

Manchester "I7" Motor Cycle Club  
Newsletter - March 1976

Dear Member,

I presume you are a member? Normally at this time of the year I include a reminder that subs are due but this year, despite the new rate of £1.50 I believe members have been renewing at a tremendous rate and Doreen is more than pleased with the rattle in her little collection of tins. However, postal charges being what they are I'm afraid we can't afford to send anymore newsletters to lapsed members after this month so if that worries you (?) come along next Tuesday with your cash.

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Since our last newsletter there have been many club events and functions which are reported later on. First of all here is the calendar of things to come.

Sunday 7th March	-	RAC/ACU Training Scheme starts.
Sunday 7th March	-	Club Run to Santa Pod
" " "	-	D K Mansell (sidecar champ round)
Saturday 13th March	-	Julton park National
" " "	-	British Round - World Trials Champ.
Tuesday 16th March	-	Film Show
Sunday 21st March	-	Club Run - Cadwell Park
Sunday 28th March	-	Inter Centre Sidecar Team Trial (Man I7)
" " "	-	Club Run - Cheshire Moto X (?)
Easter 16/19 April	-	Club Runs to Transatlantic Match Races.

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Club Captain, Dave Tattersall has really got things moving on the road-run scene and I've already lost track of the events he's visited this year. Perhaps this is the year when the Manchester 'I7' will once again have a big entry in the ACU National Rally on July 17/18th with members by that time thirsting for a really long ride to test their endurance and navigational skills.

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Inter Centre Sidecar Team Trial by D. G. ...

On 16th December 1974 I wrote a letter to Mary Driver, the then Competitions Manager of the ACU, and it read:-

Dear Mary,

Would you please pass on to the appropriate committee the following proposition:

"To promote sidecar trial competition, the M/C I7 Club believe that an Inter-Centre Team Sidecar Trial would be very popular. As is very obvious, one of the biggest drawbacks would be the mileage involved in travelling to the event by some competitors.

We propose that there be 4 sidecar outfits, with the best 3 to count, otherwise very similar to the I.C.T. as it now exists.

If this proposal is considered an idea worth pursuing I will draft some Regulations.

As the instigators of the venture our Club could hold the first event, after which any Club could volunteer to hold it". Yours etc....

This idea has since gathered momentum to such effect that on March 28th we will organise - The 1st Inter Centre Sidecar Team Trial. The event will start from the Fourways Diner at 10.30 am, and it is likely that 15 teams will enter. Sixty outfits with the best crews in Britain must make an interesting competition. If anyone can help with this event and help set it on the road to success please contact myself or any Committee Member.

D.R.

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The winter is nearly over and light nights will soon be with us again but

perhaps it's not too late for a slide show of your 1975 escapades. I have at least 30 slides of interest from last year but we'll only fix a date if more members let me know they are prepared to bring slides enough to make a show worthwhile.

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I would have liked to print articles on last years road racing scene by Mick, Dave, Neville and Moses but nothing has been forthcoming. Similarly Steve Birchall's sidecar scrambling and Jack and Ray's British Championship Trials hat-trick will remain a mystery unless they put pen to paper.

Thanks are due to my usual prolific contributors: John Ward, Dave Tattersall and Dave Rowland with a welcome guest appearance by Steve Thomas.

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#### Advertisements

Jack Mathews Motor Cycles  
227/229 Stockport Road, Guide Bridge, Ashton. 339 3918

Sebastian Jones Male Fashions (Mick Capper)  
30a Bridge Street, Buxton. 0298 71415

Motor Cycle Centre (new branch for John Robert's firm)  
Webb's old premises on A6 at Woodsmoor.

#### FOR SALE

1975 CB360 Honda, 9,000 miles. As new, with Sports Fairing  
£500 Tel: 061 - 483 9677.

#### Reports

##### MCN Film Show at Leeds - December 11th

It was wet and windy as I headed towards Stretford to pick up Mark Welton and meet Vic Finnigan.

We started off on the short haul to Leeds (or so we thought) and everything was going fine until we met up with a huge traffic jam on the M62.

After about seven miles of slipping through the traffic, we were back on the open road. But where was Vic?

Soon afterwards I had to stop at the services to pay a call and ten minutes later, while chasing up the motorway at a steady 80, there he was; on the hard shoulder jumping up and down waving his arms! We pulled in and after frantic conversation were soon on our way again.

Things seemed to be going smoothly and Vic was in front when suddenly there was one almighty bang and he pulled off the motorway again.

I won't say what I thought at the time, but everything was O.K. He had run out of fuel so he switched on to reserve and on we went.

Our merry band was on the road again and I was leading, cruising at a steady speed and peeking in the mirror to see if Vic was there. You guessed it! He was missing again!

We pulled off the motorway once again. Mark and I talked about Finnigan's daft bike and the bad weather conditions while ten minutes or more passed and then there he was - tearing up the motorway! Now it was my turn to jump up and down, waving my arms! It turned out that he had pulled off the motorway further back to take on more fuel.

The rest of the ride to Leeds was uneventful and we actually found our way to the Playhouse first time.



RESULTS - (Sidecars 32 sections - Solos 41)

Northern Experts Trophy (Solo)	D Thorpe	15	marks
Northern Experts Trophy (Sidecar)	N Iveson/G Simpson	24	"
Ist Class Awards (Solo)	J Reynolds	20	"
	J D Metcalfe	24	"
	J Galloway	25	"
	N W Jeffries	28	"
	N Birkett	33	"
	C A Clarke	36	"
	M P Leddy	41	"
	C Milner	43	"
G Wilkinson	44	"	
Ist Class Awards (Sidecar)	J Mathews/ R Armstrong	28	"
	C A Morewood/ M J Bailey	29	"
	D Thorpe		
Castrol Trophy	D Thorpe		

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Talk by Wx BMC Navigator - Mike Wood - 16th December

Mike Wood who has creved with all the top rally drivers and now manages part of the Jim Sandiford empire came along with an interesting film of a rally in North Africa. He gave an interesting talk on the reconnaissance technique of rally driving. Members seemed very keen to learn more and Doreen is planning to bring him back again soon.

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Tramps Supper at the Club - 23rd December

A non-event. Lack of enthusiasm by the organising committee and the general members. The clubroom was packed however and we had a cut-price hot pot and the bar was open til 11.30.

John Hartle Trial - Boxing Day by Steve Thomas

This open to centre trial was held on Boxing Day in the Sparrowpit area and consisted of 2 laps of 40 sections.

An entry of 53, enoyed an easy trial to help them shrug off the effects of Christmas over-indulgence. A strong cold wind may have contributed to the acute shortage of observers, but this was overcome in time for the second lap!

Gary Wilkinson had a steady ride to win with one mark lost and beat Dave Thorpe who lost three.

RESULTS

John Hartle Memorial Trophy	- G Wilkinson	- 1	mark	lost
Ist Class Awards	- D Thorpe	- 3	"	"
	- C A Clarke	- 9	"	"
	- S P Thomas	-11	"	"
Best Intermediate	- N King	-39	"	"
Best Novice	- C Holmes	-71	"	"
Novice Awards	- S Hepworth	-84	"	"
	- A Harrison	-89	"	"

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Committee Meeting - 5th January

The last minute Dinner Dance arrangements were discussed. Doreen expressed concern at the lack of response from the film loan libraries. George Long and I gave lengthy versions of the efficiency of the RAC/ACU Training Scheme and the outcome is that the club are now more aware of how it functions - Ron Weale is to have a look-see for himself at Training Scheme committee and course sessions.

Trials were discussed - it was felt the John Hartle trial may benefit from a date other than Boxing Day.

Alan Varey is the latest member to get excited about returning to the promotion of grass tracks or scrambles - he'll get plenty of support IF WE FIND A V NUB.

A lengthy debate on the proposed stand at the Belle Vue show ended in a vote for a £20 outlay for materials etc.

At the time of this meeting the Club Captain reported little interest in his planned road-runs to date.

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Club Trial-High Edge - 18th January

This closed to club trial attracted an entry of 93 and used High Edge and part of Booth Farm.

Riders tackled 4 laps of 12 sections, these were more difficult than our usual club trial standard and coupled with bad weather caused several retirements.

Dave Thorpe had a great ride losing only 17 marks and winning with a substantial margin over second place man Chris Clarke who lost 55.

RESULTS

Winner	D Thorpe	17
Ist Class Awards	C Clarke	55
	M Luddy	63
	D Hooke	63
	S Ellis	90

Best Intermediate D Moon 141

Best Novice J Hulme 148

Novice Awards	J Shirt	150
	A Harrison	181
	J Robinson	184
	M Sheldon	188
	M Hallsworth	191
	M Keeling	209

Steve Thomas

Annual Dinner Dance - 30th January

I feel we have just one more stage to go before we get the ideal Dinner Dance. After many years bobbing about we've found the ideal place in the Belgrade Hotel at Bollington. At last we can accomodate more people and 126 of us sat down to a very tasty meal.

Then came the dance, and it was the old familiar three piece mortuary musicians who killed the evening. Time and again some members have argued that not only should we have a modern group or a disco, but we should not book an unknown band. Now it will come to pass at the 1977 Dinner - we promise!

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Ice Racing - 1st February

A trail ride which was organised for February 1st as a relatively easy grade run, proved to be somewhat more severe due to the prevailing low temperature. Soon after the start from Marple Bridge Car Park and led by Peter Potts on his Ossa Explorer, the six machines were onto the rough, heading towards the Roman Lakes and winding up past Limmot Clough to Mellor Golf Course before finally dropping down towards Strines Station where an acute left turn up a rocky gully towards Brook Bottom kept the suspensions working hard. Over on the Cobden Edge road it was like tackling ice floes and after hitting a particularly deep hole in the ice, Peter Hammond on his

Ossa looked as if he was going to attack the dry stone walling in third gear! Fortunately panic prevailed and he shut off.

Onwards then towards Rowarth where the fun really started with a 50 yard long strip of wet ice the full width of the track and uphill in the bargain. The Suzuki 125 of Paul Hammond seemed to prefer the horizontal approach and laid gently down, cushioned only by his vacuum flask! John Ward's MZ lost all forward motion but seemed happy to go sideways whilst Peter Hammond spent a little time with a worm's eye view. It should be noted here that Messrs Mainwaring, Potts and Cranmer having passed through relatively trouble-free were sitting like the three musketeers watching the fun from above.

From Hayfield the route went towards Chinley, passing various quarries and morosity stretches. Until we finally emerged onto the metalled roads and headed towards the A6 and Coombs. This stretch was interrupted to mend a rear puncture on the Suzuki which had acquired a five inch nail.

The track leads above Coombs Reservoir to eventually join up with a partly surfaced Roman road heading towards Buxton. Along here the wind cut through our clothing as if it wasn't there. More icy patches tested the improving skills of the group and were tackled quite uneventfully before finally reaching the A6 4 miles from Buxton. Geoff Mainwaring and his BuBaco now decided to break off and head back early leaving those remaining to set off for Whaley Bridge with John Cranmer's Triumph leading the way.

We crossed the Dam at the bottom of Fernielea Reservoir and onto a partially surfaced road towards Disley and finally, by way of several stoney tracks, came back through Brook Bottom, Swan Cobden Edge and Marple Bridge car park. The round trip of approx 40 miles, with about 10 miles of off the road going, was tackled with virtually no mud insight - it was all frozen solid!

John Ward

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#### Belle Vue Motor Cycle Show - 2 - 5th February

A great event for the club; I never bothered to walk round the rest of the show and my only regret is in missing the Silk. My thanks to Gordon Ruffley for insisting on a cash outlay for a decent stand at this event. We attracted a great deal of interest and many new members have since joined us. The RAC/ACU scheme in particular was the focus of a lot of attention. Peter Potts, John Ward, Gordon, Dave Lawson, George Long, Heather and Ron Weale all helped put the stand together and throughout the four days many more members took their turn as "shopkeepers". A great publicity exercise.

#### Committee Meeting - 9th February

The Dinner Dance was given a post-mortem and the only criticism was of the band. It was felt that the stand at Belle Vue was a worthwhile exercise.

#### RAC/ACU Committee - 11th February

Sixteen instructors (some new, some old) met at Virginia's to plan the new session which starts on March 7th at Cheadle Heath. Virginia reported 45 potential pupils had been in touch. Trevor expressed his delight with the new Suzuki which brings our rolling stock to 5.

Lectures were planned and subjects allocated to particular instructors. We are to ask appropriate authority for storage space at the centre.

#### Novice & Schoolboy Trial - 15th February by Arthur Edwards

Our second novice and youth division trial at Stonyfold Quarry resulted in a very enjoyable day for all, and a string of awards for our members. Very much to the front were the Hulme brothers, who blew off all the adults, followed by John Macdonald, Rick Stewart and Pete Stockles, with young Scott Rowland gaining yet another first class award in the under 14 age group.

The next two events in the calendar are the Inter Centre Team Sidecar Trial starting at the Fourways Diner on March 28th, and a Youth Division Championship trial on April 11th on private ground near "Sotter Dog" on the Macc-Buxton road.

Observers are needed for both these and future events and in order to maintain a high standard of making it is essential that club members with an interest in motor cycle sport make themselves available before the event. With a club the size of ours it is surely ridiculous that the only way to obtain observers is the press gang method, minutes before the event is due to start, a method which too often results in people with little knowledge, and even worse with no more than a passing interest, being recruited. Members willing to help, whether familiar with trials or not, please contact either Dave Rowland or Arthur Edwards on any club night, whom your offers will be gratefully accepted.

Finally, a word to the riders regarding the above, a few riders after completing a section for the last time offer a cheery wave and shout of thanks to the observer, most don't even notice he is there at all, some even grumble - the moral is obvious so "If thebeerp fits - wear it".

#### Club Run - Hawkestone Park - 15th February

Five bikes left the Rising Sun at 10.30am in fine morning sunshine and met the other three late risers in Macclesfield. We took the exciting winding road via Congleton and Newcastle to arrive at Hawkestone at noon. The meeting itself was excellent and the newcomers were most impressed with England's famous grand-prix circuit. We reckon Graham Joyce's performance was worth the admission fee alone. Leaving at 4.30 and pausing only to repair Alan Varoy's Stallion sardine tin we rode home via the Cheshire lanes.

Dave Tattersall

#### Club Run - Midland Bike Show - 22nd February

Only two bikers went to the Blackpool show in late January but this run attracted six riders. A straight burble down the M6 avoiding the Sunday motorists. One thing has been worrying us ever since, is that we "lost" a Norton 850 rider somewhere near junction 14 and haven't seen him since!

The Show was excellent, especially the filmshow including the Scrimon tribute and we had an amusing chat with Percy Tait. With thoughts of the chances of the new 380 Grooves Griffon and the Cotton trials against the Spanish exotic, and dreaming about the Silk Honda 550-4 and the new Rickmans, we left for home with lighter wallets and a collection of accessories.

Dave Tattersall

#### Inter Centre Sidecar Team Trial - Committee Meeting - Long and constructive.

#### The Debate - Club 24th February

This was the first attempt to hold an open discussion involving all the different factions in the clubroom. The objects are to get people to know each other despite their different motorcycling interests, and also to test the reaction to more frequent organised club-nights.

New members have no particular room to stretch themselves to and, I feel most people would prefer something "livelier" now and again - especially in place of a car film.

HOWEVER, we may have started on the wrong subject and some people got the wrong idea. It was all a bit tongue-in-cheek and John, Moses and I were merely trying to stir up some emotions to get a more constructive argument going! Dave Tattersall was most upset, thinking we ought not to introduce a subject which may split the club!

The topic was in fact "which type of motorcycling causes most nuisance and

therefore had publicity - off road trials and scrambles, OR road going events & runs. Taking the form of a proposition and a counter proposal, the issue was decided on a vote in favour of the off-road sports: they cause less annoyance.

Possible future topics;

TT or Mainland GP?

Compulsory lights on trials bikes?

Compulsion of any type (e.g. helmets)

The collapse of the British Industry.

Club Run - 29th February

Five wishful thinking members went on a Leap Year road run round Derbyshire but no young ladies threw themselves under the wheels of the group proposing marriage!

The nearest they came to this was when a Derbyshire Policewoman stopped them all for speeding in Dave Holes!

Leaving the Rising Sun the run led through Peak Forest, Peak Dale, Bakewell and Matlock to a chippy in Matlock Bath. Multitudes of other motorcyclists were seen enjoying the first tropical Sunday of the year. Moses was known to be out on the roads as well, giving his ex Frank Turner Horton an airing but perhaps Longner was too far for him!

After lunch the party headed home via Buxton, Jenkins Chapel and Rainow. The rain which drenched Moses on his suburban stroll was too late to catch the Club Captain's crew who were all back home by 4.00pm.

Dave, Dave, Dave, Rick, Rick & Vic

Don't forget to consult the calendar on the notice board. Club runs are all shown clearly and most of them start at the Rising Sun. All the British Sidecar Trials Championship rounds are shown so you can keep an eye on Jack Mathews and Ray Armstrong's progress. They came fourth in the recent East Anglian round.

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Don't forget! Speedway starts at Belle Vue on March 20th.

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PLEASE NOTE!

PERSONS UNDER 18 MUST NOT ATTEMPT TO BUY ANY DRINKS AT THE BAR OF THE ROBIN HOOD. ANYONE WHO DISOBEYS THIS CLUB RULE WILL BE BANNED FROM THE MANCHESTER '17' MCC.