



Northumbria Branch March '19 Newsletter

Well, the newsletter announcing the approaching AGM said:

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

And, now it is over, does the next newsletter have to say:

Zeyo! Zeyo! Zeyo! (?)

Well, Zeyo or not, there is not a lot for a scribe to say, since Simon has e-mailed the minutes to everyone already. HOWEVER: some THINGS to note –

26 attended the meeting, which is an all time record, no doubt due to the sheer charisma of our new branch secretary!

The 26 paid their £5.00 subs, so that's about half the cash collected.

However. For those of you who have not paid – here's the request from our esteemed treasurer whose Scottish Prudence is renowned (a bit like Gordon Brown or the RBS?) –

Please do not pay on-line via bank transfer because when it comes in he cannot tell where it came from

Please do not pay more than one year at a time – multi-year payments confuse his brain.

So either shove £5 into his grasping hands or send him a cheque, to Alan Millar, 5 Barrassford Close, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 8XT.

AND while, or even before doing this :----

Newsletters

There is money to fund newsletters by mail, JUST, but it is a close thing. Therefore a reduction is a GOOD THING. SO, you have a choice –

- **newsletter by post** as before – or – **newsletter by e-mail.**

The scribe is happy either way – just hopes that as many as possible get to enjoy his deathless prose and that it does not disappear into a whole lot of email SPAM.. So , when sending your £5 to Alan, please also tell him if you choose email or printed form.

And, as the season is not yet underway, there are no branch events to report – except for –

“Self-regarding out-of touch elite go on a jolly to Aberdeen”

Yes, your committee went on a jolly to Aberdeen to visit our loyal honorary members, Bill and Campbell, and to absolutely confirm they were not sharing the same Margaret (confirmed – there are 2 Margarets!). Simon was missing because he lives in airypalanes, but Gary and Amy came – long term friends of the Hon. Members. Also to view Campbell’s near-complete restoration of a wideline 500 cc Dommi, on which he has been working intermittently for aeons. But which is so close to completion now that, with a bit less of the “intermittent”, it could be on the road in a few weeks. (Anyhow, if left forever those tyres go solid and have to be replaced.)

Here is the Self-regarding out-of touch elite



And here are some usual suspects with the Dommi: (It looks like Bob has just had a nasty accident on the front mudguard)



And now, something that has nothing whatever to do with motorcycles:

Introducing Preston Watson.

Well, if you have the faintest hint of an engineer in your soul, you have to be amazed about this: For most of us visited Dundee and looked at some of the museums. The Dundee museum of transport contains a reproduction of the pioneer aircraft of the local man, Preston Watson. This man was a contemporary of the Wright brothers, but is largely forgotten. His work on his project ended because he was hauled in to work in the family firm, and, later in World War one, was killed in the early RAF, though in a flying accident.

This machine almost flew – but was launched, engine running, with a kind of a catapult involving a very tall tree, a pulley, a rope, and a very heavy weight. A sort of “Powered glide”. In his defence, the Wright brothers did the same, with a tower, though their final qualifying flight did involve a start without catapult.

But he had done all his work on proper aerodynamics (witness the wing sections), the machine has proper tilting tail (not like the Wright’s canard arrangement out front), and an interesting steering arrangement which appears to be unique. Like a motorcycle an aircraft must bank to turn. The Wright brothers used a complex wing-warping arrangement. In Watson’s design the upper wing is pivoted so it can be tipped from side to side using a simple “joy-stick” hanging down from above. And this produces amazing manoeuvrability. The limiting factor on all these designs was the motor – not enough power, and too heavy – bad “power to weight”.

The model aircraft club of Dundee has made a radio-controlled scale model with a modern model-motor. There is a video and the performance is absolutely breath-taking – remember this design is around 1901 or 1902 when **nothing** had flown. The model is being buzzed around at speed inside a building! The URL* from my friend AI’s email, when copied and pasted into “Chrome” does not work for some reason. But it does work if attached to an email. So those of you who get this newsletter attached to an email will find it on the introductory email. For those other of you who will get this newsletter in the post, I am sending an email with the link. If you got no email at all that means we do not have an email address for you. Send it to Alan with your sub?



(* what do all these acronyms mean?? URL = UnRequiredLove? Or - United Regiment of Limpets? - - etc.

USB – Unspeakable Slimy Bastard? Etc etc)

And finally, – next seasons' programme. You can hang this on the wall.

2019 Branch and associated events

- a. Clive Taylor Run – 12th May.
- b. Branch camping weekend at Wooler – 7th to 9th June
- c. Aln Valley Railway Vintage and Classic Vehicle Show -15th/16th June. For information.
- d. Jimmie Guthrie Memorial Run at Denholm – 16th June. For information.
- e. NOC 2019 International Rally, The Netherlands – 20th to 24th June. Some branch members are intending to attend. If you have an interest, and considering how relatively close to the Newcastle/Amsterdam ferry, please let Bob know.
- f. NOC National Rally, Morpeth – 26 to 28th July.
- g. Tyne Valley Classic Show at Stamfordham – 4th August. The organisers have welcomed us as participants and we will display at the show.
- h. TVNOC Camping Weekend at Applecross – 9th to 11th August, Contact David Templeton; smokeyjoe750@gmail.com
- i. The Glendale Show – 25th August. For information.
- j. Norton Motorcycles 'burnout' – 31st August to 1st September. For information.
- k. TVNOC Yetholm camping weekend – 6th to 8th September. Contact David Templeton; smokeyjoe750@gmail.com
- l. Kamtrek – 29th September. (John Powell organising).
- m. NOC National Under Cover Rally, St. Audries Bay, Somerset – 27th to 29th September.
- n. Northumbria NOC Christmas Dinner – 18th December. (Note: this is a Wednesday as an alternative for members who cannot attend meetings on a Thursday). It was suggested that an alternative venue is considered in order to allow everyone to be in the same room for dinner, as this is not possible at the Melton Constable. After discussion, the secretary proposed the Ridley Arms at Stannington, to be investigated.

Bellingham as a venue for the branch camping weekend was also discussed, it was agreed that it seems a good location and therefore it was suggested that, while the branch camping weekend stays at Wooler this year, an additional weekend at Bellingham should be considered, depending on members availability. If it is suitable, this would be an option for the 2020 branch camping weekend.

And, regarding the NOC National Rally, Morpeth – 26th to 28th July: Overview and preparations:

- o. The name of the rally is the Rampart Rally and will be held at the Morpeth Rugby Club.
- p. Friday evening being mainly a meet and greet time, plus entertainment consisting of a demonstration of the Northumbrian pipes and a presentation by John Powell.
- q. On Saturday morning, there will be runs organised, with one being arranged especially for smaller bikes. On Saturday afternoon there will be a bike display. On Saturday evening, there will be a band.
- r. On Sunday, we have organised a visit to the Aln Valley Railway.
- s. Assistance, especially with the runs – Several members volunteered, the secretary made a note - we will be in touch! Please let the secretary know if anyone else would like to volunteer.

Good riding!!!!

J

Officers - - -

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

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