



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

### **CLUB NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2009**

Hi All. Christmas is nearly upon us but don't panic! Got my daughter's wedding on the 19<sup>th</sup> so just hope I have some funds left to enjoy the season! No point in being Mr Scrooge so will go with the flow (make mine a Guinness) and probably be in a alcoholic haze for a few days. Sounds like a plan to me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two very kind members of the club who gave up a day to put up some coving in my dining room and kitchen. They took pity on me with my back problem and did a fantastic job. It is what friendship is all about; it's what being in the club is all about. Where camaraderie in the motorcycling fraternity transcends the gloom and doom that is pervading this country. Don't be embarrassed – thank you Dot and John for all you've done. I hope I can repay you someday.

Some of you may not be aware that Jenny Sadler has not been very well lately having suffered a stroke. Latest news from Geoff is that she is recovering well and is expected home (Yarm) in the near future. I know you all wish her a full and speedy recovery.

As I always do about this time of the year, I've put together the racing calendar for 2010, and organised it so that the dates for GP, WSB and BSB line up across the table, making it easier to spot any clashes. Be aware that the dates are not fixed yet although I shall incorporate any changes I come across as soon as I know. Just be sure to check before travelling.

There is some news regarding the BMF and forthcoming events. See below.

Finally, I've put the Agenda for the AGM at the end of the Newsletter. Please let me know asap if you have anything you wish to raise at the meeting. Cheers.

**Committee Meeting.** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 8.30pm in the Cleveland Bay.

**AGM/Club Meeting.** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30pm.

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

Nov 27 to Dec 6	NEC International Motorcycle and Scooter Show. <b><u>CLUB RUN ON 3 DEC</u></b>
Dec 27	Christmas Dinner, Cleveland Bay
<b><u>2010</u></b>	
<b>Feb 4 – 7</b>	<b>MCN Show at the Excel, London</b>
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.

<b>May 8/9</b>	<b>Thundersprint at Northwich, Cheshire</b>
<b>May 15/16</b>	<b>BMF Show, Peterborough</b>
<b>May 29 for 2 weeks</b>	<b>IOM TT</b>
<b>Jun 12/13</b>	<b>Garden of England Motorcycle Show, Kent</b>
<b>Jul 10/11</b>	<b>BMF Kelso Show</b>
<b>July 2 to 4</b>	<b>Goodwood Festival of Speed</b>
Aug 12-15	Bulldog Bash
<b>Aug 21 to Sep 3</b>	<b>Manx GP</b>
<b>Sept 17 to 19</b>	<b>Goodwood Revival</b>
<b>Sep 18/19</b>	<b>BMF Tail End</b>
Oct 16/17	Carole Nash Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show, Stafford Show Ground

**The Club Website.** Visit the Club Website at [www.freewebs.com/yarmmcc/](http://www.freewebs.com/yarmmcc/). 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](mailto:swatts@ntlworld.com). Check out via the Guestbook when you have finished your comments.

**BMF Update.** In response to the flagging fortunes of the BMF several steps are being taken by the Management Team to reverse the downward spiral. One of the biggest problems has been the falling membership; it's been going down about 15% each year for the past 5 years. A new and dynamic Events Organiser has been contracted and the first thing is to improve the members lot. At the NEC there will be a BMF stand where you can buy your ticket for the BMF Show in May at £6 off! (£10 instead of £16!). This is £4 less than the regular member saving of £2! Remember to have your Club Membership Card (it has the BMF Logo on) with you and/or your BMF Affiliation Card. Additionally, there will be a members-only area at the show, discount on the gate and hopefully, a specially prepared area for member parking. This will be the first step in giving the membership a boost and to feel part of the BMF again. There will be other promotions coming up and I'll keep you up to date.

<p><b>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.</b></p>
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**Adrenalin-Moto Ltd.** This Darlington-based parts specialist covers Harley XR1200 parts, Buells and Japanese/European bikes. Adrenalin specialise in after-market performance parts and you can get more information by phone, email or visit the websites. Parts can be ordered by phone (01325 483551) or by email: [sales@adrenalinmoto.co.uk](mailto:sales@adrenalinmoto.co.uk). The websites to visit are: [www.adrenalinmoto.co.uk](http://www.adrenalinmoto.co.uk) for Harley XR1200 parts. [www.trojan-horse.co.uk](http://www.trojan-horse.co.uk) for Buell parts. [www.twinshack.com](http://www.twinshack.com) for Japanese and Euro parts. I've checked the websites and they work fine.

**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.**

**The Flag Café.** Laurence 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. During the Winter months the café will be open on Wednesday evenings only. I'll let you know of any changes.

**SHARP Helmet Ratings.** You can check the Government website regarding the SHARP ratings. See if your helmet is up there with the best. Go to [www.sharp.direct.gov.uk](http://www.sharp.direct.gov.uk)

**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](mailto: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.

### **GEOFF SADLER – CALIFORNIA TO PERU (not by frog)**

**Sunday 6th Sept.** Yecora - 430 miles. Rode through the desert, lots of big cacti and good roads. Hit the first military check-point, a regular feature of the Mexican road system along with topes (speed humps) and road kill! At one point we approached a number of police cars and on slowing down saw the reason, somebody was laying at the side of the road, obviously dead. Also overtook a snake and a tarantula, not dead! Decent roads saw us making good progress into the Sierra Madres, we climbed steadily out of the desert then all of a sudden a huge canyon opened in front of us and we spent the next few hours navigating switch backs and then climbing back into the clouds. We overnighted at a Mexican cowboy town motel. They opened the restaurant for us and we enjoyed a good meal and local beer. A local and his daughter availed themselves of the opportunity to use the restaurant, and exchanged pleasantries with us. The gringos were roving to be quite an attraction, lots of pick-ups cruised by with music blasting. We were nearly as popular as the security guard who had a constant stream of visitors.



**Monday 7th Sept.** Parral - 430 miles. Maximum Altitude - 8,600ft.

Woke up to find a couple of horses wandering in the street and the smell of fresh bread from the local bakery. After a breakfast of Ranchero Webos (Mexican style fried eggs) we were off into the mountains. The scenery was breathtaking, the road winding through the Sierra Madre tracing a canyon three times bigger than the Grand Canyon. The views are spectacular: deep canyons, high bluffs, lots of trees and greenery. We saw many eagles. Hardly any traffic on the road and with corners and hairpins heavily cambered it was turning out to be some of the best riding we had encountered.

The weather turned a bit wet but fortunately we were on the central plateau and only had reasonably straight roads to contend with. This was proving to be a fairly predicable weather pattern, high temps leading to clouds building and heavy downpours. Quite spectacular at the heights we were riding. Early evening, we had an unsuccessful attempt to check in at a motel that looked more than acceptable: outskirts of town, big perimeter wall, each room had an attached garage and a security guard at the entrance and none of the rooms appeared to be taken. On trying to check-in we found that it was only possible to rent rooms by the hour? We beat a hasty retreat, I guess the name 'The Heaven Motel' and its pink walls should have alerted us, but it was dark and we were tired! Turns out that these motels are a regular feature of Central and South American life to the extent that ladies of night are virtually absent from the streets.

**Tuesday 8th Sept.** Mazatlan - 450 miles, Max Alt 9,800ft. A hot and fairly straight ride through the Sierra Madre central plateau region. None of us had appreciated the size of Mexico, it is a big place! The ride through to Durango was fairly straight and then we started to climb as we started to head west to the coast and the Devil's Backbone. Any descent from 9,800ft to sea level is going to be interesting and so it proved. The Devil's Backbone road traces abutments where possible but much is blasted out the side of the mountains. The hairpin corners are heavily cambered with some of the drop-offs spectacular for those that get it a bit wrong! Riding it is a challenge: manic overtaking followed by stretches of clear road where the next hairpin corner might be filled by an on coming truck covering both lanes. Certainly cures any mid-afternoon drowsiness, everybody had a moment or three! The truck and bus drivers are the stars of the show. They will signal when it's clear but beware once they are trucking - they will not back-off! It took us 5 hours of continual switch backs before we reached the coast. We found a nice hotel right on the beach front and finished off the day with a few well earned beers and dinner at the Shrimp Bucket restaurant.

Best wishes.  
Geoff



**FOR SALE Suzuki SV650S. '04 Registration. Blue. Only 2,800 miles. MOT and TAX. Comes with Optimate Charger and Paddock Stands. Yours for £2300. Please call Peter on 01642 730671 and negotiate!**

**Custom Throttle and Clutch Cables.** (Repeated from the October Newsletter) If you need a one-off cable for that special project or a top-class product for your modern pride and joy then try Venhill 013086 885111. Visit the website at [www.venhill.co.uk](http://www.venhill.co.uk) for more details.

### **MOTORCYCLING IN THE PHILIPPINES** **Part 3 – Return to Manzante**

One Easter we decided to go back to Manzante in the Philippines and finish off some of the work on the house. In addition I just had to catch up on the latest ‘unofficial’ motorcycle imports at the island of Puro just up the coast. Rumour had it that Korean and Chinese copies of Harley Davidsons had started to arrive in the dealers there at around 750 pounds a time. We also wanted to look at the huge thatched holiday chalet development that our neighbour, Holger (from Dresden in Germany) was developing as it looked like an ideal base for motorcycle tours.

To make the trip more interesting for everyone my daughter Alexia came along to participate in an extended family reunion. Zenia went on ahead to prepare and I met Alexia in Dubai so we could fly to the Philippines together. It all went fairly smoothly and Zenia met us at the airport with her friend in an eight-seater van for the overnight trip to Manzante. It was a long and tiring trip and I began to wish we had taken the bus where at least it would have been easier to sleep. Unfortunately, with over 8 million Filipinos working overseas, getting a seat on anything in or out of Manila at Easter is a lost cause.

The house finishing activities went out of the window fairly quickly as we discovered that everyone had packed up for Easter a week early. Alexia quickly formed a close relationship with Zenia’s youngest son and they went off on the Honda everyday to visit local places of interest, basically shopping by another name. There was a brief fight when I wanted them to both wear crash helmets, as these are not a legal requirement in the Philippines. I purchased a couple of Shoéi copies at 15 pounds a time and insisted they were worn. There was not too much hassle after that as they looked quite smart.

Things brightened up when a local lad called Owen dropped by with his Chinese Kiton motorcycle. It is probably the nearest thing to a Café Racer one can find in the Philippines. Having been brought up on 500 to 1000 cc motorcycles I still find the apparent 150 cc limit locally a bit constricting. You can buy larger bikes but they are rare due to the almost complete absence of any purchasing power in the local population.

Eventually we hired a tricycle to take us to Alangen to order some fish and walked from there across the temporarily dry causeway to Puro. The new bikes had indeed come in and both new Kiton (Chinese) and Lifan (Korean) models were strangely like mini Harley Davidsons with vast areas of chrome, three headlamps, running boards and forward footrests for the rider and pillion. I found the test rides interesting but uncomfortable as, of course, the rear brake and gear-change positions were reversed in comparison to old British bikes. The pedals and levers were designed for much daintier feet than mine too, which meant missed gears and uncertain braking.

As 150 cc motorcycles go the Lifan had much more poke. I felt totally exposed on the Kiton even when trying to overtake a scooter where a young local girl gave me a run for my money. All of this on a wide dirt track through the middle of the island affectionately known as the Northern Expressway. We didn’t buy one but later I regretted not taking the plunge although I would have needed a pair of ballet shoes to operate the foot controls. On our next visit I think we shall buy a Lifan as cheap local transport since

buying a second hand Jeepney is fraught with dangers. (They are all 'less than two years old with just local mileage' but no one can explain the 166,000 kilometres on the clock).

One assumption that is not valid in the Philippines is that the maximum number of people that can ride a motorcycle at any one time is two. Three is quite normal and I have seen five with three on the seat and two youngsters on the tank. No one wears a helmet, goggles or any kind of protective clothing but the kids giggle with pleasure as they zoom along the beach back to the family Nippa Hut.

Fortunately, accidents are few as most children can ride a motorcycle from the age of 9 or 10 and are extremely proficient by the time they are thirteen or fourteen years old. Please don't ask me about lessons or driving tests! Age is not a consideration either as frequently Granddad, over 80 years old, squeezes in the middle to get a lift home

It is very easy to feel a bit culturally isolated in the Philippines but little things can redress the balance. I found an expatriate owned the Shell Service Station in Magsingal and they sold really nice Californian Merlot red wine and excellent tubs of dairy ice cream, normally completely unobtainable. Wonderful!

Chris Hamlin

**THE END GAME.** Happy and Sad. A husband and wife are watching TV. The husband turned to his wife and said "Babe, tell me something that will make me happy and sad all at the same time". She said "You have the biggest willy out of all your friends!"

Football? What has hit more balls than David Beckhams right foot? Jordan's chin.

**Geordie Chat Up Lines.**

- 1) Did yi fart? Coz you just blew me away!
- 2) Ma luv for u is like diarrhoea. Ah cannit hold it in.
- 3) Is there a mirror in ya pants? Coz I can see mesel in em.
- 4) Ya body reminds me of a spanner....every time of think of it me nuts pure tighten up.
- 5) Yi might not be the best lookin girl here but beauty is only a light switch away.

OK..I know they were a bit below the belt....I'll do some for the girls next time!

**And a Shaggy Doggy Story from Tony:** A complaint to the police from a member of the public:

Dear Sir/ Madam

Having spent the past twenty minutes waiting for someone at Leith police station to pick up a telephone, I have decided to abandon the idea and try e mailing you instead.

Perhaps you would be so kind as to pass this message on to your colleagues in blue by means of smoke signal, carrier pigeon or Ouija board.

As I am writing this e mail there are eleven failed medical experiments ( I think you call them youths ) in west Cromwell street. Six of them seem happy enough to play a game which involves kicking a football against an iron gate with the force of a meteorite. This causes an earth shattering clang which rings throughout the entire building. This game is in now its third week & as I am unsure how the scoring works, I have know idea if it will end any time soon.

The remaining five walking abortions, are happily rummaging through several bags of rubbish & items of furniture that someone has so thoughtfully dumped beside the wheelie bins.

One of them has found a saw & is setting about a discarded chair like a beaver on speed. I fear that it's only a matter of time before they turn there limited attention to the bottle of calor gas that is

lying on its side between the two bins. If they could be relied on to only blow their own arms & legs off then. I would happily leave them to it. I would even go as far as to lend them the matches. Unfortunately they are far more likely to blow up half the street with them & I've just finished decorating the kitchen.

What I suggest is this: After replying to this e mail with worthless assurances that the matter is being dealt with, why not leave it until the one night of the year when there are no mutants around, then drive up the street in a panda car before doing a three point turn & disappearing again. This will of course, serve no other purpose than to remind us what policemen actually look like.

I trust that when I take a claw hammer to the skull of one of these throwbacks, you'll do me the same courtesy of giving me a four month head start before coming to arrest me.

Your obedient servant

Signed 'Member of the public'

Reply from the police: Dear Mr Complainer

I have read your e mail & understand you frustration at the problems caused by youths playing in the area & the problems you have encountered in trying to contact the police.

As the community beat officer for your street I would like to extend an offer of discussing the matter fully with you. Please provide contact address & telephone number & when may be suitable.

Regards, Community beat officer

Reply from the complainer: Dear PC

First of all, I would like to thank you for the speedy response to my original e mail. 16 hours & 38 minutes must be a record for Leith police station & rest assured I will forward these details to Norris McWhirter for inclusion in his next book.

Secondly I was delighted to hear that our street has its own community beat officer. May I be the first to congratulate you on your covert skills? In the five years I have lived here, I have never seen you once. Do you hide up a tree or have you gone deep undercover & infiltrated the gang itself? Are you the one with the acne & the moustache on his forehead or the one with a chin like a wash hand basin? It's surely only a matter of time before you are headhunted by MI5.

Whilst I realise that there may be far more serious crimes taking place in Leith, such as smoking in a public place or being Muslim without due care & attention, is it too much to ask for a policeman to explain (using words of no more than two syllables at a time) to these twats, that they might want to play their strange football game elsewhere? The pitch behind the citadel or the one at DK's are both within spitting distance as it is at the bottom of the Albert dock.

Should you wish to discuss these matters further you should feel free to contact me on?????????? If after 25 minutes I have still failed to answer, I'll buy you a large one in the Compass Bar.

Regards,

P.S. If you think that this is sarcasm, think yourself lucky that you do not work for the cleansing department.



**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'.

**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

### **Events Calendar 2010**

<b>MOTOGP</b>		<b>World Superbikes</b>		<b>British Superbikes</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
		Feb 28	Phillip Island		
		Mar 28	Portimao		
				Apr 3-5	Brands Hatch
Apr 11	Qatar	Apr 11	Valencia		
				Apr 16-18	Thruxton
Apr 25	Motegi	Apr 25	Assen		
May 2	Jerez			May 1-3	Oulton Park
		May 9	Monza		
May 16	Le Mans	May 16	Kyalami		
				May 21-23	Croft
May 30	Mugello	May 31	Salt Lake City		
Jun 6	Silverstone				
Jun 26	Assen	Jun 27	Misano, San Marino	Jun 25-27	Mallory Park
Jul 4	Catalunya				
		Jul 11	Brno	Jul 9-11	Snetterton
Jul 18	Sachsenring				
Jul 25	Laguna Seca			Jul 23-25	Knockhill
		Aug 1	Donington Park		
				Aug 6-8	Brands Hatch
Aug 15	Brno				
Aug 29	Indianapolis			Aug 28-30	Cadwell Park
		Sep 5	Nurburgring		
Sep 12	San Marino			Sep 10-12	Donington Park
Sep 19	Balatonring, Hungary				
		Sep 26	Imola	Sep 24-26	Silverstone
		Oct 3	Magny-Cours		
Oct 10	Sepang			Oct 8-10	Oulton Park
Oct 17	Phillip Island				
Oct 31	Estoril				
Nov 7	Valencia				



