



**bmf**

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

### **CLUB NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2010**

Thanks to everyone who turned up for the AGM and a special thanks and welcome to Brian Taylor for taking on the role of Chairman. You can rest assured that the committee will be right behind you and is looking forward to working with you over the next 3 years.

A big Thank You to Les for chairing the club through the past 6 years. We are all grateful for all the work you have done for us. It must have been particularly difficult with the events of last year taking you 'off line' for a few weeks but we are pleased to see you back stronger than ever. You will no doubt be glad to get back on a bike after such a long lay-off. Enjoy the break.

Talking of getting back on the bike...have you noticed the appalling state of the roads after all the frost? I can't believe the number of potholes that have appeared recently. Just driving from Hurworth to the Darlington football stadium is a nightmare. I really do not fancy riding through it on a bike.

Just be sure that you all take care. Not only are there potholes to contend with, but we will all be a bit more 'blunt' after the winter without biking. See article on police 'fitting-up' a biker after hitting a pothole!

There are changes to the racing calendar, all involving BSB. I have updated the table at the end of this newsletter – the changes are highlighted in GREEN for those with colour!

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

**Committee Meeting.** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 at 8.30pm

**Club Meeting.** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 8.30pm.

**Forthcoming Events in 2010** (latest additions 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
May 8/9	Thundersprint at Northwich, Cheshire
<b>May 13-16</b>	<b>Northwest 200</b>
May 15/16	BMF Show, Peterborough
May 29 for 2 weeks	IOM TT
Jun 12/13	BMF Show - Garden of England Motorcycle Show, Kent
July 9 – 11	VMCC Festival of 1000 Bikes, Mallory Park.

Jul 10/11	BMF Show - Kelso
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 ShowTail End at the Lincolnshire Showground
<b>Sep 11/12</b>	<b>Bol D'Or</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.

**The BMF.** The Yarm Motorcycling Club is affiliated to the BMF. For details of the BMF go to [www.bmf.co.uk](http://www.bmf.co.uk)

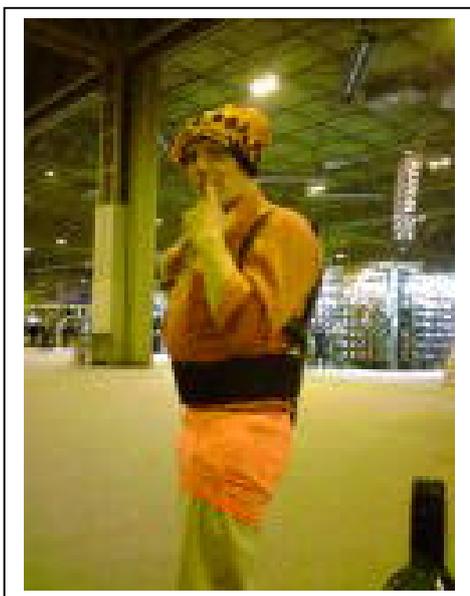
**Police Fit-Up Biker.** A report in the Daily Mail last month featured a case of a motorcyclist who was charged with 'driving without due care and attention'. Andrew Bannell was left seriously injured after hitting a pothole and losing control of his bike and crashing into a car. The police investigation concluded that the accident was not the fault of the biker, but the report was 'conveniently' left out when Avon and Somerset police sent details of the case to the Crown Prosecution Service. Fortunately Andrew Bannell sought the help of a lawyer who demanded to see the accident report. Funnily enough, the case was dropped soon after! There really is no excuse for such behaviour.

**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.** The meeting of the Hambleton Development Control Committee will take place on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton at 1:30 to consider the application for change of business from barn to Café. Update to follow after the meeting.

**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.**

**NEC Visit.** Due to pressure of getting ready for our daughter's wedding plus Christmas and looking after visitors, I never had the chance to report on the visit. Although there was a reduction in exhibitors over previous years, and the fact that attendance by the public was down about 17% from the previous year, the show was nevertheless regarded as a success by the motorcycle industry. As for myself, I went with the specific aim of getting a top-quality back protector and a pair of water-proof gloves that fit. I managed to get both – the gloves in particular have always been a problem because of my short fingers. In the end I went to a stand specialising in ladies bike gear (ooer!) and the 'XL' gloves on display fitted perfectly. Job done. The garish underpants were a bonus – Olwyn can find me in the dark now! Here are some piccies of reprobates skulking around the show...in my underpants!:



Pretty or What! Possible candidates for the photography course that Steve Watts mentioned at the AGM?

**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)

**Indian Trip for Local Bikers.** (From the Evening Gazette). A pair of fundraisers are setting off for an adventure of a lifetime as they prepare for a charity motorbike ride across the Himalayas. Shaun Moorhouse and Chris Brije, both social workers for Darlington, will ride vintage Enfield Bullet bikes in the UNICEF UK event. The ride will take them through the northern regions of India into the Himalayas and down into Delhi, covering 1,300 km. They have set a fundraising target of £6,000. For more details you can search for Shaun Moorhouse online at [unicef.org.uk/myfundraising/](http://unicef.org.uk/myfundraising/)

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

**Saturday 12 Sept.** Arriaga - 505 miles.

Zumo-ed out of town with only one small diversion via the airport, the delights of tw\*tnav. Soon back into rural Mexico and one and two tope towns, even passed through a couple of no-topers! Now only three bikes with Aaron and Oksana heading back north to the US and Jacqui flying down to Panama. The roads are good and the verges well maintained by gangs of machete wielding workers. The back swings and follow throughs would grace any centre court, the main concern being that we didn't distract them mid-stroke as we sped by. Would not like to see the consequences of a mis-directed slash.

Everybody seems happy even though obviously poor. The kids are well looked after and must receive basic education judging by the number of schools we passed. The military checkpoints continued, even more so as we neared the border, the occasional one even had a small cannon in addition to the small arms. We always created much interest and were always pulled over if they weren't searching somebody else. But a smile and a brief exchange of pleasantries always saw us through without too much delay.

Checked in to the family run Mission Inn Motel and after a meal and a couple of beers we were soon tucked up in bed fast asleep. A big riding day, the first time we had covered over 500 miles in a day this leg of the trip.

**Sunday 13 Sept.**

Guatemala - 270 miles.

An early start saw us at the border mid-morning, 'hired' a fixer to help us through the pain. Had to make a 60 mile detour to get the required exit stamp on our USD 2000 Vehicle bonds or we would have risked losing the money! Took us about 4 hours to complete the exit/entry process. Guatemala is a poor country with a big American influence evident. The roads are packed with ex-US vehicles with lots of gaudily coloured American school buses spewing out thick acrid exhaust fumes providing the main form of public transport. The roads deteriorated and were quite badly pocked and scabbed in many places.

We saw poor standards of driving with lots of aggressive overtaking and school-yard bully bus drivers forcing anybody in a smaller vehicle out of the way. Had an interesting diversion around one town in trying to avoid a parade. Confirmed the poverty is endemic. This country has not many saving graces, I was glad we would be leaving tomorrow! Just before rain set in for the night, we found a good little family run courtyard hotel with secure parking which is always an essential. The son spoke good English and dropped us off at a decent restaurant. Maybe I was being a little bit harsh with my first impressions? Woke up early and went to the bathroom to find a finger-sized cockroach taking an un-natural interest in the bristles of my toothbrush. Not the best start to the day, surely this place couldn't get any worse?

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!**

## MOTORCYCLING IN THE PHILIPPINES

### **Part 5**

For me, the motorcycling here is a bit like methadone to a heroin addict. It doesn't really satisfy the craving for a well set up classic British bike (especially my Noriel) but it's much better than the pain of total withdrawal. In addition there is the struggle to get used to left-hand gear change levers again after years of British bikes. Just now and again, as we ride the hard sand above the fluorescent surf at sunset, does the satisfaction level get close to that of a good French tour. The cold beer (St. Miguel) helps as well (after the third or fourth bottle).

The people here are very different from those you would meet in Tesco on Saturday mornings. To start with per capita income is between one fiftieth and one hundredth of a typical UK resident. In Manzante if you are actually working and being paid about two pounds a day then you've cracked it. If you are out of work then you live on handouts from family members that are in work. If you own a successful business here then you are a bit closer to level pegging with a typical Tesco shopper. There is nothing in between these two extremes.

Local people are usually shy avoiding eye contact, and it is easy to misread this as hostility or fear. Essential equipment on any trip is a warm smile and a friendly word, which will eventually win most people over. The first reactions to a white man in Ilocos Sur are surprise and curiosity as few Caucasians visit this part of the world. When I stopped on the Honda outside the local school recently, whilst Zenia visited one of her teacher friends, all the school kids came running over to the fence to ask me where I was from and what I was doing in Manzante. I chatted in English for a bit and they seemed happy to reply in the same language. We talked about snow, English seasons and temperatures below 25 degrees C, things they have never experienced. When the time came to say goodbye they all called out "Goodbye Sir" together in their local accent. It was quite touching.

Life here is a struggle for most people, as they really do not know what the future will bring. Births, weddings and deaths are automatically locked into the old fashioned Catholic rituals prevalent here and expensive events for most families. In general people live in the present and tend not to step back and have a look at where their lives are going. They know that for most of them it will be just more of the same. This is perhaps why many mothers leave their babies with their grandparents and go to work in Singapore or the Middle East. It may break up the family but the money sent home builds houses, buys cars and, most important of all, buys food and education.

In the provinces land line telephone systems are not very developed and most people rely on mobiles. I am sure this has inhibited the installation of a good landline network. Electricity supplies often go off for several days which means no one can recharge their mobile and communications slowly collapse. When the electricity is reconnected the phone networks (Globe and Smart) are often overloaded for hours as everyone catches up on the gossip.

I think life here is epitomised for me by the local store just down the lane. Behind a little square window, reminiscent of a 1950's cinema, sits a young girl called Marie. She sits there 14 hours a day on a little platform the family have built for her behind the window. Marie had polio when she was two years old and lost the use of her legs. When she was young she went to school on her hands. She was a very bright

student and speaks fluent English (and understands English humour) unlike the rest of her family who hardly speak any English at all. She has never left Manzante.

Every time we go there she greets us with a cheerful “Hallo Uncle, Hallo Auntie Zenny” and never seems depressed about her life at all. In her tiny shop contains one strip light, a television that is always on, a few cans and packets on the shelves and a large fridge full of cold beer. Two weathered plastic chairs nearby sit under a faded sign, which says ‘the bar is open’.

Later, as it gets dark, her brothers start to return from their tricycle taxi work and park their outfits around the shop. We use their services frequently so know most of them personally. They often join us for a beer doing their best to speak a bit of English. Marie serves cold St. Miguel through the hatch at 18 pence a bottle and chats to us in English as we watch the moonrise and the stars come out. It makes me feel that I do not have the right to complain about anything in my life.

It is possible to live very comfortably here for less than 5000 pounds per year, which would cover electricity, mobile phone, and gasoline/maintenance for a motorbike. A Nippa Hut costs a few hundred pounds ready built and a top of the range 250cc Sinski (HD look alike) just under 1000 pounds. If you like home comforts even air conditioning units are cheap. You can rent but not buy land very cheaply and grow your own food if that is your thing. Water comes from local wells. So, if you feel like retreating from the Gordon’s socialist paradise with its 52% marginal tax and 100% spin style of government this could be the place to come. For permanent residency you will have to marry a local girl, which I have done with Zenia. It will be a few more years and then we shall live here permanently.

Do I miss UK sometimes? Well, yes, of course but when my time comes I just want them to wheel me down to the beach at Manzante and let me gently merge with the swirling colours of the sea and sky, as the roar and smell of the breaking swells fill my senses. It should be the way all bikers are allowed to go!  
Chris Hamlin

**Clampers to Get Just Desserts!** A new law will be introduced before the forthcoming election (May 5<sup>th</sup>) which will require all clamping organisations to be licensed. Currently, clamping companies can charge whatever they like to free the vehicle from the clamp or from a compound. Charges will in future be limited to a maximum of around £250. Furthermore, anyone who is clamped on private property and feels that it is unjustified, including having their vehicle impounded, can lodge an appeal with a new Ombudsman. If the appeal is upheld then the clamping company has to compensate the victim for all costs incurred, including taxi fares, hotel accommodation and any other costs that may have resulted from the incident. Hopefully this will put an end to the ‘cowboys’ who take great delight in stopping unfairly and charging extortionate amounts to free their vehicle. Hurrah for the newspapers who stepped in to fight for motorists rights (The Daily Mail for one).

**Books Available from the Secretary.** I have a copy of MCN’s ‘Motorcyclists Welcome’ which lists accommodation and pubs where motorcyclists are made welcome. The book also contains official on and off-road dealers listings, off-road information and product tips and articles. A must when planning your UK trip. I also have 2 copies of the Police Rider’s Handbook, which contains advice from the experts on becoming a better rider. With motorcyclists on average 35 times more at risk than car drivers, it makes sense to improve all aspects of your riding. See me at any club meeting. As an aside, I also always carry a copy of the latest highway code publication.

**Westminster Charges for Parking.** Westminster council have introduced parking charges for powered two wheelers at £1 per day. Visit the MCN or bmf website for more information. There will be an appeal if funds are forthcoming.

## ***Top this for a speeding ticket...***

Two British traffic patrol officers from North Berwick, east of Edinburgh, were involved in an unusual incident, while checking for speeding motorists on the A1 Great North Road.

One of the officers (who are not named) used a hand-held radar device to check the speed of a vehicle approaching over the crest of a hill, and was surprised when the speed was recorded at over 300mph. The machine then stopped working and the officers were not able to reset it.

The radar had in fact locked on to a NATO Tornado fighter jet over the North Sea, which was engaged in a low-flying exercise over the Borders district.

Back at police headquarters the chief constable fired off a stiff complaint to the RAF Liaison office.

Back came the reply in true laconic RAF style. "Thank you for your message, which allows us to complete the file on this incident. You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Tornado had automatically locked on to your 'hostile radar equipment' and sent a jamming signal back to it. Furthermore, the Sidewinder air-to-ground missiles aboard the fully-armed aircraft had also locked on to the target. Fortunately the Dutch pilot flying the Tornado responded to the missile status alert intelligently and was able to override the automatic protection system before the missile was launched."



As an aside, a Sidewinder is a heat-seeking missile only and cannot home on to a radar signal. Anti-Radiation missiles can but they are usually programmed for specific threats. A radar gun would not trigger such a missile although it may trigger a 'jammer', which could damage a sensitive receiver, such as in a radar gun. It would have made interesting reading if such a missile had come off the rails and blasted the pair of officers off their pedestals!

**THE END GAME.** And so it came to pass that three old ladies were sitting on a park bench enjoying the sunshine when a young, well-endowed stalker came running by. Two of the old ladies had a stroke but the third couldn't reach!

A man in a hot air balloon realised he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am." The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude." "You must be in Information Technology," said the balloonist.

"I am," replied the woman, "how did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is probably technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information and the fact is, I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip." The woman below responded, "You must be in Management." "I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my f\*\*king fault."

**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](mailto:brian.burke2@btopenworld.com) or phone me – 01325 721669 (Answerphone on). Mobile 07517 605614.

**Events Calendar 2010 (CHANGES IN GREEN)**

<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	<b>CADWELL</b>
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 3-4	<b>KNOCKHILL</b>
		Jul 11	Brno	Jul 16-18	<b>SNETTERTON</b>
Jul 18	Sachsenring				
Jul 25	Laguna Seca				
		Aug 1	<b>SILVERSTONE</b>		
				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	<b>CROFT</b>
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				