



**Berkshire Section
of
The Vintage Motor Cycle Club Ltd.**

Summary of the Year 2006

We meet on the last Tuesday of every month
from 7:30pm at

The Englefield Social Club
The Street
Englefield, nr. Theale
Berkshire
RG7 5ER

The year 2006 started, as far as the section was concerned, with the AGM in January. Allan decided that it was time to retire as the Secretary after eight years in the job. Bill & Sue Dorling also deemed that it was time to retire after many years on the committee, they will be missed.

The Bristol Classic bike show saw several of our members exhibiting their bikes although we didn't have a section stand.

February's club night was the bring and buy books sale. We had a nice selection this year, which produced a boost to the section funds.

The March mid-week meet was the last of the winter lunch meets, the riding season was just around the corner.

The skittles evening at the Dog & Partridge in Riseley was well attended and we all had a good time. Purely social events seem to attract more people than the runs.

Five of our members entered the Pioneer Run on a nice sunny day. They mostly arrived safely in Brighton. Even if you don't have an eligible bike it is a good outing to watch the old bikes performing so well.

The VMCC president, Peter Vines was the guest speaker for the March club night. He spoke at length about the various bikes that he has owned and ridden, with slides and many photos.

April started well with our youngest member, David Bryant being awarded the Mrs. Daphne Hedington Dent Memorial Trophy at the VMCC AGM in Loughborough. This prestigious cup was a complete surprise to us. This award is presented to the youngest rider in the whole of the VMCC who regularly rides in club events. David has taken a day off work for almost all of our mid-week runs for the last five years, and rides in all the weekend runs.

The mid-week run was to the interesting Kennet and Avon canal museum in Devizes. It is situated at the top of the famous Caen Hill flight of locks. After visiting the museum we had a good lunch in a nearby pub and then a leisurely ride back over the downs via Pewsey and Hungerford. It was a good day out, on the way passing several of the famous Wiltshire White Horses.

The trip to Comma Oil's blending plant at Gravesend was both educational and entertaining. As it was a longish distance we went in cars to make it more of a social event. We had a tour around the plant followed by a buffet lunch and a presentation by Geoff Skates and his colleagues. Many thanks to Geoff and the staff at Comma Oil.

The John Moore Gallop was poorly attended due to the weather, but those who turned up found that the rain stopped as we started out. We had a good ride through some very quiet country lanes. Seeing very few cars on the road all day, just one very large horsebox caused us any trouble. A coffee stop at Doug's was a welcome break. The lunch at the George and Dragon in Wolverton Townsend was good, we were all seated on our own in the barn out the back of the pub, much better than spread out around a crowded bar. Thanks to Doug Plester and Dennis Burnett for the route and to Doug and Liz Ellis for the hospitality. It was well worth getting our bikes dirty. David Bryant, who seemed to be gathering silverware, won the John Moore Cup.

The Founders Day Relay Rally checkpoint at Aldermaston Wharf was well attended by helpers, thank you all. Most riders who called in seemed to be enjoying the day, some stopping off at various checkpoints on the way home from the previous day's Coventry to Brighton Run. I managed to get away for a run to Swindon but only got as far Newbury when the engine seized solid. Thankfully it was only the big end bearing. I am still waiting for Alpha's to make a new needle roller one for me.

The May mid-week run was to the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum in Calne, Wiltshire. Situated off the A4 just passed Avebury. An interesting small museum of just the right size. A good lunch and a run back via Dennis' for tea and cakes. Tea was cut short by thunder, which necessitated a quick exit and a ride home in a

hailstorm.

Some members went by ferry to Santander in Northern Spain and rode back through France. Despite the weather and a couple of minor problems with bikes they all got home safely under their own power.

We had nice weather for the Owen Tyler Run, dry and not too hot. 42 entrants pottered around Owen's favourite Hampshire lanes. Most people had a good day, with only one breakdown and that was only a couple of miles from his home so we got him back safely.

With three routes to choose from there was something for every type of machine. The post vintage bikes were routed well away from the old ones allowing both types a good run. After a break in a nice pub there was a shorter run back.

There was plenty of time for judging of the bikes, tea and cakes and a chat to old friends after the prize giving.

Awards for the Owen Tyler Run.

The Owen Tyler Cup this year was for the best veteran.

Best Veteran	Glen Williams - 1914 New Hudson
Best Vintage	Fritz Kraeamer - 1927 799cc AJS
Best Post Vintage	Malcolm Bryant - 1936 New Imperial
Best Post War	Arthur Ling 1949 Triumph Speed Twin
Best Sidecar	Mike Gearing – 1932 Brough Superior 4
Oily Rag	Mike Gearing – 1932 Brough Superior 4
Tiddler	Derek & Lorraine Carter - 1954 Power Pak tandem
Highest Combined Age	Dennis Harris 1913 Triumph Model C

The weather cooled for our midweek run on the 14th of June making it a very pleasant day out at the Cogges Manor Farm Museum in Witney. You don't want it very hot to walk about all day in leathers. The museum is a medieval manor house that has not been modernised since Victorian times. It appeared at first glance to be small but it took a long time to see everything, an interesting place to visit. A good twisty ride back through deserted lanes finished the day off well.

Some members went to the Banbury Run. Thankfully not as hot as last year. A good day out even if you don't ride in the event, the atmosphere is unique. It is a good place to meet up with old friends from other sections. Take the family, you never know they may treat you for Fathers Day. Plenty of pubs from which to watch the old bikes go by. Quite a few one-make clubs have stands there, Malcolm Bryant was hosting the New Imperial stand, and Bill & Sue Dorling were with the Francis Barnet club. Dennis Harris and I both rode our Triumph's. I haven't been so terrified at 30 MPH in my life before, down a steep hill into a sharp bend with almost non-existent brakes is rather hairy. Hoping to do it again if I can get an entry.

The Midsummer Mystery Run started from Pangbourne car park and meandered around Didcot Power Station through quiet country lanes criss-crossing the Thames four times. The weather was good for motorcycling, dry and not too hot. We had a pleasant trip to a very quiet pub with good food, the Blue Boar in Longworth. As only seven bikes turned up we did not have to use the drop off system and just kept riding. The ride back was also through back lanes with no traffic on them, which was better than the quick way back. I only got lost twice, once right outside the pub. You can't smell the beer when wearing a full-face crash helmet

The girder fork night attracted some new bikes among the excellent turnout. A nice evening to stand outside with a good pint and some good friends and chat without the background noise we get inside.

The ACU National Road Rally brought over 200 bikes to our checkpoint at the Tothill Services on the A34. More than a quarter of the total entrants visited us. A busy day made easier by the very good turnout of members to help. Thank you all very much, especially the ladies who provided the refreshments. The evening turned into a nice social event.

Unfortunately it looks like there won't be any checkpoints this far south in the 2007 rally as the finish will be in Scarborough in North Yorkshire.

The Velocette sub section went on a camping weekend to Mallory Park for the Festival of 1000 Bikes. They had a great time with a blast around the track to round off the event.

Thanks to the Two Pete's for their run, another good event by them. It was much enjoyed by those who went.

Founders Day at Stanford Hall was dull with occasional drizzle but it didn't dampen our spirits. The autojumble is always good, worth a trip just for that.

The bike on show or being displayed in the arena are not the usual sort you see at most shows, most refreshing.

The July mid week run was to Hayling Island. Another hot day at the sea. Some went in the sea but thankfully they were out of sight. Many thanks to David & Jane Jarvis for the use of the beach hut and refreshments.

August's mid week run was to Laycock Abbey and the Fox-Talbot Museum. What seemed a long run at the start was soon over, not much traffic meant we covered the distance very quickly. The interesting museum was small but there was also the Abbey and surrounding National Trust Village. A nice pub with good beer and food with just the right weather for walking about in leathers made for a great day out.

The Popham Megameet went down very well. We had space in the corner of the marquee near our old friends on The Francis-Barnet and The Velocette Owners Club stands.

Many other owners clubs had stands and the autojumble gets better every year. Even free entry didn't bring in many of our VMCC members.

September started with the Bucklebury Run. Only a dozen riders turned up for a very good run through the Vale of the White Horse to a new pub at Bishopstone. We had a good day out with good company, who could want for anything better to pass away a Sunday. Many thanks to Bill and Allan for the route and the ladies for the tea and cakes afterwards.

Some members went on the Chalgrove Run. This is a very good run organised by the Oxford Section. Perhaps we can get a few more riders to represent our section this year.

The September mid-week run was the four-day run to Winchelsea. A trouble free journey with stops for coffee and lunch. The motel was good with a very good chef who was able to indulge us in our next favourite hobby to motorcycling, namely eating. We had two days of riding in the sun, with so many places to visit we were spoilt for choice. On Tuesday we went to the Morgan museum in Rolvenden in the morning and to Sissinghurst Castle after a lunch stop in Benenden.

On Wednesday we split up to do various things that took our fancy. The usual suspects were seen paddling in the sea again. The return journey was livened up following Jean's complaint of a funny noise at the rear of her car by a contest to find the Rattliest Velocette but I will not divulge the winner, only it was not her husband.

The Quiz team went to the Stonehenge Section where we managed to get away without disgracing ourselves.

Due to the E-coli outbreak in Englefield the Social Club was closed, so we had to find somewhere nearby at short notice to hold the September club night. Luckily the Red Lion in Theale was able to let us use their skittle alley for our meeting. Unfortunately we were unable to hold our Inter-section Quiz. Originally we hoped that it was only to be a one-month postponement, but we had to cancel the event for 2006.

The October mid-week run was attended by only five die-hard motorcyclists. The weather was atrocious but it was worth the ride to Farnborough. The Air Sciences Museum was one of the best that we have visited. It was good to find a place staffed by enthusiasts who were glad to pass on their knowledge to others. The museum is normally closed on Wednesdays but they opened especially for us and laid on coffee and biscuits. There was a pub next door, which proved handy in the rain. At least it stopped raining for the ride home. Malcolm and David Bryant both rode proper classic bikes, the rest of us used those boxer engined things from Berlin (They were all VMCC eligible). Dennis brought his son, a frequent pillion passenger, hopefully when he is old enough to get a licence he will join our ranks on his own bike.

Unfortunately the Englefield Social Club was still closed for our guest speaker night in October, so we had return to the Red Lion. The skittle alley is small and we only just fitted in but we must be thankful that there was somewhere close by that could accommodate us. The Speaker was Doug Ellis who gave a talk with a video presentation on the Italian manufacturer Moto Morini its history and motorcycles. A very interesting and informative evening, it was nice to hear about different marques for a change. Thank you Doug.

The Mid-week run on the 1st of November was the last one of the year. We had a short run in glorious sunshine over Watership Down to The Bullington Cross Inn at Sutton Scotney. It was nice to ride over quiet roads in the dry after last month's deluge. Just long enough before the fingers got cold. The bikes seem to go so much better when there is a nip in the air, they must have known that they wouldn't be doing much over the winter.

We had some spectators for the Oxford Section's quiz night so we managed to enter two teams. The B team did not disgrace themselves just one point behind the three-way tie for first place. After some extra rounds the Berkshire A Team won by two points. More of a fun night out than a serious quiz but enjoyable just the same.

The November club Night produced a good turnout for our return to Englefield. This was the Bring and Buy hardware sale. A motley collection of odds and ends produced £68 for section funds.

The December mid-week run was the first of our winter lunch meetings. Reasonably priced pubs seen to be getting thin on the ground so we returned to the Flowing Spring. A nice sunny day enabled three bikes to make an appearance.

The quiz team went to the Chiltern Section's quiz at White Hill, Chesham. Unfortunately due to our own stupidity we only came second, losing by one mark. A poor show as we were hoping for a hat trick of wins there. But for all that we had a great evening, the Chiltern Section always have an interesting quiz, this one was better than ever.

Another good turn out for the Christmas Dinner at The Jekyl and Hyde on the Basingstoke Road at Turgis Green. This pub has a separate room with a little more room than The Bell, which allowed people to move about. We could talk to many more people and it was possible to get to the bar. I think a good time was had by all, the food wasn't bad, the beer good and the company was excellent, what more could we ask for.

On the whole we had a good year with pleasant runs, mostly in great motorcycling weather. Global warming seems to be good for motorcycling. Thankfully we had a year without any breakdowns or serious accidents. The two social events were well attended and enjoyed by all. Help the committee to build on our successes and take the section forward to better things in the future.

Hope to see more of you out on your machines this year.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and safe and trouble free riding in 2007.

Michael Bryant.