



Cleveland Bay, Yarm
Every second Wednesday of the month
<http://www.freewebs.com/yarmmcc>
Tel: 07867 782414

CLUB NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2009

At the Boundary 500 Presentation Evening on Friday 25th our Chairman was presented with a cheque made out to our club for £100 by the Boundary 500 Group for services rendered. This is most unprecedented and a complete surprise. As supporters of the Great North Air Ambulance and Zoe's Place we do not expect any financial reward for giving our time for such good causes. Quite what we do with the cheque will be discussed by the committee as soon as practicable.

It's getting chilly in the mornings now and the thermal lining is back in the jacket and the neck-tube keeps the worst of the cold at bay. The Fog City visor insert seems to be doing the job and for double measure I've fitted a 'Foggy Mask'. So far so good. The low sun is a bit of a problem though but I hate wearing sunglasses as they do tend to mist up. I can't afford to buy another helmet with a dark visor built in – anyone got any ideas?

Shame about James Toseland moving out of MOTOGP although WSB should get a boost. I think WSB has been pretty good anyway, especially with Haga and Speis pushing each other to the limit. Let's hope the rest of the season and next year live up to expectations.

I have included an article, the first of several, on the motorcycle scene in the Phillipines. The articles have been sent by Chris Hamlin, a good friend of Geoff Sadler. I have had to edit the article a small amount to make it fit the newsletter, which I try to keep to 6 pages of A4. Enjoy.

Committee Meeting. Wednesday 4th November 2009 at 8.30pm in the Cleveland Bay.

Forthcoming Events. (latest additions in Bold). **Let me know of any event you would like publicising.**

Oct 2 to 5	MCN Live, Butlins, Skegness
Oct 10/11	Tees Pumping Station, Darlington. Sunday will include classic vehicles!
Oct 10	BMF AGM, Norwich
Oct 17/18	Classic MC Mechanics Bike Show, Stafford County Show Ground. ST18 0BD
Oct 25	British Summertime Ends
Nov 8	MOTOGP Valencia...the end of the racing season...boo hoo!
Nov 27 to Dec 6	NEC International Motorcycle and Scooter Show. <u>CLUB RUN ON 3 DEC</u>
Dec 27	Christmas Dinner, Cleveland Bay
<u>2010</u>	
Feb 20/21	Carole Nash Bristol Classic Motorcycle Show, Bath and West Showground
Apr 24/25	Carole Nash Classic Show, Stafford County Show Ground
July 9 – 11	VMCC Festival of 1000 Bikes, Mallory Park.

Aug 12-15
Oct 16/17

Bulldog Bash
Carole Nash Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show, Stafford Show Ground

The Club Website. Visit the Club Website at www.freewebs.com/yarommcc/. If you have stuff for sale or an event to promote then this is the place to put it for wide coverage. Send your material to Steve Watts on swatts@ntlworld.com. Check out via the Guestbook when you have finished your comments.

Tees Pumping Station Oct 10/11. Our Chairman will be present on both days and will be pleased to see members of the Club, especially on Sunday, when classic cars, bikes and other engines will be on show. Be sure of a warm welcome and a chance to see a rare Victorian masterpiece in operation – and I mean the pump engine, not the Chairman!

For Sale GIVI Top Box and 2 Side Panniers, with mountings to fit VFR 800. As new. £300. Tel: 07931816812 or contact Steve Griffiths 01642 350640.

Insurance for the Over-50s. SAGA is extending its financial services to include motorcycle insurance. According to SAGA there are some 700,000 people over the age of 50 owing at least one motorcycle. Apparently us over-50s 'have less to prove and travel at lower speeds'. Whatever.

For Sale: Yamaha FZ1 Fazer. 2006 model. Blue. 6200 miles. Fitted with Crash Bungs, Heated Grips, Belly pan and Fender Extender. Full Service History. 5 months MOT. Contact Dave on 01388 720601(H) or 07983525502 (M). Also contact Club Secretary – Brian.

Kawasaki to Move Production. A report in a Japanese newspaper is suggesting that Kawasaki is to move production of medium and large size motorcycles to Thailand in 2010. The main reason for the move is cited as labour costs. Let's hope that quality control doesn't suffer.

Commuter Numbers Up. A recent survey shows that more than half (52%) of all trips on powered 2-wheelers are to and from a place of work. This compares to 34% of trips made on bicycles and 22% in cars. The Motorcycle Industry say that motorcycle and scooter riders are capitalising on the cost effective and practical benefits of two wheels at the busiest times of the day.

The Flag Café. Lawrence and Carol will give you a warm welcome when you call in the Flag Café near Seamer. The Café is open Wednesday evenings and during Saturday and Sunday daytime. Tel 07813 430710 for more information. It is not clear yet what the Winter schedule will be but I'll let you know as soon as I hear any news

DSA Theory Test Book Updated. The updated edition of The Official DSA Theory Test for Motorcyclists is available for £11.99, with the interactive CD ROM version available for £12.99. You can buy both for £19.99. Go to www.tsoshop.co.uk/dsa or call 0870 243 0123 or you can go to any good high street or online bookstore.

SHARP Helmet Ratings. Another 25 helmets have been added to the list of rated helmets. You can check out the list and associated ratings at the following website: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Nice to know that my AGV Moto Tech helmet, which I bought recently even though it had not been SHARP-tested, has just achieved a 5-Star rating.

Custom Throttle and Clutch Cables. If you need a one-off cable for that special project or a top-class product for you modern pride and joy then try Venhill 013086 885111. Visit the website at www.venhill.co.uk for more details.

Need Help with Your Computer. Quick, efficient service at very competitive prices assured. Contact Steve on 07765881062 or 01642 651086. Alternatively you can email Steve at swatts@ntlworld.com.

For Sale: 1 one-piece set of Figo leathers size 46. Red/Black & silver. Worn twice. Bargain at £80.00. See Tony Petrie for details/picture at Club meetings or call Brian (Secretary). Telephone no. at bottom of Newsletter.

Get On. The Motorcycle Industry's has launched a new campaign to get more people into biking. 'Get On' aims to provide people with the opportunity to have a go on a bike before they commit to doing CBT and a test and buying one. It's backed by a number of leading manufacturers, dealers, insurers, finance companies and accessory companies too.
So if you've got a mate, a missus or a colleague who's even slightly interested then direct them to www.geton.co.uk where they can find all they need to guide them into the wonderful world of biking...

COSTELLO GETS MBE. Northampton Based motorcyclist Maria Costello has received an MBE for services to motorcycling on the Queen's Birthday Honours list. The 31 year old, nicknamed Elvis by her army of fans, held the record for being the fastest woman around the famous Isle of Man TT circuit. Maria is also the first woman solo racer on the podium in the history of the Isle of Man TT and the Manx Grand Prix.

GENUINE COMMANDO 1040cc. Norvil Motorcycles are once again producing their 1040cc engines. They previously built these in the 1980s for use on the race circuit, but with today's power-hungry needs, they have decided to make them for road use too.
Go to www.norvilmotorcycle.co.uk or phone them on 01543 278008 or email GenuineCommandoParts@Norvilmotorcycle.co.uk

Grip Lock. This handy lock has proved to be easy to use and carry around. It's a bit more bulky than a disk lock but a darn sight safer. Having 'dropped' bikes in the past because of forgetting the disk lock was fitted, this gadget locks the front brake lever to the throttle – impossible to forget. It comes with different size inserts to match your throttle/brake set up. It's available from Grip Lock, New Zealand and costs around £37. Just put 'Grip Lock' in a search engine to find it. The website has a video on various 'attacks' on the lock. Two steel bars run through it inside the plastic cover. I ordered one on the Sunday and it arrived by airmail on the following Friday. My old disk lock was lobbed over a hedge a long time ago and I've been looking for something better. This is it!



Club Regalia. Stand out from the crowd. Wear something with the club logo. Speak to our Chairman, Les Wright, for list of products and prices. Look the part for that holiday/ride-out/bikeshow. There's only 100 days to Christmas so rush now to place your order!

Gimmee the Right Tools. Nothing much going on these past few weeks. I repaired the fly screen that fell off last month. Having checked out a few dealers I couldn't believe the prices. I know they are not your basic bit of Perspex but £45 for a fly screen is a bit steep. Fortunately there were some aircraft grade aluminium scraps in the skip at work so a couple of small plates were knocked up during a lunch break and fibre-glassed in place over the broken mountings. Job done and it's stayed on at sub-sonic speeds! Come to think of it, everywhere I go is at subsonic speed.

MOTORCYCLING IN THE PHILIPPINES (Or whatever happened to Chris Hamlin?)

A number of years ago on the heels of a long anticipated divorce I took the opportunity to work in Singapore for 18 months or so, even though it involved leaving behind a British and French classic motorcycle scene I had come to love.

I met a rather nice Filipino lady, a widow in fact, with whom the chemistry and most other things seemed right. It was some time before I talked about motorcycles and rather nervously I broached the

subject of classic bikes. "No experience with rebuilding British motorcycle engines then" I joked rather half-heartedly. "No" she said, "I've only done Hondas I wouldn't be any good". Such was my first insight into motorcycling in the Philippines.

The Philippines are a group of 7,100 islands south of Taiwan and Japan and east of Malaysia. They are 1,500 miles from north to south with a population of 88 million and growing. The national language is Tagalog (a blend of Malay and Spanish) but most Philipinos, especially younger people, speak English as well as their local dialect. Spain sold the Philippines to USA for 20 million dollars in 1898. Zenia (the nice Filipino lady who is now my wife) lives in Luzon, the largest of the islands, near a city called Vigan, built by the Spanish in 1700 and today a World Heritage Site. There are few roads, no railways outside Manila the capital and some internal flights. So how do people get about? Well the answer is not very quickly and usually by bus.

In the Philippines there is no potential for good services. Even the main roads are mostly narrow single carriageways usually in a poor state of repair. Yet, despite this, there is a remarkable transport infrastructure in which the motorcycle plays a key role. It's not quick but it works. The main vehicle for long distance travel is the air-conditioned coach. Vigan is less than 350 miles north of Manila yet the journey can take over ten hours. These coaches only use the main roads and do not pass through many smaller towns so local transport takes two forms. The first is a derivative of the Jeep (the Americans left behind a production line at the end of the Second World War) called a Jeepny. New Jeepneys cost £700 new! There are thousands of Jeepnys in the Philippines and each one is different. Some rusty and dilapidated, others works of art.

The original Jeep design has grown to stretched mini-bus proportions and the individual paintwork is usually a sight to behold. Jeepneys provide small local bus transit services to all the smaller towns and larger villages off the main road. Many operate loosely scheduled services between fixed destinations. Frequently the roads by the coast are simply dirt tracks scarcely one car wide and impassable even for the ubiquitous Jeepnys. In this environment the 'tricycle' or motorcycle and sidecar outfit thrives. If there are thousands of Jeepneys then there are tens of thousands of tricycles and a thriving cottage industry welding up sidecar chassis and bodywork. Many are trimmed in stainless steel with small curtains to protect the passenger from rain, which is a frequent occurrence in the Philippines. The motorcycle itself is usually a one hundred or one hundred and fifty cc Honda, or Yamaha. More on this later.

All the way from Manila to Vigan at every coach and local bus stop there are several hundred tricycles waiting to take you wherever you want to go. Even if the route to your Nippa Hut resembles an international motocross course in the rainforest that won't deter them and they will get you there. It will cost you fifty pesos for a five-mile journey, which equates to about sixty pence. Petrol is now 39 pence a litre in the Philippines! A sobering thought compared to UK prices.

Next month I will tell you a little more about exploring the coast of Ilocos Sur in the Philippines on a tricycle.

Chris Hamlin

The End Game. Here Pussy Cat. A widowed Jewish lady, still in good shape, was sunbathing on a most deserted beach at Ft. Myers Florida. She looked up and noticed that a man her age, also in good shape, had walked up, placed his blanket on the sand near hers and began reading a book. Smiling, she attempted to strike up a conversation with him. "How are you today?" "Fine, thank you," he responded, and turned back to his book. "I love the beach. Do you come here often?" she asked. "First time since my wife passed away 2 years ago," he replied and turned back to his book. "I'm sorry to hear that. My husband passed away three years ago and it is very lonely, she countered. "Do you live around here?" She asked. "Yes, I live over in Cape Coral," he answered, and again he resumed reading. Trying to find a topic of common interest, she persisted, "Do you like pussy cats?" With that, the man dropped his book, came over to her blanket, tore off her swimsuit and gave her the most passionate lovemaking of her life.

When the cloud of sand began to settle, she gasped and asked the man, "How did you know that was what I wanted?" The man replied. "How did you know my name was Katz?"

The Dead Horse. Young Chuck in Montana bought a horse from a farmer for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the horse the next day. The next day the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry son, but I have some bad news... the horse died." Chuck replied, "Well, then just give me my money back." The farmer said, "Can't do that. I went and spent it already." Chuck said, "Ok, then, just bring me the dead horse." The farmer asked, "What ya gonna do with him?" Chuck said, "I'm going to raffle him off." The farmer said, "You can't raffle off a dead horse!" Chuck said, "Sure I can, watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead."

A month later, the farmer met up with Chuck and asked, "What happened with that dead horse?" Chuck said, "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars apiece and made a profit of \$898." The farmer said, "Didn't anyone complain?" Chuck said, "Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back..."

Chuck grew up and now works for the government. He's the one who figured out how this "bank bail-out" is going to work.

Wot! Not Got a Computer? This newsletter contains quite a few references to web sites and email addresses. Where there are alternatives such as phone numbers or mailing addresses I will publish them. Get advice from Committee member Steve Watts if you are planning to go 'digital'.

Here are the Sunday Runs for the next few weeks:

--YARM MC
RUN

M -- MOTO GP

W -- WORLD S'BIKES

B -- BRITISH S'BIKES

DATE		SUNDAY RUNS VENUE	RACING	VENUE
04-Oct	#	Cracoe bike club - Cheap food)	M + W	Estoril, Portugal +Magny Cours, Fr
11-Oct	#	Helmsley/Scarborough/Whitby	B	TBA _ To be arranged
18-Oct	#	Local Run TBA	M	Phillip Island
25-Oct	#	Local Run TBA	M + W	Sepang, Malaysia+Portimo, Portuga
08-Nov	#	Local Run TBA	M	Valencia, Spain

And it's 'Goodnight' from him. Please call me if you would like something putting in the newsletter.

There is no deadline...you either make the next issue or you don't! My email address:

brian.burke2@btopenworld.com or phone me – 01325 721669 (Answerphone on if not able to get to the phone straight away). Mobile No. is 07517 605614. Brian