



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

Summary of the Year 2010

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 New Year started badly with the January mid-week lunch meeting being cancelled due to the weather. Some of us being unable to get our cars out of the deep snow.

The Annual General Meeting proceeded smoothly as there was nothing arising from the minutes of the last meeting and no new issues to discuss.

Peter Spicer expressed a wish to stand down from the committee. The Chairman Mr. Doug Ellis thanked him for the work that he had put in during his years on the committee and as one of the instigators of the Two Pete's' Run.

There were no changes to the officers and the rest of the committee were all re-elected.

The February midweek lunch meeting was held in the Lands End Inn beside the ford at Charvil. Snow on the roads on the way there didn't reduce the crowd or dampen our spirits.

Some of our members were showing bikes at The Bristol Classic Motorcycle Show at The Bristol and West Showground in Shepton Mallet. We did not have a stand for our Section but we were well represented on the Private Entry, AJS & Matchless, Francis-Barnett and the New Imperial Stands.

Shepton Mallet is a great place to chat to the members of other sections who we meet on our travels and we only occasionally see at such places.

The Quiz Team went to The Cyclemotor Section's new quiz at the England's Rose. Our team was on form again and we managed to win. All this winning is getting embarrassing, people think that we are now the team to beat but it is only that we have a team with such diverse knowledge and each one has his own specialities. I know we are a lot of sad cases but now we hold a certificate to that effect thanks to Lorraine.

The March midweek lunch meeting was to the Duke of Edinburgh near Ascot. Another good turnout to a nice pub with good food and a selection of beers.

A few of us entered The Sunbeam Club's Pioneer Run. A well organised run over fairly good roads. A good day out in the sunshine at Brighton following the run is a good start to the riding year. There are some very unusual bikes to be seen at this event.

Lorraine finished as usual on her little JES, 116cc's of raw power propelled her to Brighton, I needed all of my 500cc.

The New Imperial's had a very good turn out with most of the known veteran bikes entered. The majority of them were local riders and finished ok, just a broken valve spring marred the day for one of them.

The March club night was the Video Evening. By using a computer with a video projector and an old movie screen we could get a much larger picture. It was reminiscent of the film nights we used to have in the past when Dennis brought along real films.

April heralds the first midweek run of the year. This year we started with a ride to the Avebury Stone Circle in Wiltshire. After passing through Newbury we had a good run along the A4. We stopped for refreshments in the Red Lion, a nice pub situated in the village that is right in the centre of the stones.

After lunch and a wander amongst the stones we adjourned to the Chairman's house for tea. Many thanks to Liz for the hospitality. It was a good start to our riding season, a slightly chilly but dry day made for a very good ride, just right to blow away the winter cobwebs.

The Skittles Evening is our first social event of the year. A lively attendance proved once again that it is easier to hit the wall than the skittles but they all enjoyed the night. Perhaps it is the chatting and the chicken and chips that they go for rather than the physical exertion.

The Calleva Gallop did not attract as many riders as some previous years, although it was nice to see two new faces on this event, John and Paul turned out and Denise was back on her own bike at last. Well done to all who ventured out and found the roads were dry considering the damp start to the day.

The John Moore Cup was awarded to John Newman who was riding a very nice BSA.

The Founders Relay Rally was a dead loss as far as our checkpoint was concerned. Only seven riders started from Aldermaston and just three of them were from our section. Keith, Allan and Dave will turn out regardless, if only we could find some more like them.

Thankfully we had Jean and Denise to man the checkpoint all day and to give a display of lace making to the few who stopped at Aldermaston. Thanks to all of you who popped in to help out during the day. It gave the ladies a chance to stretch their legs.

The May midweek run was to the World of Mechanical Music, a museum in Northleach dedicated to self playing musical instruments. A very interesting place with an enthusiastic guide to demonstrate the various exhibits and explain how they worked.

A good run through mainly open countryside, we rode out via Wantage, Faringdon, Lechlade to the A40 near Burford and then on to Northleach. A short shower on the way was not too bad, but the much heavier one on the return journey was thankfully only when we were on very good roads. We stopped on the way back for a cup of tea in the National Trust tea room at Buscot Park near Lechlade. By the time we finished the tea the rain had stopped and we had a good ride home.

The Owen Tyler Run was held on a day that started damp, but that did not stop the usual crowd from enjoying a ride around the quiet lanes of North Hampshire. The halfway stop was at The Plume of Feathers in Crondall, a nice friendly pub to stretch ones legs and have a short break.

As usual we had three different routes to suit all bikes but most riders chose the longest which had the better roads with some nice long easy stretches.

The Owen Tyler Cup was this year awarded for the best Vintage motorcycle and was presented to Stuart Higgins who was riding a 1921 Sunbeam 3 ½ hp. Stuart also picked up the highest combined age of bike and rider shield.

The Best Post Vintage was Malcolm Bryant's 1936 New Imperial 250cc model 36DL.

The Best Post War motorcycle was Graham Kent's Velocette Viper Special.

The Best under 250cc was Derek Carter's New Hudson Autocycle and keeping it in the family Lorraine won both the Tiddler and the Oily Rag cups for her Vincent Firefly. Vic Blake won the three wheeler award for his Matchless Model X.

There was no veteran award as none started due to the wet roads first thing in the morning, we did not want to risk riding with no brakes. Luckily I took two bikes to the start and had a very good run once out in the

country when the roads dried up. It's much easier when you know the route.

Our June midweek run was to the Hawk Conservancy, the usual good company and a good day out. The birds were quite spectacular.

The National Trust asked us if we could send some 1950s bikes to Basildon Park for their 1950s kitchen re-opening. The club that they were relying on had let them down. We only had one day's notice but six of us went along to wave the flag for the section.

Quite a few Berkshire Section members were seen at the Banbury Run. This year we had a nice warm day for a ride around some unfamiliar roads in Warwickshire. It is nice to ride in a strange area, it makes one take greater care over the navigation when one is in danger of getting lost.

Malcolm ran a static stand for the New Imperial Owners Association right next to the signing on tent. Most of our local members seemed to be riding New Imps.

A great event even if only going as a spectator, there is also a very good autojumble to pick up those rare older parts.

The Mystery Run was a much enjoyed ride around the "bottoms" of the Chiltern Hills in the morning. The much needed lunch stop was at The Swan in Great Kimble. We enjoyed the break in the hottest part of the day.

The afternoon was spent down in the Vale of Aylesbury where I could expand on Doug Plester's "Midsomer Murders" run (We passed Nether Winchendon Hall, The Bell Inn in Chearsley and the big Tudor house in Long Crendon). We had a glorious summer's day and I managed to find some places and back lanes that nobody knew existed which makes for the mystery.

The Girder fork and rigid night was a beautiful evening for riding, even with gas lights. Quite a few bikes were present but of the Pre War bikes, New Imperials dominated.

The July Mid Week Run was scheduled to be to Hayling Island but it was a total washout. Apart from my family only one other bike turned up. Well done Keith and Muriel.

As it was not a good day to spend sitting on a beach and watch rain come down even if wearing waterproof motorcycling clothing we decided to chicken out and went instead to The Fish And Chip Company's pub in Worlds End for a long lunch. Afterwards we went to Doug and Liz's for tea.

The Chairman's Barbeque was a pleasant evening spent in Doug's garden. We sat upwind of the smoke this year, a much better idea.

A very enjoyable time with good company, good food and a glass in the hand are just the things needed to watch the sun setting over the horizon.

Thanks again to Doug for the hospitality and to Liz for the hard work she put in preparing the food, it was very much appreciated.

Our August mid-week run was to Wadworth's Brewery in Devizes. It was nice weather for a ride, sunny but not too hot. We stopped for a very good lunch in the pub adjacent to the visitor centre before going round the brewery. The tour was excellent, well conducted by a knowledgeable guide. The samples were unfortunately small as we had to ride home, but they gave us some bottles to take away.

We had a special run in August to say a sad farewell to Peter Spicer.

Peter had specified that apart from Liz and his daughters only motorcycles should follow him as he took his last ride. A sidecar man to the last but this time he rode in the chair to a thanksgiving service in Saint Giles Church, Stoke Poges. Afterwards he was carried out to the tune of "Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines" as one of his other loves was flying.

Peter will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



The Bucklebury Run started out well, we had a good run until most of us got confused in Hungerford. After sorting out a way through to the south of the town we eventually got back onto the route and headed out to the Jack Russell Inn near Facombe for a good lunch.

The return ride was much better and we all got safely back to Allan's for tea and cakes. The run back is always easier as knowing your destination removes the fear of getting lost.

Thank you Allan and Jean for organising the route and for the hospitality. Thanks also to the cake makers without whom this event would not be the same. Some of us seem to spend more time sitting and chatting afterward than actually riding.

We managed to get two adjacent stands at the Popham Mega Meet this year. We don't organise "show motorcycles" for our display, we only have the normal bikes that the members ride there. Even so we had a good variety ranging from veteran to late sixties bikes.

Malcolm organised the second stand on behalf of the New Imperials, he managed four bikes which was good

as most of the local New Imp owners were on holiday.

Having two adjacent pitches in the marquee gave us plenty of room to sit out of the sun and chat. It also allows one person to look after both stands while the others go for a walk around the other exhibits and the autojumble which gets bigger every year.

The week-long September trip was to Baskerville Hall just inside Wales near Hay On Wye. This old house is where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote his famous Sherlock Holmes story.

The weather gods favoured us again allowing for a pleasant few days riding around some quiet countryside.

The first day was over some high moorland and along dark wooded valleys to a coffee stop at Llanthony Priory, a small secluded ruined monastery set in the bottom of a peaceful valley. Afterwards we stopped for lunch at the Rising Sun near Pandy. Some of the roads were well covered in fertilizer so we were glad of a short shower on the return journey to clean it off our boots.

On Wednesday we rode out towards Presteigne, due to lack of places for lunch we diverted into a pub that we had just passed on the road; trust us to find the first pub in England to be awarded a Michelin Star. After lunch we went to Eardisland on the Black and White Trail. A nice sunny afternoon to take tea in such a pretty village.

On Thursday we went to an ancient garage in Turnastone where they still sell petrol in gallons, the only place still doing it. A grand meander through a nice agricultural area, somehow we all found the garage. Lunch was an alfresco affair in the pub garden sitting in the sunshine. We ended the run in Hay on Wye. Although we wandered around Hay I didn't see many books being purchased by our crowd. There are lots of bookshops but none had much on motorcycles.

We have stayed in many different types of hotels in the past but this was the first time in a stately home.

Good food and a nice bar to spend the evenings in. Many thanks to Allan and Jean for organising another excellent trip.

The quiz team managed another win at the Stonehenge Section's quiz night. It was a close fought thing this year requiring two tie breaker rounds before we were declared the eventual winners.

Unfortunately our quiz team was not so successful at our own quiz, only coming third. The Stonehenge Section team were the winners. We have to let others win occasionally otherwise they will think it has been fixed.

The October mid-week run started out from Allan's house instead of from Dave's. Being late in the year it was only a shortish meander to Wantage. It was a pleasant if chilly day with some nice sunshine and dry roads, just right for a trip around the Berkshire Downs.

We went to the Wantage Museum where they had a special exhibition about Alfred The Great, the Saxon King who was born in Wantage in 849. The video presentation was excellent; it managed to shut our crowd up for quite a long time, a very difficult thing to do.

Afterwards we found the nearest pub was closed for that day so we adjourned to Gregg's the Bakers for a late lunch as we were all getting quite hungry by then. We returned via Chain Hill and the roads over the downs to Allan's house for tea and cakes, just like a second Bucklebury Run. A very enjoyable day's riding.

The Bring and Buy sale attracted a larger than usual attendance, the room was full to bursting. The sale produced a useful injection of funds for the section.

Many thanks to all of you who donated hardware for the sale and to those who purchased the objects.

The November mid-week run was the last of our riding events for the year. We started from Dave's as usual and meandered around some of the back roads of Crookham and Bucklebury commons.

It was a beautiful day for the time of year, dry and crisp with a little sunshine to brighten the day up. Just the right weather and as the Autumn was long gone there were no soggy leaves in the road.

We pottered about for a while before ending up at The Four Points Inn near Aldworth. After a long lunch in a back room all to ourselves we headed home before the sun set and it started to get cold. A nice day out to finish the riding year.

The Quiz Team was back to normal, they managed a convincing win at the Oxford Section's Quiz Night. It was helped by a lower than normal entry for this popular event due to the thick fog.

December is a busy month starting with the first of our winter midweek lunch meetings. This was to The Longbridge Mill at Sherfield on Lodden.

Just a small gathering on a very cold day with the weather threatening snow.

Later the same day a reduced Quiz Team went to the Chiltern Section's Quiz as two of our best brains were unable to attend.

It was a foul night to travel to Chesham, but with some assistance from two of our section who were attending as spectators we came a very creditable second, just one point behind the winners.

The snow came down on the way back, the driver only just got home before his road became impassable.

We had our Christmas Dinner in the Land's End Inn beside the ford in Charvil. The food was excellent and the service is about the best we have had in a long time. Another good evening spent in excellent company.

Unfortunately several of our regulars were in for servicing so were unable to attend, let us hope that their new parts all work well and they can join in with us soon.

The December meeting at Englefield was our post Christmas family night where we brought along some nibbles to fortify us before we joined in with the Christmas songs. Doug brought along his accordion to provide the music to round off the evening.

I wish you all a Happy New Year full of safe and trouble free riding in plenty of glorious sunshine.

Michael Bryant