



## Branch Newsletter : March 2016

# Another Horrible Warning! It WAS the Northumbria Norton Owners AGM

**And that means that, if you have not paid, we want your MONEY!!**

Do NOT pay the branch sec (= John Powell). The bank branch near him has closed. Pay the treasurer, Alan Millar. PLEASE make Alan's life easier. He is busy rebuilding an entire power station ALL BY HIMSELF, and has limited time to go chasing people for the odd £5.00. In fact if you delay too much he may STRIKE YOU OFF! (This is a painful process). Easiest for him is simply to send a cheque for £5 to his house. Do not wait around until you may, or may not, meet him at a club night. You'll just become a "Loose end" until whenever you accidentally meet. And you really do not want to be a Loose End, do you? (He has enough already) – or struck off - It's still only £5.00.

Address: Alan Millar. 5 Barrassford Close, Ashington, NE63 8XT

## **First the Programme for 2016** **and loose summary of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **(But there is important stuff to follow)**

**Great turn-out!** . Underlying economics say we are at about Breakeven, with £731.80 in the bank. 40 members including Frances, plus 2 joined on the night. (Welcome , Danny and Brian!). Bob, John and Alan stuck with their existing jobs.

### **2016 Happenings (Non-branch events in italics)**

*2<sup>nd</sup> April: Branch secretaries' meeting, day before AGM. This could actually be a more useful working meeting and if anyone has anything he would like to bring up relating to almost anything, let the branch sec, know, because it is at branch level that things really happen.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> April Main Club AGM – So far chairman and sec. are going. Sec will be at Branch Sec' meeting. Nobody had any points they wished to be raised.*

*April – date not yet published Bellingham show – anyone want to take an early ride out?*

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – we have been offered some places in a bus to the **Stafford show**, run by the Seaton Sluice geriatric Hell's Angels. If interested contact branch sec – that's me, John. The cost is £30 which includes ticket in to the show.

May 1<sup>st</sup>: *There is an autojumble and show at Peebles.*

May 8<sup>th</sup> *classic vehicle show, Kielder show (Kielder castle). Anyone for a ride up there?*

**15<sup>th</sup> May: Clive Taylor memorial run.** Usual format – meet at start in the morning and end up at a pub lunch. Branch sec to lead. Will e-mail route info. BSA club on the loose based on a camp at the Cart's Bog Inn, and sec to contact to see if we could rendezvous somewhere.

May 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>: *International rally, Rimini, Italy. (Bob and John planning to go. Any others? )*

**June 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>– camping weekend at Wooler.** Camp site booked. Free BBQ as before. Would you come ?? We will consider alternative venues for next year. Davie will talk to Clenell. Cart's bog and Bellingham also mentioned. Even Carlisle.

**NB Open days at Aln Valley railway and we are invited.** The Sat and Sun of the Wooler camp are open days. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June. Campers could visit on the way home. Non-campers could join them on the Sunday. (Branch sec has to play church organ to the faithful so has to go straight there from Wooler. Sorry - )

July 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. *NOC Norton Festival, but it is at Wimborne, Dorset – may not be attractive to all Northumbrians.*

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> – we have been invited back to Corbridge for the Classic Vehicles Show. Pre-registration info is at the end of this newsletter.**

August 7<sup>th</sup>, *Sunday Tyne valley classic bike club show, Stamfordham – also most likely date for Druridge bay but cannot find anything published yet.*

August 11-14: *Main club Norton Rally at KENDAL – that seems more like it! We can get there! Probably the “usual suspects” ralliers will attend.*

Weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> August – *Tay Valley branch have camp at Applecross. Northumbria members have attended in the past.*

**Borders weekend, 9th - 11th September** at Kirk Yetholm, near Kelso. With Scottish branches. Camping - If you prefer something more luxurious, there is accommodation in the two pubs near by. Their details and more about the area can be found at [www.yetholmonline.org.uk](http://www.yetholmonline.org.uk). Tay valley has already pre-booked a number of pitches. You can grab one of these by e-mailing David Templeton at [smokeyjoe750@gmail.com](mailto:smokeyjoe750@gmail.com). Booking ahead is recommended. The site is small.

**Kamtrek Sun 25 Sept** - - - - The more come , the less chance there is of winning!

*Brunton show – date not yet known*

**Invite to Carlisle area to visit aeronautical museum and major classic bike collection.**

Sec. had a call late in 2015 from a nice man called Kevin who lives in Longtown and is getting a Norton back onto the road. He asks, would the Northumbria branch be appropriate for him? Anyhow it was agreed that he'd be sent the programme once we had one. But meanwhile he also offered to greet us and take us to these 2 exhibits. Can we select some possible dates to check with him? There is some interest here. Sec will contact Kevin to see if we can agree a date. Aug has more empty space. More info later.

**Richard's racing.** If Richard will tell us when and where, maybe we could finally manage to get a few supporters along?? - Last supporters visit was about 8 years back, or more. 2 went to E. Fortune.

- (follow up:) E fortune is the same weekend as the Clive Taylor memorial run, (14-15 May), and between them, sec and chairman cannot change its date. However if not “memorial running” you are likely to have the opportunity of seeing Richard in action/falling off.
- Croft weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> April – and August. (April event clashes with Main club AGM, but if enough others go, proposed to ask the Yorks lot to join us.) - have e-mailed members to see if interest but so far no

response. The following from Richard: Hello John: Sorry, but there seems to be a misunderstanding about the Croft events. To clarify, the April 2/3rd meeting is a normal "NEMCRC Club meeting, including "Classic racing" and modern bikes, sidecars etc. But, no parades! The meeting with the parades is the "Croft Nostalgia" meeting, held at the beginning of August( maybe 13/14th ). This features parades, vast static displays of cars , militaria, small numbers of privately entered bikes and a pretty good display and parade of "Classic " racing motorcycles. also, two days of Historic Car racing (the Middlesbrough MCC and the NEMCRC are hoping to run a bike race this year!. I hope to be at both meetings. The "Nostalgia" meeting is organised directly by the Croft Circuit. I hope this resolves the confusion! It was the end of a long night!!! Regards, Richard. - *(And it clashes with the Kendal rally – rude word- John )*

### **Branch Ride-outs:**

Will continue April to September . Leader will have to select dates he is available. Notice via e-mail and/or text, plus, now, Facebook

**Web site** will continue as well as new Facebook page. (more on Facebook further on).

**Christmas club night.** Same place this year. Date of Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Dec – fixed and already booked. NB we were at the max capacity the pub can take last year. My have to go “First come first served” if demand too high.

**Notice of the Bamburgh run 12<sup>th</sup> June** – *girder forks only but a good show for visiting motorcyclists.*

# AND!!!!

### **NOC Northumbria on Facebook**

John Pye has created a “facebook” page for us. He says this has been set up as a “closed group” - access only to signed in members, who will need to register. (See below). This avoids horrible things suddenly appearing on the site from nowhere. For non-members looking to make contact, there is still the web site. John (Pye), for the while, will be moderator. The branch (via John – still Pye) reserves the right to remove any posts that are deemed offensive. While present members are all wonderful and such material should not appear, there actually has been trouble at the main club on the web. Please do remember that you can always take the piss at the bar with a smile, but if you write it down it can look a whole lot different – and it is there permanently.

However the branch ossifers will have the option of nominating non-members who may want access – and example could be our good friends from North of the frontier, who frequently join our events. (Oh, and Alan from Hull! - E. Yorks Sec.).John's e-mail follows -

*“Facebook site is now fully up and running with a few posts now on, and with 5 registered members ( we need to encourage all members to join the site however). (He's temporarily stuck in few non-members just to get the thing working - J)*

*As confirmed earlier, when people get on Facebook, they simply need to search for **Northumbria Norton Owners Club**, and the site comes straight up.....dead easy !*

*The 2016 events are all now included ( to the best of my knowledge re dates/venues etc)*

*All we need now is a plethora of current members bikes to add to the site ! , and some active discussion and banter)*

### **Northumbria Norton owners regalia:**

Can now be bought on line. As per the following e-mail. However when you look on the site to order, you will see the type of hat I have just bought. I also asked for the option of a baseball cap on the “menu” . They can do one but we need someone to buy a prototype. If there is demand for it. Let me know. NB a “Large” garment fits me just right. If you are wider than I am you may want to go for XL sizes. So far there is a polo shirt, sweat shirt, and warm “Beanie” hat. All black. Here's how to buy – incoming e-mail says:

*Hi John, Im happy to let you know your products are now online. You can find them here*

*<http://www.customplanet.co.uk/departments-c95/online-stores-c458/norton-owners-club-c499>*

*If you would like to email the link to your members and they can now order online. (Pictures on next page - - - )*

*And here's the regalia*



*Hat!!!*



*Polo shirt, sleeveless*



*Sweat shirt*

**First aid: and the “Biker down” training programme.** Clive Taylor has attended the “Biker Down” course. (I have also been asked to enquire about liability/certification issues). Definite interest among members. Subsequent e-mail from Colin Granton (Organiser) says; “I’ll drop you an email once we’ve set some future dates. With regards liability and being sued, this is covered on the course and is not a case for concern”. More info later.

### **Scottish Show Edinburgh**

Sorry, I was to follow up to see if members could add their bikes to the display, but I have been away and the event date passed. In fact, I **had** communicated with Edinburgh branch re. their stand and it would not have worked. Display bikes have to be in the hall for all of the full weekend event. I just did not get round to telling you.

### **International rally and Ride to Near Rimini in Italy. Last offer - bunk on the boat and a guide!**

Talking to John Pye and “Brian of the photos”, I detected no real interest in biking on the continent, indeed some nervousness about riding on the right, and in other countries. They may not be alone. So I thought to repeat my offer of sharing a cabin and also acting as a guide to someone who may wish to put his toe in the water. Route out is Hull-Zeebrugge, dep Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May, going down through France to cross the French Alps fairly far South. Brief stop in the Alps. Then on to Rimini. Accommodation en route, camp sites or small hotels/guest houses. Plan to arrive at Rally on the Thurs. Dep following Monday. Motorway to Munich with one stop, but, again through the Alps. Stopovers en route plus a village N.W of Frankfurt. (Can beg beds). Ferry Holland to Newcastle. Land Newcastle morning of 6<sup>th</sup> June. - John

### **Branch members, Main club members etc.**

Someone asked if, to be a branch member, you had to be a main club member. The answer is, “No”, but it is a little more complicated. The main club calls branch members who are not main club members “Social Members”. If we have Over 50% “Social members” we do not qualify as a branch of the NOC. The main club can get a bit heated about branches with a lot of “social members”, seeing it allows us to claim certain expenses, it organises rallies, spares schemes, and other services, and, while it also asks branches to organise rallies, it also financially underwrites them.

However your sec. is of the personal opinion that, because all our interests vary, main club membership may not be appropriate for all. Some of our most active members are not main club members.

Though if there is something that the main club COULD offer that is not offered, maybe you could let me (John) know and I can pass it on.

And if you are dithering about joining the main club, we encourage you to join. You get a monthly magazine, access to certain services, rallies etc. And at £19.50 it is not expensive. And it makes the main club rejoice.

### **AND NOW IT'S - (From Bob Tym - )**

#### **“Every 250,000 miles or 40 years”**

As some of you will know, I've had my Mk3 850 since I bought it new in 1976 and now it's done something like 260,000 miles (a mixture of commuting and touring).

John has asked me to contribute an article for the newsletter on the restoration I've been doing over the winter. At the time of writing, I've not finished but I hope to have the bike back on the road in March with the intention of getting some miles clocked up before Ginetta and I set off for the International Rally in Italy at the end of May.

So far I've already had the tank and side panels repainted. This was done by Robin Watson and to my mind looks much better than the very worn and weathered paintwork that it replaced. He did a nice job and it even looks good under the tank and inside the side panels. I told Robin that I was looking for a durable finish and that I would be using a tank bag on my trip to Italy. The proof of the pudding will be what it looks like when I get back. Robin is based in Acomb where his firm produces all sorts of signs (for shops, the Forestry Commission and so on). He does motorbike tanks in his spare time. He can be contacted on 01434 602824.

I had the frame, swing arm, engine plates, stand and various brackets blasted by Matsar in Cramlington before Christmas with the intention of checking the frame and doing some repairs before painting/powder coating. Matsar ceased trading just before Christmas, but fortunately not before I'd got my bits back. This meant I had to find someone else to do the painting and powder coating. Eventually I had the frame, swing arm and rear calliper mounting bracket 2-pack painted in gloss black by Carbar Automotive on Coopies Lane in Morpeth (tel 01670 513781). They did a good job although the first time they told me it was ready, they'd missed a few bits. However when I pointed this out they immediately apologised and sorted it out over the next few days.

The other parts, engine plates, stand, battery tray, fairing brackets, top and bottom yolks, Craven carrier and support arms were powder coated by Ashington Powder Coating, Unit 17, Lintonville Parkway, Ashington, tel

01670 631546. He's a one-man band. He says he is a motorcyclist and does lots of motorbike stuff, mostly Japanese it seems. He wanted to blank off the necessary areas himself so I gave him a copy of the detailed instructions found on the Old Brits website showing where not to put the powder coating on a Commando frame ([https://www.oldbritts.com/powder\\_coating.html](https://www.oldbritts.com/powder_coating.html)). Mostly he did keep to those instructions, so I was quite satisfied. He also blasted my quite rusty cylinder barrel, but I made all the blanking for that myself. I didn't have the barrel powder coated, not wanting rust to build up behind the coating and impair the cooling. I spray painted my barrels with JT1 gloss black which is recommended by various people on the NOC website and others. The paint is supposed to be cured fully at 250 degrees C. No doubt that will happen when the engine is running, but in the meantime I've given it a good start by having it sit in front of my fan heater during periods when I needed some heat in my garage.

The frame did need a bit of work before painting. The hole on the cross tube under the engine where the prop-stand spring hooks in had developed into an inch long slot over the years and also the top rear suspension mount on the left hand side had become corroded and a bit distorted. Amazingly you can buy all sorts of brackets and tube sections to repair Commando (and featherbed) frames from Andover Norton. The necessary welding was sorted out by Richard Johnston.

There was also the issue of excessive wear on the centre stand pivots, compounded by an earlier repair which had left the holes in the gearbox cradle not quite in the right place. I was fearful of giving myself a hernia trying to heave it on the centre stand. It took a lot of research to work out where the holes should be and even those in the centre stand appeared to be not quite in the right place. However, I think they are in the all right now but only time will tell.

Surprisingly, although it's about 80,000 miles since my last rebore, there was very little wear in the bores. Richard measured it at 1 to 1.5 thou, so just a hone and new rings would do, but I'm going to splash out on new pistons!

I split the crankshaft, although I can't remember when I last did that. The sludge trap had very little in it. I weighed what I scraped out – only 3 grammes!

I'm now in the process of reassembling things. New engine and gearbox bearings are to be fitted. The wheel bearings and steering head bearings have already been replaced. The rear master cylinder and rear Grimeca calliper have been rebuilt. The isolastics have been overhauled and I have a new Dave Taylor Head steady to fit.

I had originally planned to rewire the bike and do some work smartening up my fairing and panniers, but if time gets tight for the rally, I may have to leave that until the autumn.

With luck I should be at the March Club night on my Commando.

Bob

## Corbridge pre-reg.

To register your motorcycle, for free (all we ask in return is that you keep your motorcycle on display for the paying public for the duration of the show), please do any of the following: -

go to the Eventbrite site using this link [Classics in Corbridge](#) (be patient, it can take several seconds), click on the green register button and simply follow the instructions (recommended method).

or

copy and paste this URL into your browser: - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/classics-in-corbridge-2016-tickets-21726270861>

or

you can also enter directly online via our website at <http://www.mgnorthumbria.org> on the Classics in Corbridge 2016 tab.

I have not yet been given a closing date for entries but last year it was Fri 19<sup>th</sup> June and the corresponding date this year is probably Friday 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Officers - - -**

*Chairman: Bob Tym. 01670 517949. robert.tym@googlemail.com*

*Money scrounger: Alan Millar. Tel 01670 853223 mob 07734402110 better text than e-mail, though e-mail is a\_m\_millar@hotmail.com*

*Scribe and sec.: John Powell. Tel 0191 281 8116. jnoandlizpowell@yahoo.co.uk . Mobile:07802 257800*