



bmf

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

CLUB NEWSLETTER – 1st APRIL 2010

For some reason I am unable to delete or modify the picture that has appeared at the top of this newsletter. There are obviously dark forces at work which I am unable to explain. It even appears on my laptop and mobile phone...everywhere! It may be that this will have to be the club logo unless someone else has a failsafe plan to remove this bug/virus ..call it what you will. In the meantime, back to ordinary life. Dates to note are: Boundary 500 press launch, Ridewell and the Christmas party. Note that Ridewell is at a new venue.

There are a couple of "Oops" this month; Westminster Council seems to have made a mess of the controversial motorcycle parking charges and the DVLA comes in for some stick over the new testing regime. No doubt they'll blame it on the weather or something just as obscure.

Committee Meeting. Wednesday 5th May 2010 at 8.30pm

Club Meeting. Wednesday 14th April 2010 at 8.30pm.

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

APR 10
Apr 24/25

BOUNDARY 500 PRESS LAUNCH AT LORD STONE'S CAFÉ 11am
Carole Nash Classic Show, Stafford County Show Ground

May 8/9	Thundersprint at Northwich, Cheshire
May 13-16	Northwest 200
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 11	RIDEWELL AT WYNYARD (GOLDEN GATE ENTRANCE)
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 (TBC as not on ACE website)
Aug 12-15	Bulldog Bash
AUG 15	TRIKES AND BIKES DAY AT SHILDON MUSEUM (see article below)
Aug 21 to Sep 3	Manx GP
Sept 17 to 19	Goodwood Revival
Sep 18/19	BMF Show Tail End at the Lincolnshire Showground
Sep 11/12	Bol D'Or
Oct 16/17	Carole Nash Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show, Stafford Show Ground
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 BY NORMAN SIMPSON. Tel # in your Membership Card!

Baglux Tank Harness to fit CBR600F 1998 onwards. In Red as new	£40
Half Fairing Blue Mettalic,(slight scratching)to fit Fazer FZ1 03	£60
Double Bubble Screen to fit above	£10
End Can (slight damage)	£100
to fit Fazer FZ1 03	£100
Crash Bungs to fit Fazer 600 04 onwards (F & G) still wrapped	£40
GIVI Mono Rack + Back Plate to fit CBR600F 98 onwards	£60 (will not separate)
Operators Handbook Petter PJ3-4M Diesel	£4
Operators Handbook Petter AA1-AB1 Diesel	£4
Ruston 3YDA Parts list and Instruction Manual (as new)	£15
Holman Rotair 13 Parts list (as new)	£8
Ruston-Bucyrus 10RB Excavator Instruction Manual (as new)	£25
Frank Thomas Aqua Bike jacket Medium Gents in Blue	£25.
Gazebo. 3 x 3 metres. Brand new (unopened)	£30

Boundary 500 Press Launch. The press launch of the Boundary 500 Motorcycle Groups events for 2010 will take place at Lord Stones cafe, 11am Saturday 10th April. It would appear that the new Teesside helicopter which is due to come into service will be there. This helicopter carries the dedication plaque to

John Toner as did the previous helicopter but because of your commitment to supporting the Great North Air Ambulance, the Teesside helicopter will now also carry the Boundary 500 Logo. So bring your family and friends and your cameras. As many bikes as possible because this is the picture that will be fronting our efforts to raise money.

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.

Westminster Parking Charges – Oops (from Motorcycle Monthly). Seems as though the parking charges in Westminster are going to hurt the local taxpayers. The £1 a day parking charge is predicted to make a loss of “over £430,000” for the council.

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.

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

DSA Under Fire for Test Centre ‘Cock-up’. (from MCN 24/3/10) The Commons Transport Committee has looked into the controversy surrounding the new Test Centres and has reported that they are a waste of millions of pounds of taxpayers money. Smaller, old-style test centres should have been kept open instead of building new Multi-purpose Test centres. The new centres can be many daunting miles for learner motorcyclists to travel to and expose inexperienced riders to volumes of high-speed to which they are most likely unaccustomed. Furthermore, exercises not required under the original Brussels directive have been added, some to be performed at speeds not permitted on the public highway in built-up areas. Some 40 MPs have signed a motion for several proposals from MCN, BMF, MAG and others to be debated in the House of Commons. (I’m sure MCN won’t let this one drop. You can get more info at: www.motorcyclenews.com/test)

Biker Friendly Local Spots to Check Out:

Board Inn, Market Place Hawes 01969 667223

Fimber Log Cabin on the B1251/B1248 roundabout in E. Yorks. Late night Wednesday

Flag Café, Seamer (behind Weighbridge station). 07813430710. Weds nights, Sat and Sun days.

Lord Stones Café, Carlton Bank. 01642 778227. Bike night Tuesday

Old Police Station Café, Market Place, Helmsley 01439 770413. Open 9 – 5 (0830 to 1730 W/e)

Penny Garth Café, Market Place, Hawes. 01969 667066. Open 9 to 5.

Seaways Café, Fridaythorpe, Yorks’ Wolds. Junction off A166/B1251. Open 8 – 4. Late night Weds

Squires Milk Bar. Nr Sherburn in Elmet. 01977 684618. Open 9 – 11. Camp for £2 a day.

Whistlestop Café, Whitby 01947 606060. open 9 – 5. Late night Thurs (9pm) for bikers.

GEOFF SADLER – CALIFORNIA TO PERU (not by frog)

Wednesday 16th Sept Panama - 366 miles. Max Altitude - 11,000ft

The good roads led us to the capital San Jose and its 3-lane ring-road where we were well and truly caught up in the lunchtime traffic jam. We stayed in line for a time but the bikes and us were getting hotter. Max was the first to follow the local riders lead and start weaving between the lines of traffic then we were all at it! Low speed maneuvering is an interesting proposition at anytime even more so on a fully laden BMW. The drivers were reasonably sympathetic and shuffled over to make room. It seemed like hours but we soon cleared the main jam and decided to stop at a MacDonaldis for a pit-stop and skype. Turned out to be a



bit of an eye-opener. The staff were all slim, not a pimple in sight and the place was clean and smelled fresh. There can't be many acne-free MacDonaldis in the world.

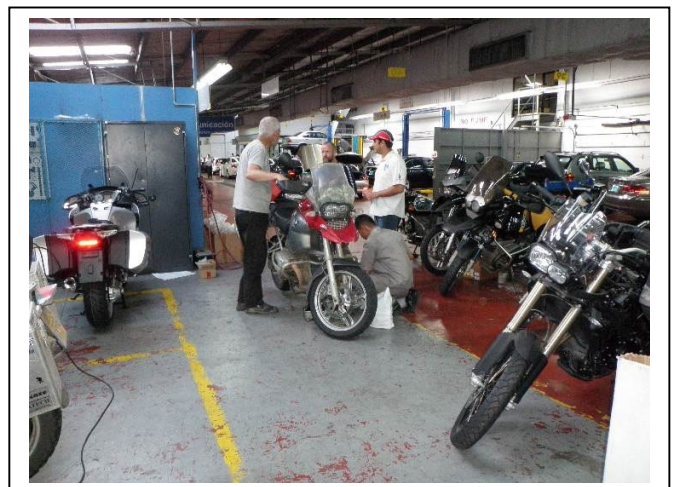
We were soon back on the road and heading for the mountains. It doesn't look much on the map but the climb and the views were spectacular. The temperature contrast was noticeable, from 37+ deg C on the ring-road we soon hit single figures and rain. We eventually stopped for fuel and a dry and were told to take the coast road, anything to get away from the rain! Well not quite, it did clear for a while but then came down in epic portions! But at least on the coast it was warmer! It got so wet that my diary entries for the 13th - 16th were washed out. It should be mentioned that most vehicles in central America have worn tyres which must make for an interesting drive when it rains. We saw a number of examples of vehicles in fields and one recent head-on impact that anybody would have been fortunate to survive. We crossed into Panama and had to ride another 30 miles in the rain and dark before we reach David.

We were rewarded with a very up market hotel and friendly staff who disappeared off with our wet riding gear and returned them a couple of hours later all washed and dried.

Thursday 17th Sept. Panama City 270 Miles.

Another early start for the push to Panama City and a day without border crossings. We rode through mile after mile of banana plantations in the early morning rain. The rain cleared and we were soon opening jacket vents. We rode into the mountains surrounding Panama City and crossed the canal over an impressive bridge. Andy had pre-arranged servicing at the one and only BMW bike service centre in Central America so we rode straight to the shop. We made some essential

running repairs as we waited for the bikes to be serviced. We had asked them weeks ago to get tyres for us, they hadn't and didn't carry any stock! But a call around the local distributors saw 3 sets of Maxxis road tyres delivered within an hour or two - panic over! We spent most of the afternoon at the workshop and were impressed by the mechanic and staff who were all friendly. On arriving at the hotel we were told by the receptionist that she had let Andy and my rooms go! This despite the fact that Jacqui, who had flown down from Acapulco to meet us was in the hotel and had confirmed we would arrive later that day. After the friendly efficiency of the BM Garage,



the off-hand treatment we received from the receptionist was a disappointment. Andy was incandescent, even Jacqui was lost for words! We managed to find a hotel with a vacant room just up the road. It meant sharing, but what the hell, Andy's coughing and my alleged snoring would cancel out each other and I always win the sleep race. All was forgotten after a few beers and good meal at a local Peruvian theme restaurant.

Friday 18th Sept. Bogotá.

It's not possible to cross from Panama to Columbia by road, there is a section of just about impenetrable jungle and serious bandit country called the Darien Gap that frightened off even the Pan-American highway builders. The quickest option is flying from Panama City to Bogotá. We found the freight forwarders office. It was next door to Max and Jacqui's hotel, paid the fee in cash, the preferred method in Central America and rode the bikes to the airport to the freight packagers. An interesting office complete with 50's style typewriters, a spotty youth playing games on his pc and young lady social networking on her pc. Obviously ran-off their feet. We gave clear instructions on how to strap the bikes to the pallets, on centre-stands and where to tie-down at the back and front. We then were taken to the passenger terminal and checked-in for our flights and went for a beer! We were met in Bogotá by Mr. Bean, the hotel pickup taxi driver and taken to a good quality hotel where we sampled the local cervesa and polished off the bottle of Rum Andy had brought at the duty free, before having some dinner and heading off for a not so early night.

Saturday 19th Sept. Bogotá

Off to the freight handlers early to make sure we got the bikes before everything closed down at lunchtime for the weekend. To say it was a close run thing would be an understatement, we were riding the bikes out of the warehouse at 5 minutes to 12 after a series of minor delays and petty officialdom that even made the Panama City forwarders look industrious. But it mattered not one jot as we had the bikes. The fact that they had parked the bikes on the side-stands and lashed them down with two straps, one tied-off at the exhaust pipe didn't matter, we had them back in one piece and nothing broken or missing. Dian are the just about as far removed from James Cargo as is possible.

Our hotel, Los Andes was in a good part of the city that looked almost Dutch in build and layout. There was Ducati garage just around the corner and a supermarket nearby that was as good as having a Marks and Spencer on your doorstep. It really was that good. Andy spent the afternoon at the Ducati garage trying to sort out his brakes, I carried out some running repairs and stripped off some plastic to see if I could straighten the front sub-frame with an inquisitive hotel security guard for company. Max and Jacqui went touring. In the evening we went to Zona Rosa, it came well recommended and we weren't disappointed. Pavement cafes, bars, restaurants and party buses. A very lively place, ringing with life and full of people having a good time. Not at all like the Colombia we expected.

We ate in a big 'themed' restaurant with swing chairs and lots of candles. The waiter had to lend us a torch to read the menu!



NEXT MONTH – Popayan and Quito

Best wishes. Geoff

SHILDON LOCOMOTION – TRIKES AND BIKES DAY

Locomotion - The National Railway Museum at Shildon is holding a Trikes & Bikes Day on Sunday August 15 – and we'd love to see you and your members there!

If you'd like to bring your trike or bike along to display on the day, please just complete and return the attached form to me as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you'd like any further information on the event or the museum, please don't hesitate to contact me. (THE ENTRY FORM IS AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER)

Kind regards, Pam Porter, Events Officer, Locomotion, - The National Railway Museum at Shildon
County Durham, DL4 1PQ Tel: 01388 771445 Mob: 07809 548078 Fax: 01388 771448
Email: pporter@sedgefield.gov.uk

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!

Wootton Bassett Afghan Heroes ride is Stunning Success

By MCN - General news 15 March 2010 09:18

More than 15,000 motorcyclists turned out on Sunday 14 March to show their support for the people of Wootton Bassett and honour those troops killed in Afghanistan.. The 10,000 riders and 5000 pillions raised over £150,000 for the Afghan Heroes charity in the process. Wootton Bassett Mayor Steve Bucknell said: "The vast majority of the people of the town fully support what the bikers are doing today. "Too many times the town has had to stand still in silence but today is all about noise and movement."

Laurence Phillips, from Afghan Heroes, said: "It's quite a staggering spectacle and an unbelievable show of support for the troops in Afghanistan and a mark of respect for the town of Wootton Bassett. "I would imagine it is the biggest bike ride of its kind." The bikers set off from Hullavington Airfield, Wilts, in waves of 500 along the A429, B4042, Callow Hill to White Hill Lane and the A3102 to Wootton Bassett.

The police, Ministry of Defence and local authorities joined forces to marshall the riders through the town and there were no reports of any problems.

And the Mirror says we're "annoying gas-guzzlers"! Mirror newspaper columnist Chris Hughes has caused fury with an online column calling the charity ride-out through Wootton Bassett 'annoying'. In the online piece, Hughes states: "Now we've seen it all - hundreds of bikers showing their "solidarity with frontline troops," by trundling their petrol guzzling and fume spewing steeds through Wootton Bassett." He goes on to say: "But I wonder if someone - just for a change - could set a trend by doing something they hate doing to raise money for good causes. And something that isn't so public and... well.... so annoying?"

(I understand that the Mirror has more biking journalists than any other national newspaper – so how come an arse like this can get away with printing such garbage? (Brian))

MOTORCYCLING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Part 7

We went back to Manzante for Christmas and the New Year. I was looking forward to relaxing and enjoying very pleasant weather in the Northern Philippines at this time of year. The temperature is just under 30 degrees and the humidity low. In addition Rich and Pip Upham, old biking mates from UK, were planning to visit us from Miri in Malaysia where Pip is teaching at the Shell School. My daughter Alexia flew out from UK to join us for Christmas as well. The whole family were there with the exception of my eldest stepdaughter Mary who runs a bar in Singapore.

The first job on arriving in Manzante was to get the Jeepny going. This was easier said than done. Finally, after replacing the rotor arm and charging the battery, Richard poured some petrol down the carburettor and reluctantly the engine came to life.

Our garden always seems to be full of small children of largely unknown origin who stare at me with fascination every time I walk out of the front door. This time there seemed to be more than usual and Zenia told me her brother Bong had returned from Cabugao with his family. He is a jobbing builder with five children and was trying to build a small house on some land nearby given to him by Zenia's mother Silveria.

The younger children were dirty and scruffy and it transpired Bong was leaving them in our garden when he went to work. His wife was working in the Middle East and apparently sent money home for the family, a very familiar story in the Philippines. Zenia asked me if I would help Bong buy some breeze blocks to finish his house – so I did. Only later when I saw him returning from the local shop with a crate of beer and bottles of local gin did I realise why his house was progressing so slowly. For some people here booze is the only way they can deal with the poverty and uncertainty they suffer in their lives.

I had promised Pam a motorbike for Christmas and she wasn't going to let me forget it. We all trooped into Vigan in the Jeepny to look at what was available. In the end she chose a 125cc Kawasaki which was a semi step through design. She had only ridden scooters before and was a bit nervous to ride the bike back from Vigan to Manzante in traffic as she was not familiar with the gear change. Very kindly Rich volunteered to ride the bike home as he was missing his biking and in the Philippines you don't have to wear a crash helmet if you don't want to. We followed in the Jeepny.

Remember this is a society that is still dominated by the images of old fashioned Spanish Roman Catholicism. There are many pictures of the Virgin Mary and Jesus everywhere. Jesus is shown as a man of about 40 with a beard and long hair. I have to say the resemblance to Rich of these pictures was uncanny. Many people froze in the street and talked animatedly to their companions when Rich walked by. As Rich rode though Santa Domingo on Pam's red motorcycle someone started screaming and pointing at him shouting "It's Jesus, it's Jesus on a motorbike". The crowd response was amazing and even a bit frightening. Sensibly Rich just kept going still trying to light his cigarette. Well, God may ride a Harley Davidson but in the Philippines Jesus rides a Kawasaki. Ask anyone in Santa Domingo.

Mobile phones must have been ringing because when we arrived home our housekeeper Donato couldn't wait to tell us that she had heard that Jesus had appeared in Santa Domingo. Rich didn't want to get a haircut or shave so I braced myself for hoards of handicapped people turning up at our front gate for a Lourdes type experience.

This time in Manzante I felt more connected to the rest of the world following our decision to get satellite TV. Samsung have a satellite over the Pacific Ocean which has all the usual channels such as Discovery, BBC World and National Geographic. Reception was so good I regretted not having taken the decision earlier.

My stepson Richard bought himself a very cheap Italian scooter over on Puro Island. It was in a poor state and despite rebuilding it he could not get it to run for more than a few seconds. In the end he cut the end off the silencer to reveal an old bee's nest completely blocking it. After that and a new silencer the scooter ran really well.

Whilst we were in Manzante the Epong Festival took place in which tens of millions of tiny fish swim into the mouth of the Banuang River. It only happens in this one place in the Philippines and the fishermen have a field day. We bought a couple of kilos and Zenia cooked them in hot olive oil. They were absolutely delicious which, I must admit, is a phrase I rarely use about Philippines food.

Four weeks went by very quickly and soon it was time to return to Dubai and put another episode of carefree existence behind us.

Chris Hamlin

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

The table below sets out a date for each month when a club member can plan and lead a rideout. Don't be misled by the fact there are 2 dates shown for each month – this is to allow for the option of a Saturday or a Sunday run, as agreed at the AGM (preferably alternate w/end days will be chosen. The aim is for a member to volunteer to lead a run by at least the Wednesday club night meeting for the following weekend. Please don't be shy at coming forward!

Month	Sat	Sun	Leader	Destination
April	17	18		
May	15	16		
June	12	13		
July	17	18		
August	14	15		
September		12	John Angus	tba
October	16	17		

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 dealer's 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.

THE END GAME. Paddy & Murphy are working on a building site. Paddy says to Murphy 'I'm going to have the day off, I'm going to pretend I'm mad'. He climbs up the rafters, hangs upside down & shouts 'I'm a lightbulb, I'm a lightbulb'. Murphy watches in amazement The foreman shouts 'Paddy your mad, go home'. So Paddy leaves the site. Murphy starts packing his kit up to leave as well. 'Where the hell do you think you are going' asks the foreman. Murphy says 'I can't work in the blooming dark'.

Two Irishmen walk into a pet shop in Dingle, they walk over to the bird section and Gerry says to Paddy, 'Dat's dem..' The owner comes over and asks if he can help them. 'Yeah, we'll take four of dem dere little budgies in dat cage up dere,' says Gerry. The owner puts the budgies in a cardboard box.

Paddy and Gerry pay for the birds, leave the shop and get into Gerry's truck to drive to the top of the Connor Pass. At the Connor Pass, Gerry looks down at the 1000 foot drop and says, 'Dis looks like a grand place.' He takes two birds out of the box, puts one on each shoulder and jumps off the cliff. Paddy watches as the budgies fly off and Gerry falls all the way to the bottom, killing himself stone dead. Looking down at the remains of his best pal, Paddy shakes his head and says, 'Stuff dat. Dis budgie jumping is too dangerous for me!'

THERE'S MORE...

Moment's later; Seamus arrives up at ConnorPass. He's been to the pet shop too and walks up to the edge of the cliff carrying another cardboard box in one hand and a shotgun in the other. 'Hi, Paddy, watch dis,' Seamus says. He takes a parrot from the box and lets him fly free. He then throws himself over the edge of the cliff with the gun. Paddy watches as half way down, Seamus takes the gun and shoots the parrot. Seamus continues to plummet down and down until he hits the bottom and breaks every bone in his body. Paddy shakes his head and says, 'And I'm never trying dat parrotshooting either!'

IT IS NOT OVER YET...

Paddy is just getting over the shock of losing two friends when Sean appears. He's also been to the pet shop and is carrying a cardboard box out of which he pulls a chicken. Sean then takes the chicken by its legs and hurls himself off the cliff and disappears down and down until he hits a rock and breaks his spine. Once more Paddy shakes his head. 'Fook dat, lads. First dere was Gerry with his budgie jumping, den Seamus parrotshooting... And now Sean and his fook'n hengliding!'

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.



Trikes & Bikes Day

Sunday August 15, 2010

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code:

Tel No.....

E-Mail.....

Type of Exhibit

MakeModel

YearSerial/Reg. No

Notes

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.....

I certify that the relevant third party and public liability insurance will be in force during the period of my stay on site.

Signed

Date

Please return to
Locomotion: The National Railway at Shildon
Shildon, Co. Durham. DL4 1PQ
Tel: 01388 777999 Fax: 01388 771448
Sun 21st July 2010