



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

Summary of the Year 2012

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 meeting of the year was the January midweek lunchtime meeting. We went to the Flower Pot Hotel, in Aston, near Henley. A nice sunny day for a trip to a pub near the river. This pub has a large room where we could all sit close together. Some of us who arrived before the pub opened went for a walk to the lock to work up an appetite.

The Quiz team was back on form winning the Cyclemotor Section's quiz in the England's Rose on the A40 at Stokenchurch.

The Annual General Meeting saw Doug our Chairman of the last eight years stand down.

Allan Herbert was elected as the new chairman and Roy Headon as his replacement as Treasurer.

Other than Dennis Burnett who also wished to stand down, the Secretary and the other committee members were all re-elected.

There was very little other business.

The February midweek lunchtime meeting was held in the Duke of Edinburgh, in Winkfield near the Ascot racecourse. A very good turnout nearly filled the pub. Unfortunately we were scattered around the bars so were unable to talk to everyone.

It was nice to see some of our older members who no longer ride. They are still part of our section and can use these social gatherings to keep in touch and catch up on the gossip.

The Bring and Buy Book Sale was another successful evening. A larger than usual pile of books went fairly quickly keeping Doug the auctioneer very busy. There were some quite old and very interesting books amongst the lots sold. Thank you all who donated books for the section funds.

The March midweek lunch was in The Green Man, between Hurst and Twyford. A good gathering turned up to this nice pub. This was a new venue that was unknown to most of us as it is off the main road. A nice day saw some of our more hardy riders out on their bikes.

Some 350 intrepid motorcyclists ventured out on a sunny Sunday morning for the Sunbeam Club's Pioneer Run from Tattenham Corner by the Epsom racecourse to the Marine Parade on Brighton front.

Most of our Section who entered made it to the finish to spend a lovely afternoon by the seaside amidst a large gathering of motorcyclists many of whom rode to Brighton. 42 miles doesn't seem far but on a hundred year old motorcycle it is a great way to work up an appetite for a fish and chip lunch on the beach.

A good day out even for those who rode more modern bikes. It is worth the journey just to see the happiness on one of our lady rider's face as she completes the run, a sight to behold.

Now is the time to think of fettling your bike and entering for next year's 75th running of this event.

April marks the start of our midweek runs but being early in the year we only went a short distance to the Fawley Railway Society's museum at Fawley Hill, near Henley.

Sir William McAlpine has collected a vast amount of artefacts from some of the many railway companies that existed before they were merged into British Railways.

Some of the ceremonial objects have historic value but it was the everyday articles that brought back memories of our youth when railways were more important in our lives. Unfortunately we could not visit on

a steaming day as all this year's dates were filled.

Sir William showed us round personally and kept us enthralled by his enthusiasm for his collection. Afterwards we had a very nice tea served personally by Lady McAlpine.

A good day out that was livened up by a very heavy downpour on the way home.

The Calleva Gallop was run on a nice sunny Sunday morning over a mixture of some quiet back roads and a few long stretches of good road where we could relax in top gear. About half of the riders managed to complete the route without trouble but those who just blindly followed someone else found themselves hopelessly lost.

The Skittles Evening was a great success at the new venue of The Gardeners Arms, Emmer Green. A very friendly management who have just taken over this refurbished pub made for a good evening.

The May midweek run was to The Museum of Army Flying at Nether Wallop. After gathering at Dave & Elaine's for coffee we set out for a pleasant if shortish run on a cool day. We arrived at just the right time for lunch before we spent quite a long time studying the exhibits. Much better than when we went a few years ago, they had lights this time.

There were several motorcycles in the collection ranging back to the First World War. It turned a little wet on the way home but the usual suspects enjoyed the day.

It was a glorious day for motorcycling when we held the Owen Tyler Run. The sun beamed down on us as we wandered through some quiet parts of North Hampshire's countryside. Although we now start from Padworth we still head out towards Owen's favourite area around South Warnborough.

There were three routes to choose from, all converging on The Plume of Feathers in Crondall for a much needed lunch stop. After lunch the two shorter routes merged for the return run.

We had the new VMCC President Vic Blake to award the prizes.

Due to the very low number of entries, instead of the usual arrangement where all the riders vote for the various awards this year we had a past chairman, Peter Mann judge the motorcycles.

The Owen Tyler Awards

The Owen Tyler Cup was awarded this year to the Best Post War motorcycle and went to David Bryant who was riding his 1955 Triumph Tiger 110.

The Best Veteran and also The Highest Combined Age of Rider and Machine went to Roger King, a regular rider in this event who brought his 1914 Scott from Luton.

The Best Vintage Motorcycle was Vic Blake's 1926 500cc Raleigh.

Bill Barnes took the Best Post Vintage cup for his 1939 250cc Triumph Tiger 80.

The 250cc Cup went to Doug Plester who was riding a 197cc Greeves 20DC.

The Tiddler Award went to Lorraine Carter's little Italian Itom clip-on attachment for a pedal cycle.

The second most prestigious of our awards is known as The Oily Rag Cup but is really for the most original motorcycle at the event and went to Allan Herbert and his BSA B175 Bantam.

There was no sidecar award this year as the only entry did not finish.

The May meeting at Englefield was a nice evening, the first of the year in which we could have a Noggin and Natter in the car park.

Just nine motorcyclists braved the glorious June sunshine for a run over Watership Down to Hurstbourne Tarrant and along the Chute Causeway into the Vale of Pewsey.

We had a nice lunch in the Royal Oak in the centre of Pewsey and then wandered around the town. The Pewsey Heritage Centre was closed for refurbishment so we then rode around the countryside ending at the Crofton Pumping Station for tea before heading for home.

Quite a few of our members were seen at the Banbury Run. Our own Vic Blake, this year's VMCC president started us all off with a cheery smile.

Those of us who rode mainly had a good trouble free run along almost deserted country lanes. It is more interesting to ride around strange roads where you have to religiously follow the route sheet or you get hopelessly lost.

Malcolm again organised the New Imperial Owners Association stand which is a good focal point for us all to meet and chat.

Unfortunately the autojumble field was washed out so we were unable to buy those parts we needed that can only be found at Banbury.

The Mystery Run started as usual in the car park in Pangbourne and headed out over the Whitchurch Toll Bridge. We wandered around heading first west then east so many times just to confuse everybody.

Eventually we ending up at Christmas Common and then headed downhill through Watlington to The Lamb in Chalgrove. After a well earned rest and a nice lunch we again meander finally heading towards Allan's house for tea and cakes.

The Girder Fork night did not attract many bikes. Probably due to the weather as some people set out in pouring rain.

The midweek run was a nice meander around the area of The Candovers to the Flower Pot Inn at Cheriton for lunch and a pint from their own brewery.

The new girder fork run attracted 22 riders for a Sunday morning saunter returning to the start for a late lunch. We had a motley collection of motorcycles from veteran, vintage, pre war and some rigid post war bikes. With a few autocycles and two-strokes in the low powered section. This seems to be a good run for those smaller motorcycles which riders don't tend to use very often on longer organised runs.

The best turn out of our section members in any of our runs this year.

The Chairman's Barbeque was another very good evening with nice weather enabling us to sit outside until quite late. A pleasant way to spend the evening, sitting in the sunshine with good food, a drink and some good company. It was nice to see some of our old friends again.

Many thanks to Allan and Jean for the hospitality.

The Car Park Concours did not produce many bikes as the weather was not very good. Two very nice motorcycles were in the short list for the honours but it eventually went to a nicely restored DMW 197.

The August midweek run started with a pleasant ride over the downs, just clipping Abingdon ending at the lunch stop in Long Hanborough.

Once suitably refreshed we went to a very interesting private motorcycle collection owned by a local motorcycle dealer who has been collecting bikes for many years. The hospitality was very good and the collection varied which suited all tastes. Another good day out.

Three of us went to the Graham Walker Memorial Run. A tremendous downpour before the start cleared the air for a cracking ride through the New Forrest. Another informal run by the Sunbeam Club which attracts people from afar. One of our section members won the post vintage class, in total three awards went to our friends in the New Imperial Owners Association.

We had a well attended stand at the Popham Mega Meet. So many bikes turned up we had to overflow into the adjacent stand. Another very hot day even in the shade of the marquee. We took it in turns to man the stand to enable others to see the bikes on show and to visit the autojumble which gets bigger every year.

The August meeting at Englefield was the Ride a Bike Night. Poor weather rather put a damper on it, very few bikes turned up.

The Bucklebury Run started out in drizzle but it dried up as we progressed into Wiltshire. The ride improved as we headed south on the way to The George in Vernham Dean for lunch. A good run this year with no one getting lost. It was to the west of Hungerford over pleasant roads with good views across the downland and plenty of time to enjoy the ride and the scenery.

When we were refreshed we returned by a less circuitous route to Allan's house to attack the tea and plenty of cakes. The sun came out to enable us to partake of the refreshments in comfort. As usual no one wanted to be the first to leave for home another great Bucklebury.

Many thanks to Jean and Allen for the hospitality and also to the cake makers without whom the run would not be the same.

In September the midweek run is replaced by a week away.

This year we went to Minehead in North Somerset. We stayed in the same hotel as we used the last time we went to Minehead. This was an ideal starting point for runs along the coast or across Exmoor.

The first run was via Porlock Hill, The Valley of the Rocks and Woody Bay. We then turned inland towards Simonsbath and Winsford with lunch in the Exmoor Forest Inn. A nice day out with good runs over reasonable roads.

The second day was a free day to explore on our own. Some went on a ride over the moors others took the railway. There were many places to visit locally like Dunster and its castle.

The third day was another meander over the moors with a lunch stop at Raleigh's Cross Inn. Nice views and rolling moorland in pleasant weather make for great riding.

We had a further stop at The Bakelite Museum, where they had a large collection of items from our

childhood. The ladies did not think much of the facilities so we adjourned to Watchet harbour for tea and ice creams before returning to the hotel for dinner.

Many thanks to Jean and Allan for arranging the holiday.

The quiz team managed to come fourth in the Stonehenge quiz just two marks behind the winners. Not one of our best efforts but no disgrace against ten other teams

Our own quiz was won by the Chiltern Section. Our team came second, a good performance against one of the best teams in our area.

The October midweek run was to the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke. We then went to The Pelican in Pamber Heath getting there just before the kitchen closed, where we had a nice long lunch in a small friendly pub.

The Bring and Buy meeting in October was our hardware sale. We had enough bits and pieces to keep Doug, the auctioneer occupied for a long time. A useful boost to the section funds. Thanks to everyone who donated things for sale as the Bring and Buy sales are our only source of income.

We sent three teams to the Oxford Section's Quiz Night. As usual it was a pleasant evening even though it is beginning to become more like a normal quiz.

At Lorraine's instigation one of the teams was a ladies team. Even though their knowledge of old motorcycling facts was limited they held their own, coming not far behind the next team. Our "A" Team came second.

The November midweek run was a pleasant meandering trip to the Four Points in Aldworth. We had a very nice long lunch in the back room on our own. As it gets cold once the sun sets this time of year, we went to a pub where we did not have to travel far to get home before it started to get dark.

We had Bill Faulkner the owner of Faulkner's Motorcycles in Oxford as the November guest speaker.

He regaled us with some of his exploits as a trials rider both privately and as a works rider. Bill's was a very interesting talk by someone who rode with some of the greatest names of the period.

The midweek lunch meeting was in the Longbridge Mill at Sherfield on Lodden on the A33. A very nice lunch in an old water mill, where you can see the water wheel from inside the bar.

Later the same day our quiz team got their revenge on the Chiltern Section by beating them on their home ground at Chesham.

The Christmas Dinner was very well attended and by the feedback it was enjoyed by all. We returned to The Fox and Hounds in Theale again this year. A very friendly pub where the landlord could not do enough for us. It was a fitting end to our year's activities as there was no meeting at Englefield in December, the last Tuesday being Christmas Day.

Michael Bryant