



Cleveland Bay, Yarm
Every second Wednesday of the month
<http://www.freewebs.com/yarmmcc>
Tel: 07517 605614

CLUB NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2010

It's good to be back home after a 3-week vacation in the USA. We were staying with friends who we met some 20 years ago when I did a stint with NATO. All our friends are radio amateurs apart from one, who incidentally rides a bike...a big bruiser of a cruiser. I declined the offer of taking it for a ride as I just looked so clumsy and it was over 90 degrees F! Besides, I didn't want to scrape the footboards off. There are plenty of Japanese 'Crotch Rockets' about, mostly ridden by young sailors it seems, who proliferate about the place seeing as the largest naval base on the planet is just a few miles from where we were staying. The Blue Angels, the USN premier display team, put on a show one weekend; the pauses between passes were embarrassingly huge. I'm just glad I didn't pay to see them. I really enjoyed my first live American football game and had the privilege of a 7 year old girl explain the play as it went along! The crowd (all 60,000) was fantastic, the band was brilliant and the cheerleaders made the temperature rise! It really was just like you see on the movies. I'm now a fan of American football – beats soccer every time as far as I'm concerned. We went to a concert on the beach, given by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and they were fantastic. The Americans really can do culture when they try; just visit a museum if you ever get the chance and you'll understand. They are very proud of their history. I've put in a bit about getting going on a bike in the USA...makes the EC and DSA look like a bunch of Nazis! There is also something about 'shagging'

Committee Meeting. Wednesday 3rd November 2010 at 8.30pm

Club Meeting. Wednesday 13th October 2010 at 8.30pm.

Forthcoming Events in 2010 (latest additions in Bold). Let me know of any event you would like

Oct 10	Rideout to Elvington Raceway
Oct 16/17	Carole Nash Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show, Stafford Show Ground
Nov 26 to Dec 5	NEC International Motorcycle and Scooter Show. Bus from Yarm on 2nd December, leaving the Town Hall at 6am. Speak to Norman if you want a seat.
DEC 27	Christmas Party at the Cleveland Bay

The Club Website. Visit the Club Website at 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. Check out via the Guestbook when you have finished your comments.

The BMF. The Yarm Motorcycling Club is affiliated to the BMF. For details of the BMF go to www.bmf.co.uk

FOR SALE Triumph Trophy 1200 – 93 L Reg. Metallic Red, 44,600 miles
T&T to May. Many touring accessories
Present owner for 11yrs, very well maintained, Excellent original condition
£1800ono. Call Ian on 07713490317

Get Biking USA. To get biking in the USA you turn up at the Department of Motor Vehicles with your drivers licence and do a theory test. You can then do the practical which involves getting on the bike, riding down the car park and doing an emergency stop when the tester indicates. There may be some wiggling around cones but I forget some of the briefing I had (it was a hot day!). Endex. You can now ride a motorcycle of any size on any road. God Bless America. Oh, I nearly forgot, helmets are a requirement in some states. Sunglasses and beer-belly seem to be almost a definite requirement. Interestingly nearly all bikes have a small bell hanging from the front frame to ward off evil spirits....I kid you not! (I bought one for a friend)
If anyone has better information on licensing in the USA I would be happy to take it on board.

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

Shagging in the States. On the day we left the USA the local paper – The Virginia Pilot – carried an article about Shagging. Shagging is actually a dance; there is the Virginia Shag and the Carolina Shag to name but two. While the article was straight laced I couldn't help but crack up when a lady who was being interviewed said (I quote) "I can shag to anything". After wiping up my coffee I tried to explain to my hosts what it meant in England and that got me deeper in trouble. Jan Weakly, the lady being interviewed, is the chairman of the Virginia Beach Shag Club's Junior Committee and "...hopes to recruit a new generation of shaggers by offering weekly lessons to children ages 8 to 18...". I was just about numb with biting my lip by then and declined to explain to my hosts how this could be related to paedophilia in Europe! I have the original article if anyone wishes to read it. American innocence!

Club Rideouts – Identified Club Member Leads – VOLUNTEER NOW!!

There is no table this month as I haven't been given any names. So there!

FOR SALE : Kawasaki ZR-7 Rear Hugger £5. Ventura Tail Pack with Rack – just needs 'mating' rack for your own bike - £10. Magellan GPS for aviation use (Visual Flight Rules model) – about the size of a large paperback. Grey-scale display. Runs off 12v. works fine. Has most roads/rivers etc on it. £15. Contact Brian (Secretary) 07517 605614 or 01325 721669 **It's so cheap..just buy it anyway! This stuff will go to a charity shop/bin if no takers by end Sept.**

Crash Bung Deal. R & G, the protection specialists, are offering to take in your old crash bungs (used or not) and give you £10 discount when you buy new ones. The old bungs will be used in a sculpture being created for display at the NEC show.

New Museum in the Lakes. The Lakeland Motor Museum has opened at Backbarrow, near Newby Bridge close to the southern tip of Lake Windemere. The museum has a fine display of bikes from 1926 on to current bikes ridden in the TT. There is also a dedicated exhibition to Donald Campbell, who incidentally held 21 water and land speed records. The exhibition includes full size replicas of some of his craft. Prices are £7 for adults, £4.50 for a child 5 – 15, and £23 for a family of 2 adults and up to 3 children. Children under 5 have free entry. The museum is open daily from 10.00am to 5.30pm to the end of October, thereafter it closes at 4.30pm. Check out the website at www.lakelandmotormuseum.co.uk/ for more details.

CLIVE'S STORY– FROM DREAM TO NIGHTMARE

Part 3 - The Bills Continue to Grow

It had been six weeks since Clive had heard anything from Don Diggings. He was nervous about calling again as Don had been anything but pleasant over the telephone. It had taken several attempts to get Diggings to make a note of this telephone number and he didn't want to go through all that again.

Finally, one of Don's mechanics called him to say the cylinder head was ready and he should drop in and pick it up. Don it appeared was away doing a spell as 'Guest of Honour' at the 'Classic Wreck Magazine Yearly Show', where one of Don's bikes had won 'Best in Show'. Rumour had it that that the award was a condition of Don's attendance but this had been publicly denounced by him as 'sour grapes'.

Clutching the newly finished cylinder head under his arm Clive headed for the Heath Robinson Classics (HRC) workshop. Banger Heath was down at his building society paying in Clive's last three hundred pound cheque so it was Bill Robinson who greeted him. "What do you think Bill" said Clive excitedly as they unwrapped the cylinder head. "Let's give it a compression test first," said Bill who knew dodgy engineering when he saw it. Carefully, as Clive held the head, Bill poured a litre of petrol into the cylinder head combustion chambers, which to Clive's surprise immediately transferred itself to his left trouser leg.

Bill looked a bit glum. "There doesn't seem to be any seal at all," he said, "I'd better take the valves out and have a look. He quickly sprung the collets and removed the valves. Clive was impatient to see the result. Bill looked even gloomier than before as he slowly rotated a valve stem between his fingers. The valve head oscillated up and down like the eccentric plate in a water pump. "Wow" said Bill, "I've never seen work as bad as this before, you'd better take it back Clive". Clive was devastated especially since Don's invoice had been well over 1000 pounds. Plucking up his courage he returned to the Diggings workshop the next weekend to complain.

"There's nothing wrong with it" said Don with an air of finality. "But Mr. Diggings" stuttered Clive, "there is no compression and the valves are all machined out of true". "Learned a few engineering words now have we sonny," said Don with a sneer. "Do you know how long I have been building classic bikes?" but Clive stood his ground and slowly the true story emerged.

Don's cylinder head man had resigned to join a firm making drain covers and the job had been sub-contracted. The sub-contractor had been moving premises and couldn't do the job so had given it to his brother in law who "did a bit of lathe work" and he, in turn as he was going on holiday, had given it to his son as a third form school project. The cylinder head had actually won second prize in the 'Recycled Junk' category at the school show.

With extreme ill humour Diggings agreed to regrind the valve seats although in his view they didn't need it. "Square fours never have any compression anyway," he said, in a half hearted attempt to justify the way the work had been done. "Don't come back before next week".

The second compression test in the HRC workshop produced only a dribble of petrol down Clive's left trouser leg so he and Bill both decided they would live with the reworked head. Unfortunately Banger

was a spectator to the test. "Serves you right," he said "we would have done it much better for less than a couple of grand, I mean two point one grand," he quickly added as he realized two thousand was not easily divisible by three hundred". Clive began to feel that Banger had a point but it was too late now. How's the re-bore coming on said Clive in an effort to change the subject. Bill went to say something but Banger cut him off. "Just fine", said Banger "but I insisted they ream the barrels so they won't be back for another week". Bill looked uncomfortable with this but didn't say anything. Clive didn't think too much about it at the time either but much later the truth about Banger's so called re-bore became all too obvious, especially when the Arton smoked continuously from one cylinder, even when fully run in.

Enthusiasm and passion are wonderful qualities which Clive had in large amounts but the downside of them is that one tends to ignore obvious signs when things are going wrong. Friends gave Clive good advice but he preferred to see the good in everybody and the more unscrupulous took advantage of this. He wanted the Arton to look smart when it was finished and avoid joining the 'patina' enthusiasts at the local club who took delight in riding their classic bikes up and down muddy country lanes and then not cleaning them.

To ensure that rust and corrosion did not make the Arton quickly look a bit jaded Clive asked HRC to use stainless steel nuts and bolts on all the parts exposed to the environment. Banger, who had just received another final demand from his Building Society, could not believe his luck. As he sent Clive another three hundred pound invoice with a cheerful flourish he instructed Bill to make the changes.

Bill was frustrated and pointed out that they had nowhere near enough fittings to do the job. Banger saw no problem in this and instructed Bill "just change 'em where it shows and polish the zinc plate ones up a bit". It was only much later when bits started to fall off the Arton that Clive became aware that anything was wrong.

In the next episode the Arton gets finally started up and a neighbour calls the fire brigade thinking Banger's garage is on fire.

Chris Hamlin

THE END GAME. "I think I have been watching too much TV lately." "Oh really, what are the symptoms." "They are a yellow cartoon family."

What goes in pink and hard and comes out all soft and mushy? Bubblegum.

What's the difference between an oral and rectal thermometer? The taste.

What has two grey legs and two brown legs? An elephant with diarrhoea.

How does a Welshman find sheep in long grass? Very satisfying.

What would it say on a nun's tombstone? Returned – Unopened.

Man asked the lady assistant in the bank to check his balance...so she pushed him over.

What does a dog do that a man steps into? Pants.

A pile of dog poo had been dumped at the entrance to a pub. As a little guy walks into the pub he skids on the poo and slides in across the floor. A moment later a big burly guy walks in and skids on the stuff. The little guy says "I just did that." So the big guy smashed him in the face.

Ace Café British V's. Sunday 10th October features an All British V's day at the London site. Vincents and Velocettes will also feature. Starts at 9am.

Is Your Helmet Bad For Your Health? A team of Bath University researchers are taking on-road measurements to find how noise is transmitted from a helmet and how it affects a riders hearing and ability to concentrate. Dr Michael Carley said: "The noise inside a helmet at 70mph is higher than the legal limit for noise at work – more than enough to cause serious damage. The issue is not the noise from the engine or the exhaust, but noise simply from the airflow over the helmet. Earplugs don't really help as much of the noise is transmitted into the inner ear from the rider's bones. This has been known for over 20 years although very little has been done about it." The study will hopefully result in a re-design of what we have now. There is no date as yet when the researchers will report their findings.

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). Mobile 07517 605614.