



32, Briarfield Rd,
Timperley,
Cheshire.

28.12.72.

Dear Ed.

Hope you can squeeze these few lines into the next newsletter.

After reading Mike Hall's comments on bikes in general, I could not help disagreeing on certain points.

I realise Mike only wrote to start the ball rolling, and I should not knock what he said, but I'm going to anyway, if only to get it rolling a bit faster.

To start with the Triumph's and B.S.A. , the total loss oil system of Triumphs is now almost legendary and most models appear to have a built in 'bag of nails'. The B.S.A's are pretty sturdy I must admit, but very prone to nasty bottom end rumbles if the big stick is used too often.

The Nortons are in my opinion good bikes generally, but nice though the Commando is £700 or thereabouts for a machine whose engine dates basically back to 1955 is a bit steep. I won't comment on Honda's, I've never owned one but I tend to agree with Mike about expensive maintenance, and I think they are generally too buzzy, for my liking anyway. Moving on to Suzukis, I bought a T250R new in July, and so far have'n't as much as changed a bulb. Mike say's they are road-going racers, but I'd like to hear about a racer that will pull 2½ thou. at 30 mph in top and still accelerate firmly away.

I don't agree that Yamaha's are more docile than Suzukis, I know for a fact engine tunes at 4 thousand miles or so aren't uncommon and the paintwork and chrome definitely leaves something to be desired. The last time Mike, I'm glad you didn't mention Vincents I'd probably have been sick. Well you asked for other people's views and these are mine, you obviously won't agree but at least it might encourage someone else to comment. By the time this is published I'll be in the Royal Navy so I'll probably miss the forthcoming slanging matches that may result.

Yours sincerely.

Rod Yarwood.

Leo Starr

Perhaps I am the only Club member, with the exception of Tom Dugdale, who really knew Leo Starr well, and it is with deep personal regret that I read of his death in Motor Cycle News.

Leo was a character in every sense of the word and a very helpful chap.

He tried his hand at a lot of things and typical of Leo, became proficient at them all and expert at some.

He was an Artist of high standard, actor, playwright, poet, qualified Chemist, scenery painter, triathlete, grass track, hill climb and scrambles.

When he turned his hand to road racing he really came into his own and he was always well placed in any races he competed in.

His best placing was in the Manx Grand Prix - but of course, you know all that.

The Club was never quite the same when Leo moved down to Gosport several years ago, and although he remained an active motorcyclist until his recent fatal illness it was always his incredible descriptions of a particular event he competed in which had to be heard, they were hilarious.

His Newsletter articles were read by everyone and he came into his own when he became Editor, he wrote so many articles, in so many different styles that he literally wrote the whole lot himself.

Leo will be sadly missed by all who knew him and motorcycling, and Manchester '17' has suffered a great loss.

May I suggest a LEO STARR trophy to perpetuate the memory of a sportsman par excellence. I extend my personal sympathy to his family. Will Barlam.

cinders - but all the best in 73 Ken, ~~because~~ you take up, and all the best to Chris too - we wish her a complete and speedy recovery to full fitness.

THE NORTHERN EXPERTS TRIAL - February 11th 1973.

See D.N.'s article.

Results: Northern Experts. ARC.Lampkin. Bultaco. 27 marks lost
A. Morewood/J. Holmes Metisse s/c 36 marks lost.

1st Class Awards Solo.

Sidocar.

A.M. Shepherd Montesa 31.
A.J. Sunter Ossa 31.
D. Thorpe Ossa 35.
M. Katusell Bultaco 36.
A.C. Lampkin Bultaco 36.
J. Heningway Montesa 37.
C. Milner Bultaco 39.
Rob Edwards Montesa 39.
E. Hutchinson Montesa 39.

J. Mathews/ CC 41
R. Armstrong.

A.J. Lampkin)BSA 42.
C. Pinder)

Sponsors - Renthal, Edgar Rosenthal, Motor Cycle Centre, Jim Sandiford, Ken Cobbing M'cycles, Vacuum Formers, Ray Armstrong.

Club Trials Championship after 2 rounds.

Harvey Lloyd	-17	Norman Eyre	-13	Graham Acton	-3
John Roberts	-17	Adrian Clarke	-10	Peter Scottney	-2
Henry Rosenthal	- 15	Steve Thomas	-9	Duncan McDonald	-2
Chris Clarke	-13	Les Noble	-7	R.S. Gregory	-1

The Northern Experts Trial, February 11th 1973.

As most of you will know, just before that misty bad December 17th 1972 a virus was raging thought to be foot and mouth disease. Knowing the gravity of such an outbreak we decided to postpone, and so to the event which did take place on a fine but cool February 11th 1973.

The Sub-Committee that decided course details had some quick thinking to do when our original Starting Place became unavailable at short notice; George Mycock of Booth Farm came to our rescue and offered us his land for a start area. Dennis Bourke came up with a route that everyone agreed was a "cracker" taking in all our usual sections plus a few more.

The day was ideal for ensuring that sections were "prime": plenty of rain beforehand making things very sticky and slimy. Being one of the helpers, I didn't see much of the actual Trial, but what I did see was riding of a very high standard, as might be expected from the fearless Yorkshire men. Congratulations to "Sid" Lampkin and Alan Morewood who are the new Northern Experts. To lose 27 & 36 marks respectively on the sections we put in is almost unbelievable.

The trial was a great success, and on behalf of the Club may I thank all who helped in any way including sponsors, and competitors who co-operated with us so well.

Dave K.

We can always finish a rocket trial at another pub and have a hot-pot laid on for our arrival - it's been done before! However, what we are thinking of is trips to places of interest and high on my list is a tour around, and down a coal mine. Anyone interested please let Doreen know and then we can gauge interest and numbers. Similar suggestions are always welcome.

* Ron Weal and I are getting together on the Press and Publicity angle but need the information to pass on to the papers. If you have had some success (or even diabolical luck!) in your chosen sport at the week-end it will make good reading in your local paper. We want you to ring Ron (379 2001) or myself on Sunday night and give us the gen to pass on to the papers. It would be useful if we could also prepare a library of photos showing club members in action - the papers prefer to print news with a picture to head the column.

* Chairman Paul, having found his alcohol capacity several TT's ago is trying another method of getting into the Guinness Book of Records:- Owing the greatest number of different bikes in the space of one haircut!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Sat. March 17th	-	Culton Park National.
Sun. March 18th	-	John Simister Trial, Cluelow Cross, OPENED ^{WANTED}
Weds. March 21st	-	Films at the Robin Hood. "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" "Down to Earth".
Sat March 24th	-	First Speedway Meeting, Belle Vue.
Weds. March 28th	-	Book Sale at the Club.
Tuesday April 3RD	-	Films at the Robin Hood. "Diamond Senior". "La Ronde Infernal".
Weds. April 4th	-	"On Any Sunday" - 171 Club, Openshaw.
Weds. April 11th	-	Social at the Robin Hood - Ashton M.C.C. visit.
Weds. April 18th	-	Open (possible auction date).
Thursday April 26th	-	Films at Ashton M.C.C.
Weds. May 9th	-	Films at the Robin Hood. "Race against Time". "Inca God".

Rocket Trial - March 9th.

A good number of bikes plus Pev and Harvey in foreign cars lined up at the Rising Sun to pit their wits against Mike Hall in another of our popular rocket trials. From Long Lane at Nab End we scanned the darkened Cueshire plain from Prestbury to Adlington but nothing much happened until 8.45 most of us having missed the first rocket! Sharmen and I beelled off into Easington at 8.40 hoping to get a better sighting from above Prestbury, but we never saw a rocket or another competitor from then on! Pev and Joan found themselves parked almost on top of the launch pad (when the 9.00 rocket went up) as so often happens much to one's surprise. A quick sortie into the fields eventually led to Mike's hide-away and most competitors scored finishing points. Back at the Robin Hood we had hot pies with our beer and Graham and Scott entertained on the organ!

RESULTS..... not available at time of going to press. Results and Social Cup positions will be displayed on the club notice board to encourage Wednesday mounts and draw attention to other notices, eg. "Observers wanted at Cluelow Cross, March 18th!"

* Noting definite to report yet, but Kenny Eyre has been approached to ride for Verhampton in 73. Ken is not certain yet what will become of the wheelings and dealings but it seems the ace must part with a six point man to keep the BSA quiet on the topic of Rider Control. For me, Belle Vue won't be the same if Kenny leaves - a lot of the interest will have gone from my Saturday night at the

socials, but I advise you not to have a big tea before setting out to the Robin Hood on April 11th. Assted. M.C.C. are the guests for a quiz/contest social and the food and music will all be home produced!

* April 26th - Asnten under Lyne, venue to be announced.

Pev and projector have been hired by the Asnten Club which is a good excuse to visit their new clubroom and catch a couple of films to boot!

* The Manchester 171 Club (where did they get that name?) have kindly invited us to share in their exclusive viewing of "On Any Sunday" the action-packed American Motorcycle film. Doreen has tickets at 50p each and the date is April 4th (Wednesday). The 171 Club headquarters is on Chapman Street/Cornwall Street, Openshaw. Most of us will approach via Hyde Road and Reddish Bridge - from there you head towards Belle Vue on Hyde Road and turn right after a mile (opposite a garage and a church) into Chapman Street. This leads over a railway into Cornwall St. The Club is a converted church at the roadside and is on the left just before the T junction at Asnten Old Road.

* regulations are available until the 17th for the forthcoming March 10th John Sinclair Trial at Fourways Garage, Cluelow Cross, Wincle. The event is combined with a Cheshire Centre later-club competition and will be Duncan's first big trial as secretary... write to Mrs. E. Macdonald, Appin House, Trafford Road, Alderley Edge. Tel. Alderley Edge 2044.

* Subscriptions are now overdue (to twist a phrase) and Graham Phipps will be pleased to sign your card on the 1973 line in exchange for the new figure of £1.00. Sporting members 60p.

* Ian Braunschaw has written from his Isle of Man tax-heaven to say that no helicopter collection will be necessary in 1973 as the fund is already great enough to pay for this year's chopper. For dieting and non-dancing types, Tony Jeffries gave the fund £1 at the dinner dance and this will go with the cash taken at Belle Vue, towards the 1974 fund when Ian launches the campaign.

WANTED. A Triumpu Cub- trials.

Mr. A. Robertson,
42, Wilton Street,
Whitefield, W/Cr.
061-776-7455.

FOR SALE Small man/ladies Barbour suit. Perfect jacket, tatty leggings. £4.50. Ann Kennedy
061-336-6663.

FOR SALE Air crew boots - Ex RAF - Brand New. £4.00
Euitor - 061-430-6604.

Annual Dinner Dance - January 26th

Our Annual Dinner Dance went very well this year - this was agreed by everyone present as was the return to the Jodrell Arms at Whalley Bridge. It's unfortunate that we have to limit the number of concerts and dings here and some members are always disappointed but we can't have it all ways - the Co-op used to look half empty at times.

The tombola went down well and made a profit of £6. A similar profit was also made overall - which makes a nice change. I wish to thank all those people who donated prizes for the tombola and also those who helped to run it.

Doreen.

* Social events need not be limited to Wednesdays at the Robin Hood.

* Paul (the chairman) Sandbach has had a haircut!
Congratulations!

* Henry wound up last season's Cheshire Centre campaign as runner-up to Peter Salt in the Centre Trials Championship.

* Jack (the Godfather) Mathews and Ray Armstrong trundled into second place in the British Sidecar Trials Championship - beating off such evil devices as Steve Kenworthy's bending outfit on the way. I mention this because of the pitiful write-ups the three-wheeler boys get in the 'comics' and as a reminder of club achievements to newer members.

* Sharman and I turned up at the Queens Hotel, Macclesfield on the night before the Northern Experts that never was! We were the only ones to slip through the net cast by Dennis and Dave to stop abortive party-goers!

* The BMF have raised the club affiliation fees to 25p per member and we have decided not to join this year. This is mainly because we had budgeted for more of the extra revenue from increased subs going into '17' funds than would be allowed if we joined the BMF. Members can of course join the affiliated Fellowship of Riders as individuals, but I feel the BMF would welcome the Manchester '17' name amongst its members and ought to be approached to consider enrolling the '17' and other clubs for a fixed minimum amount which could be met by those members who really want to join (and are willing to pay extra subs).

* The Belle Vue show was a success in that our name was there for all to see and much interest was shown in our activities. We were novices in the game of show-stands and it definitely showed, but next year, with a newsletter to publicise the need for bodies to man the stand and ideas for filling it we can do a lot better. A sub-committee could be set up with a publicity minded chairman collating all the ideas. Praise and thanks should go to Dave and Doreen in particular for their efforts at this years show and to Gordon, Neville and Steve for the loan of machinery and transport of bikes etc.

* Duncan's 'first' trial was a well supported event run in atrocious weather at Harriatt Grange Farm on January 28th. The event was the postponed John Hartle trial - "swined off" on Boxing Day, but this made no difference to the eventual winner, hat trick John Hartle winner and Ossa works rider- Dave Thorpe.

* Remember that spare trials tyre you kept and that dual seat, brake lever and DL saddle-spring? Well now's your chance to make some beer money and clear out the shed in one fell swoop! We are going to hold one of those infamous club auctions, sometime late in April, and rumour has it that Frank (£) Turner is considering flying Keith up from Essex to wield his hammer (or was it a con-rod from Lot 39?).

* The wife will be pleased to note that another event on the club calendar is a book sale - to be held on March 28th. Bring along all those Micky Spillane's and bound volumes of Motorcycle Mechanics that have been gathering dust since you discovered the Manchester '17' Club and we'll sell the lot for you. You won't benefit personally, but at 5p a book, the Club funds will get a welcome boost.

* This Saturday - March 17th sees Moses return to Culton Park with his ESA and Vincents. Last year, on his FRD debut, our gallant secretary of '72 was pitched off in no uncertain terms approaching Cascades and if you didn't know Moses you'd say he's never been the same since! Watch our hero this year with the Martin Park Vincents now all the better for 12 months 'development' and a clean shaven rider to improve air-flow. (Moses' answer to John Player monocoques!).

* Now is the time for the ladies of the Manchester '17' M.C.C. to show they're every bit as good as their counterparts at Shaw. It's been some time since circumstances allowed us to self-cater at club

THE MANCHESTER "17" MOTOR CYCLE CLUB
NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1973.

Dear Member,

It is some time since this revered and respected (?) publication dropped through your letter-box for your eager eyes (or was handed out at the club for pellets, beer-mats and clutch diagram purposes) but the reason is, alas, one which has brought about the downfall of many similar projects in clubs and societies meeting for leisure purposes - good intentions are forced out by pressure of time which is required for personal business - either at home, at college or at work. Thus Mike Hall has yet to blaze his name across the country as the powerful figure behind the Manchester "17" editor's pen! Best of luck with your 'A' levels Mike!

For the time being then, the 'old team' of Sharman and myself have been press-ganged back into business and we hope to produce a newsletter every calendar month (at great risk to our marital vows!) N.B. - As I see it, an editor's job is to collate and collect the work of his various reporters and put it all in order before publication. He also sets the style, determines the politics and writes an editorial but of course the committee in general do the first two in the case of our newsletter. The finer points of grammar and punctuation have deterred people from sending in contributions in the past - I know because people have asked me to make such adjustments as are necessary (in confidence). Occasionally I have allegedly overstepped the mark in this respect and altered the meaning somewhat - a grave mistake, I admit - but if anyone wants their 'copy' to be printed just as it's written then so be it.

The address to write to is:- Paul Tootall,
26, Annable Road,
Lower Bredbury, Cheshire.
Tel. No. 061-430-6604

Advertisements free!

If you have no factual reports on events to supply then why not use the newsletter as an open "suggestion box" for improving the club, the sport, the event or whatever takes your fancy. This could start a merry banter in print - a scheme Mike was searching for when he opined his views on various makes of bike in the December Newsletter (See Rod's reply!)

If I was a single-man with a motor cycle I know what I'd be suggesting - "Why don't we pack the tents and have a tour of Central Europe this Autumn?"

How about it you young 'uns?

Sharman and I would like to thank everyone for the wedding present. We've been meaning to put it in the newsletter for some time, but.....

For those in the dark, our last newsletter gave a big build up to my bachelor night back in October and we're now well and truly married and the proud owners of some excellent attractive table-mats! Thank-you very much!

Hold on to your clip-ons now! The news is coming thick and fast.....

* Len and Chris Merton are now the proud parents of Michael (the cycle?) who came to the start line in early February. Congratulations!

* Neville (the devil) Watts let the clutch slip on his bachelor status and married Pat in Douglas on February 21st. The Honda man and his wife are living over here in Mellor but will be over in the Island for TT week as usual.