

MANCHESTER "17" MOTOR CYCLE CLUB  
NEWSLETTER - April 1973.

Dear Member,

As I write this newsletter which is slightly overdue, I hope the delay is cancelled out by the additional news now available and the 'bonus' of being able to type the stencils on a machine which cuts the wax better than our portable thus making the newsletter easier to read.

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As the March newsletter went into the post I learned of the sad death of one of our long-term and most popular members - Nev Hankinson. I regret that some of you may not have heard until you read this newsletter but please be consoled by the thought that a suitable message of sympathy on behalf of the whole club was sent to Doreen and the children at the time and her acknowledgement is to be seen on the notice board. Obituary - page. 2.

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Pev-the-projector will again be seen on two wheels in the not too distant future. I know Pev wishes more than anything else that he had more time to spare for actually riding a bike as a change from organising scrambles and film shows but our President has now bought the ex Duncan MacDonald 128cc Gaunt Suzuki trials model and is planning a comeback - possibly in our July 1st restricted trial.

The Attwood trials Cub (as seen on Boxing Day at Harrat Grange a few years ago) is now for sale. The 1963 machine is complete but requires some attention: £ offers - 455 2394.

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Happy Jack Mathews, known only to the press as a "burly Manchester haulier," is going all out for that elusive British Sidecar Trials Championship this year. The perpetual runner-up with Ray Armstrong in the chair has completed two rounds to date and lies joint first in the table with Steve (the hinge) Kenworthy who is also a Manchester "17" member don't forget.

The Victory Trial on May 12th is Jack's next championship outing and with reigning champions Ray and Derek Round giving the earlier rounds a miss Jack has a fine opportunity to pull out a substantial lead in the series.

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The RAC-Acu Training Scheme is in full swing with a regular turn out of about 30 pupils progressing well and we look set for a good percentage pass level at the test in June.

As always, machines are required for the scheme - any runner up to 250cc or any moped would be gratefully acknowledged. Also required is a sheet of  $\frac{1}{8}$ " or  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick metal of blackboard size which we want to use for "magnet-board" diagram and road-plan purposes. Small plastic cars etc. suitable for inserting a  $\frac{1}{2}$ p size magnet would be useful contributions if you can't assist in other ways.

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Hard-working, folk singing, chief instructor at the Scheme, Trevor Cowdrey is also a pot-holing enthusiast and in his role as a member of Stockport Caving Club has asked me to advertise escorted expeditions down Alderley Copper Mines run by that Club at 20p a head. Individuals may be interested in contacting Trevor, but we are keen to make this a club event and if anyone wants to join a party for the Sunday descents (helmet and light provided) please contact Doreen so we can gauge interest.

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Wednesday April 25th saw the discovery of a new club auctioneer - Rob Gregory. Rob had a difficult task in following Keith Rhodes as the hammer-wielder

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at these annual laugh-ins when all the previous year's lots come back to be resold at suitably inflated prices to people who don't really want them! It always seems a pity that the odd new and useful item has to go for such a low price, but the sales garb the other Wednesday was first class and Rob with his joss-sticks has got himself a permanent job.

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### President's Social Cup

Mike Hall's rocket trial on March 9th was reported in the last newsletter and the results have been up in the clubroom.

Mike and Graham Phipps jointly organised another firework frolic on April 13th and Chairman Paul emerged the winner. The start was on Marple ridge and most competitors managed to find the finish on Mellor Moor across the valley. Firework frolics would have become firework fiasco on a more difficult trial in the Macclesfield or Alderley areas however: someone forgot to buy the rockets at an early date and a last minute search proved fruitless. Flashing headlights had to be used and fortunately this worked in the high and open venue chosen which probably saved the culprit from a few "fizzers" directed his way by disappointed competitors!

After two events the Social Cup Table looks like this:

| <u>Competitor</u>         | <u>Events</u> | <u>Points.</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Steve Kershaw          | 2             | 50             |
| 2. Dave Johnson           | 2             | 46             |
| 3. Dave & Scott Rowland   | 2             | 36             |
| 4. Paul Sandbach (holder) | 1             | 30             |
| 5. John Sellars           | 1             | 27             |
| 6. Richard Stewart        | 1             | 25             |
| 7. Mike Hall              | 2             | 23x            |
| 8= M. Booth               | 1             | 22             |
| 8= Keith & Doreen Howard  | 1             | 22             |
| 10. Graham Phipps         | 2             | 21x            |
| 11. Paul Wise             | 1             | 20             |
| =12. Pev Attwood          | 1             | 14             |
| =12. Rob Gregory          | 1             | 14             |
| 14. Harvey Lloyd          | 1             | 13             |

x Organisers: still to be credited with points for their own events; these to be calculated as an average of their scored points at the end of the series.

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### Neville Hankinson.

The death occurred at his home on Friday 16th March of Nev Hankinson after a long period of illness. He was first taken ill in May of last year and in the July went into Manchester Royal Infirmary for an operation; returning home by the end of the month. He seemed to be making good progress, and being eager to keep in touch with the Club, was able to attend a clubnight at the "Royal Oak". Our hopes began to rise that he was on the road to recovery, but all too shortly he became unable to get about at all and was confined to bed from October until the end. Throughout the period of his illness his unfailing patience was remarkable.

Nev had been a member of the '17' for many years and until recently was a keen trials rider. He first rode a solo and later graduated to driving an outfit but after taking over responsibility for the family's farm he eventually found, much to his regret that he could not find time to carry on riding on trials. He still maintained his interest however, and often remarked on how greatly he valued the friendship he had made through the Club and in the trials world and he will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Doreen, to their children and to Nev's parents and family in their tragic loss.

March 18th - Cheshire Centre Inter Club Team Trial.

We won the team trial! This was rather pleasing as no one expected us to. Wrexham looked like being almost certain winners with the three Darlingtons in their team. So certain was the reporter from Motor Cycle News that he even took a picture of them in anticipation of their win. Anyway they didn't go away completely empty handed, gaining three first class awards, and one of the sponsored section prizes. The other fancied team, Winsford, winners last year, headed by Cheshire Champ Peter Salt finished a nice lowly third behind Wrexham and ourselves.

At the beginning of the trial it was amazing how everybody from our club seemed to be doing fantastic. Harvey was showing how good 325 Bultacos were by crawling up all the sections like a tractor and Robin Gregory was showing how well they pulled high gears by doing all the sections in what seemed like third. Two of the first back at the start were John Roberts and Graham Acton. I don't know how they do it, they had already finished and I hadn't even started my second lap! Anyway, along with me going nice and slowly was Pete Scottney; all this looking must have paid off as he finished with the intermediate award just ahead of the yellow helmets - Andrew and John MacDonald.

Most unfortunate of our club members were Dave Murray and Steve Thomas. Steve's rot set in with Doreen Rowland's section claiming a three and a five on what was quite an easy obstacle. I must admit I always seemed to wobble twice as much on any section which either Doreen or Dave are observing; it must be a touch of the Old Master.

This trial was the second one organised by Duncan who was trying to incorporate some of the Northern Experts sections along with Dave Murray's sections at the quarry. Though these might have seemed rather a long way out it was thought by the committee that these should be used in case the quarry owner refused future permission just through lack of use.

Unfortunately Checks had to be cancelled through lack of observers; a bit embarrassing as it was rather an important event. It always seems that the same people observe and one wonders what will happen when these people want to retire from this rather unrewarding job! Otherwise the trial seemed very popular apart from the usual moans about it being either too easy or too hard depending on one's result.

HENRY.

RESULTS.

Best Performance - John Simister Trophy - Henry Rosenthal.

TEAM RESULTS.

| <u>Manchester '17' M.C.C.</u> | <u>WREXHAM</u>   | <u>WINSFORD.</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Harvey Lloyd 27               | R. Darlington 23 | Peter Salt 23    |
| John Roberts 29               | G. Darlington 26 | Les Burgess 44   |
| Henry Rosenthal 18            | I. Darlington 35 | Steve Jenkins 45 |
| Total <u>74</u>               | Total <u>84</u>  | Total <u>112</u> |

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Challenge Trophy - Aggregate result.

Sheffield and Hallamshire M.C.C. defeated Manchester '17' MCC by 26 marks.

Club Championship.

Manchester '17' MCC Club Championship to Date:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| H. Lloyd 26     | D.K. Murray 6  |
| H. Rosenthal 25 | P. Scottney 6  |
| J.H. Roberts 24 | G. Acton 3     |
| C.A. Clarke 21  | R.S. Gregory 2 |
| S.P. Thomas 14  | D. MacDonald 2 |
| N.S. Eyre 13    | J. MacDonald 2 |
| A.J. Clarke 10  |                |
| L.D. Noble 7    |                |

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FOR SALE

1961 BSA A10 sidecar outfit; at present fitted with an immaculate box which carried mountaineering gear. Must be seen. This fine machine is well worth the asking price of £110.

Mr. B. Cardus, 28 Links Road, Romiley.  
Bus. tel. 061-228-1266 Ext. 216

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WANTED.

A six-volt Lucas voltage regulator - Cyril Stones is restricted to daylight riding on his "new" device, a Model 19 600 single. Cyril, of 28, Dean Road, Hazel Grove urgently requires the regulator which seems so elusive but whose absence has failed to dampen his enthusiasm which has even seen his wife Joyce back on the pillion again. Also in the Stone stable is a B31 and a hybrid 500T engined "special".

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Graham Chivrell, our Morgan owning member, is anxious to get hold of a good 1960 Dominator front wheel. Required for a "concours" standard rebuild, offers of a round, true, unscored steel rim wheel can be made any Wednesday at the club.

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It's Here!

Dave Rowland has at last launched one of his long nurtured ambitions - a trials school. Dave, one of the aces of the feet up game, started the school on Saturday May 12th at the Setter Dog on the Buxton-Macclesfield road at 2pm and will continue as long as the demand is there. Limited numbers of machines are available for non-bike-owners.

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Brian Glym- a club stalwart in the sixties now domiciled in Canada - was over for his baby 's christening recently and found time to visit the club on May 9th. The same night saw Brian and Ann Kennedy and Jean Turner come along to talk over old times and it was like an "action replay" of a Tuesday at the Bull's Head from 1965.

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The Easter Monday Transatlantic Match Races at Oulton Park were every bit as good as last year unless you were stuck on a straight at a marshal's post as I was! The only real skill we were able to see was Art Baumann trying to keep his monowheeling Kawasaki in a straight line after the brow of the hill before Knicker Brook! I was hoping to see the Hardy Brothers there as well - an encore of their March record breaking ride would have been well worth watching.

One thing must be mentioned on a serious note - club members on marshalling duties should not risk blotting their own and the club's copybook by abusing the privileges of the extra free pass. A bit more discretion where girl friends are concerned is requested by the committee.

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Members may be interested to learn that Dave Rowland is now the Cheshire Centre Delegate to the General Council of the A-CU. "Decibel Dave", as he's become known in the Centre in his role as noise-metre operator, was due to take his place at the table in London on May 11th and controversial issues such as medical examinations and licence fees were among items he was to raise on behalf of the Cheshire Centre.

At Centre level, the Manchester "17" motion that 10 mark penalties for excess noise be instituted on August 1st 1973 was agreed to in principle at a Board meeting on May 3rd.

Dave is to meet other delegates to discuss finer points and formulate a regulation. As Cheshire's A-CU/AMCA liaison officer as well, DR is certainly very busy putting energy back into the sport (as they say) in return for the pleasures it's given him over the years.

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Editorial Comment.

After hearing BBC Radio 2 cancel a five minute Sport-spot recently through "lack of news" I wonder when the AC-U will eventually realise how much they are losing out by not having an official Press and Publicity Officer. How can a national sports media have a "lack of news"!!!

While I am knocking the AC-U (as an independant - not as a "17" spokesman) that MCN picture of the two Yamahas and two MVs on the grid at a recent GP finally converted me to the anti-TT brigade. It's a great course, a great race meeting and the atmosphere is second to none, but as a world championship round it's a washout. This year we can't see a single works title contender at the TT, and if we did we'd only see them six times in 2½ hours! I think the British racing fan has a right to see a full-blooded GP with all the top makes and names and Geoff Duke's idea of a shorter circuit in the Island seems to be the best yet. Silverstone and Oulton are the only other circuits long enough, but the viewing facilities are very poor.

We must keep the Manx GP; but we can't all afford to get to Belgium and Holland for our world championship racing - and that's where it really happens, not this June, that's a glorified National.

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One man who is all there when it comes to publicity is Ian Bradshaw. Apart from his continued cheeky attempts to get away with only sporting membership he's doing the club a great deal of good as Helicopter Fund organiser in the Isle of Man.

Ian has already got the publicity well organised for his brainchild for this year's money raising scheme.

On August 25th and 26th Ian, Allan Killip and Neil Hanson are to ride a loaned works Trident round the TT course for 24 hours - each lap bringing in cash on a sponsoring system. Thousands of forms will be printed and the committee set up by Ian hope to attract support from the trade, clubs and individuals at so much per lap. The roads will be "open" and there is no question of racing speeds or continuous riding but the team are aiming for 30 + laps. I feel that this effort could make the Manchester '17' name famous throughout the motorcycle fraternity and those of us not involved directly must do everything possible to obtain the sponsors in their hundreds before the event.

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The AC-U National Rally is this year based at Doncaster Racecourse which suits us Northern competitors fine! Regulations and entry forms are out now - closing date June 11th - and can be obtained from the AC-U at 31, Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QA.

Some entry forms are on the notice-board for the July 7th/8th marath on and I for one hope to be going. Each three club entries automatically form a team and we've had as many as three teams in the past so let's see who can take over where George, Trevor and Jerry Hallows left off as Cheshire Centre Award winners in the past.

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Been to the Speedway lately? It's well worth 35p to watch the second half scratch races at Belle Vue this year! Chris Pusey, Soren Sjosten and Peter Collins are virtually equal on form with Alan Wilkinson and Eric Broadbelt always there to spring surprises. Chris Pusey's wheelies on the back straight are out of this world, but don't take my word for it, go along on Saturday!

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Stockport Carnival this year falls on July 28th. Once again we have an entry for a float in the procession and for this publicity stunt we again need a vehicle - preferably a flat-back lorry-on which to mount our display. Any offers?

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Correspondence has been received by the secretary offering good terms for motorcycle insurance - details are on the notice-board or you can write to Frank Gladwin and Son, 96 Oswald Rd, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

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The Manchester '17' beat Ashton MCC in a very enjoyable night of games and quizzes at the Robin Hood in early April when everyone responded generously to the request for sandwiches and cakes etc. Behind the success scene was near disaster however; the landlady had offered the big room to the pony-club that night by mistake and in view of the turn-out it was very fortunate that Doreen found out in time and an exchange of bookings was made!

Subscriptions are now due and a tear-off form is attached for return with your £1.00. Newsletters will only be sent to paid up members from now on and impersonation at competitive events by non-members may lead to suspension. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

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Congratulations are in order for Duncan Macdonald - winner of a Second Class award in the Scottish Six Days on a 250cc "hot-rod"! (See Stockport Express preview).

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It may have escaped the notice of MCN headline writers, but Moses' fine win in the one hour speed trial for Vincent Solos at Cadwell Park was a great achievement and such performances will always find space in the club newsletter. Similarly I am pleased to congratulate Henry in his first Cheshire Championship round victory of the year at Denbigh and Mold on May 6th.

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Have you seen Ole Olsen on his golden machine recently? No! It hasn't been stolen or borrowed from the Mauger stable - all the glittering alloy parts are straight from the Renthal anodising plant. Ole must be hoping to dazzle the referee and confuse the opposition more than he already does by his brilliant riding but trials riders will find the busy Renthal factory reluctant to get too involved in many other similar projects involving time which is more than scarce when meeting export orders for their other colourful products.

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**STOP PRESS !**

On Saturday May 12th Jack Mathews and Ray Armstrong won the Victory Trial with a loss of 47 marks ;beating arch-rival Steve Kenworthy by 9 marks and hoisting themselves into a slender Championship lead!

This great battle for the sidecar championship is still wide open however and the only certain thing at the moment is that the winner will be a member of the Manchester '17'.....!

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - MANCHESTER '17' MCC

To: Graham Phipps, 5 Berkeley Road, Hazel Grove, Cheshire.

I wish to apply for membership /renew my membership for 1973 and enclose £1 subscription.

I enclose my membership card for signature

I require a membership card

(cross out where applicable)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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(signature)