



.....Issue 16 October 2017.....

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Welcome to edition 16 of your section newsletter. This will be distributed electronically to those who have an email address and in printed form at Club events.

RUMOURS OF OUR DEATH HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED.

Due to the editor's absence on essential motor cycle riding duties (more later) it has been 3 months since our last issue. We have a lot to catch up with and much to look forward to as our re-born section enters its third year.

PAST EVENTS

Thursday June 15th - Our second Bike Show at the Moon at Mordiford. It was a great success thanks again to David Brand and his family and to Landlord and Landlady Allan and Karen who made us feel very welcome and provided an excellent barbecue. We had a large turnout and a wide range of bikes were on show. The weather was kind to us again and everyone had a great evening.

Sunday June 25th saw the second running of our flagship event – Herefordshire on the Edge".



66 entered and 55 actually took the start line – an increase of 28% on 2016. 43 finished Four of the

finishers didn't qualify for an award, as their bikes were less than 25 years old. A handful of entrants arrived after the checkpoint had officially closed, but we awarded them medals anyway! No bronze medals were awarded, 10 silvers and an impressive 29 Golds. Thirteen of the Gold medal winners visited all 32 of the waypoints – more than double last year's total.



21 different marques entered in this year's event, the most popular being BSA with 10. We saw 39 British bikes (excluding the 3 Indian Enfields), 18 Japanese and only 4 Italian machines but not a single scooter in sight. Two 3-wheelers entered alongside the 64 solos. There were a surprising 12 pillion/passengers. Average age of machines was 47 and average capacity a portly 499 cc! Smallest bike was Simon Taylor's 49cc Honda Camino. Furthest travelled competitors were Russ McDermid and "Ninja" Sirimoon who really did travel from Thailand to do the event. We are impressed!



Sadly, section member Steve Sumner didn't quite get there with "Claude" - the BSA that we've covered in previous issues – although he did bring it in the van to show us how close it was. Son Andrew rode "Chuffa" the bike on which Steve won a bronze in 2016, but sadly had to retire to save "Chuffa" from further punishment. They both promise to be back again next year.

We had some much appreciated feedback and Ian and Lesley Goodhall compiled this wonderful little video, which you can find on You Tube <https://youtu.be/xEh2mK0cknE>

Put a note in your diary for next year's event. Sunday June 24th 2018.

THE FINAL PART OF FRED SPAVEN'S "ADVENTURES IN ITALY ON A BANTAM"

Bantam Italia – The Final Push

After fitting Pete's new piston in Pescara, we followed the coast road south in heavy rain that made the roads ice-slick after a long, hot summer and kept our spirits subdued as one by one our waterproofs proved not to be. Our aim was to cross back west over the Apennines to Naples so, having ridden out ahead of the rain we made a quick camp in an olive grove near Foggia and dived under ineffective canvas for a wet night's sleep.

We'd not got far the following morning before disaster struck; it seems the previous day's drizzle had kept Pete's engine cool on the flat but climbing mountains in the dry with a new piston had led to a hot seize, our hypothetical worst case scenario. Having no idea what to do we put the kettle on. I stripped the top end and carefully cleaned up the mess within with emery cloth and a sharpened screwdriver, before reassembling it with plenty of oil. We started it and let it run up and cool down a few times to take the worst of the roughness off before getting underway. I've never been superstitious, but it was exactly 13 miles before it did it again.

Pete slipped the bike into neutral to roll up a farm track so we could sort the problem and I, naturally, followed. What looked like a tarmac track turned

out to be wet clay and both bikes immediately ground to a halt. My front wheel was locked solid and, by the time we turned around, both of Pete's were too. We somehow slid both top heavy bikes the twenty yards back to the road but it felt like a mile and a half with our boots gaining a pound of clay with every step.



Back by the road we unpacked the bikes, removed three out of our four wheels and rebuilt the engine. Again. We were wet, hungry, exhausted and unsure of whether Pete's bike would see out the rest of the day. Later, in happier times, we both revealed we would have walked away there and then, if we could have done.



Somehow, we continued like this, averaging two seizures a day for the next week. By the time we rode out of Naples, and Pete's bike seized just as we

crested a hill, he simply rolled along in neutral for a mile before standing on the pegs to gently kick over the engine, feeling for compression, then flicking the ignition, slipping it into gear and bumping it off. All without even pulling over.



From then on our luck improved and we rode the Amalfi coast in the sun and, a few days later arrived at 1am in a campsite on the southern tip, though not without losing a centre stand, headlamp and little end in the process. We'd done it, we'd bought and built two bikes, learnt to ride them and ridden 3,104 miles across a small continent within the year. More surprising still, we actually made it back again!

Thanks to Fred for sharing his adventure with us. If you want to read the whole story and see the great pictures take a look at Fred's blog.

<http://bantamitalia.tumblr.com>

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUES

David Jackson's account of his epic Giro D'Italia ride on his Brough SS

Whatever happened to Claude? Steve Sumner's BSA restoration

The Trans America Trail – Geoff McGladdery's 4,000 mile ride across the dirt roads of America

FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 19th October 2017 - 7.00 pm at the Moon, Mordiford – club night – a chance to meet and chat over a pint

Sunday October 22nd – Ride out - Bredon Hill and Winchcombe Meet 09:30 at Ledbury Market Hall. **AT THE MOMENT THIS RUN HAS NO LEADER CALL 07588 559698 IF YOU INTEND TO TAKE PART**

Thursday 16th November 2017 - 7.00 pm at the Moon, Mordiford - Section AGM (Agenda below)

1. Welcome by Section chairman Geoff McGladdery
2. Apologies for absence
3. Decisions of last AGM held on 24th November 2016
4. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
5. Review of the past year by Geoff McGladdery
 - Club night
 - Speakers
 - Runs
 - HOTE
 - Bike night
 - Financial statement
6. Open discussion, including:
 - What went well?
 - What went less well?
 - What do members want?
 - How can we involve more members?
7. The outline programme for 2018
8. Election of Officers
9. Thinking outside the box?
 - Partnering with others?
 - Volunteers?
10. Publicity and communications
11. AOB

Find us on  Updates and other stuff can be found on our Facebook page – VMCC Herefordshire section. Feel free to post to it.