



Northumbria Branch Newsletter

Issued April 2011 by Tappity John, (Northumbria Scribe and friend of the Venemous Bede)

Before anything else, time to CONFESS: Another admission of error!

In fact, the way things are going, half of each newsletter will be devoted to apologies for getting things wrong in the previous one. Like the story of Richard's broken fork yokes in the last edition. Now, with face redder than ever, I must pass on to you the following, received from Don Richards:

John, Thanks for the latest newsletter, eloquent as ever.

Of the three engines, I've decided to build the 750 as the 850 ES still requires too many parts to complete in the short term.

I was surprised to learn from your learned prose that I have re-created a Model 7, I've always hankered after

one of those but can't seem to find it in my workshop. I thought it may have been alongside my Model 77, but no. Was it lurking under the dust sheets sheltering my Slimline Featherbed - soon to be an Atlas? Alas

investigation, thorough as ever I can assure you, proved fruitless. Is it cunningly disguised as a Colchester lathe? I thought about that but it's just a silly thought. Good heavens, could it be? No, surely not! As unlikely as it seems one has to admit the admittedly fanciful possibility that, in all probability, there may have occurred a ...typographical error?

Oh my God, can it be? The very foundations of our society, my rock, our illustrious institution has been

permeated - nay infiltrated by such a viral-like attachment as a ... typographical error?

We look to you, our Tappity for solace and re-assurance in the face of such an earth shattering event. Till we meet again and with fond greetings to our favourite Southern Belle, I am,

Yours prosetically, Don Richards.

(I have to confess I was just too idle to look up references on model 7's and model 77's. The "7" is, of course, the "unstoppable Norton", as owned by Ian Crooks. Mea Culpa! - Ed).

However Don has further news: The front and the back end of his new project are making great progress! - Only held up because, after a week of knitting his own bolts, studs, and washers, he could not remember where he put the rear suspension units (decades ago?), in his orderly shed. However after heaving out everything including Shogar and Lord Lucan, he finally discovered these historic items. Anyhow, his next step is to concentrate on the bit in the middle. - - - - - enough digressions!

Now to business -

Money, Money, Money, it makes the world go round! - So, please send the sum of £5.00 (actually due 31 March) as branch subscription for the 2011-12 season, to our treasurer, Simon Murray, 25 Green Close, Stannington, Northumberland, NE61 6PE, Cheques to "Norton Owners Club". Otherwise the world may stop rotating, with catastrophic consequences.

And £5.00 will make Simon very, very happy. He really does not like to have to chase up late payers.

Note: if you were a late payer last season, and only coughed up after Christmas, we want MORE from you, NOW, for this season! Simon is merciless! And you know you can afford it!

Oh, Another digression: I also got a note from Frank Dodds, which, happily, did not point out any grievous errors –

“The Norton is doing fine: just had its MOT. I’m currently rebuilding a 1978 NVT 125. Will take some piccies as I’m going along, and maybe do an article”

(Thinks: after my a muddle regarding “all the sevens”, dare I admit it? - - I mean what is a NVT 125? - Ed)

New members!

It looks like we have three, no less! Please be nice to them, and perhaps you could forego subjecting them to the blood-curdling initiation rites normally held in darkness behind the “Three Horseshoes”! They are:

- Mick Prentice, who has a 750 Commando he owned in the 1970’s. He bravely came to the AGM!
- Tim Dickinson, shortly to move from Yorkshire to this region, will join us soon.
- Sean Molloy, who has already joined us for some evening rides out.

And – what happened at the AGM?:

Clive2 has the minutes, (copies can be requested from Clive, see end of newsletter) , but some of my notes:

Ossifers of the branch: Nobody else turned up who wanted the job, so you are stuck with the same lot.

Money: we are fine. Income exceeded expense, BUT, if we had not won money from the main club, it would not have. So we must be careful. Anyhow, branch subs can stay at £5.00.

Web site coming on well now that Bob has cracked the code. See www.nortonownersclub.org, then click on “branches”. **He would welcome pictures of members’ bikes.** For security reasons, registration numbers will be blanked off in any pictures, and only first names will be used. And, of course, no addresses given.

Also, Bob wants to include a directory of local services. **If you have anyone you would like to recommend, please contact Bob.** He will appreciate it.

Venue for club nights: we will look into a venue that might be useful for any winter talks or demonstrations.

Rally: We are not going to avoid having to host a rally for many years longer, so enquiries are under way re. possible sites.

Committee: Your ossifers have had a couple of informal meetings pre-AGM, mainly discussing programme questions. Lest it should look like we are getting “clique-y”, and also so that anyone who is keen to participate has the chance, an additional 2 more are welcome to join in. With six, the size of meeting should not get out of hand. So it is first come, first served. Notice will be given of future meeting on the web site. Next, 16th May. Do not get carried away though – there have only been 3 such meetings since last summer. Minutes will be available on request.

National NOC executive Committee and AGM minutes. Branch secretaries are now being provided with these to make them available to club members. However it is a lot of paper. Do we all want to be routinely copied with all this? It was left that Clive will make them available to members on request.

And of course a lot of talk on this year’s programme – see later.

Weekday evening rides out: These went really well last year, so we will stick to the format. SO: --

From May onwards the ride-out night is the **Wednesday following the club night.** . Start time: meet 6.30 for departure 6.45 prompt. **(NOTE! The first is on May the 4th).** Format as last year including a pub stop with bar meal. She-persons sometimes came, as well. Notice will be provided by e-mail (we still lack some e-mail addresses), and on the web site, re meeting point , proposed route, and organiser.

Norton Northumbria “T” shirts: we are investigating producing these. It is looking hopeful!

The Branch Programme:

Quite a few changes, from last year. There have been hints that the ethic of the “Main club” riders’ special interest group has infiltrated the branch, and that we should provide a broader range of activities. Also the patch for tents at Middleton-in-Teesdale is being given over for caravans (alternative bit of the site did not meet with favour at the AGM). So – here goes:

10-12 Jun. Wooler camp. As before, and a really good campsite. This event is being promoted in Roadholder. Various hostels in the town. . This year, instead of subsidising camping fees, there will be a barbecue early evening on the Saturday, so day visitors have time get home. This will be free to branch members (to invited non-members, £3.00!). **IMPORTANT!** Following some troubles last year, the following arrangements have been made with the campsite owner: All NOC members are requested to bring their NOC membership cards and present them to the campsite reception on arrival. NOC members are welcome to bring non-NOC guests, but must give Clive their names in advance. Please tell Clive if you are coming (contact info at end), so he can buy enough food for the barbecue. Campsite is at the **North** end of the town. Go to town centre and look for sign at North end of High street. Contact: Clive2.

July 2nd and 3rd: National rally . OK, not our event, but some of us may be going. Clive2 is sounding keen. Possibility of looking in at the ACE Café en route - -

July 16th and 17th Otterburn show. This successful show raises funds for the Northumbria air Ambulance and “Help for Heroes” (£14000 last year). There is a huge programme of events . Last year included a Red Arrows fly-past. This year will include army parachutist displays and motorcycle stunt riders. But lots more. See www.otterburnfestival.com. And it includes bikes.

We can put up a Norton gazebo. But, this is so we can help **THEM**: - To make a great show for the public. So we must do our bit. Also, unfortunately, health and safety creep in. (We’ll have to get used to this). Our bikes and gazebo come into the show area, as exhibits. We ride the bikes round the ring and are likely to be asked to talk about them on the public address. As exhibitors we get in for nowt. (if you just come and park in the public car park and walk in, you pay. - £10 last year). Our gazebo will be there for the 2 days. It would be churlish to clear off after one day after such an offer. So we need lots of really interesting bikes, both/either days. **Camping is on site for exhibitors** (maybe non-exhibitors too if still space free), from midday Friday, with a separate gate, so you can enter or leave when you like. Camping fee? – free to exhibitors. If non-exhibitor, just make a donation. Food etc at the mill or the show (day) or you’ll have to look in the village in the evening, .

The down side: Northumbria police tell Otterburn that 1/3 the bikes on the road in summer are without insurance, or are unregistered or the rider has no license. The show must avoid claims. So there is an exhibitors’ entry form procedure. At the moment they are having some trouble with their on-line entry form system so please give Simon Murray (organiser) your details before **4th June LATEST**. He’ll then tell you what to do about entry forms. It will also enable him to know who is coming. NB If camping, put it on the form. Inside the exhibition area there is no riding round between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. So you have to arrive before 10 and leave after 4. **BUTT!** There is plenty to do all day! You get in free! You get to bore the public about your bike! And if it rains there is a Norton Gazebo to hide in! Sorry this sounds complex – but bikers support charities. And we get to display Nortons to the general public. And there’s camping! Please lend your support and, by the 4th June deadline, make a commitment to Simon, that you will come, one day or t’other, or both.

Aug 7th, re. Stamfordham. For info. Year one at Stamfordham had Norton, and Enfield exhibiting, plus a big BSA ride-in, with visits from other clubs. Robin Watson of TyneValley classic bike club says all old bike clubs are invited, but got little response, and thinks some clubs are seriously shrinking. It could become a second Heskett-Newmarket, or Corbidge. The site is super. But unless we get news of more activity from other clubs, we will not exhibit . If the news changes, or if our members would like a stand to be put up, your scribe is still happy to do so.

12-14 Aug. Applecross – not our event either. The Tay Valley lot put it on. But our members have been here or to Braemar in the past. Not yet mentioned in Roadholder, but these are the dates. Gino Says:

“There may still be a room in the hotel for non campers, just speak to Judy and ask, mentioning my name, I booked all the rooms. I’d suggest booking the campsite online, early to make sure of a pitch”

Tues 30 aug at the IOM, and by popular request, Northumbria NOC will again be official “greeters” at the Manx Reunion, planned to be at the Shore Hotel, Laxey. A group from Northumbria will be riding over. Talk to Clive Taylor mark 2.

9-11 Sept. As I said, all has changed at Middleton. So - Ugthorpe Hall, in Sept instead of June, gives a good campsite to the South of us, which Yorkshire members who came to Middleton, might like to come to. For those who have not been, there is a pub on site with a simple but cheap menu and breakfasts can be ordered. Hope Dave is happy

with the reasons for the change of date, and that the same old gang will come to join NOC members. N Yorks Moors, Captain Cook, Steam railway, Whitby, etc. (On left side of A171 as you head towards Whitby approx 2 ½ miles beyond end of Scaling Dam reservoir). Contact: Your scribe.

Late Sept: Kamtrek. Organiser this year is a member of the Amazingly Advanced Motorcyclists of Northumberland. Info will be published later in the season.

(More on next page - -)

Sun 9 Oct. Racing day East fortune. Both modern and classic classes. Assuming his damaged hand is OK, Richard will be racing. Group ride up, with early start. Your lights need to work for the ride back! Contact, your scribe.

Autumn. Bellingham luxury weekend – well, a hotel or hostelry of some kind. Being investigated. More info later.

Louise Bennett

For those who knew her, and who may wish to make a gift in her honour, there is a Louise Bennett fund at Saint Oswald's Hospice, Regent Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1EE

Advert: Invitation from the Tappity Dommi:

The Tappity Dommi will be celebrating her 50th birthday in the back yard behind 9 Lily Crescent, Newcastle NE2 2SP, from about 12.30 onwards on the Sunday 15th of May. She invites all other Northumbrian Nortons to the party. They are welcome to bring their owners and their owners' spouses/partners/whatever-else-owners-have-these-days, provided the owners and their spouses/partners/etc behave in a fit and decorous fashion.

If temporarily indisposed (like being in 1000 pieces), or confined to barracks (like by the MOT police), Northumbrian Nortons are welcome to send a proxy. Incinerated sausages, burgers etc will be served. So as to know how many sausages are needed, it would help to contact the Tappity Dommi if coming. E-mail address etc of the Dommi (and owner) at the foot of this newsletter.

Finally, Nortons get everywhere. These pictures taken in a clothes shop in Hong Kong (Middlesboro' reg., says John Park who sent the pics. Its one of ours!!)





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