



## *Northumbria Branch Newsletter*

### *Feb2012*

**As our members while away the peace of the quiet months, pottering happily in their sheds (excepting those few brave souls still motorcycling to work), it brings your scribe no joy to have to write the ominous words: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!!**

*(its at the Melton Constable, Seaton Sluice, 8 p.m. Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>!)*

**No! Do not barricade the doors, turn up the radio loud, or RUN AWAY AND HIDE - - -**

### **This AGM is is Important! And you get sandwiches!!**

This year there is more to sort out than normal. Last year we had a committee of four –

Bob – Chairman  
Clive – Secretary  
Simon – Treasurer  
Yours truly – scribe.

Well, we all know about Clive, and Simon is now living mostly in Greece. So we only have 2 left full time here to run/devise/ the branch's events.

So what do we do?? Well, Bob, myself, and Simon have some ideas, but we would like to be sure that what we do has the support of the members. And you may have other ideas. So your attendance at something as staggeringly dull as an AGM would be a huge help.

First of all, how do we create a committee? Well, the rules say that officers have to be nominated, seconded, and elected. But what positions? Of course nominations are open for all the committee positions. (*Nominations to me, acting sec. with seconders before the AGM please. E-mail is fine*). So far, those who I know who are prepared to stand are:

Chairman - Bob, for one, will stand again for this. It has become a busy job, since Clive's death.

Secretary - John, for another, will stand to become a REAL secretary. Definitely busy.

Scribe - John - will stand to continue as scribe and combine this with being a REAL secretary.

Treasurer - Simon will stand again. He believes he can continue to manage the job. He's back regularly in the UK (house and wife still here), and intends to attend all main branch events in 2012. His previous job had him away so much last year that we may not notice the difference. In fact only 7 cheques had to be paid last year by the treasurer. He says it is not very demanding. And Simon wants to stay involved.

But Bob thinks a remaining 2-man committee in the UK is not enough. I agree. There is some active participation (fancy word for work) needed from committee members for the 2012 events. And more heads help

to develop ideas. This is also the core group who would organise the proposed 2013 National rally – more helpers will need to be brought in nearer the event. Probably a rally committee in due course.

So we suggest that the club agrees to 2 more committee members, and assuming they do, we hope 2 more people will stand. That gives us four again (in UK). So lets see **everyone** step forward – it's first come first served!!

(Of course if Bob and I are not re-elected, then it is up to the new lot to decide what to do. Or the branch may decide to come up with a different plan – )

**The 2012 Programme:** Well, as well as all the above, we need to agree our 2012 programme.

**National rally:** Clive put us provisionally down as running the 2013 National rally. It would be nice to fulfil his dream. To firmly go ahead, we need the membership's formal approval. It's a big commitment but a great chance to put on a real show. Probably you will want to discuss this.

### **And now for something completely different:**

#### **Visit to the new Norton Factory at Donnington Park:**

Brian Hutchinson is organising this, including a mini-bus. There are still seats to fill, and a full minibus keeps the price down.

It has to be a weekday. One Wednesday in March has been proposed. Total cost (assuming we fill the minibus) is £40 plus anything you eat and drink. The actual Wednesday will be chosen according to what is best for the people who are going. Brian has put quite some work into this! SUPPORT BRIAN!!!! His phone number is 0191 2560407.

#### **Massed ride out to the Saxon Forge, Bedlington:**

Brian is also organising a mass ride-out to the Saxon Forge in Bedlington at the start of the May club night. Arrive at the "Shoes" at 8.30 prompt! With motorcycles! After the pilgrimage to Bedlington, we return to the "Shoes" for a bevvie.

#### **Jumping the gun, and only true if approved at the AGM: Camp at Demesne Farm, Bellingham 5-7 May.**

Well, the current committee members will be going anyhow, even if not elected. Enfield club also camping. At the club night someone said that camping is FREEEEZING. Demesne farm has a very comfortable bunk house divided into three sleeping rooms. Plus big common room with kitchen, showers, bedding provided, heating, electricity etc. Unfortunately the bunk house is block booked on the Friday night, but the Sat and Sun nights are free at the moment. If you want to go and want to sleep indoors, better book now – it's a holiday weekend and it will fill up. [www.demesnefarmcampsite.co.uk](http://www.demesnefarmcampsite.co.uk). (Also probably the Keilder Classic and Vintage Vehicle Show).

#### **New member!**

Welcome Chris Scott! Even more wonderful, Chris has an International and an Electra. Quite enough to buy him membership (Oh, and £5.00 please Chris for the 2012-13 branch sub!) We look forward to seeing these bikes on the road! (Oh, and Chris too!).

#### **George Formby:**

Ian Cartwright has a copy of the George Formby IOM video which he's happy to lend. (Thought: did not the branch have one of its own, once?)

#### **Amazingly advanced motorcyclist meeting fiasco:**

In the pre-Christmas newsletter I announced that we were invited to join a talk at the Amazingly Advance Motorcyclists entitled: "High Andes Adventure". Well, I arrived and the place was deserted. Close examination of the NAM web site showed the site had since been updated. When they had talked about this event being "next year", that was from a site not updated since 2010! I was just a year too late. I hope nobody else tried to go!

### **Flash backs to the tragedies of 2011.**

The word “sympathy” comes from Latin – or is it Greek (tell me, someone? – Simon??), meaning to “suffer together with”. With the third death in 2011, this time in the French NOC group, of Alain Heraut’s sister, who had been riding pillion, we are well qualified to “suffer together with”, and accordingly a message of sympathy was sent on behalf of Northumbria. Well, we know how it feels.

We also received the following e-mail from the indomitable Roland Grossbichler. It said:

“As Ian Woolley mentioned in RH289 / Nov2011 it had been Wolf Pfeiffer's wish to celebrate his 70th birthday on the Isle of Man at the Manx GP this year. His son Andreas suggested that there should still be a party in memoriam to his father. So more than 10 friends of Wolf are starting their Nortons on 23rd of August heading to the Isle of Man. We want to stop at the Begonia Rally (24th - 26th August) and continue our journey on Sunday 26th with the ferry from Zeebrugge to Hull. We will stay on the IOM from 27th of August to 1st of September. It would be great to have a booze up with as many friends of Wolf as possible and spending the evenings with legendary Norton tales.

Anyone who wants to join us during this trip can get in contact with Andreas Pfeiffer (tel. 0043 6607 607 004, email: [liaisonofficer@noc-austria.at](mailto:liaisonofficer@noc-austria.at)) or Roland Grossbichler (tel.: 0043 7250 250, email: [info@noc-austria.at](mailto:info@noc-austria.at))”.

Sadly, the regular IOM attendee who knew Wolf best was Clive. But I thought to pass this on to you none the less - -

### **Re. “Social members”**

Sorry, this is probably the most dour newsletter for some time, but it seems to be all business at the moment. I have been requested by the big Norton Club in the Sky to encourage “social members” to join the main club. So I’ll try.

What is a “Social member”? A “Social member” is a branch member who is not a member of the main club. (I wonder what you call someone who is a member of the main club but refuses to join a branch?). Anyhow, let me personally say that it’s absolutely great to have ALL our branch members, whether main club members or not. But the main club does provide an excellent monthly magazine for a price you would not get from a commercial set-up. And as ever, what you get out of membership depends a lot on what you put into it. The main club has a lot going on. (Preach! Preach! - I’m trying!!). And of course financial support from the main club doubles what we get in from branch members’ subscriptions. But, well, it’s up to you - - - I’ve said what I have been asked to say. (You can join via the NOC web site: [www.nortonownersclub.org](http://www.nortonownersclub.org))

### **And – that Christmas “bash” at the “Shoes”!**

What a turn-out, and what a happy atmosphere! I am humbled! Simon suggested it. Well actually the late lamented Clive Mark 2 originally suggested it. Personally your scribe/acting sec/whatever was doubtful. The pre-Christmas club night has normally been rather quiet. People have so much “on” just before Christmas. Well, that was what I thought. But, no, WRONG AGAIN!!, a huge turn-out of members and their ladies. Thanks for coming!! It was great!! We must do it again!! (Easter? -- Whit? --- Queen’s birthday/jubilee?? --- any other excuses???)

But the main thing, now, is to get the 2012 season properly under way. For myself, I can hardly wait!!

Good riding in 2012!!!

(John, still acting as a secretary, and still scribing - - - )

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