



Northumbria Branch Newsletter

April/May 2010 (being the “Tappity John newsletter”, by Tappity John, Northumbria Scribe and friend of the Venemous Bede)

OK, we DID have an annual General meeting and 12 of us lot turned up. What happened? Well you may wish to know that –

Ossifers:

Dave Wardle has finally learned to spell “resign” – so he promptly handed in his notice. Clive Taylor Mark 2 (“Doctor Clive”) has taken up the job of secretary (brave man!). Clive can be found on:
Home - 0191 266 6088. e-mail - cetaylor@hotmail.co.uk .



Dave Wardle Resigning

Otherwise it is the same old faces –

Chairman: Bob Tym (who is also setting up a branch website! - see later -)

Money: Simon Murray

Newsletters: Your unfortunate scribe, who also goes under the name of John Powell.

Events: We are not going to have an “events” ossifer. The person “doing” the event will be the ossifer for that event. Watch this newsletter for further info, or check at club night!

Webmaster: well, we are going to have to have one. Bob is happy to take the website forward for the first year, but we are likely to be looking for volunteers next year, so get your excuses ready!

Dave is not disappearing, however – see later !

At this stage I would like to write a “thank you” to Dave for having been secretary and mainstay over a lot of years, and who enthusiastically introduced me to the joys of Northumbrian motorcycling, following my move back to this glorious region after some thirty-two years of living elsewhere.

Cash: we are if anything slightly better off than a year ago.

Branch subs stay at £5

What else is up?

Communication. Read this carefully!: It is intended to send to branch members only, BY MAIL (where it cannot get hacked into), a list of our contact phone numbers, so we can contact each other to liase on events etc. At the moment most of these will be land line numbers, as we do not have mobile numbers for everyone. It would be useful for your mobile number to be included. Texting by mobile might be easier than land-lines. If you want your mobile number to be included, could you e-mail or ‘phone it to the address at the foot of this letter? – or to Clive2.? Incidentally the Ontario Norton Owners, of whom I somehow became a member, are carrying out a similar exercise. But - IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR PARTICULARS SENDING TO OTHER BRANCH MEMBERS, MAKE SURE YOU TELL US!

Weekday evening rides out: We did a few of these a while back, but in recent years somehow it faded out. So the new system is that for the months with longer daylight (May, June, July), the ride-out night is the **Wednesday following the club night**. Ad-hoc planning will happen at the club night. Format for past rides-out included a pub stop with bar meal. She-persons sometimes came, as well.

Dave Wardle does not want to re-burden himself by actually organising these things, but he and your scribe are keen to participate, if not elsewhere at the time. We hope lots more of you do too! Once the web site is up and running we can use it to post rides out, too.

Other NOC Northumbria events in programme:

4-6 Jun. Wooler camp. As before, and a really good campsite. This event has been promoted in Roadholder! Various hostelrys in the town. Campsite is at the **North** end of the town. Go to town centre and look for sign at North end of High street. As before, Jim Fraser will be staking out the site on the Friday, but on this occasion may have to leave Sat, so we will have to play by ourselves.

25-27 June: Ugthorpe Hall camp, near Whitby (on left side of A171 as you head towards Whitby approx 2 ½ miles beyond end of Scaling Dam reservoir) : Described as being “like a continental site”. B&B also available on site. Dave Wardle is your contact. 01670 820424. (See! He re-appears!)

22-25 July, Coniston: Coniston Hall Campsite. Approx 1 miles S. of Coniston town, opposite a church is a turning down to the hall. Dates will be Thurs. 23rd to 26th July to correspond with the Great Cumbria Steam Rally. Contact is, again, Dave Wardle. NOTE! This place gets so booked up that you need to contact Dave ahead of time if you intend to go, so he can book you in. If you just arrive, you may find no space!

August, Sunday 1st Aug : Tyne Valley Classic Bike club’s show – see below.

Late Aug at the IOM, and by popular request, Northumbria NOC will again be official “greeters” at the Manx Reunion, at the Shore Hotel, Laxey. A group from Northumbria will be riding over. Talk to Clive Taylor mark 2, our new sec. (see above). Manx GP races 25 Aug-3rd Sept.

17th - 19th Sept. The Middleton-in-Teesdale camp: campsite on southern edge of the town, just across the river. If you hear reports that the village is running low on pubs, don't panic, because there is a bar at the campsite, usually with bar meals. Your contact is, again, Dave Wardle.

Kamtrek: Clive Taylor, mark 1, alias the Motorcycling god, is planning this for the 26th of Sept.

Also:

At the moment it is Clive2, Simon Murray, and your scribe, going to the International in Spain!

Tayside branch are putting on a rally at Braemar, 10-12 Sept.

Ian and Joyce Crooks were talking about going to Noton Day, in Norfolk.

And if all the above is not enough to be going on with, there are other NOC main club and (other) branch events (see "Roadholder", or NOC website)

A list of other events of interest is at the end of this major publication.

Apology from Jim Fraser:

Jim apologised for not having brought his exhibition Rotary engine to the AGM, but has not been able to complete the special trailer for it, and without this, it is too heavy to handle into places like the Melton Constable. And, anyhow, I did not confirm with him before announcing he would be bringing it (he suggested the idea last November!), so we are all to blame and grovel before you.



"Thank God that A.G.M is over!"

Re: Stamfordham Rally/Gathering:

As many will remember, the big Corbridge show mutated into the Stamfordham meet. In between there were various changes of site, and of organiser. The original show featured stands from all the classic bike clubs. The Stamfordham gathering is organised by the Tyne Valley Classic Bike Club. It happened for the first time

at Stamfordham in 2008, as primarily a Tyne Valley Club gathering where other “classic” clubs could put up stands. Early in 2009, the pub (and catering) closed, and the organisers tried to shift the venue to the Robin Hood on the military road, where space would actually have been quite constrained. Last minute problems with this site coincided with the Stamfordham pub re-opening, so there was a last-minute shift back to Stamfordham.

However in the course of this, this affair has (I think unintentionally) shrunk back to being closer to just a Tyne Valley club meet, though other “Classic” riders do turn up. In 2008, only 2 other clubs had actual stands – the Enfield lot and ourselves, though other clubs did ride in. In 2009, we were the only stand other than the Tyne Valley club, but with just a weeks’ notice maybe that is not surprising.

Speaking to Robin Watson of the Tyne Valley Club, he would welcome other club stands, but got little response in 2009, though the confusion about the site may well have had something to do with it.

This year he asked me that, if any of our members are also in other classic clubs (AJS/Matchless, BSA, etc), could they try to “Ginger” up these groups to come and exhibit? So – over to you on that one!

From our point of view, if we wish to exhibit, a re-vitalised Stamfordham has much to offer. It is reasonably close to town. It is particularly pretty. Food and drink on tap. Friendly natives – the Womens’ Institute even put on a tea and cakes stand! But it seems we may need to help build up this event. At the same time, Robin wishes to keep the promotion by word of mouth, I think to avoid getting swamped by Harleys etc, not to mention beautiful modern bikers in gorgeous leathers.

This year I cannot “do” the stand. Simon and Clive2 have volunteered. Last year, with less than a week’s notice, 1/3 of our members attended. Pretty good! Only they did not stay long, did not always bring their Nortons, and did not come at the same time. Why not come and make a morning of it and stay over lunch? A line-up of Nortons looks good, and if we can get some good pics showing them all, we should be able to get a cash contribution from the main club.

SO – come and support Simon and Clive!!

Web Site: The following from Bob Tym, who is labouring mightily:

You may have noticed the Norton Owners’ Club now has a new look website with they introduced in January this year. You can find it at www.nortonownersclub.org

The new website has links to branches. A few branches have their own website but for the majority, including the Northumbria branch, there is a link to a simple placeholder page. When I saw this I felt that the time had come for us to see if we could develop our own branch website. I had a few ideas but was uncertain about how the website was hosted. However on speaking to Chris Grimmett, he told me that the National Committee was keen to see more branches set up their own websites and that if we didn’t want anything too complicated it could be done by Peter White (who is a Member of the Surrey Branch and is responsible for the new look national club website.) As I mentioned at the AGM, I’ve now made some progress and we will soon be ready to go live, but first we need a bit more input.

And this is where you can all help by submitting content to me either by email to robert.tym@googlemail.com or, if you prefer more traditional means of communication, you can pass stuff onto me at club nights or post it to me. (26, St.Leonard’s Walk, Lancaster Park, Morpeth, N’Land, NE61 3SZ) As I mentioned, our branch website is based on the Surrey site at

<http://www.surrey.nortonownersclub.org/index.html> . Have a look at that for ideas.

Our own site is to be found at

<http://northumbria.nortonownersclub.org>

If you send me photos of your bike, please let me know roughly what you want to have as a description. It’s up to you. It’s our website and we will control it.

By the way, so far it has cost us nothing at all. - Bob

Footnote from Tappity: Some concern was expressed at the AGM about showing our bikes on the web site, lest it encourage thieves. But it is a pity not to have them there. Various precautions were discussed, including first name only for owner, or no name at all, and to make sure registration plates were not readable. I had a look at some other sites:

The Surrey site shows bikes including full names of owners, but no registrations visible.
The Yorkshire site, in some cases, shows the lot.

Well, it's up to you. I am sure Bob can accommodate whatever degree of anonymity you would like.

John Park's ES2

John joined us recently. He has an ES2 (or what he describes as an "ES2-ish") in bits. He seems to be restoring it less for originality than for speed. (witness the Mikuni he is attaching to that cast iron head). Maybe he hopes to get more out of it than the Ducati he is selling. Date? - "something 1950's." Frame? "Rigid back end" - John wanted this. Anyhow as he lives close by, I should be able to get more pics of the project as it continues.

John also has an Austin-Healey Sprite which is reputed to have a wicked performance. He has suggested that, for a change, the odd Norton might like to join one of the Healey (not Harley!) ride/drive-outs. The local Healey club seems to like the idea. What could be better for them than Norton outriders?
Anyhow, does this idea appeal? It is certainly a generous offer.



You have to start somewhere

Don Richards

Yes, he is also into another project – more on this later.

Oh, at our Xmas meet (16 Dec, there's planning ahead!), Dawn is going to treat us to tasty snacks!

Other events of interest, 2010 (Courtesy of Dave Wardle)

9th May: Kielder Castle vintage and vehicle show. Possible run out?

30th May: Bikes at Belsay, free if you put your bike on show. If Stamfordham ultimately fails us, could this be an alternative venue for a club stand in future - ?

4-6 June: Summer beer festival at the 3 Horseshoes – for those not attending Wooler?

6th June: Thirlstane Castle show. Combine with Wooler camp?

20th June: Rothbury Vintage Vehicle Show - possible run out?

4th July: Glendale show, near Wooler. Possible run out?

10-11 July: Scarborough racing, Oliver's Mount

18 July: Otterburn Festival. Possible run out?

6-8 August: Pickering steam traction engine show - lots of bikes. Friday best day.

15th August: "Bikewise", Durham Police Motorcycle show at Aykley heads (provis.). Possible run out?

10-12 Sept. Tayside branch are putting on a rally at Braemar.

17th October: Brunton Tractor Show, Brunton Airfield, near Alnwick. Good selection of bikes. Possible run out?

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