



Northumbria Branch Newsletter

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

The first season of the next decade is well under way. So What’s next?

I’m doing this newsletter in advance by remote control – and by the time you get this you could have already missed:

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 Wardle ahead of time if you intend to go, so he can book you in. If you just arrive, you may find no space!

*But soon after you should get this, there **will be**:*

Stamfordham Rally/Gathering: August, Sunday 1st Aug : (Tyne Valley Classic Bike club’s show) **SUPPORT SIMON AND CLIVE2, AND RELIEVE YOUR TAPPITY SCRIBE OF HIS GUILT!**
This year I cannot “do” the stand. Simon and Clive2 have volunteered, because your scribe is away AGAINN! 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!! And bring your Nortons!!

Wed 4th August: another evening ride out! See below, re. rides out!

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. Don’t miss the last camp of the season! Your contact is, again, Dave Wardle.

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

And – the story so far: News has come in about:

First, Clive2’s report on the Wooler camp, which your scribe could not attend being “all at sea” at the time. It appears the camp was not without its “alarms and excursions”:

NORTHUMBRIA BRANCH CAMPING WEEKEND 4-6 JUNE, WOOLER

This year we were blessed with excellent weather for the majority of the weekend, i.e. Friday and Saturday. Jim Fraser did an excellent job in getting to the camp site in good time on the Friday morning and securing the usual part of the camp site. This was vital for two reasons. Firstly the camp site was heaving with caravanners due to the good weather. Secondly there was a record turn out, namely 18 attendees (including 1 Saturday visitor), of which 9 were Northumbria branch members and 3 Edinburgh branch members. Equally impressive was the presence of 10 Nortons (11 including Bob Tym's Triton which is registered as a Norton!).

With this number of people, combined with good weather, we were very grateful to Jim for providing refreshments and tables and chairs. This made for a good, relaxed, social atmosphere..

On Saturday Bob led a ride out of 6 Nortons to the Cheviots and across the Otterburn ranges. Another group went to Lindisfarne and the coast. A satisfactory amount of traditional 'wardling' took place in the public houses of Wooler on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

The weather forecast for Sunday was very poor so everyone left the camp site first thing on Sunday morning before the heavy rain started in the afternoon.

Overall the weekend was a great success and we will have to try very hard to match it next year. Getting even more members from other NOC branches would be a step in that direction.

What else has been up? Well, weekday evening rides out:

The system is working! A set date, the Wednesday following the club night has got enough minds focussed to get things really running. In fact your scribe cannot remember when there were last so many rides out. (though the weather may have helped). But Clive2 has been active, as well.

The first, in May, took in Morpeth, the Simonside hills, Rothbury and the Angler's Inn. Most notable event was a deer or large antelope-thing leaping across the road in a single bound about one thou in front of the Tappity Dommi. No time even to be frightened. But talking to people about this, it seems more people have had incidents with deer than I realised. So -- take particular care on evening rides out, as deer like to come out at dusk. Keep an eye on the undergrowth by the road in wooded areas. However, as the Canadians told us, the 0-60 acceleration of a deer is two strides, so deer could just be a form of Russian roulette.

The second: Report follows from an ebullient Clive Taylor Mark Two:

A CANDLELIT DINNER FOR THREE

The evening of 2nd June was one of those beautiful summer evenings that we have all waited for and deserved. I didn't get back from my cycling holiday in France until two days before so I could give people only very little notice for the Wednesday evening ride out. A number of 'ride out stalwarts' were unavailable for a number of reasons e.g. messing about in boats, so the turn out was shall we say on the low side. Three to be precise. However as they say it's quality rather than quantity that counts.

Dave (Captain) Wardle, Sean Molloy, and myself met in the Three Horse Shoes car park at 6.30pm. Sean incidentally is a NAM member who apart from owning some Italian exotica also has a very handsome Norton Commando. The ratio of Nortons to other (inferior) motorcycles was two to one.

The route comprised of riding to Morpeth and ending at the Bay Horse pub in Stamfordham via a cross country route via Cambo and Little Bavington. Delightful on such a lovely summer evening (just to make everyone else jealous!). Once settled in the pub we had, you've guessed it - a candlelit dinner for three.



The Third:

Now 6 bikes, (with the seventh lost). Rothbury, Calaly, Alnwick with sit-down meal (See pic!). This thing is growing. Indeed Clive2 is taking a lot of time off his preferred retirement occupation of helping hedgehogs across motorways, and really trying to make these rides work. He plans another after July club night.

Another Norton Prize-Winner! (Message received from Simon).

Neil Hall won first prize for “best British Bike” at the Gary Routledge memorial run 31st May. And here he is. Congratulations!



Tales of old Orkney

An astonishing flurry of activity in a place which is not, well, exactly centrally located –

First your scribe rode there and back to acquire a “Norton”, for the “Norton Challenge”. (What’s Norton Challenge? - see “RealClassic” and “Roadholder”.)

He then returned on board of “Obsession B”, and, on arrival, he got a phone call from Bob and Ginetta Tym, announcing they shortly arrive at the Orkney ferry. - And a phone call from John Park (recently joined), to announce he was already in Orkney, as he has a holiday cottage (and a Triumph bike) there. There is no escaping these Norton nerds!!

Branch Web Site Progress:

Little news here. Bob has been labouring mightily, but is now stuck in a “pause”, waiting for operating instructions from the main club. I may have mentioned before, that we are being used as guinea pigs here – the first branch to set up a web site on a common NOC format which is being developed. Hopefully if this works out for us, it can be used as a kind of template for other branches.

John Park's ES2

Mini-progress report:

When seen recently, there were two made-up wheels, and the frame was painted:

Don Richards' project

Your scribe has yet to go and investigate

Richard's racing

Richard has been racing, again. First time on his modified short-stroke increased capacity higher revving Dommiracer. Report please?

You may really appreciate knowing this: The garage at Byrness is no More!

A strategically placed fuel stop no longer exists. As Jim Fraser found out on his way to the Jimmie Guthrie moot at Hawick. So he ran out of fuel, just before he got to Hawick. Fortunately John Turnbull was riding with him. And they managed to transfer a bit of fuel from John's bike to Jim's – via a plastic bottle which some litter lout had dropped by the roadside. Jim has completely revised his attitude to litter louts.

Also:

- At the moment it is Clive2, Simon Murray, and your scribe, going to the International in Spain! By the time you get this, they will have been - -
- Tayside branch are putting on a rally at Braemar, 10-12 Sept.
- Ian and Joyce Crooks were talking about going to Norton 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)

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

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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Two Northumbria Noccers lost in Spain at the International Rally – Full report to follow!

