

THE MANCHESTER "17" MOTORCYCLE CLUB

NEWSLETTER - MARCH - 1974

Dear Member,

March is the real beginning of the sporting season and with it comes the chance of better weather for the touring rider. I'd like to welcome the new members who have joined us in the last six weeks and hope you all look forward, as I do, to the many events planned for the summer.

Speedway, grass-track and road-racing have all re-started and there are many excellent events being run in the north which we hope to visit on informal 'club runs'.

DINNER DANCE

The Annual Dinner Dance on February 8th was a great success. Held once again at the Jodrell Arms, Whaley Bridge, the majority agreed that this was the most enjoyable event for many years. The band was very satisfactory for most tastes but possibly more "pop" would have pleased the few who didn't agree and an idea of incorporating two short disco spots next year would achieve the impossible - making everybody happy. We ran two profit making sidelines for prizes and overall the dance made a profit. The meal was good and one would think this would be fuel for an interesting speech from our guests and this was the only disappointment of the evening.

ROAD RACING

This month's road race round up has not reached me yet so if anyone sees Stuart please leave him where you find him unless he's got my report with him! Briefly, Eric has been practising at Caydon and racing at Snetterton. Neville missed out on the 250 final at Oulton by one place and bravely took his 3 out with the 350 Yams. I've no news of Brian, Dave and Mick but Moses is still thinking about cleaning his bikes from last year and Stuart is still talking about starting racing again. The only quiet one is John Wilson!

SOCIAL

There's plenty happening on the social side at present. Recently we had another slide show which if nothing else saw a good turnout at the club and gave us more ideas on setting out the "cinema":- A larger screen in a better position was the result and with expertise extraordinary Edgar and Frank got through nearly two hundred slides. A ten picture quiz was incorporated with Harvey and D R donating their winnings to club funds.

The new system of diverting your 5p "room collection" via a football card has gone down quite well. With the prospect of winning a pound for their stake members are only too keen to put in. The club now gets a guaranteed pound each Wednesday and if numbers build up there's no reason why we shouldn't have two cards going! Meanwhile, latecomers are welcome to tip up 5p all the same!

Two other recent events were a visit to Bury for a sports forum featuring Eric Boocock, Mick Grant and Tommy Robb plus a night at the 171 Club to see the unusual documentary "Evel Knievel".

By the time you read this we will have had two films borrowed from the 171 on Wednesday March 20th and for the future we have Champions on Two Wheels/ Sometime Scrambler on April 17th.

The most important Social date coming up is April 19th at the Peak Club. If this venture succeeds it may inject a bit of life into the ailing Peak MCC and in turn we can hope for their support in similar events we may try. A hot - pot and disco with an extension till midnight will therefore be held on Friday April 19th at the Midland Hotel, Peakdale. Tickets will be on sale soon at 4Op - you can't do better than that!

The Annual Motor Cycle Show at Belle Vue took place on February 4th - 7th and once again we had a stand. A photo quiz devised by Paul Sandbach and I made £13 for the helicopter fund and we got quite a bit of useful publicity plus two or three new members.

On a similar note, we shall once again be entering a float in Stockport Carnival on July 27th . Offers and ideas to me please.

Lake District Camp - May 24th - 27th. It's a while since we went camping as a club and here's the opportunity to remedy that. If this is a success we could make it a yearly fixture but there's no reason why members can't organise individual camping weekends whenever they like but this is an official function on a relatively "free" weekend. The idea is to ride up to the Lakes on Friday 24th May to a pre-arranged site. On the Sunday we are planning a treasure hunt which will be round 3 of the 1974 President's Social Cup. Members can return home Sunday evening but as the Monday is Spring Bank Holiday we can stay on over Sunday night - perhaps calling at Darley Moor "on the way back!" on Monday! Get your kit together now!

Finally, on the social scene, I would like to refer you to the full calendar of Manchester 17 events and an itinerary of Cheshire Centre meetings for this year on the notice-board. You can see at a glance what days to leave free for club runs, socials and road trials etc. If you are planning a run then enter it on the calendar for interested parties who may wish to join you.

Stockport and District MCC are planning a treasure hunt and camp also. It's pure coincidence that this should happen and fortunately the date is different so if you want a practice run the Stockport weekend would suit you fine. I believe competitors will set out with a handful of clues and "solve" their way to the camp-site which is less than 70 miles away and near to an excellent pub. The Saturday night is spent under canvas and return home is on Sunday.

The dates are April 20/21st and if you are interested, contact Norman Maskell, 44 Ilfracombe Road, Offerton. 480-6670.

WANTED

Cheapish trials bike - £50 - £60. Must be capable of winning a novice award. Guy Greeves, Business tel. no. 775-3241.

No offers from Keith Rhodes please. No ex-KTR specials please!

Keith is coming back! The original verbose dibbler from the CGB (or it could be KCB) is coming back to the north of England to make way for a third London airport and they've closed Rayleigh Speedway in sympathy! Our ex Sec is returning in less than a month and was last seen house hunting for a place with a pond to store his newly purchased boat(!) now somewhat redundant.

PRESIDENT'S SOCIAL CUP

Paul Sandbach and I have re-organised the President's Social Cup formula and planned an interesting series of ten events for this years "main road championship". We could not agree on one clear format so there is a change of his and a change of mine to give the following compromise.

To make a differential, bikes will get 5 points for starting in all events. Cars will only score on finishing positions.

In order that a leader can be seen at all times and an up to date chart of scores and positions can be kept, organisers will revert to a set number of points for their efforts, rather than the "abstract average" of their total scores. This was not only complicated but also unfair to the brilliant organiser who couldn't shine in the events.

Manchester "17" MCC Presidents Social Cup 1974

- (1) Only fully paid up members shall take part (for scoring purposes) - see item 4 in the club constitution.
- (2) There will be ten events - all rounds to count.
- (3) Points will be awarded on the following basis.
 - a) Starting on a bike 5 points
 - b) Finishing on a bike 5 points
 - c) Positions awarded points thus...

Winner	15
Runner up	12
Third	10
Fourth	8

and then 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.
- (4) Organisers will get 10 points plus 10 points if they use a motorcycle.
 - a) On the night of a rocket trial, organisers will not be penalised the 10 point "bike allowance" if they use a car, provided they have done the ground work and preparation on a motorcycle.

Last year's Social Cup Series was won by our chairman Paul Sandbach. As he was the only finisher in the Goyt Valley rocket trial the other positions remained the same. Steve Kershaw was second and I was third with Rick Stewart and Malc Booth both well up.

John Simister Trial - March 17th Fourways Cafe, Wincle

Sunny, intermittent showers, cold and windy. As you can see this is a very brief report extracted from Mark and Henry on the telephone ten minutes before I set off to the club to give this lot to Carole to type.

Although only a few members were at an equally cold and showery Oulton Park there was a distinct shortage of Club Members available to observe at the trial. A route had been planned to take in some interesting territory in our Buxton/Macclesfield zone whilst a shorter route overall was used to comply with the government's edict to the ACU of reduced mileage - down by a third.

There were 88 entries, 6 non-starters and 5 retirements.

RESULTS

Winner	Chris Milner	BKR Bultaco	8
Runner up	Peter Salt	Holdcroft Ossa	18
<u>Experts</u>	John Gaskell	Bloggs Montesa	20
	Steve Thomas	Montesa	20
	Phil Ledgerwood	Bultaco	22
	Graham Darlington	Kenny Bultaco	23
<u>Intermediates</u>	G Adamson	Bultaco	43
	D H Critchlow	Montesa	57
<u>Novices</u>	G Wilkinson	Bultaco	47
	A Harrison	Bultaco	58
	S Richardson	Bultaco	68
	D Morris	Montesa	86
	P Barton	Bultaco	91

Club Championship Table (after 2 rounds)

Chris Clarke	16	Pete Scottney	6
Henry Rosenthal	16	Dave Murray	5
Steve Thomas	14	G Adamson	3
Adrian Clarke	14	Duncan MacDonald	2
G Boughton	13	J Cantrell	2
Dave Thorpe	10	J Childs	1
Harvey Lloyd	7	John Roberts	1

Last years club trials champion was of course Harvey Lloyd from Henry but below is a full list of the Dinner Dance Awards.

AWARDS 1973

John Simister Trial

John Simister Trophy	H Rosenthal
1st Class Award	H Lloyd
1st Class Award	J Roberts

John Hartle Trial

John Hartle Trophy	D Thorpe
1st Class Award	H Rosenthal
1st Class Award	H Lloyd

Summer Trial

Fisher Trophy	D Thorpe
1st Class Award	H Rosenthal

Evening Trial

1st Class Award	S P Thomas
-------------------------	------------

Championship Trial

1st Class Award	H Rosenthal
-------------------------	-------------

Additional Trophies

Special Award	P Scottney
Simister Trophy	R N Watts
Frank Leaver Trophy	J Mathews)
	R Armstrong)
Len Eyre Trophy	H Lloyd
Strugglers Sprocket	K Oushey
President's Social Cup	P W Sandbach
President's Sporting Cup	P Scottney
Punch Bowl Trophy	A Jackman
Observer of the Year	M Rosenthal

The RAC - ACU Training Scheme starts again on Sunday April 7th at Heaton Lane tramsheds. An ex - trainee - Mrs Virginia Turnbull has kindly offered to handle all the paperwork involved with registration etc in the early stages and this should leave the overworked Trevor - soon to appear on a TV folk programme again - more time for actual classroom and practical tuition. Help is always required at the scheme so all mechanics and road safety fanatics make a note of the date -
 Sunday April 7th. 10.00 hrs.

Presidents Social Cup Diary

March 29th	Rocket Trial	August 11th	Road Trial
April 26th	-----"	September 22nd	-----"
May 26th	Lake District "Trial"	October 6th	-----"
June 29th	Road Trial	October 25th	Rocket Trial
July 21st	-----"	November 15th	-----"

Stop Press! Tickets available from Paul Tootall, 361.430.6604 for the following promotion:-

Group 73 Motorcyclists - Comedy Fancy Dress Dance.
 7-15 pm. Friday April 5th, in High Bridge, Bury.
 Tickets including supper 65p (Children 25p)

RACING A VINCENT IN THE MANX GRAND PRIX - Continued

On Saturday morning I was due at the Grandstand as reserve rider for the team of three doing the 24 hour sponsored run on a works Trident to raise funds for the Manchester "17" Helicopter Appeal. This was organised by Ian Bradshaw who was one of the riders together with travelling marshalls, Alan Killip and Des Evans. As it happened I was not needed, so after watching Geoff Duke start them off, Pete and I decided to "do a lap" on the road bikes. I had taken the road-going Vincent Phoenix over as well as the racer, partly for transport and partly for extra practice around the course and Pete had his faithful Commando. We only got as far as Ramsey before we stopped and met up with Paul and Sharman Tootall, Paul Sandbach and Ernie. In fact to this day I have never done one complete lap of the course with the roads open except as a passenger.

This lap took place on the Sunday. I turned up at the Grandstand to watch the finish of the 24 hour ride and then catch my conducted coach trip at 12 o'clock. The ride finished very successfully with Ian going the last stint apparently in the pink of condition after riding in bad conditions on and off since 10 o'clock on the Saturday.

The bike itself was also completely devoid of trouble and ticking over perfectly. We chatted to Ian who has been a "17" member for many years and used to be on the Stockport Police force. He now lives in the Island and is on the Douglas force. When he heard of our difficulties with the garage, he offered the use of the garage at his newly built bungalow at Onchan; an offer gratefully accepted. By about 12.30 I thought that I had somehow missed the coach trip and Ian offered to take me on a lap on the pillion of the Trident. Permission was given by the Triumph man and off we went. This lap later proved invaluable. Ian stopped at several tricky spots and pointed out the best line. I reckon about seven of his instructions stuck in my mind and although this may not seem much for such a complex course they later enabled me to take several sections as fast or faster than more experienced riders and this gave a tremendous boost to my confidence. I should say here that Ian's offer of a conducted ride reflected very well on both his and the bike's stamina after the 24 hour run. We arrived back at the Grandstand just in time to see the coach trip off! I had cocked things up as usual; the trip being timed for 2 o'clock not 12 o'clock. The rest of Sunday was spent checking the bike, ready for the first practice session on Monday.

Practice was scheduled for 6a.m., just before dawn. To give some idea of the help and enthusiasm we got from Janet Busby, we were woken at 4.30a.m. with tea in bed.

The weather looked grim and if it had not been the first session we might have crawled back into bed. However, off we set, Pete on the Commando and me on the racer causing a fair bit of noise for the time of day. We were amongst the first few to arrive at the Grandstand and wheeled up to the scrutineering tent. No problem here, the scrutineer even said "very nice". In fact the scrutineers and officials throughout the week were very friendly and helpful and everyone was interested in the progress of the old Vin. Together with all the other newcomers, I was given a white nylon jacket to wear over my leathers, a sort of learners badge. Onto the Glenrutchery road at 6 o'clock and I still thought practice would be cancelled as there was light drizzle and the cloud was completely down over the mountain section. However, after a welcome and warning about conditions we were allowed to push off in pairs at about 6.20. The roads were streaming wet and I gingerly worked my way down to Quarter Bride. Even at low speed I was surprised how bumpy the road was. Braddan was particularly slippery and already one rider was on the deck here. I cruised on down to Ballacraine using about 5,000 r.p.m. instead of the usual 7,000.

Since the T.T. the road had been resurfaced between Ballig and Glen Helen and this notorious section is now billiard-table smooth but perhaps deceptively so, as I passed two more riders who had got off while it was going! At my cautious pace no problems were experienced and I was surprised that no more than two riders had passed me. One section had been particularly worrying me, this was the jump over Ballaugh Bridge. This first lap, I approached very slowly, first gear well over to the right going over the hump at right angles. I don't think even the front wheel left the ground. The bike was running perfectly and out of Quarry Bends onto the Sulby straight I wound it up. I had heard of the bumps of course, but I wasn't prepared for anything quite so bad. The tricky bit is the right hand kink just after Sulby village. Every lap through here the bike had a violent tank-slapper, but soon straightened itself out. I was very glad we had decided to fit a hydraulic steering damper and restrict the lock to a minimum. Sulby Bridge to Ramsay was taken very slowly and this section was probably the hardest to remember. The first sign of mist appeared at about Guthries. Visibility was soon down to a few yards and stayed this way over the Mountain down to Crog-ny-Baa, a first gear crawl all the way. No flags were out at the end of this lap so I continued for a second trip!

MOSES