of a sidecar body whilst his bottom floated somewhere above some sort of a seat. The Enfield was built high, narrow, and was by no means handsome; in fact it was top-heavy and it took some keeping the right way up but the motor, a 2 port 500cc OHV, didn't lack urge.

The special test for deciding ties in this trial was a climb up a hill-side on the moorland just across the main road from Checks Hill. The hill started with an easy bit, then got steeper and steeper and rougher and more difficult until it became quite impossible to climb. Ties were to be decided on the furthest -- up-gets-it principle. It was good fun - for the spectators - and a crowd of two hundred or more had assembled. When our turn came to attempt the climb Squib gave the Enfield the lot and kept it there.

Keith treats my "remaining comments with the contempt they deserve." Dear me; could they be even MCRE inaccurate? As for calling me biased, words fail me.

I have described Keith's letter as surprising. I was surprised, not only at the tone of his letter but also at the accusation that I "don't like the AMCA". I would not consider anything written in the December or January newsletters to imply criticism of the AMCA. I am sure Keith's fellow AMCA clubmen will not thank him for immediately going to the defensive as soon as anyone mentions the AMCA. They deserve more respect than that.

In fact, as Keith well knows I have nothing against the AMCA itself. If he can cast his mind back to a Centre Board meeting about a year ago he will remember that I was shouted down for trying to suggest we looked more favourably on the AMCA. At the "17" committee meeting when his move to make us AMCA was quashed, it was my suggestion that we tabled a motion at the Centre Board for a drop of the ban on AMCA riders.

What I am against, is the "17" going AMCA. I am convinced it would so radically change the club, that we would cease to exist.

We may stop running scrambles and this would be a great pity. It is extremely unlikely that we shall stop running trials but even if we stopped running both, it would by no means be the end of the "17" club. Can the same be said for an AMCA club?

The above views are mine and surprise, surprise, also the views of most, if not all, club members. Are we all out of step Keith or had you better help us knock down the fence instead of just sitting on it?

Dave Abrahams,
Secretary.

THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN PAUL.

I feel I must make some comments in defence of Moses after the entirely uncalled for attack on him by "Astride the fence" in the last issue of the newsletter.

First of all, Keith, if you have the courage of your convictions, why don't you sign your name to your articles? I seem to remember an article last year when you signed yourself "The Dribbler," I think this would be more fitting in the present instance.

As Moses is replying himself elsewhere in this issue I shall just give my own version on a couple of Keith's points. Firstly the affair of Michael Hewitt. On the one hand Don Green says that the AMCA do not allow works support for riders. He then admits that Hewitt gets support from AJS.

I fail to see how this can be explained away AT ALL, let alone convincingly. Secondly the point about the A.M.C.A. not catering for road-going motorcyclists. At his visit to the Manchester "17" Don Green said "We do not cater for these, but if enough people show interest then we will try and do something for them." (Not his exact words, perhaps, but the general gist of what he said.) And, anyway, who does Keith think the dances, socials etc. are for? - the sporting rider, of course. As for the A.C.U.'s "Head in the sand" attitude, Don Green in "Motor Cycle" on 2nd February said "We don't need the A.C.U...." Surely this is the very attitude for which the A.M.C.A. are condemning the A.C.U.

As for Keith himself, could it be that his "personal reasons" for resigning as secretary are that he is no longer interested in the welfare of the "17", only in furthering the AMCA? It also seems strange, with this attitude, that Keith should still wish to/

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Sir, In the February issue of the newsletter you printed a letter signed "Astride the Fence", the writer apparently wishing to remain anonymous. Perhaps it was rather naughty to reveal the name of the author in your following comments, however I can understand how you felt after reading Keith's surprising letter, or had I better call him Mr. Rhodes as we appear to be on surname terms.

I am accused of giving a biased and inaccurate report of A.M.C.A. secretary Don Green's talk and of attempting to mislead club members. Serious allegations against a club secretary, you will agree, and I therefore feel compelled to give Keith's letter this reply.

Keith was apparently disappointed byuneducated comments made about the AMCA in your December newsletter". Reading back through this newsletter, the only reference to the A.M.C.A. to be found are those made by Paul Tootall in his report of the "17" A.G.M. No other member who was present at the A.G.M. seems to have been "disappointed" by the report. Perhaps Keith can be more specific, I am sure we are all very interested (Yawn!).

Keith singles out seven items taken from my report and so I shall first of all answer his criticisms of these points:-

- 1. Keith:- "It is not a condition of affiliation to the AMCA that clubs promote sporting events."

Well, I can't remember his exact words but Don Green said something like:- "We are not interested in clubs that don't organize events!"

- 2. Keith:- "Mr. Green was not 'unconvincing' in explaining Michael Hewitt's support from AJS."

As you say Paul, a matter of opinion. I WAS unconvinced.

- 3. Keith:- "Clubs do NOT 'have to' supply marshals and observers at any and every event. Only if their club members are riding are they requested to supply assistance and isn't this only fair?"

Perfectly fair, and more or less what I wrote.

- 4. Same point - same answer.

- 5. Keith:- "The AMCA does NOT only cater for the sporting rider." If Keith can illustrate his point by giving the number of non-competing men in a typical AMCA club, then I will be grateful.

- 6. Keith:- "Double roping has NOT been used solely because someone was killed last year."

I didn't say it was. I wrote more or less what Don Green said "..... the AMCA now recommends that double roping be used following the death of a spectator...."

- 7. Keith:- "An A.C.U. rider using a 'nom de plume' for AMCA purposes is NOT compelled to ride in an AMCA event if there is an ACU event nearby."

I wrote "..... the rider must not ride in an ACU event if there is an AMCA meeting on the same day." Not quite the same is it? Read on.....

The following quote of Don Green was printed in Motor Cycle News 9/3/72:-

"At the moment, our members would not be allowed to compete in an ACU event when it clashed with one of our own."

No further comment!

...../

A little ditty by Digby on the Dinner Dance appears elsewhere in this issue which sums the event up nicely, but for reasons solely to recapture the atmosphere of past dances, we will be returning to the the Jodrell Arms at Whalley Bridge in 1973. The date is yet to be settled (Jan. 26th or Feb. 2nd) but note that the capacity at the Jodrell is limited to 88 and it will be first come first served for tickets. If demand is indicated, an installment scheme will be considered for younger members.

The last three committee meetings have seen lengthy discussions on the timing problem of the Northern Experts' Trial. Since "we" thoughtlessly threw away the Inter Club team trial the Experts remains our premier and showpiece trial and it stung somewhat to receive a rather critical Steward's report on the 1971 event. Trials sec. Dave has been giving the matter a great deal of thought and has received many suggestions for improvement. As the problem of late-running "nationals" is causing headaches throughout the country it would be rather nice if the "17" could come up with the ideal solution.

Bearing in mind the usual entry of 50 to 60 solos and up to 12 outfits, Dave would appreciate any ideas trials riding members may have to be written down and posted to him at Coniston Drive. A sub-committee is to be set up specifically to deal with the problem..

It is after a great deal of thought and consideration that we have decided not to run the Easter Scramble planned for April 2nd this year. Many factors are involved including the clash with the AMCA International at Holmes Chapel and a big money North-Western Centre scramble. the expense of buying new rope, posts and fencing to comply with the safety regulations and the unknown factor of how many riders could we expect to support our events after the winter recruiting campaign by the AMCA. Time was running out for the issue of regulations and a course inspection. We needed sponsorship to cover the equipment costs and aren't quite sure if we could still fit a course on the land at Harratt Grange including the necessary space between track and spectators.

Personally, I am very sad about this decision, but it was the only sensible course of action in view of all the club money involved and the effort required to put the meeting on which might well have been contributing to a loss of face and funds.

A newsletter or a postcard will be going out to all our regular scramblers telling them of the cancellation and I'd like you all to write back to me indicating if you will support the June and August meetings if they are run. I want the club to continue running scrambles - I got a great deal of pleasure out of it - and we can still claim to be involved in all the popular sports, but if there are only a handful of ACU riders left in the Centre it is just not feasible. Write to me: Paul Tootall, 151, Compstall Road, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire with your views.

The committee are now looking into the possibility of holding a schoolboy scramble at Harratt Grange on Easter Sunday and we've written to various organisations to find out how to go about it. This could be an interesting way of staying in scrambles (without prize-money or spectators) if there is no demand for senior events.

I have received two letters this month both on the same subject and both in the same vein. I have published them both in full and must emphasize that they express the personal opinions of the writers. After this month the subject will be closed as far as these columns are concerned and the editor wishes to state that he does not necessarily agree with the views of his correspondents.....but Paul Tootall does!

...../

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MANCHESTER "17" MOTORCYCLE CLUB - NEWSLETTE.
MARCH 1972.

Hello everyone!

Doesn't that sound awful?!, but I've racked my (feeble you say) brains every month for an original and sensible opening and decided it's impossible apart from "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year." Ten stock opening lines requested please!

Off we go straight away with our front page news:

*** The President's Social Cup regulations printed last month are amended in that all finishers on bikes will receive an additional TEN marks. This is to retain an incentive to compete on two wheels.

An error on the subscription-return form was "Sporting Membership 50p" this should of course have been 38p. Apologies but no refunds! Badges will be given as change!

*** The Peak M.C.C. have suggested we hold the return football match at their swamp in Chinley which seems a good idea in view of our difficulty in finding a suitable pitch. However, we would prefer drier conditions and hope to delay the game until late in March; possibly the 26th.

We will all wear some agreed colour scheme and Sir Alf Nurse is the trainer and manager in charge. A club ball is required - must be lightweight!

*** Our next trial is the John Simister Memorial event and takes place on Sunday March 19th starting at the Fourways Garage (Cluelow Cross) Wincle. Observers are required for this Open to Centre Event and they should contact Dave Rowland. Regs. available from Mrs. Doreen Rowland at 9, Coniston Drive, Handforth, Cheshire.

*** Oops! Another error in the Feb. edition. Your secretary, Dave (Moses) Abrahams answers the phone when you dial 224-5567, not 223 as I wrote.

*** The club would like to thank Jeff (Geoff?) Turner for donating the handsome "Punchbowl Trophy" to the awards we compete for annually. This year the trophy - a piston set on a varnished wooden plinth - went to the best under 18 rider in the summer trial - A.D. McKenzie; and we presume he is also grateful, not having heard from him since November!

*** I apologise for getting rather annoyed at the inter club darts quiz the other Tuesday. Apart from your rudeness to our guests, I had no right to chastize on account of a little noise. We on the committee are here to provide functions for you, the members, and if you prefer to talk then that's OK. Don't expect any more socials arranged by me - that's all.

*** Shaw M.C.C. have invited us back to visit them in yet another new clubroom (to me) - the Bluebell Hotel in the Centre of Shaw. The time is 8.0pm and the date is Wednesday March 15th. Don't miss this evening out - it's always a great night with Fred and the lads from Shaw with hot-pot usually an added attraction.

*** Future social events may include visits to Granada TV and a trip down a coal mine. Any other ideas on these lines will be gratefully received by Sociable Dave Nurse.

This same football star is contemplating a trip abroad with the well known Partitours group of the British Touring Club and should be able to give us an interesting story or two for the Autumn editions.

Join the club - get your newsletters and read all about it!

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