



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

Summary of the Year 2007

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

Our first meeting of the new year was a mid-week lunch. These winter lunch meetings are getting more popular, we had 28 members at The Crown, in Crown Lane, Farnham Common. A nice pub with a large dining room, which we filled. These mid-week lunch meetings are more of a social gathering than a bike run. Some people come on bikes, but members can bring their non-riding wives in cars if they wish. We have found this an ideal way for the regular riders to keep in touch when the weather is not conducive to enjoyable motorcycling. I think this was one of the better suggestions from the membership, if you have any ideas to improve the club please let us know. We seem to have a good crowd, who get along well, let's build on this and do other things.

The AGM produced one surprise; Len Marsh retired and Allan Herbert was elected as our new Treasurer, the rest of the committee were all re-elected.

To comply with the money laundering laws we now have a formal constitution for the section. A copy is available if anyone wishes to see it.

Some of our members took their motor cycles to The Bristol Classic Bike Show at Shepton Mallet. We didn't have a Berkshire Section stand but we were well represented on some of the one-make clubs stands, A.J.S & Matchless, Francis Barnett, New Imperial, Berkshire British Bikes and others. The weather was foul which prevented a lot of entrants getting to the show, but those who braved the snow had a great weekend.

The February mid-week lunch meeting was to the Royal Standard near Wooburn Common. Another very good turn out for these popular events, we nearly filled their dining room.

The February club night was the bring and buy book sale. A good response from the members brought in a useful boost to our coffers.

The March mid-week lunch meeting was the last of these winter meetings. There was large crowd at the Ring O' Bells, on the A4 near Knowl Hill. The weather was very nice for the time of year, a beautiful sunny day tempted eleven riders to get bikes out.

A motley crowd of Berkshire Section members were entered for the Pioneer Run. A rain shower just before the start did not bode well but the weather improved and we had a good run to Brighton. I think we all got to Brighton safely without any serious problems, just the odd adjustment being required. Some of our members were seen on the way riding more modern bikes just for the outing.

The St. Patrick's Night Quiz was hosted by the West Wilts Section this year. As it was not too far we sent a team and they managed to come away without disgracing themselves. It was a very hard quiz for us as most of the questions were of a sporting nature.

The spring guest speaker was Harry Rayner who gave a very good talk on the ups & downs of motor cycle racing in the 1950s & '60s. For those of us who competed or just watched during those times it brought back many memories.

The riding season kicked off with 23 of us on a run to the Crofton Beam Engines. A good run down to Crofton. The engines weren't in steam but are still very interesting. We lunched at The Swan in Wilton where we had very good service. Those with good navigational skills visited the Windmill (just round the corner). As the spring started so well we all hoped that this was the start of another good riding year.

The Skittles Evening at the Dog and Partridge was another very good turn out. Joe Kershaw was the overall winner (well ahead of everyone else) with Lorraine Carter the ladies champion. The names of the booby prize winners will hopefully be conveniently forgotten. The skittles evenings are as popular as ever.

The John Moore Gallop had an unusually sunny day after the last few years damp and dismal runs. A great run over beautiful downland countryside following Doug Plester out into Wiltshire. Some of the riders had no idea where we went, which made for a good day out. As we did not have to work out our route we could relax and enjoy the scenery.

The John Moore cup was awarded to John Guy from the Stonehenge Section riding a Triumph Trophy. The winning bike was chosen by the landlady and she was not influenced by our own Trophy riders.

The April club night was the Video Evening, which was as usual was a very well attended event. We had an interesting pair of films, although some of us had seen them before they were well worth another viewing. Thanks to Doug for bringing the equipment.

The midweek run to The Royal Armouries at Fort Nelson was an interesting day out. The weather turned so bad when we got there that we almost had the place to ourselves, the guide and interpreter could both give us their undivided attention. A very interesting collection of over 350 heavy weapons ranging from the time of Henry VIII to Saddam Hussein's infamous Pipe Gun. It is all set in an historic Victorian fort, one of Palmerton's Follies that were built to protect Portsmouth from a landward attack by the French.

Our premier event, the Owen Tyler Run was almost washed out with only 14 bikes starting. The Owen Tyler Cup should have been awarded to the best vintage bike this year but as there was only one entered, the riders suggested that it should be presented to Peter Winch of the Somerset Section for riding from Bristol on a Greeves to join us. Several riders having endured the heavy rain decided to call it a day after the lunch stop and went straight home from the pub. Those who persevered had a good day. We must expect a little rain now and again.

#### **The Owen Tyler awards were.**

Owen Tyler Cup	Peter Winch	1961 Greeves 32DC
Best Vintage	Brian Kettle	1923 Scott 3 speed
Best Post Vintage	Allan Herbert	1938 Velocette MAC
Best Post War	Arthur Ling	1948 Triumph Speed Twin
Most Original	Robin Strange	1967 Triumph Tiger 90

Brian Kettle also won the Combined Age Shield.

The other Trophies were not awarded as either no one entered or none finished in those classes.

The French Trip was to Luc Sur Mer in Normandy. A small group attended a motorcycle rally with a run around the local countryside. Much wine was drunk which seems the main reason for going. They came back with another large cup again this year. Thankfully there were no bike problems this year.

The midweek run was to the Tangmere Aviation Museum. The museum has exhibits from the airfield's time as a Second World War fighter station. It also had a display about the secret trips made to France by SOE

agents. There are several airspeed record aircraft from the post war period. We had an unscheduled early lunch stop on the way down when one bike broke down just outside a pub.

Fathers Day meant its time for The Banbury Run. Few of us ride in the event these days but we supply the tent for the New Imperial Owners Association who had a stand by the start line.

The Midsummer Mystery Run attracted few riders, but those who turned out had a trip through some quiet lanes between Buckinghamshire villages that most did not even know existed. Lunch was at the White Horse in Forest Hill a small pub with a big welcome. The theme for this year was Christmas. As Midsummer's Day is the furthest from Christmas Day we went in search of as many Saint Nicholas's Churches as we could find.

The Two Pete's Run was a tour around an area we don't often go through, over the Chiltern Hills and into the Vale of Aylesbury. A great area for riding, much used by the Chiltern Section. The day was just right for motorcycling, sunny but not too hot. A good run around some fairly quiet lanes. Many thanks to the two Petes. It's a pity so few turned up to enjoy their hard work in planning this nice event.

The midweek run was to Hayling Island. A cool start did not bode well for a day by the seaside but the sun came out as we headed south. As the day warmed up a few hardy souls went for a swim. A pleasant day on the quiet beach was followed by a good run home. As lunch was alfresco on the beach we stopped at the George and Dragon in Wolverton Common for dinner. Thanks to Jane and David Jarvis for the hospitality.

A small contingent represented our section at the Festival of 1000 Bikes event at Mallory Park. The campers enjoyed the event, the riders even more. Hopefully they will be going again next year so Doug can get his revenge on the track. It must be hard being beaten by your own bike.

The chairman's barbeque was well attended. Most of us watched from the marquee as others cooked their food in the drizzle or got smoked under an umbrella. It takes more than a little rain to stop us. A very pleasant evening and I think a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Liz for working so hard to make the evening so enjoyable.

The car park concours was held on a nice warm evening which encouraged some people to bring out a few new bikes this year. It was difficult to choose a winner but after discounting the chief judge's own bike, a very nice Velocette Viper stood out from the others. Well done all of you for the time taken to polish so many bikes.

The Mid week run was to the Hollycombe Steam Museum near Liphook. After the wet summer so far it was nice to get a warm sunny day. A pleasant run that did not take long gave us plenty of time for rides on the train and the historic steam fairground attractions. Some of our members appeared to be happy having repeat rides on the children's swings. It was difficult to prise some people away from the roundabouts to go home. The ride to the museum was not very long but it was quite enjoyable.

We had our tent out for the Popham Mega Meet. Those who turned out had a good day, either supporting our section's stand or some of the many one-make clubs who had a presence there. It was a lovely wet day to play in the deep mud or just watch the antics of the Volvo drivers throwing mud everywhere. The autojumble gets bigger every year, but there wasn't much worth buying this time, anything decent was covered up.

The August club night was a show a bike night which attracted several new machines. A nice evening to

enjoy a pint outside and chat about bikes. A nice excuse to get out a different bike.

The Bucklebury run is the last of our formal runs and normally has a very good entry. This year we had a smaller turn out than usual but those who ventured out had a good run in the sunshine, and we haven't had much of that this year.

The run out through the Vale of the White Horse was quite pleasant, we ended up at the Shepherds Rest at Foxhill near Swindon. After lunch we had a quicker run back for tea and cakes at Allan's. Thanks are extended to Jean for the hospitality and to all the cake makers without whom this run would not be the same. I think some riders spend much more time chatting and eating cake than actually riding in this event. Luckily we had a nice day both for riding and sitting about afterwards. I think some were loathe to get up and go home, they didn't want the nice day to finish.

Our September run was further from home than usual this year. We decided to take our bikes on trailers to a hotel in Caldbeck in Cumbria and ride out from there. This turned out to be a good idea as we did not have to worry about the reliability of some of our older bikes over 300 miles from home. This made for a much more relaxed week. Was there a subtle dig at us by Allan booking us into the Oddfellows Arms?

We started by going to the end of Hadrians Wall at Bowness-on-Solway and then we rode along the wall to Tynemouth, stopping at Chesters Roman Fort for a break. After dinner in an Italian Restaurant we spent the night in The Grand Hotel on the seafront. We returned the next day over the Pennines via Hexham and Alston with a stop at Corbridge Roman Town.

The ride out was a straight Roman road and the return was a lovely smooth recently resurfaced road with plenty of twists and turns. No wonder it is well used by modern bikes. We stopped for tea at the well known bikers café at Hartside Top overlooking the Lake District Hills.

The rest of our stay was spent riding the passes in the Lake District. A great time was had by all, what more can you want, with good friends, good motorcycling roads and all in glorious sunshine. All of the bikes performed faultlessly bar one and that was only eating plugs. It makes a change to have to wait for a Triumph.

The Quiz Team managed to win at the Stonehenge Sections Quiz. A different line-up won our section's own quiz.

The October midweek run was to the Pendon Museum in Long Wittenham. This interesting museum was so enthralling to the small boy that is still in most of us that we had to tear ourselves away to go to the pub for lunch. Chips had to be mentioned several times to stir Keith into leaving. It was only a short run to Long Wittenham but that was far enough to return as the sun set lower and the afternoon cooled.

The Autumn guest speaker was Mike Jackson. Mike is a man known to some of our older members. He regaled us with stories of his time with both Greeves and Norton Villiers Triumph. A very interesting and educational talk.

The November mid-week run was the last riding run of the year and as usual turned out to be one of the best. We started from Allan's and rode around the Berkshire downs for about an hour before finishing up at the Four Points Inn for lunch. It was a glorious sunny day for a run around the Stanford Dingley area. We went

along narrow lanes with no traffic on them. What a change to ride through deep dry leaves in November with no worries about skidding. A pleasant lunch and a good pint. It was only a short run so we could get home as the sun set and before it got chilly.

We entered two teams in the Oxford Section's Quiz. The B team did not do as well as the A team which is having a very good year. We managed a win for the third quiz in a row. Well done to both teams.

The December mid-week lunch meeting was to the Lands End Pub by the ford near Woodley. A nice pub and very near to the vineyard for those who wanted to stock up on English wine for Christmas.

The Christmas Dinner was again held at the Jekyl and Hyde on the A33 Basingstoke Road. The food was very good and the beer excellent. Another good event which appeared to go down very well. I think we all enjoyed the evening, it was a good way to finish off our section's year.

Michael Bryant