



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

Summary of the Year 2011

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 first winter midweek lunch meeting of the year was to The Duke of Edinburgh, in Winkfield near Ascot. These meetings enable members to bring along their wives for a social event that keeps us in touch in the winter months when we don't do a lot of riding.

A fair crowd gathered at this small pub that is used for the unofficial second club night each month. The beer was good and the food excellent.

The quiz team went to the Cyclemotor Section's quiz at The England's Rose in January. Unfortunately we did not finish the quizzing season on a high note as we only managed second place. Three wins and two second places. We must do better next year.

The AGM did not take long as there was not a lot to discuss. The Officers and Committee were all re-elected without dissention. Bruce Spiller was elected to fill the vacant committee post.

The Committee now comprises of:-

Doug Ellis – Chairman

Michael Bryant – Secretary

Allan Herbert – Treasurer

The other Committee Members are :-

Malcolm Bryant, Dennis Burnett, Peter Hopkins, Paul Richmond, Bruce Spiller and Robin Strange.

The February winter midweek lunch meeting was held in the Flower Pot Hotel, in Aston near Henley. A nice pub near the river where the early birds could walk and work up an appetite. This pub has a large room which was needed as we had quite a good gathering.

The bring and buy book sale brought in a useful boost to our section finances. Thank you all who donated books for sale and those of you who purchased them.

The last of our winter midweek lunches was held in the Fox and Hounds near Theale. The usual crowd turned up to enjoy some good food and a nice pint of Wadworth's best.

The Sunbeam Motorcycle Club held their 72nd Pioneer Run on the 20th. Several of our members took part in this slow saunter to the seaside. Another nice day for a trip to Brighton for a well earned lunch on the front. It was nice to see some of our members who turned up at the start to wish us well on our run.

The first motorcycle run of the year was a gentle meander over the Berkshire Downs and through the "Vale of the Racehorse" around Lambourn. We stopped for a leisurely lunch in the Red Lion in Baydon, a motorcycle friendly pub on Ermine Street the old Roman road from Swindon to Newbury.

A pleasant sunny day for a ride around the countryside. A nice start to the year.

The skittles evening was enjoyed by those who went. Even though the beer was rough the bowling was good. Lorraine won the ladies prize and your secretary won the gentleman's after a fluke strike in the last round. The wooden spoon went to last year's recipient; he must be starting a collection.

The Calleva Gallop was held on Palm Sunday so we did not ride around the old Roman City Walls as there was a religious parade to the church. Another pleasant day for a ride out through Hurstbourne Tarrant to

Inkpen and back to the pub for lunch. The Landlord was busy in the kitchen when we got back so he could not present the cup until most of the riders had left. He had viewed the bikes before we set off and had already chosen the one he would like to have in his garage, a Triumph Trophy.

The May midweek run was to The Flowerpots Inn in Cheriton near Alresford. A nice ride out through the Candoovers to a pub with its own brewery. The nine inch diameter bacon rolls are something to behold.

The Owen Tyler Run was held from a new venue this year. Not many pre war bikes but a good turn out of post war machines. Most enjoyed the run out over Watership Down, through Overton and Micheldever towards South Warnborough and on to Crondall for a well earned stop for a little relief in The Plume of Feathers before returning to Padworth. A few took the shorter veteran route, but that was probably the worst of the roads to the pub.

The awards for the Owen Tyler Run were:

The Owen Tyler Cup was awarded this year for the Best Post Vintage Motorcycle. It was awarded to Bill Barnes who was riding a very nice Triumph Tiger 80.

The Best Veteran Cup, Michael Bryant on a 1914 Premier Tourist.

The Best Vintage Cup, John Guy riding a James Sports Twin, a very nice v-twin.

The Best Post War Cup, David Bryant on his 1955 Triumph Tiger 110.

The Under 250cc Cup went to Doug Plester's Greeves 197.

The Best Sidecar Cup, Derek Carter on a New Hudson Autocycle with sidecar.

Derek also won The Tiddler Award for the smallest engined motor cycle entered.

The Most Original Motorcycle gets The Oily Rag Cup, this year it went to Chris Green for his veteran New Imperial.

The Highest Combined Age of Rider and Machine Shield, went to Michael Bryant and his 1914 Premier Tourist.

The June midweek run is now called The John Moore Run. We started with a short run just round the corner to the Police Training College in Upton Nervet. We were shown round the various departments from the dog section to the under water recovery vehicle and some of the special cars that are kept there in the garage.

We also had a guided tour of the Police Museum.

Afterwards we went on a run to the Four Horseshoes pub in Sherfield on Loddon for lunch.

Several of our section members went to The Banbury Run. Another good day to join 600 vintage and veteran machines being ridden around unfamiliar roads.

Malcolm ran the New Imperial Stand again this year which was a focal point for our members to meet. A lot of the active New Imp riders are Berkshire Section Members.

The Mystery Run was another hot day for a wander around the Vale of Aylesbury to Otmoor. We headed out via Long Wittenham and Clifton Hampden to H's Café for coffee. After a much needed break we then

meandered towards Brill Hill and then through the Army Depot at Arncot to The Crown in Charlton in Otmoor.

We had a nice buffet lunch while we rested during the hottest part of the day. Later after a meander through South Oxfordshire we finished up at Allan's house where Jean made us welcome with a nice cup of tea and some cake.

The July midweek run was a pleasant meander via Caversham and Henley and then around South Buckinghamshire to the Hell Fire Caves at West Wycombe. After touring the caves we stayed there for lunch and then wandered back towards home, stopping for tea at the Toad Hall Garden Centre.

The Chairman's Barbeque was held at Doug's again this year.

A pleasantly cool start to the evening was just right for the intrepid misogynistic meat burners to perform their annual ritual of dancing around the fires. The rest of us just waited patiently for our food whilst chatting over a pint, a much better proposition than getting kippered. The Sunset across Doug's garden was as good as last year, a very nice way to round off an evening with good company.

Many thanks to Doug and Liz for the hospitality and the work that they put in to provide us with a great evening. Thanks also to those who made the nice cakes.

The Car Park Concours was won by a beautiful Norton Commando.

Many thanks to all who turned up on bikes. Even the reverse snobbery of putting tatty old Bantams in the line of nice bikes was appreciated.

The August midweek run was to the Butser Iron Age Village near Petersfield in Sussex.

A nice day for a trip to a fascinating project, the re-creation of an Iron Age settlement. The staff were very enthusiastic about the project and the exhibits were well explained, a very enjoyable visit.

There was a pleasant pub just up the road where we stopped for lunch. A very nice lunch in the garden, the first one this year.

The Bucklebury Run started from Allan's house in Tutts Clump and was an enjoyable wander across the Berkshire Downs to Hungerford and then through the Bedwyns to The George in Vernham Dean.

A good run this year, we all managed to get to the pub without getting lost. After a leisurely lunch we returned on a simpler route to the start for tea and cakes.

The format for this run must be just right as most of the riders seem to want to stay a long time afterwards drinking tea and chatting in the afternoon sunshine.

Another good run due to Jean and Allan. Thank you both for all the hard work organising the run and providing the hospitality again.

We had a good turnout for the Popham Mega Meet, filling two stands in the Marquee.

We managed to get two pitches again this year as Malcolm had an adjacent one for the New Imps which we could overflow into. This event gets bigger and better every year with more bikes on show and an ever larger autojumble. The short sharp shower at lunchtime didn't dampen matters unduly. Most had a good ride there and back.

Another good varied collection of motorcycles turned up for the August meeting at Englefield even though it was a cool evening.

September is the time for our week away instead of a midweek run. This year we went to Yorkshire staying at The Downe Arms Hotel in Wykeham, near Scarborough. This hotel is ideally sited for runs across the North York Moors.

The first day was rather windy so we had to ride nice and slowly, just right for the passengers to see the views.

After a full English breakfast there seemed a need for a fish and chip lunch in Whitby to keep us going until dinner time. The ladies were able to spend a little time in the old town buying some of the famous Whitby Jet jewellery.

There are some wonderful roads to ride over the open moorland and up some very steep hills such as the one up Rosedale Chimney Bank to test some of the lower powered bikes.

Wednesday was a free day and we went in various directions in small groups.

By Thursday the wind had eased considerably making the runs less strenuous. Plenty of stops for tea helped break the day into shorter more enjoyable stretches.

Another good holiday thanks to Jean and Allen who have put a lot of hard work into finding the hotel and organising the runs.

The quiz team started the winter season on a high note winning the Stonehenge Section's quiz night against nine other teams.

A few of us attended John Mould's open day to see his large collection of cars and commercial vehicles. A nice day for a ride out to Burghfield.

Our quiz team with a different line-up to the one that won at Stonehenge were successful in winning our own quiz.

The October Midweek Run started from Allan's house as Dave was away and was a wander around the Chiltern Hills.

We rode some of the famous test hills and some of those used for hill climb races like Kop Hill and the better known Aston Hill.

It was a good day for a run at this time of year, pleasantly warm and sunny.

The planned lunch stop has been turned into an Indian restaurant so we had to find another pub at short notice as it was getting quite late. We found one in Wendover that had good beer but did not serve food. Luckily the landlord suggested that we get something in the nearby chip shop and eat it in his pub, a great idea, perhaps the strangest pub lunch this year.

Afterwards we rode back to Allan's for tea. One of the best runs of the year.

The Bring and Buy sale produced some useful extra funds for the section.

Thank you all who brought along items for sale and those who purchased things.

The November Midweek Run started from Dave's as usual. After a nice cup of tea and some biscuits accompanied with the obligatory chinwag we headed out. We had a shortish meander around the quiet lanes of rural Berkshire to the Four Points Inn at Aldworth.

As Autumn has lingered this year there were very few leaves on the roads to slow our progress. Even the Water Gods looked down on us favourably with the weather and in making the ford through the Pang dry.

After a leisurely lunch in the back room of this nice pub we headed home before the sun set and it started to get cold.

The Quiz team were triumphant at the Oxford Quiz Night. That's the third in a row, all with different line-ups. We seem to have a lot of useless knowledge tucked away amidst those little grey cells.

December means the first of our Winter midweek lunchtime meetings.

We went to the Longbridge Mill at Sherfield-on-Lodden. No snow this year but a nice warm pub with good food. A small gathering of the usual suspects had a very good lunch.

Later the same day our quiz team went to the Chiltern Section's quiz in Chesham. Short on brain cells after three consecutive wins, we only managed to come second.

The Christmas Dinner was held in a different pub this year, after three years at The Lands End we changed to The Fox And Hounds in Station Road, Theale.

A smaller pub but equally good service and a nice selection of Wadworth's finest. A much larger gathering than last year seemed to enjoy themselves.

The Dinner was one of the best that we have had.

The last Tuesday meeting was the day after Boxing Day and being so close to Christmas it was good to get out of the house.

As this meeting falls in the festive season we make it a family evening where the members bring along their wives and some left over nibbles. This makes for a very pleasant evening.

Doug brought his piano accordion and some song sheets for a good sing-song of carols and other Christmas favourites.

A nice way to round off the year and wish each other a happy new year.

The Committee wish you all a Happy New Year and a safe and enjoyable 2012.

Michael Bryant