

Editorial

Some very sad news from the Isle of Man with the tragic death of David Jefferies. Perhaps not many of our number would have met David but I am sure that most are aware that the Jefferies surname is well lost in the midst of Yorkshire folklore what with the exploits of his father, uncle and grandfather. The obit in the Telegraph recounted that when his birth was imminent a mad dash was made back to the land of Yorkshire to ensure that David was born in the county in case he became 'hot property' in the cricket world but as we are all aware he became 'hot property' in the motorcycling world. A person who is quite unique at the top echelons of his sport in that he lived for riding his bikes, wherever and whenever. Our thoughts go out to his family and many friends.

Received a fax from Pedro Eaves a few days ago - well in reality I received two faxes, the first one was a bit on the garbled side. Seems that our technological wizard had written the message on the back of an old corn flakes packet or somesuch and of course it wouldn't feed itself through the fax machine! Oh, the wonders of modern gadgetry!

Anyway, the purpose of the fax was to let us all know about a Bike Show that is taking place at Meldreth, Nr Royston, Herts on Wednesday evening, 18th June starting at 6.30 pm. Apparently it is a charitable event and a very good one.

The next Tim's Tour is this coming Saturday, 7th June, starting from 'The Alma' at 5.30 pm and will take you on a tour of about 25 miles. I wonder which 'chippie' it will finish up at?

Mike Harden informs me that he is organising another Plonkaround at Raydon on Saturday 21st June starting at noon. Well you all know the rest now don't you.

Seems that Essex has had to replace its helicopter Air Ambulance with a newer, bigger, version. Can't be because of all the use it is getting from 'our lot' surely! I hope that John Beet and Jeff Stott are making satisfactory progress back to full mobility.

Organisation for the afternoon/evening event taking place at the Leonard Cheshire home in Great Bromley is proceeding apace. Chief bottlewasher Mick Brown informs me that the format will be similar to last year but with the bonus of entertainment in the 'shape' of "Spirit of the East", a belly dance troupe from that well known Egyptian resort of Clacton.

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The June Plonkatound

Raydon Pit, Wades Lane, Raydon, Nr Ipswich, Suffolk

Saturday 21st June 2003

Start: 12.00 noon

Trials practise for:

Pre 65 solos • Pre 65 sidecars • Twin Shocks

Youths • Twin Shock sidecars

Mick informs me that section sponsors are still required. It must be appreciated that all the proceeds will be going towards the running of this very worthwhile facility.

Sadly, this year it would seem that we are unlikely to have the services of the army. Don't know the reason but it has nothing to do with a lack of 'naughty boys' but more a case of lack of 'good boys' to look after them. Perhaps 'our Tone' has sent them all to Iraq to keep the Iraqis in line!

As you will see from the various adverts relating to the event, the entry has been limited to 40 on logistic grounds, and of course it is essential to know the number who will be turn up so that the BBQ can be arranged accordingly.

Tracey and I are hopeful of being able to attend this year as last year we, or at least Tracey, was required to spend the day in the palatial surroundings (I think not) of A-C.U. Headquarters at Rugby.

I have included an article by Dick Hobart which first appeared in 'Power Up', the magazine of the Museum of Power at Langford which describes a visit to the National Motor Boat Museum in Basildon. Now, be honest, you didn't even know that such a museum existed did you and especially in that well known mecca of the boating classes!

The Harley Girls are proving to be quite popular and I am now getting additional contributions of pictures for future issues. Of course we may have some Harley girls closer to home if members of Spirit of the East disport themselves over one of our members Harleys at the BBQ trial.

I hope you enjoyed the article by Don Daley regarding his use of a dyno. I must admit I found it very interesting. Back about the time that Moses was coming down off the mountain on his Triumph and I was an apprentice, I had a day trip to Messrs Heenan and Froude, then and perhaps even now, the world leaders in the design, construction and use of dynamometers. At the time they were proudly showing off their largest dyno which was to be installed at Crompt-

ton Parkinsons in Chelmsford for use with the latest diesel electric railway locos. Is there anyone out there that remembers that particular set up at the Writtle Road site? I believe that a special siding had been constructed into the works for the locos to be taken right into the works and I know that the railway lines were still in existence when I worked there in the 70s, long after the demise of Crompton Parkinson.

The monsoon edition of the Scottish Two Plus Six Days Trial has been and gone. I believe that most who went enjoyed themselves even though they got wetter on the outside than on the inside which is a bit of an anacronism when compared with the times I was a regular visitor to Lochaber.

Once again I must give our thanks to 'regular' photographer, Roy Ayres, for some photographs of this years event. I believe that Roy was undertaking observer duties with Brian Neale.

Trevor Kemp made a 'flying' visit to this country from his present country of residence, the U.S. of A. to take part - dunno whether his employers paid the fare but they were the main sponsors of the event. Trevor keeps the James in storage and Dave Field was contacted by the organisers to arrange transport of the machine to and from the event.

At first I was very sorry, and slightly annoyed, to hear about the penalty given to John Kendall and 'some' others for having tubeless tyres without a tube on their bikes. However, I understand that this restriction was quite prominent in the regs but cynically, I do wonder how many of the 'favoured names' got away, pardon the pun, 'scot free'. Comments made to me indicate that reality states that the number of 21st century machinery is still on the increase.

Graham Steward would appear have enjoyed his ride, or should it have been a long walk or march, on the Jarrow but I gather it took a few days before the correct type of feeling came back into his lower limbs!

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On the modern side, it was nice to see that Mark Kemp managed to finish the event even though the odds were very much against him. I hope that the charity he was riding for, Guide Dogs for the Blind, do well out of his endeavours.

Many of you know Southend stalwart Keith Nichols. Keith whose stature could remind one of certain brick outbuildings became the latest in a fast growing line to require the services of a rescue helicopter. Whilst recovering a competitor's machine, the competitor having previously been removed from the moors by off road ambulance, Keith came a cropper to put it mildly and without the help and assistance of a passing back packer would not be with us now. Keith was in a state of shock and the back packers tent and sleeping bag became a real life saver. We wish Keith a full and speedy recovery.

Now that ownership of Harleys within the E.F.A. is beginning to rival that of Henfields, I believe the time has come for there to be an E.F.A. hat, you know, something to rival the leather and chains much loved of 'The Village People' and their followers. Perhaps we should have a competition for the best design? I have a few ideas but of course the finished article must have 'posing cred!'

Does this mean that I view Harley riders as poseurs? - surely not!

Saturday 14th June will see Tracey and I venturing south of the river to visit Horsmunden for 'Joan's trial' and as an added bonus, to celebrate her 60th birthday which takes place on Friday 13th. Doesn't seem possible but Joan is in all probability one of the longest serving organiser/riders in the country, only having had breaks for the mending of 'broken bits' since her 16th birthday! Yes, and she is still riding well and finishing the Scottish! I hope that we will not be alone at this, the first Ilford MC event for several years. Why Horsmunden? The land is owned by Joan's brother Mike Holloway.

Elsewhere you will see an advert for 'The Sheene Run', an event that is centred on Rugby. Quite what form it will take I am not certain but I understand the proceeds will be going to charities that were supported by Barry before his untimely death. By the way, (substantial) rumour has it that Barry used to ride trials in the Eastern Centre whilst underage and using an assumed name. Perhaps HE was that cheeky kid you rode around with!

Best wishes,

Jim

Secretarys Scribblings

Enjoyed our first run out on the "old" Triumph when we trundled over to Maylandsea to have a look at the Pre-65 Motocross Club meeting there. It was a smashin' afternoon, with plenty to watch on land and water as the tide came in and brought lots of little sailing boats with it. Must admit we didn't take too much notice of who was doing what in the solo races but the sidecars were brilliant. The Pre-65 Motocross Club boys are busy at the moment with Great Bardfield, Tye Farm and the Bonanza coming up, plus other events a bit further afield, now they come under the AMCA umbrella.



Passes for the Weeting Steam Engine Rally and Country Show are being distributed during June so if you've been toying with the idea of taking your bike(s) along now's the time to make up your mind and give Chris Bater a ring - 01473 622550. You don't have to go for all three days. Friday 18th is more of a setting up day.

If you like road biking you'll love the first weekend in June when you can join us on Tim's Tour No. 2 on the Saturday evening and then take part in the Triangle Club Treasure Hunt on the Sunday (mind you I think the closing date for the Treasure Hunt might have passed by now so if you haven't sent off your entry form it's probably a bit late)

Regs for the Charity Barbecue Trial will be distributed tonight. If you don't get a copy please come and ask. As we need to know numbers for catering, entries will close on 1st July (Club Nite) We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.



Saturday 5th July at 4 pm



Received a request from the Newmarket Club to let members know about an event they are organising throughout the summer months for road bikers. They have come up with 25 places in East Anglia for you to ride to, anytime you like, just prove you and your bike have been there by photographs and easy clues. Full details and an entry form are available from Chris Curtis at 37 Wingfield Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk. IP27 9HR or cw.curtis@ukonline.co.uk

Heather

Harley Girls



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SSDT 2003



Our 'favourite' traffic warden
(but not for much longer!),
Joan Westbrook on her C15



Trevor Kemp on his James.
Trevor was possibly the fur-
thest travelled competitor,
now being resident in the
U.S. of A.



Photographs courtesy of:
Roy Ayres





A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT

The management team of Tims Tours would like to bring to your notice the following events which are being mounted for your enjoyment.

7th June leaving 'The Alma' at 5.30 pm (25 miles approx)
26th July leaving from 'The Alma' (details yet to be finalised)

The Management

And Finally

A woman brought a very limp parrot into a veterinary surgery. As she lay her pet on the table, the Vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two the Vet shook his head sadly and said, 'I'm so sorry, Polly has passed away.' The distressed owner wailed, 'Are you sure? I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something.'



The Vet rolled his eyes, shrugged, turned and left the room, returning a few moments later with a beautiful black labrador. As the bird's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the dead parrot from top to bottom. He then looked at the Vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The Vet fussed the dog and took it out, but returned a few moments later with a cat!



The cat jumped up and also sniffed delicately at the ex-bird. The cat sat back, shook its head, meowed and ran from the room. The Vet looked at the woman and said, 'I'm sorry, but like I said, your parrot is most definitely, 100% certifiably dead.'



He then turned to his cornputer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill which he handed to the woman. The parrot's owner, still in shock, took the bill. '£150 just to tell me my bird is dead?' The Vet shrugged. 'If you'd taken my word for it the bill would only have been £20. But what with the Lab report and the Cat Scan...'

LEONARD CHESHIRE

Essex



Charity Barbecue Trial

Saturday July 5th 2003

at

Seven Rivers, Hall Road, Gt Bromley, Colchester, Essex
(on the B1029 between Ardleigh rail crossing and the Old Courthouse P.H.)

Trial starts at 4 pm
Followed by Barbecue at 7 pm
with entertainment by



**Spirit
of the
East**

Grand Raffle & Bar

*Still time to enter, entries close Tuesday July 1st (club night).
Entries limited to 40 riders.*

*Sponsors still required for sections - £25 shares or £100 per section.
Price includes free advertising on the section and in the programme*

Contact Mick Brown for further details 01206 250462

Learn to love your Computer...

by Tracey



A while ago, whilst Jim and I had our thinking caps on trying to work out what I should write about this month, he said I tend to be very serious when I talk about computing and computers. Perhaps he's right, but then, my sense of humour has always tended to be somewhat lacking in terms of being witty. I'm not a witty person and never have been - and I don't suppose I ever will be! I can appreciate humour but I'm afraid that what others seem to find hilarious on the TV leaves me absolutely stone cold, i.e. programs like Fawlty Towers and Monty Python. Anyway the upshot of our deliberations is that we decided the theme this month should be "Anti-Virus Software Revisited".

This is a serious topic and one which **MUST** be taken seriously if you want to protect your computer **AND** all those for whom you have email addresses in your address book. For the last few years, the twisted people who write these viruses have been becoming ever more innovative and have been finding ever more cunning ways to catch us out and it is all too easy for the unwary to fall into their evil traps.

To avoid picking up a virus it is essential that you install an anti-virus program that can detect any virus that may try to get onto your computer. There are many such programs around these days and many have been shown to do the job. However, whatever anti-virus program you use, it will **ONLY** do its job if you keep the virus definitions up to date! This is essential. Before you say you are protected, ask yourself when you last updated the virus definitions - and please remember this: **ALL** antivirus programs have new virus definitions available at least once per week, one even has a new virus definition file available every day!!! So, **IF YOU HAVE NEVER UPDATED YOUR DEFINITION FILES YOU ARE NOT PROTECTED**, your anti-virus program will **NEVER** detect the current crop of viruses. To do that you **MUST** download the latest virus definition files and I urge you to do so without delay.

There are some anti-virus programs which provide a "Liveupdate" feature which automatically connects to the internet, looks to see if there are any new virus definitions available and downloads and automatically installs them if found but until recent years, you have had to start the Liveupdate feature yourself. One such program is Norton Antivirus which for many years (and versions), has had the Liveupdate feature. However, since Norton Antivirus 2002, it has had a feature which does everything automatically, it detects when you are online and starts looking on the appropriate site and then continues from there doing everything "in the background". I didn't even know about this feature until one day a little yellow box popped up telling me the viruses had been updated. Since then I have persuaded Norman Blakemore that this is the program to have and he's found it an advantage in a big way.

As to the viruses currently doing the rounds, there is one that I've had any number of just recently making itself out to have come from Microsoft Support (support@microsoft.com) and with an attachment - THIS IS A VIRUS, DO NOT OPEN ANY ATTACHMENT AT ALL. The first thing you should do is to delete the message and any attachment you may have received. Believe me, you'll be doing yourself - and your friends in particular, a very big favour. Why? The following explanation is particularly true if you use Outlook Express - users of other programs also need to be very careful although they may not be quite so susceptible to such virus attacks.

The recent crop of viruses have a nasty habit of looking in your address book and will attach itself to a file and send it to everyone in your address book. It doesn't stop there though, they are cunning enough to send the email as though it were coming from someone else in your address book rather than from you. For example, lets say you have myself and Jim in your address book. We both have Norton Antivirus 2002 installed and we know our PCs are "clean". Nevertheless, the virus on your PC could finish up sending me an email with an infected attachment which appears to have come from Jim! Do you get my meaning? It probably doesn't stop there either in that having been activated on your PC, it may well have opened your PC up to attack by hackers who could have ready access to everything on your PC. This last bit to be honest is a bit unlikely and I believe it to be more likely aimed at big business and governments - or anywhere where there may be confidential information stored, e.g. doctors surgeries and hospitals.

As you can see, virus protection is a subject which must be taken seriously and please, ensure you update your virus definitions regularly and do a scan of your PC regularly as well just to ensure some nasty blighter hasn't crept by when your PC wasn't looking!

As always, if you have any questions then please feel free to call and we will be only too pleased to help. Our number is on the inside front cover of the newsletter.



Same Trial, Different Date...

It was in November 2002 that we rode the Jack Lilley Trial at Bagshot Heath and thoroughly enjoyed the slippery and muddy conditions on the day. So you can imagine what a surprise it was when regulations for the next! Jack Lilley Trial came tumbling through the letterbox in the following February. This popular event was now scheduled for the 30th March 2003! instead of the usual month of November.

Consequently some of the regular riders never made it but a good few who are not normally there did. So it was 'even stevens' as far as entry numbers were concerned with several unfamiliar faces and a few more 'long time no see' acquaintances who had turned up for the days sport.

Another very good trial was ridden in dry and sunny conditions this time, with, of course, tighter than usual sections due to good grip at the rear wheel. But! This grip didn't last for every lap as the dry and loose earth started to cut up with plenty of deep ruts appearing on tight uphill turns. This changing ground made sure that not one competitor went clean on the day, although, four riders did manage to stay in single figures.

Bernard Rodemark won the Jack Lilley Cup with 3 marks lost, and his arch-riding companion Stan Metcalf runner up on 7 lost. Alan Shorter, a regular rider in this event was hot on Stan's heels with a great ride and only 9 lost. Well done to those men and their rigid bikes!

Winner of the Thurlow Cup (for pre-unit springer's) on the harder route was Graham Barton who had a brilliant ride to loose just 8 marks. Great stuff!



The unit construction bikes compete for the Steve Lilley Cup in this event and as always its hotly contested. Roger Wait was declared the winner for 2003 and he just went into double figures with a frittering away of 14 marks. For the record this just shows how dry weather and tighter sections can be really tricky, even for the lighter and more agile machines. Obviously a lack of bottom end power is a distinct disadvantage in these almost deep sand type of conditions.

Characters abound in this type of event and unknowingly 'Birthday Boy' Bob Onley was about to be set up by his partner Lynn Hutton, who was safely a million miles away at work, somewhere near Sevenoaks! Lynn had pre-arranged with Sue Blanchard to do the surreptitious honours of presenting him with a surprise chocolate birthday cake plus a vociferous rendition of 'Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to You, etc. etc.' This was to be 'executed' in the middle of Bagshot Heath car park with a spellbound audience of 'hairy armed' trials riders looking on in sheer amazement! Another character called George Smith was supposed to bring the cake along to give to Sue but he turned up on his road bike so had nowhere to carry it. Now Lynn as well as being a 'super road motorcyclist' is also one 'helluva' story teller and she had convinced Bob that the package was some special slimming pastries that she had promised to Sue who was getting desperate. So, if he would kindly pass them on to her at Bagshot Heath that would be great. Now men will do anything for their lovely women (just to humour them of course), so he fell for this plausible story hook line and stinker! At the end of the trial Bob had no where to hide, and this is when Sue, assisted by Bett Wright, lit the one and only little candle after planting it in the middle of the cake as a symbol of Lynns love. Carefully the two shielded its passionate flame from the gentle breeze as they slowly passed the heavy fumes coming from the leaking petrol tank of an ex army Ariel 350 which had expired half way through the trial. Somehow they survived to arrive at Bobs van where a few previously informed choristers had quietly assembled. After a loud and off tune rendition of Bob's least favourite song had finally stopped echoing around Bagshot Heath, it was time for him to cut the cake. Up until now I have avoided mentioning the size of this chocolate wonder because it was similar in size to a 1920's front brake drum from the technical era when rear brakes were considered to be the most important of the two! But the day was saved as Bob's engineering skills enabled him to cut it into 52 neat and slim little pieces, which was a slice for every trials rider who had competed on the day.

The 'Bagshot Singers' who appeared in this article were, tenors Bett & Ron Wright, rapper George Smith, and baritone's Sue & Dave Blanchard. These talented people can be pre- booked for the next trial in your area, at very cheap rates. Just before going to press they have signed a new contract with Pete Waterman enterprises.

Consequently a name change was needed to forward their career, so in the hope that they will appeal to the younger set their new name will be the 'Idle Pop Gold Stars'.

Dave Blanchard

Well, I Never!

On a beautiful Spring day, Sunday March 16th, I had the onerous task of leading a Vintage Motor Cycle Club run from Writtle Green by a circuitous route through west and south Essex, to our chosen destination for the day, the National Motor Boat Museum at the Wat Tyler Country Park, Pitsea. We usually get between 10 and 20 members on our Sunday runs, depending on the weather, so I was quite pleased when I arrived at the starting point to find half a dozen bikes already waiting. Another group followed me in and then they just kept on arriving. By the time the start time arrived there were no less than 44 bodies on 42 machines! The bikes ranged from a 1920's four-in-line Henderson to a 250 Yamaha which just scraped inside our minimum 25 years old rule, with almost everything imaginable in between. The riders had come from all over the place with the furthest coming down from Norwich, a couple from Ipswich and a group from London. It must have been the weather!

Apart from one member suffering a puncture the run itself went very well, with many riders glimpsing parts of Essex they had never seen before. Some people reading this will be familiar with the Boat Museum - if not, I can recommend a visit. It is extremely well laid out, very clean, tidy and presentable, with a host of interesting exhibits.

There were a couple of exhibits of particular interest to us motorcycling brigade which came into the "Well, I never!" bracket, of which no one had prior knowledge. The first involved the display of British Seagull outboard motors, a marque with which even non-boat enthusiasts must be familiar, and which were extremely popular until the advent of the Evinrude and, more recently, Japanese units. What we didn't know was that John Marston & Co., the firm which gave us the much loved Sunbeam motorcycles, produced a range of outboard motors between the wars which were known as "Marston Seagulls". After a few years of production this branch of the company was apparently sold off (probably coinciding with the acquisition of the Sunbeam marque by Matchless Motorcycles) with the new owners keeping the "Seagull" name but with the prefix "British" - hence British Seagull. So the first British Seagull outboard motor was really a Sunbeam! The only disappointment was that the data sheet accompanying the very fine example of a Marston Seagull in the Museum, referred to a Lucas flywheel magneto whereas it is well known that John Marston's son developed the flywheel magneto which he called the Villiers magneto, named after the street in Wolverhampton where he had his works. A brief inspection of the engine showed that it indeed sported a Villiers flywheel magneto. In fact, I may be wrong, but I don't believe Lucas produced such a unit at that time.



BRITISH SEAGULL

The first Outboard Motor in the World

The second "Well, I never!" centred on an early post war exhibit which could well have been the forerunner of today's Jet Skis (and the least said about those the better!). This contraption, called a "Power Ski", consisted of two very wide skis with a high handle containing a couple of basic controls linked to an outboard motor at the rear, the driver adopting a standing position rather like a



water skier. We were surprised to note that this brave venture was produced by none other than the Bond Minicar Company. Most motorcycle clubs in the fifties had one or two owners of Bonds in their ranks. Being lightweight (some would say flimsy) three-wheelers with motorcycle engines their presence was welcomed, but I wonder how many motorcyclists or Bond owners from that era were aware of this maritime product of the same name. Can anyone recall seeing this unique craft in use?

These two little snippets helped to add to the enjoyment of a perfect end to a perfect day and just go to show that there is always something new and interesting to learn, wherever you go.

Dick Hobart

(reproduced with permission from Power Up, the magazine of the Museum of Power, Langford)



The Wit of Tommy Cooper R.I.P.

Tommy Cooperisms. to brighten up the day.

Phone answering machine message - ". . .

If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key. . ."

Lies . . .

One day, while a woodcutter was cutting a branch off a tree above a river, his axe fell into the river. When he cried out, the Lord appeared and asked, "Why are you crying?" The woodcutter replied that his axe has fallen into water.

The Lord went down into the water and reappeared with a golden axe.

"Is this your axe?" the Lord asked.

The woodcutter replied, "No."

The Lord again went down and came up with a silver axe.

"Is this your axe?" the Lord asked.

Again, the woodcutter replied, "No."

The Lord went down again and came up with an iron axe.

"Is this your axe?" the Lord asked.

The woodcutter replied, "Yes."

The Lord was pleased with the man's honesty and gave him all three axes to keep, and the woodcutter went home happily.

One day while he was walking with his wife along the riverbank, the woodcutter's wife fell into the river.

When he cried out, the Lord again appeared and asked him, "Why are you crying?"

"Oh Lord, my wife has fallen into the water!"

The Lord went down into the water and came up with Jennifer Lopez.

"Is this your wife?" the Lord asked.

"Yes," cried the woodcutter.

The Lord was furious. "You cheat! That is an untruth!"

The woodcutter replied, "Oh, forgive me, my Lord. It is a misunderstanding. You see, if I said 'No' to Jennifer Lopez, You will come up with Catherine Zeta-Jones. Then if I also say 'No' to her, You will thirdly come up with my wife, and I will say 'Yes,' and then all three will be given to me. But Lord, I am a poor man and I will not be able to take care of all three wives, so that's why I said Yes this time."

The moral of the story is whenever a man lies it is for an honorable and useful reason.



Jennifer Lopez

End Thought . . .

Never put off until tomorrow what you can avoid altogether.