



Northumbria Branch Newsletter :

Feb/March 2015

Horror of Horrors!!! It's the dreaded annual general meeting! Come and console your unfortunate committee!!

The Branch AGM will take place at 8.00pm at the Melton Constable Hotel, Seaton Sluice, on Monday 16th of March 2015. **Please come!** (- notice the tears? Do you hear the pleading? If you come, you win one free sandwich!!!)

So far – standing for election as officers are Bob Tym (Chairman), John Powell (Secretary and scribe), and Alan Millar (treasurer – as Simon is retiring as he has not a clue when he'll get back from Greece). Additional nominations are invited for these Branch positions. If nominating anyone, please get the nominations to the secretary (that's still me!) by Sat. 14th March. E-mail jnoandlizpowell@yahoo.co.uk
Thanks.

Agenda:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NORTON OWNERS' CLUB – NORTHUMBRIA BRANCH

Meeting venue – Melton Constable public house, Seaton Sluice, Monday 16th March 2015

1.0: Chairman's welcome

2.0 List of attendees (to complete)

3.0 Apologies for absence

4.0 Minutes of previous meeting (17th March 2014).

To propose and accept that the minutes are correct and accurate.

(Will be e-mailed to members for whom I have e-mail. Anyone else, if you want a copy ahead of time, please contact me – John)

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes.

6.0 Branch officials' annual reports

- 6.1 Chairman's report
- 6.2 Secretary's report
- 6.3 Treasurer's report

7.0 Election of Branch Officials (All committee officials stand down at this point)

- 7.1 Election of chairman
- 7.2 Election of secretary
- 7.3 Election of treasurer
- 7.4 Election of newsletter editor

8.0 Branch subscriptions: (and - Where to be sent??)

9.0 Venue for branch meetings

To confirm the location, time and day of the week of monthly branch meetings.

10.0 Branch and associated events including those to be advertised in Roadholder: Consideration of proposed events, additions, deletions, changes. (*events not branch events in italics*)

12th April – Bellingham show – anyone want to take an early ride out?

9th May: Do we do a Clive Taylor memorial run? If so maybe this date if it clashes with the next item. NB Present sec. cannot lead events later in May as away in USA – son's wedding.

15-16 May: we are invited to join the BSA owners club camp at Demsene farm, Bellingham. Run on Sat. Camping, plus bunk-house accommodation also available. Book bunk-house or caravans/campers. at 01434 220258. Camp £8/person.

May 29th – 1st June: International rally, Wicklow, Ireland. Easy trip? Out via Stanraer? Back via Holyhead? (Bob planning to go)

June – camping weekend at Wooler? 7th-9th seems the obvious choice. Camp site availability OK. BBQ as before? Turnout has not been huge recently. Well, is everyone happy to continue with “Wooler”? - or something else??? Would you come - - - - ??

*Sun 14th June – invite from Simon Hadden – girder forked bikes, or any **pre-1931**, much desired. How many of us have such machines hidden away????*



June 25th – 28th: NOC National Rally, near Caernarfon. See Roadholder. Sec plans to go. Anyone else? Bon and John will be there. With wives.

June 28th is also the Kielder show. Clashes with NOC rally N Wales

July 5th – we have been invited back to Corbridge for the show. NB if we do this, Sec. is away so someone else will have to take charge.

Invite from Dave Wardle – also - 3-5 July – not his fault : Coincides with BSA club gathering at the site at Ugthorpe Hall. Whitby area .- Contact Dave Wardle prior to going. 01670 820424

Maybe less of a clash than it looks as those who have been to this camp in the past tend not to “do” shows. And vice versa.

July 17-19 Tay Valley Branch camp at Applecross. Members have attended in the past.

Borders weekend, 13th - 15th September at Kirk Yetholm, near Kelso. With Scottish branches. Tay valley branch have already put this in their programme as a provisional date. 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.

NB Open days at Aln Valley railway and we are invited. Sat. and Sun? (Tony??) Could include in Sat run, or visit on the way back, Sun.

Kamtrek 27 Sept OK with leader - - - The more come, the less chance there is of winning!

Brunton show – date not yet known

Idea of a group ride to the Hartlepool maritime museum, not carried out last year, but could we try again??

13.0 Branch Ride-outs:

To propose monthly ride-outs from April to October. Or less often?? Start 4th April? or after April club night?

14.0 Subsidies for meals, BBQ's etc: update -

15.0 Web site

16.0 Christmas club night. Same place this year? Date of Thurs 17th Dec?

17.0 Any other business (It is traditional that at this point the fun starts to fly)

Now to bore you about batteries and lights.

Well, I've got no rebuild news from anyone to get technical about, so I thought to bore you with what I had been up to myself..

Original problem: See-through plastic 6 v wet batteries, all made in Taiwan, seemed to have a life of 6 months or less. Then I found old style rubber ones like in the old days (of course I am still on 6v. like God intended). Even though made in India they survived pretty well. But the last one seemed to have an intermittent bad connection – internally – causing a sudden failure that then suddenly went away – and returned. So I got two tiny 6v 5.5 amp hour things from a man whose address I subsequently lost. Together they gave 11 amp hours. Wire in series – you get 12 v. Wire in parallel and you have 6.. I go for 6 and the charge/discharge rate per battery is half what the

ammeter says, so quite gentle. Here's their portrait.



Roll forward 3 ½ years and they cannot do turn signals with the lights on and the engine stopped. Must be a bit tired and possible worry re. MOT failure, though OK when engine is running. So to look for replacements. The short story is that Maplin have an incredible collection of such things, 6 v or 12 and I ended up with two bigger 6 v units (7 amp hour each) at £20 or so less than any of the motorcycle parts and electrics suppliers.

Taped together, they look like this, and do give the lights more “oomph”.



Next brilliant idea. Bright lights from behind. You can get little flashing (or continuous) LED lights for pedal bikes, re-chargeable, and about as big as a bottle top. With these and the original rear light, I get a really bright cluster. And always a light if a bulb fails. Safer from idiots coming up from behind in the dark? (Depends on the idiot). Here’s the bottle-top lights installed:



Only – they are much brighter than the turn signals, which is not such a good idea. So ordered 6 v LED bulbs with a LED flasher unit. BUTTT! The rear signal units held the bulb crossways, and LED’s send light out in a kind of conical beam,

and in this case sideways. So I had to get new rear units where the bulb went in end on. Oh, and also new units to go on the fairing which needed considerable modification (“Bodging”?) to accept the LED bulbs. (Big hammer not used).

As I have been told off for forgetting to cancel my turn signals, I also bought “beepers” from Paul Goff – and could not hear them in my helmet. So – bigger (and cheaper) “beepers” from Maplin, Can just hear in helmet but it really frightens the natives. Here’s the whole assembly lit up – you cannot quite hear the “Beeps”)



Cycle lights on one charge give 8 hours flashing or 3 hours continuous. Recharge 3 months or less. But now maybe I did not need to buy a new battery? NB (with alternator, and maybe with dynamo) a modern regulator/rectifier is probably needed with LED’s to avoid “spikes” blowing them.

Turn signals from Hunters on Westgate Rd., LED kit from Paul Goff. LED stuff also from <http://www.dynamoregulatorconversions.com/>. These people fixed the dynastart on the old boat engine – a good job.

Officers until the AGM - - -

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