



Cleveland Bay, Yarm.

Every second Wednesday of the month

<http://www.freewebs.com/yarmmcc>

Tel: 07867 782414

CLUB NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2010

First of all, let me apologise for my behaviour on the NEC coach during the return journey. I really should not have worn such garish underpants in public!

The Wedding of our daughter Joanna to Patrick on 19th Dec went absolutely like clockwork. There was some worry about the weather but on the day the sun shone and the roads were clear. My thanks to Olwyn for keeping things on track while I was paying bills like there was no tomorrow! Christmas was a blur of people, food and booze! The club Christmas Party was brilliant – well done everyone who helped make it a great success. My two guests from Hayling Island, who I would add are avid ‘caravaners’ and don’t particularly like motorbikes (and the Top Gear crew!), had a brilliant time and were most impressed by the warm welcome shown to them by you the members. Any prejudices my friends might have had about motorcyclists were completely eliminated by the great atmosphere. Well done everyone!

On the same theme, it was good to see our ex-Chairman Geoff Sadler at the Xmas Party. We were so pleased to hear that Jenny is doing well. We wish you both all the best for 2010.

The weather has been pretty awful and it has been too cold to get in the garage and spend long-term fixing the ZZR 600. Damn! I should have cracked on with it sooner but work on the house and preparations for the wedding kind of took over. Anyway, I am seriously looking at a couple of bikes with the aim of getting back on 2 wheels as soon as practicable. I’ve been putting any earnest search off until I’ve paid all the bills for the wedding.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR NEWS REGARDING THE FLAG CAFÉ.....

Committee Meeting. Wednesday 6th January 2010 at 8.30pm in the Cleveland Bay.

AGM/Club Meeting. Wednesday 13th January at 8.30pm.

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

Feb 4 – 7	MCN Show at the Excel, London
Feb 20/21	Carole Nash Bristol Classic Motorcycle Show, Bath and West Showground
MAR 20/21	Scottish Motorcycle Show. Names and deposits to Norman asap.
Apr 24/25	Carole Nash Classic Show, Stafford County Show Ground
July 9 – 11	VMCC Festival of 1000 Bikes, Mallory Park.
May 8/9	Thundersprint at Northwich, Cheshire
May 15/16	BMF Show, Peterborough
May 29 for 2 weeks	IOM TT
Jun 12/13	Garden of England Motorcycle Show, Kent
Jul 10/11	BMF Kelso Show
July 2 to 4	Goodwood Festival of Speed

JUL 25	ACE Café Streetfighter Show
Aug 12-15	Bulldog Bash
Aug 21 to Sep 3	Manx GP
Sept 17 to 19	Goodwood Revival
Sep 18/19	BMF Tail End at the Lincolnshire Showground
Oct 16/17	Carole Nash Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show, Stafford Show Ground

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.

BMF Update-Tail End Rally. The Tail End Rally will take place at the Lincolnshire Showground in September following negotiations by the Mulberry Group, who are responsible for BMF show organisation. It is a large site and has a big covered area as well as plenty of space outdoors, with a real country feel to it. It's about 50 miles closer than Peterborough. Further details when I get more info.

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.

The Flag Café. Recent news from Hambleton District Council is not good. The retrospective application for change of use of the site from a barn to café has been turned down. A hearing will take place in Northallerton on 7 Jan at the Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton at 1:30pm. Any support at the meeting would be most welcome. Lets hope that the recommendation at the meeting is to allow the proposal to go ahead.

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.

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

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

GEOFF SADLER – CALIFORNIA TO PERU (not by frog)

Wednesday 9th Sept. Manzanillo - 430 miles. After the altitudes of the previous couple of days it was proving a pleasant change to be near to sea level although we did encounter some rolling hills and fast car drivers! Good roads and local traffic saw us making rapid progress. We rode past some superb beaches with hardly any tourist activity. Palm trees and the occasional tequila cactus plantation added to the scenery. The blue/green iridescent tequila cactus leaves are particularly memorable. We even tried the occasional glass or three of it's produce. Armadillos were an interesting addition to the road kill list mainly populated by dogs, with cows making an occasional but smelly contribution.

Thursday 10th Sept. Acapulco - 420 miles. The coastal, rolling hills and desert provided good riding conditions. Buses and pick-ups provide the main form of transportation. Most pick-ups have tubular frames to allow them to carry increased loads and prevent the contents from spilling out, this includes passengers. It can be quite alarming to be overtaken by a pick-up travelling at 80 plus mph with people standing up in the back, faces screwed up into a grimace against the windblast. Families and children tend to sit down but machismo runs strong through the veins of the Mexican male so standing up with his machete by his side is seen a badge of honour. Wonder what toothpaste they use? Must be good to remove all the flies! Arrived on the outskirts of Acapulco at 5pm, hot, sticky and the roads were crowded with aggressive drivers only interested in getting home. We eventually made it to the tourist hotels and were lucky at the first attempt. Don't think I like this place very much.(though the view from the hotel was great)



Friday 11 Sept. Acapulco
R&R day and I don't mean Rock and Roll! First impressions confirmed - this place is so focused on taking money from tourists it's lost its identity and any charm it may once have had. The best example I can give is that after travelling over 2000 miles through (real) Mexico we saw our first sombrero just outside the hotel. Everybody is on the make, surely there can't be anybody who makes a repeat visit to Acapulcc-hole? In general terms Mexico is impressive, this place isn't. Enough said. We did however manage to have good night out at the Argentina Steak House and then a beer or 2 (and some funny hats) at the Bungee Bar.



Best wishes.
Geoff

Next Month: Geoff and crew travel to Arriaga then into Guatamala.

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!

MOTORCYCLING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Part 4 – Wedding Preparations

Zenia and I returned to Manzante to make preparations for our marriage. After a 9-hour flight and 10-hour bus ride I was informed that I had to get written permission to marry Zenia from the British Embassy in Manila. Aaaargh!! Another 18 hours on a bus.

Our rest was short-lived. Zenia's son Peter was late on the morning of our arrival. Having lost her eldest son Alan a few years ago in a freak motorcycle accident Zenia is naturally nervous if any member of the family is late when travelling on two wheels. Peter eventually turned up covered in seawater, sand and seaweed from head to foot, on foot. He had been riding his sidecar outfit along the beach where, in the dry season, several small streams a few inches deep, cross the sand to reach the sea. A recent Typhoon had scoured one of these streams to a depth of about three feet. Peter had not been along the beach since the Typhoon and the angle of the sun had concealed the change in depth. He had entered the water at his normal, brisk 40 kph producing a spectacular wave of spray, going over the handlebars and briefly disappearing beneath the surface. When he stood up the engine had drowned and he found himself unable to move the tricycle in the soft sand. He had walked the remaining two kilometres to Manzante to get help.

The tide was coming in when we arrived to rescue the bike. We struggled waist deep in water to free the outfit. Once free it was fairly easy to push it the two kilometres back to Manzante for some serious WD40 treatment. We drained all the salt water out of it and washed everything with fresh well water, petrol and WD40 before leaving it in the sun to dry. The old spark plug had given up the ghost but a new one gave an instant start and steady tick over once everything was dry. I never cease to be amazed at the abuse these 150cc Hondas will take and still run quite happily.

Zenia's ambition has been to own and ride one of the Harley Davidson mini lookalikes which were now on sale in Puro for around 450 quid. In the end the visit to Puro was disappointing and we found mostly scooters with one or two rather overpriced larger bikes. We decided to have a look around town to see what was available in Vigan from the dealers. New Sinski models from China were arriving, including a 250cc twin, but prices were disappointing at over 1000 pounds although tax and insurance were free. This, in my view was not much of an offer, as few people seem to bother about insurance, let alone tax.

The local buses are quite an experience – deregulation taken to the limit. Some of them look straight out of a scrap yard with imaginative names like 'John's Bus', and the faded remnants of a colour scheme, but the essentials for customer satisfaction are not neglected. They may belch black smoke, have bald tyres, be a bit light on brakes and have shiny metal seats that you slide off on corners but all of them have a first class high power stereo system inside playing pop music. All this for just eight pence each way. Bus stop signs are a complete misnomer because they should say 'Bus slows' while a muscular guy hauls you on board as you run alongside.

Bus owners like to give their buses country themes and one we took recently had pictures of France with 'Haute Normandie' written all over the inside. One very smart bus has Third Reich Nazi swastikas all down the sides in black on red. I inquired about this and was told the owner was German and the business had been started by his late Father who 'was someone big in Germany during the Second World War'. So they didn't all go to South America! No one cares locally and there is no potential for bad feeling about the Germans because it was the Japanese who occupied the Philippines.

It is difficult to imagine life here if you live in UK. In the morning we walk down the lane to the beach and often have a swim in the warm water. A pair of shorts and flip-flops is all you need. So, if you are appalled at Gordon's vision for the UK and frustrated at his latest stealth tax, which reduces your salary or pension even further and tells you how lucky you are to be paying for better health services the third time over, don't despair. If you have motorcycles in your blood and some Gypsy in your soul, then remember - there is an alternative. Here in Ilocos Sur your pounds will buy ten times as much as in UK. The days are timeless, the scenery stunning, the way of life simple, the food good, motorcycles cheap to buy and run and medical services adequate. Your Nippa Hut will be your castle, maybe with a pretty local girl cooking your Biker's breakfast and, best of all Gordon and the Inland Revenue will be 10,000 miles away with no jurisdiction. It's your decision - don't leave it too late.

Chris Hamlin

THE END GAME. A Horse, A Chicken & A Harley: On the farm lived a chicken and a horse, both of whom loved to play together. One day the two were playing, when the horse fell into a bog and began to sink. Scared for his life, the horse whinnied for the chicken to go get the farmer for help! Off the chicken ran, back to the farm. Arriving at the farm, he searched and searched for the farmer, but to no avail, for he had gone to town with the only tractor. Running around, the chicken spied the farmer's new Harley. Finding the keys in the ignition, the chicken sped off with a length of rope hoping he still had time to save his friend's life. Back at the bog, the horse was surprised, but happy, to see the chicken arrive on the shiny Harley, and he managed to get a hold of the loop of rope the chicken tossed to him. After tying the other end to the rear bumper of the farmer's bike, the chicken then drove slowly forward and, with the aid of the powerful bike, rescued the horse! Happy and proud, the chicken rode the Harley back to the farmhouse, and the farmer was none the wiser when he returned. The friendship between the two animals was cemented: Best Buddies, Best Pals. A few weeks later, the chicken fell into a mud pit, and soon, he too, began to sink and cried out to the horse to save his life! The horse thought a moment, walked over, and straddled the large puddle. Looking underneath, he told the chicken to grab his hangy-down thingy and he would then lift him out of the pit. The chicken got a good grip, and the horse pulled him up and out, saving his life. The moral of the story?? (yep, you betcha, there is a moral!). 'When You're Hung Like A Horse, You Don't Need A Harley To Pick Up Chicks!

Little Johnny. It's the day before Christmas break. The students have turned in all their work, and there is really nothing more to do. The children are so restless, the teacher decides to have an early dismissal.

Teacher: "Whoever answers the questions I ask, first and correctly, can leave early today."

Little Johnny says to himself: "Good, I want to get outta here. I'm smart and will answer the question."

Teacher: "Who said 'Four Score and Seven Years Ago'?" Before Johnny can open his mouth, Susie says: "Abraham Lincoln." Teacher: "That's right Susie, you can go home." Johnny is mad that Susie answered the question first.

Teacher: "Who said 'I Have a Dream'?" Before Johnny say a word, Mary says: "Martin Luther King."

Teacher: "That's right Mary, you can go." Johnny is even madder than before.

Teacher: "Who said 'Ask not, what your country can do for you'?" Before Johnny gets his mouth open, Nancy says: "John F. Kennedy." Teacher: "That's right Nancy, you may also leave."

By now, Johnny is boiling mad that he has not been able to answer to any of the questions.

When the teacher turns her back, Johnny says: "I wish these bitches would keep their mouths shut!"

The teacher spins around: "NOW WHO SAID THAT?"

Johnny: "TIGER WOODS!!! Can I go now?"

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

MOTOGP		World Superbikes		British Superbikes	
Date	Location	Date	Location	Date	Location
		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				

