



.....Issue 21 March 2018.....

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Welcome to issue 21 – This will be distributed electronically to those who have an email address and in printed form at Club events. If you do not wish to receive further copies of the newsletter, please email me and I will remove you from the list.

PAST EVENTS

Thursday 15th Feb 2018. The Conquest Theatre Bromyard - THE TRANS AMERICA TRAIL

Another "sell-out" in Bromyard following last year's successful "Long Ride Home" talk. More than 150 people listened to John Roach and Geoff McGladdery' tell the story of their month long journey across the dirt roads of America. A popular question and answer session went on well past the theatre's closing time. Having both bikes on the stage along with all their equipment was a great draw for those interested in Adventure motorcycling,



John Roach's rare and much modified Moto Morini 350 Kangaroo, created a lot of interest. St Michael's Hospice raised £226 with their raffle and silent

auction and the section was able to bank more than £450! Happy Days!

Saturday 17th Feb HJ Pugh Ledbury Salerooms Auction of Motor-cycles, old bikes parts and Automobilia.

The best collection of bikes for a long time. A packed house saw the 1955 Ariel square 4 with the Steib chair and the KH Kawasaki, (both featured in our Feb edition) sell for a hammer price of £12000 and £2600 respectively, while the Myford ML7 lathe made a predictable £620. This nicely restored and sensibly upgraded Tiger Cub was "knocked down" at an eye-watering £2800,



making this very useable 350 Tribsa look a real bargain at £2200.



If you want to see all the prices, you'll find them here.

<http://www.hjpugh.com/cyclesales/170218results.pdf>

Saturday and Sunday 17th and 18th Feb – the Telford Classic Dirt Bike Show.

As ever, a fantastic collection of golden era off-road machines. The Sunday is a lot quieter than the Saturday, so you can really get close up and personal with the bikes.

Sunday 25th Feb – A hardy seven souls started The John Langford run at Bromyard. Organised by the Worcestershire section and led by Pete Howells and a good time was had by all.

Sunday March 4th - H&H auction – The National Motorcycle Museum – The ex John Lennon "Monkey bike" made £56,250, but the undoubted star was this historically important 1969 Honda CB 750 prototype - one of 2 known survivors of the 4 that were made. Strong international bidding saw it make £157,500!!!!



FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 7th March 2018 – Brightwells Easters Court, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0DE 12:00 noon

Check their website for full details. <https://www.brightwells.com>

21 bikes are sprinkled amongst the classic cars. In addition to the ultra-rare 350 Rover featured last month, is this heroic little 98cc Bown, made in 1952 in Lwynypia, just down the road from Tonypan. It comes complete with documents and a patina that only time can bestow. You could own this little bit of Welsh motorcycling

history for £1000-£1200 if the guide price is to be believed



Another bike sure to excite the bidders is this 1968 BSA Bushman Guided at an insane £2500 - £3000.



Don't get too excited it's just a replica. If you get carried away, just keep reminding yourself "It's only a Bantam with a fancy paint job!"

Thursday March 8th – The first midweek ride-out of the year. Meet at Tesco café Belmont Hereford HR2 7XS at 10:00 for a 10:30 start. Stop at Grosmont for a look round the Castle and then on to the Fountain Inn at Orcop for lunch. Optional ride back to the Moon after lunch. Alan Reed promises Mediterranean weather!

Thursday March 15th - 7.00 pm at the Moon, Mordiford HR1 4LW – club night. A chance to meet

up and chew the fat – assuming their cellar problems are fixed by then!

Sunday March 18th – Traveller's Rest HR9 7QJ, on the outskirts of Ross-on-Wye, 1 hour Breakfast ride.

Meet at 08:15 for a prompt start at 08:30. Returning to the Travellers for breakfast. Should be home by 11:00. This was a popular ride last year. Let's hope for early season sunshine!

Saturday 31st March – South Midlands Autojumble – Ross-on-Wye Cattle Market, HR9 7QQ - 9:00 a.m.

At a mere £4 for admission, these jumbles are always worth a trip if you're looking for those elusive parts. If you want to take a stall to clear out your shed, then call John Harding on 01989 750731

Sunday 1st April - 12:00 - Red Marley Classic Trial - Walsgrove Farm, Great Witley, Worcs. WR6 6JJ Like the following days hill climb, the venue is signed from the Hundred House Hotel on the A443 at Great Witley. Entry is free – your chance to get close up and personal with some wonderful classic bikes.

Easter Monday April 2nd 12:00 –Red Marley Hill Climb Walsgrove Farm, Great Witley, Worcs WR6 6JJ This famous re-creation of an even more famous event is a wonderful event for anyone interested in pre-'70 off-road bikes.



The hill is 400 metres (1/4 mile) long and reaches almost 1:1.5 near the top where there is a challenging jump known as "the pimple". Riders compete 4 at a time from a standing start - the first two over the line progress to the next round.

At £10 for adults (kids go free) this is a great day out. Lots of people ride their old bikes to the meeting – why don't you?

Saturday April 7th – The Bringsty Grand Prix

Bromyard Speed Festival will be running the Bringsty GP as part of their 2918 programme. Classes are for pre 60/65/68/74/78 and twinshock. Entries are via www.goracemx.com A full entry of machines from the golden era of British motorcycling is expected and, there will be couple of "parade" sessions for riders who do not wish to race If you would like more information on this great local event, please go to <http://www.bromyardfestivals.co.uk>

Sunday May 6th VMCC Founders Rally. The café Shobden Airfield - HR6 9NR – 10:00 – 18:00

There are 2 ways you can take part in this bi-annual event. You can ride in it – details will be available soon, or you can help to man our checkpoint at the Café at Shobden airfield. Roger Bibbings is organising a rota. If you can give an hour or two of your time to stamp the cards of rally participants contact him on herefordvmcc@outlook.com

Sunday May 13th - B+Q, Holmer Rd Hereford HR4 9SH. 10.00 for 10.30 start – "In search of the Green Man."

A gentle pootle around the lanes of Herefordshire with a visit to the famous Green Man. Suitable for all VMCC eligible motorcycles. The ride finishes at Hereford's amazing Broomy Hill Waterworks museum and the Broomy Hill Miniature Railway. Trains will be running that day and the Museum and the railway both offer refreshments. Why not arrange to meet the rest of the family there after the ride.



Sunday June 24th - HEREFORDSHIRE ON THE EDGE



Entries for this third running our "flagship" event are flowing in nicely with 26 received to date from as far afield as Cornwall and the Peak District. We've got a wide range of bikes too, exemplified by Rod Thompson's well used 1936 Scott Flying Squirrel. We would love to see 100 bikes this year, so get your entries in and drag your mates along. Its open to non-VMCC members and bikes only have to be 25 years old to qualify for an award



The on-line entry and payment system has proved very popular as has the opportunity to start at either Ross or Leintwardine.

There are still some rooms available at the Lion at Leintwardine, at the special event rate for those who want to make a weekend of it.

If you need a copy of the Regulations and an entry form, you can copy and print them from our Facebook page or you can, email a request to.....

herefordvmcc@outlook.com

ELECTRIC ENFIELD – THE CHARGING BULLET – AN UPDATE FROM FRED SPAVEN.

"Progress on the Charging Bullet continues apace among the more usual restoration projects here at Spaven Engineering. The laser-cut engine plates have arrived and, after using them as props in our first filming session, I have begun fabricating the steel battery boxes that will house the 12 Nissan Leaf battery modules that will power the bike. These steel boxes add rigidity to the frame while protecting the thin plastic battery pouches from wind, rain and road grime. Using the Enfield frame as a jig I fully tacked the various pieces together and now have an odd looking sculpture on the bench, ready to weld up.

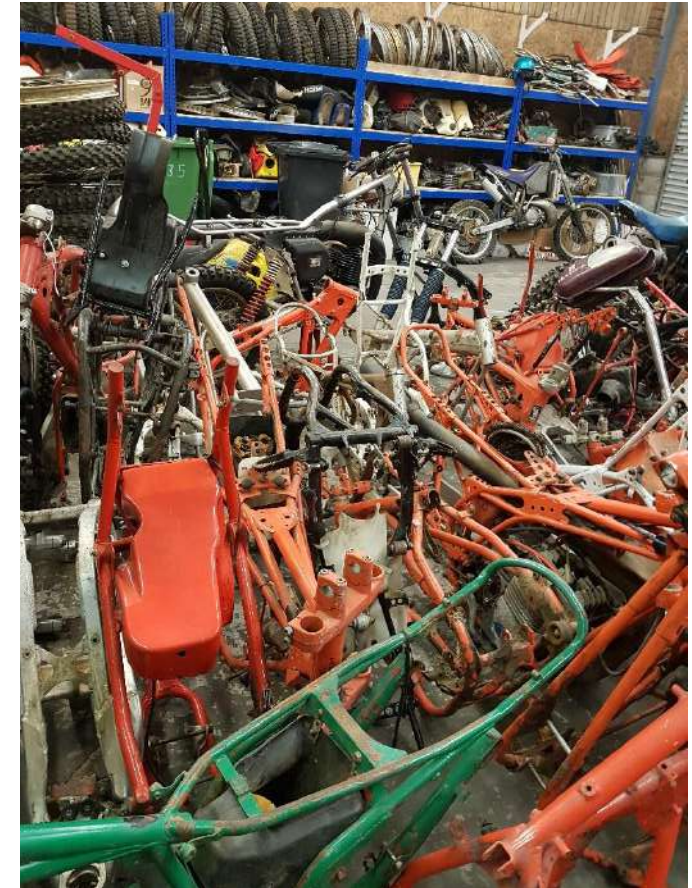


Meanwhile, on the electrical front, the final main components have arrived; the relays and contactors (required to shut down the bike's power in case of a battery fault) and the Battery Management System (BMS) that controls them. Then, with the sub-frame loosely assembled I could plan the wiring and layout of the control box (upper left in the frame).

Most exciting, though, is the two minute teaser film that Finn Varney has produced to explain what we're doing, now available on our project website: www.Charging-Bullet.co.uk

We will continue to keep you updated on Fred's progress with **"The Charging Bullet"**

CAN A MAN (OR WOMAN) HAVE TOO MANY RESTORATION PROJECTS?



Snapped at the home on an anonymous section member - a small part of his collection of projects. Allegedly they were all complete bikes once and were merely dismantled ready for restoration!!!! A couple of weekends work should see it all back together. Why not send us photos of your ~~basket cases~~ projects? Sorry – "Projects"

Sunday March 4th VMCC AGM – Gaydon,

Shambolic and chaotic and that's being generous. Evidentially, whatever skills the current VMCC Chairman has – and I am sure he has many - running a large public meeting to a pre-set agenda is not one of them.

Around 200 people made it to the meeting, despite the treacherous weather. The meeting commenced with a minute's silence for many members who had passed away during the year, including our own section member Jonathan Byard.

NO CONFIDENCE

Minutes of the previous AGM were approved without real comment. A clear pattern of mistrust and frustration with the Chair was becoming apparent in the room and an attempt was made from the floor to pass a vote of "no confidence" in Rob Reaney as chair of the meeting and requiring him to hand over the chair. The vote was passed almost unanimously, but was declared improper by the chairman, who then continued as if nothing had happened.

ACCOUNTS

Acceptance of the accounts proved problematic. A rambling, unstructured debate raised questions about expenditure increases and the allocations of various costs. Some of the assertions made about staff cost reductions in Mr Reaney's notes in the last journal were challenged; quite rightly as it turned out, as some exceptional non-recurring costs in 2016 were used in the favourable comparison with 2017. Sniping from the floor continued as the meeting slowly drifted out of control. Moving to vote on the acceptance of the accounts immediately called into question the mechanics of the proxy voting system, which were soon resolved. After more hostile questioning, the matter was finally put to the vote and the accounts were accepted. *(It should be noted that for the first time, voting was by 'almost secret' ballot - as names and membership numbers had to be included on voting forms - and results were announced after votes had been counted.)*

AWARD WINNERS

Lunch was taken after voting on other largely procedural items. A further vote of no confidence in the chair was then proposed, seconded and passed - and again bizarrely ignored. The annual awards were presented for exceptional service to the Club and for excellent performances in various events. I felt sorry for many of the award winners as firstly there was no commentary on what

their achievements were and secondly there were sporadic interruptions by members continuing to speak (with microphones) on earlier issues, whilst the awards were being presented. The people who won awards are the life and soul of our club and they deserved much better.

STRATEGY AND FUTURE DIRECTION

A number of speakers from the floor criticised the current Board for the absence of a medium term plan or a strategy. There is a requirement in the Constitution for the Board to produce and update such a plan at regular intervals and then present it to the membership. No defence was offered for the absence of this key document, other than they thought that one existed somewhere but it had not been updated since 2015.

NEW PRESIDENT – ALISTAIR ALEXANDER

As President Elect Mr Alexander took the unusual step of speaking prior to his formal accession to the post, making the point that the President's role is apolitical. He offered a balanced, if critical, view on certain aspects of the work of the directors and proposed that the recent members survey be the basis for the future direction of the Club but he did express optimism for the future of the Club. Our new President clearly has the skills and experience appropriate to this role and I am sure he will make an excellent job of it.

HUSTINGS AND VOTES FOR DIRECTORS

Despite there being no agenda item, the Chairman allowed time for directors standing for election to speak for their candidacy. Unscripted, bland platitudes, a complete and utter absence of any cohesive vision for the future of the Club was the sad summary of what was said. Constant interruptions from the floor punctuated this depressing session and the meeting finally moved to a vote on the election of Directors with the following result:

Patrick Justin Harvey-Jones – elected with 79% for;
Brian Southam – not elected with 41% for
Robert Reaney – not elected with 33% for

WHERE NOW ?


Our Club currently has no Chairman, no strategy for the future and a number of Director vacancies. HQ

staff are demoralised and still continue to leave.... But the club is financially sound and the membership has been energised by recent events. There are clearly many competent, qualified and professional members of our club. They need to be identified and either co-opted to the Board or persuaded to stand for election. Our section has offered congratulations to the new President and made it clear that we will help with the work ahead in any way we can. The best thing we can do as individual members is to continue to support our Herefordshire Section and ride our bikes. **I'm going on Thursday's ride are you?**

FUNERAL

The Church of St Michael & all Angels Church in Ledbury was filled with the friends and family for the funeral of Les Thick on Monday 12th Feb. Les was a hugely popular and much respected man in the Ledbury area through his involvement in so many different activities and through his work in the building trade. The coffin was carried in to Jim Reeves' "Distant Drums" and out to Acker Bilk's "Stranger on the Shore" which had everyone quietly humming the tune. His Cotton trails bike parked in the churchyard was a poignant reminder of his love for motor-bikes. Rest in Peace Les.



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