



Cleveland Bay, Yarm. Second Wednesday of the month

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

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CLUB NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011

Marco Simoncelli 1987 to 2011. It was a bad day for motorcycling – 23rd October 2011. Marco Simoncelli, aged just 24, died following a crash in the MotoGP at the Sepang circuit in Malaysia. He was a double-250cc champion and larger than life both on and off the circuit. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends and by many in the world of motorsport.

Committee Meeting
Club Night

Wednesday 2nd November

Wednesday 9th November

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

Nov 19 to 27 Motorcycle Live, NEC Birmingham. The UK's premier two-wheel exhibition.

Dec 3 Zoe's Place Santa Ride.

Dec 17 Zoe's Place Santa Ride – Standby day.

Jan 7/8 2012 Classic Bike Guide Winter Show, Newark County Showground. Meet Steve Plater.

Feb 18/19 32nd Carole Nash Bristol Classic Motorcycle show

Apr 28/29 International Classic Motorcycle show, Stafford Showground

Mar 10/11 The Scottish Motorcycle Show, The Highland Centre, Edinburgh

May 12/13 The Great Scottish Bike Show, The Lanark Agricultural Centre

May 18-20 BMF Show, Peterborough

Jul 6-8 BMF Kelso Bikefest

Sep 14-16 BMF Tailend Rally, Peterborough

Dec 1/2 The Scottish Dirt Bike Show, The Lanark Agricultural Centre

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. Why not join the BMF as an individual member and save yourself and the Club money? In order to strengthen the membership base of the BMF and thus give it more clout in working for riders' rights, the Club Member Conversion Scheme has been introduced. As an Affiliate Member of the BMF through the club, you can convert to Full Membership at a £5 reduction in the normal fee AND make a further £5 for the Club. The joining fee will be £21, reduced from £26, and the club will receive a payback of £5 for every member recruited. The payback to the club will be in the form of a credit note to be cashed in exchange for part of their affiliation fee for the forthcoming year. Speak to the Club Secretary for details and Application forms.

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

Club Members Go Welsh. Glyn Jones and Allan Wren organised a trip to Braich Goch bunkhouse at Corris in southern Snowdonia. In all, nine club members turned out for the event. While the weather was mixed the company was good. One party of five arrived on Thursday and the other four arrived on the Friday evening feeling a little damp.

For our first outing on the Friday we ended up on a circuitous route to Caernarfon for a boat trip round the bay followed by good old fish and chips. On a wet Saturday we went slate mining up at Blaenau Ffestiniog and found a friendly pub at the slate workings.

We found another friendly pub in Corris later that night. Two lads gave us an impromptu concert and when we returned on the Sunday night we had a pint with the local vicar. A guitar/ukelele concert was taking place and a prominent YMCC member responded with a rendition of a Welsh favourite.

The roads and the scenery provided the backdrop to great rides. There is plenty left to explore the next time. The bunkhouse is very good, providing a professional kitchen, dining room lounge and a bar run by biker friendly hosts. The bunks are two high and in rooms of 4 or 6. Most are with en suite facilities.



The owners would accept a booking for all 26 places if we wanted to run a club rally, what do you think? The attached photos show how hard it was for some.

With thanks to Allan and Glyn for organising the trip.

Bloody Handguards – Phase 2. In readiness for the cold weather I have fitted home-made extensions to the hand guards that I put on last month. As designed, they are meant to protect your hands from branches when charging through greenery rather than protect you against the cold. Parts of the hand stick out above the guards get cold and wet. After seeing a BMW 1200GS with Touratech guard extensions fitted I thought these would maybe do the job.



However, at £20 for two bits of plastic and £8.40 postage I decided to make my own! Fortunately there was some aluminium scrap at work and, after a bit of cutting with a guillotine and bending in a vice, plus nuts and bolts from the bin, I got my extensions done for zero pence! Hopefully the heated grips will be much more effective now and after fixing a broken connector on my heated waistcoat I am ready for winter. Time will tell!

Handguard with extension – no bloodletting this time!

Altberg Boot Factory Visit. Eight of us met up at the Altberg factory, with Allan Wren, Bill Robinson and Brian Taylor from YMCC. The factory tour was really interesting, I never realised the skill & craftsmanship that goes into something we take for granted. Every stage of manufacture is planned, controlled & phased to produce a high quality product.

Altgerg test the materials before they go into production and they only buy from known suppliers, shame there are no tanners left in the UK who can supply the correct quality of leather. They even test the sealing tapes on the waterproof liners and have a machine to help them it inflates the liner and immerses it under water so the operator can see if there are any leaks.

After the factory tour we had tea, biccies and a chat with Mike the founder of the business. He is the master bootmaker who does the designs and patterns. These are hand cut and have to be laid off for all sizes they make. It can take up to 2 years to complete the design and templating of a new boot. It was fascinating to listen to a master who so obviously enjoys his work.

I will never abuse my boots again. My Altbergs are a mere 5years old, Alan`s are 12 and still going. So if you need boots get Altbergs and support your local craftsmen. (Just to confirm how good the boots are, mine are nearly 15 years old, have been re-furbished 3 times, and are as good as new! Brian, Club Sec).

After the visit Allan and I went to the finish and last section of the Scott Trial. Those who didn`t go missed a glorious day out, a demonstration of riding skills that we envied and good crack among the spectators.

Mind you the climb back up the hill nearly did for us; we needed tea to recover before riding home.

Thanks to Dave Barton and the BMF for organising the trip.

(Bugger!! Two days after adding my bit the zip-pull came off the right boot! Brian).



FOR SALE
TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE SE 2010,
BLUE/WHITE £5,000 ONO

537 dry miles, fitted with
alarm/immobiliser, longhaul screen,
centre stand, rack, heated grips, (knee
grips, fork gaitors & hand guards)
added after photo taken.

Garaged, balance of Triumph
warranty. Tel: 07906479116

Protest in Brussels. MCN are planning a protest ride in Brussels on 22nd November over restrictive EU proposals. Assemble at the entrance to the European Parliament on Place du Luxembourg, 1050 Ixelles, Brussels at 1:30pm. The plan is to complete a 5 mile circuit, passing the offices of the European Commission before returning to the start point. Discount is available on P&O Ferries to MCN readers. Go to www.motorcyclenews.com/ferrydeals for more details.

Protest in Portugal. While in was in Portugal for the Portimao WSB finale the papers were full of the protest that had just taken place in the area (the Algarve). All the motorways are about to have toll charges imposed and the front page of the local press was just a picture of a mass of bikes and cars ‘going slow’ on the coastal motorway between Faro and Portimao. Due to the financial situation in Portugal the government are definitely going ahead with all motorways becoming toll roads. How this will be implemented is not known, but probably via transponders and/or credit card payments; can’t see how ‘foreigners will be charged as there were no toll booths anywhere to be seen.

Hi-Vis Does Work According to EU-Funded Research. Arguments are still ongoing as to whether or not hi-vis clothing improves safety. According to EU research it does help at junctions, although the head of the project, Professor Underwood, believes that more research is needed to identify precisely which form of clothing is the most effective. Nevertheless, the biking fraternity is very much divided over the issue. Some bikers wear hi-vis clothing following an incident in their riding, others believe more effort should be put into educating drivers; even getting drivers to wear glasses! At least we have the choice: Ireland is to introduce hi-vis clothing as mandatory in 2014.

Stitch Up – Get Your Leathers Fixed. A new shop has opened up in Darlington at the corner of Post House Wynd and Skinnergate (73A Skinnergate). The shop can do all kinds of repairs to clothing and accessories, including motorcycle leathers. If you suffer a zip or press-stud failure or find that your leathers ‘shrink’ in the wardrobe, give this place a try. Telephone Stitch Up on 01325 461005.

MOTOGP Provisional Dates. STC = Subject to Contract. TBC = To Be Confirmed

15 April, Qatar - Doha/Losail (evening race)
29 April, Spain (STC) - Jerez de la Frontera
6 May, Portugal (STC) - Estoril
20 May, France - Le Mans
3 June, Catalunya - Catalunya
17 June, Great Britain - Silverstone
30 June, Netherlands – Assen (Saturday race)
8 July, Germany (STC) - TBC
15 July, Italy - Mugello
29 July, United States - Laguna Seca (MOTOGP class only)
19 August, Indianapolis - Indianapolis
26 August, Czech Rep. - Brno
16 September, San Marino & Riviera di Rimini - Misano
30 September, Aragon - Motorland
14 October, Japan - Motegi
21 October, Malaysia - Sepang
28 October, Australia - Phillip Island
11 November, Valencia - Ricardo Tormo – Valencia

Donington Park WSB Round 2012. For the second year running Donington Park will host the UK round of WSB. This will be over the period May 11 to 13.

THE END GAME. Theme for this month is Political Incorrectness (isn't it always?):

I was devastated to find out my wife was having an affair, but by turning to religion I've been able to come to terms with it. I've converted to Islam and we are stoning her in the morning!

The wife suggested I get myself one of those penis enlargers.....so I did. She is 21 and her name is Lucy!

I went to the pub with my girlfriend last night. The locals were shouting “Paedophile, Paedophile” at me. Just because I am 50 and my girlfriend is 21. It completely spoilt our 10th anniversary.

My son was thrown out of school today for letting a girl in his class give him a hand-job. I said “Son, that's the 3rd school this year! You'd better stop before you are banned from teaching altogether.”

I've heard that Apple has scrapped plans for the new children-oriented I-Pod after realising that “i-Touch Kids” is not a good product name.

The cost of living has now got so bad that my wife is having sex with me because she can't afford the batteries!

During a recent poll for a well known newspaper the following responses resulted from the question: Are there too many immigrants in the UK? 17% said “Yes”. 11% said “No”. 72% did not understand the question!

A priest and a nun were fleeing persecution by crossing the Sahara desert on a camel. Halfway across the camel collapsed; it was dying. The priest, realising that his time on earth was very limited, began to warm to the nun and began by making suggestive remarks. When he said “If you take my ‘big stiffy’ I can put new life into you” the nun replied “Well you’d better stick it in that camel so we can get the hell out of here!”

Paul McCartney is a bit hacked off with his new wife; she’s spending twice as much on shoes as his previous wife.

A teenage granddaughter comes downstairs for her date wearing a see-through blouse and no bra. Her grandmother pitched a fit, telling her not to dare go out like that! The teenager responds 'Loosen up Grams, these are modern times. You gotta let your rose buds show!' And out she goes. The next day the teenager comes down stairs, and the grandmother is sitting there with no top on. The teenager wants to die. She explains to her grandmother that she has friends coming over and that it is just not appropriate... The grandmother says, 'Loosen up, Sweetie', if you can show off your rose buds, then I can display my hanging baskets.

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 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.