

The Motor Cycling Club Ltd
MONTHLY NEWS LETTER – APRIL 2007

www.themotorcyclingclub.org.uk

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EASTER and THE LANDS END TRIAL is upon us and although some of you may not read this newsletter until after it has happened here are a few special points to notice.

ROUTE AMENDMENT FOR ALL CLASSES

Due to the surface of Riverton being severely damaged by 4 wheel drive vehicles, we are forced to amend the route from Simonsbath to Roundswell to include an alternative section in Molland Woods. It's short and sharp and a worthy substitute! The amended route reads as follows:

In Simonsbath take 2nd turning on R. DP South Molton • Cross river bridge and follow DPs to South Molton • In 3.9 miles at Yarde Down Cross, R. by Poltimore Arms DP Brayford, Barnstaple • In 1.6 miles (Holewater X **QQ**) L. DP North Molton • Follow lane for 0.4 miles and enter gate on R into woodland (max. 15 MPH) • Follow track and yellow arrows (Ignore green arrows) to:- **RODNEY'S REVENGE. Observed Section 4.** Follow track out of woods and R onto tarmac road • In 0.7 miles (QQ) R at Molland Cross DP South Molton, Barnstaple • In 3.6 miles at roundabout with A361, SO DP South Molton and in 0.3 miles, R. DP Filleigh • Follow old A361 for 7.8 miles (QQ and observe speed limits passing through Swimbridge and Landkey) to A361 where L. DP Barnstaple • In 1 mile take 1st exit at Portmore roundabout DP Bideford A39 • SO at next roundabouts then after 1.2 miles at Roundswell roundabout take 3rd exit into BP services and **ROUNDSWELL HOLDING**

Dave Parry writes in his capacity of Secretary of the Meeting for the Land's End Trial.

(1) "Would competitors starting from MICHAELWOOD please note that throughout the Service Area there is a speed limit of 10mph. Competitors spotted by marshals appearing to ignore this limit will be have their numbers noted, and a severe penalty imposed equal to at least one fail!!!

(2) Front runners of the motorcycle fraternity when coming upon a Green and Gold Mitsubishi Pajero trundling slowly along in front of them should resist the urge to pass, as this is the course opening car and - (a)- I am driving slowly because my passengers are probably asleep - (b) - to arrive before me at a section puts the marshals in a tizzy, and - (c)- I am supposed to be in front!

(3) Mrs White at the Texaco Garage in Perranporth would like to remind competitors that in addition to fuel and the Perranporth time check, there is a luxurious jet wash available both during and after the trial for those who would like to arrive at the finish, or return homeward, looking clean and tidy. I can testify to its performance after shifting loads of mud last year!!!!

You may have noticed that the LE Programme suffered a few typos. The starting points are not identified in the main listing. So for those of you who cannot remember where you wanted to start here is an explanation:

Bikes from Popham	1 - 22	Bikes from Michaelwood	23 - 55	Bikes from Plusha	56 - 93
Cars from Popham	94 - 140	Cars from Michaelwood	141 - 204	Cars from Plusha	205 - 286
Class 0 from Bridgwater	501 - 562				

Please note that the Cornish Start really IS at Plusha Services which is operational again and also that the Class O start is at Bridgwater and NOT North Petherton. Sorry.

Please note too that the Routes for both the Main Trial and Class O can now be downloaded from the Members Only page of the MCC website.

John Barthram the Chief Marshal could still use some more help and writes: I have been very pleased this year with the support and help that has come forward to help run the Lands End Trial. However, I need to put out a last minute plea for some marshals. The Chief of 'Darracott' has phoned me to say he finds himself a little short of staff. The first competitor is due here at 5.05am, the last Devon section before running into Cornwall. If anybody can help please phone me on 01271376341 or e-mail jbarthram@ukonline.co.uk

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone involved with the trial a successful, safe and enjoyable weekend.

SAD DEPARTURES DURING MARCH

CHRISTINE BRACEY; Our sympathy goes out to Rodney Bracey who sadly lost his wife Christine to cancer this week after a valiant fight.

ARTHUR BROWNE *We received this sad letter from Julia Browne:* Dad went very suddenly, only a few months after my mother's death, and I think the two events are connected. He had been in a nursing home for the last year and he greatly missed being able to potter into his garage to fiddle with his bikes. Until a couple of years ago he was still riding the Villiers Metisse almost daily, and although he and my brother Neil hadn't been out on the Wasp for some time, he retained a keen interest in the progress of all the MCC events. **Thank you Julia. I know that you and Neil will not be the only MCC members to be saddened by this news. Our sympathies go to you both and your families.**

COMING EVENTS

INVITATION: MCC members are invited to **The Ilkley Classic Trial** to be held on 20 May 2007 where the organisers are looking forward to renewing acquaintance with many previous entrants. Regulations have already been posted to previous entrants individually but they can be supplied by Email from me where required.

NOTICE: If you have ridden on Exmoor or the surrounding area at any time, please attend the Somerset TRF Evidence Marking Day at the Minehead Rugby Ground on Saturday 14th April from 9.00 a.m - 2.00 p.m. Maps, forms and coffee provided. **Any queries contact Mark Stride on 07815 06201.**

SUMMER RUN: For the benefit of those wanting to book accommodation for this – and I have already had enquiries – the event will take the form of a run along the Jurassic Coast **starting at the Exeter Services**, as used in the Exeter Trial and **finishing at Portesham Village Hall** which is near the coast just short of Weymouth.

MARSHALS NOTICE: Will all marshals please note that the **Marshals Training Day** which was referred to briefly in the recent Marshals Newsletter has been confirmed as taking place at **Keinton Mandeville on Saturday 14 July**. This is the day before the **Testing Trial** takes place on the same site.

DRIVE IT DAY The secretary of the FBHVC wishes to remind us about **Drive It Day (22 April)** - it's an essential part of our efforts to raise the profile of the historic vehicle movement and thus improve our influence with politicians. Members can find information about events they can attend as spectators - or even as guest participants- on www.fbhvc.co.uk

Perhaps we should organise some semi-formal MCC get-togethers in different areas to celebrate this day – any ideas?

Here's one idea for celebration: In good MCC style some will be breakfasting, price £3.50, on Sunday 22nd April, at Horton Village Hall, Horton near Ilminster, Somerset MR:193/323148 and raising money for the new village hall for Horton. Breakfast served from 8.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. On Drive It Day last year they served 100 breakfasts to local classic car enthusiasts, ramblers, and churchgoers. **Contact: Anne Whellock 01460 53645.**

While Bill Rosten offers another suggestion: The **Kyrle** trial is run on 22nd April. Why not come along to marshal or spectate on this great event in or on your pride & joy. One of the best trials in the calendar in my opinion, and accessible from most of the country. . Now we hear that another attraction of this event is a special award for the best performance by a car NOT using petrol. Not quite green but moving that way. As an MCC member you could compete.

INVITATION: MCC members are invited to enter the 500 Owners Assoc speed hill climb at Wiscombe Park, near Honiton, Devon on Saturday 12th May. Eight classes (cars only). MSA speed competition licence minimum National (B) required. Closing date: April 12th. Entry fee: £75.00.
Details: Carol Foster, Lower Bucehayes, Post Lane, Cotleigh, Honiton, EX14 9HZ.

QUITE INTERESTING

TRIPLE MAGAZINE: Looking through the latest copy of Triple I was struck by the interesting collection of photos Celia has selected this time. Like many of you who have written to me I was most impressed with the dramatic one on page 30 of the Dellow in the dark which one experienced reader describes as the best trials photo he's ever seen. Congratulations to Sam Payne who took it. Sam incidentally is another of those second generation MCC competitors; many will recall his father's exploits in an Imp.

BEER DRINKERS: PLEASE NOTE. We have just spoken to Paul at the Crossroads Lodge and learnt that a local brewery is brewing a beer especially for the Lands End Trial called 'BLUE HILLS BITTER' and it will be available at the finish

GOOD CAUSES: Alas when regular competitor **Roy Warren** left the police force a year ago his retirement was marred by being diagnosed as suffering from cancer. Now after lots of painful and inconvenient treatment Roy has been signed off as being OK and would like to show his thanks to all those who have helped him along the way by dedicating his Bantam ride in this year's Lands End to Cancer Research. **He has our full support in arranging for a collecting box on the signing off table and there will also be a donation from the sale of programmes at Blue Hills. Please contribute generously.**

DISCOUNT: A reminder that Haynes Publishing offers a discount and free p&p to MCC members who mention the club and quote their MCC membership number when ordering. At the price of books these days this is well worth remembering.

DID YOU KNOW? MCC subscriptions have stayed the same for five years and the entry fee increases have been only small. We should thank Treasurer Peter Chantler for his careful housekeeping which has made this possible at a time of general inflation. Even now he forecasts no increase in membership costs in 2008 and only a small rounding off of entry fees for the three main events increasing them to £50.

The LAW'S AN ASS? A new bill put forward by MP Graham Stringer is intended to tackle un-registered, nuisance 'mini-motorcycles' used without an MoT, road tax, insurance or licence. Unfortunately it has been misinterpreted and is now too wide ranging, so that every kind of motorcycle will have to comply with the Road Traffic Act (RTA). All motorcycles, from a racing bike to a museum exhibit, would have to be registered and carry a registration plate.

RECLASSIFICATION: The Suzuki X90 has been moved into class 5, This is a decision made at last week's executive committee meeting.

WELL I NEVER. Charlotte Blight writes: A pensioner is probably the last thing that springs to mind when you think about motorbikes. But the AA says one in five female motorcyclists is actually above retirement age. The oldest example is almost 80, according to its study.

MYSTERY CAR - FORMULA 4 Here's one for people with long memories and sharp eyes. The Motor Racing Archive has just posted a picture of a small racing car on their website which they would like to identify. It is an example of a 1960s Formula Four car initially thought to have been a Vixen but that now seems to have been ruled out. For hill-climbs the 650 BSA Starfire engine was swapped for a 750 Triumph but then the car was put into storage. The car is beautifully designed and made. The 2 piece body is from a fully professional mould, inboard front suspension, drum fronts rear disc on final drive, tank integral with the seat, fully rose jointed. It is not a Briham/Eldon, Tecno, Vixen, or Walker, who were the leading cars of this failed formula. Please visit www.motorracing-archive.com and select Mystery Car from the home page and let us have your ideas.

RACE RETRO: Stoneleigh Park welcomed almost 25,000 visitors to the International Historic Motorsport Show, where the classic trials stand attracted consistent interest throughout the weekend with Peter Mountain's 1950 Dellow a major attraction. Judging by the number of visitors who claimed to have previously owned one or to know where several were resting in sheds waiting for restoration one might think that thousands rather than hundreds had been constructed! Visitor numbers to the show as a whole were 20% up on the previous year and MCC and ACTC volunteers provided those interested with lots of information on how to start trialling. Perhaps most surprisingly, one of the more serious expressions of interest came from a very well-known Sporting Trials driver visiting the Sporting Trials stand next door. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the stand, in particular to Peter Mountain, Ian Rennie and the Poels for bringing vehicles to exhibit. All this ensured that "real" classic trialling was not missed among the plethora of expensive rebuilds driven by wealthy "wannabes" that are all too plentiful in the historic motor sport scene. In the end we received more offers of help than we needed; a splendid result and **Thanks Everyone.**

U WRITE: READERS LETTERS

Frances – daughter of the late, great, Jack – Pouncy is another tree enthusiast.

With reference to planting trees, mentioned in Ian Davis' letter, I think it's a splendid idea. As to 'global warming', I have been concerned for very many years after I heard of the amount of deforestation in the Amazon rain forests. With my small knowledge of meteorology I was aware that something changing to that extent, could at the very least start to affect climate in that area, by changing humidity temperature and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Where climate is affected in one area, it can have a knock-on affect in other areas. How much change is due to 'natural causes' as has happened in the past and how much to the effect of 'civilisation' is a mute point, but I'm sure we are accelerating things to some degree, and it's better to curtail emissions etc now, rather than leave it till later on, when much more would have to be done.

So, I have 'bought' trees as gifts from Woodland Trust, including some in woodland to north (in Dad's name) and south (in Dad and Mum's names) of Beaminster. The Stoke Trister wood has a plaque to them on the gate. I also plant trees and hedging at Crab Orchard.

From Ian Davis on the same subject: None of us really knows what the effect of carbon emissions are on global warming or how soon we are all likely to be 'doomed' as Dad's Army's Fraser used to say. But this is clearly a political issue and a potential PR issue, not just for the political parties but for all of us. Perhaps we should adopt the old eco

concept of 'Think global, act local'. Rather than sending money off to a company to invest a proportion of it goodness knows where with unproven results, we could administer our own scheme. In short we carbon offset by offering to plant trees (or donate money for tree planting) on the land owned by the parish councils etc who let us use sections on the 3 big MCC trials. It's an extra thank you for letting us be part of their community every year, it's an environmental carbon offset, it's a great cheap PR opportunity and it gets us ahead of the anti's. A quick calculation on the internet reveals that to carbon offset the emissions from a 20mpg car on the Land's End would require a voluntary contribution of about a £1 or maybe 50p for a bike. Less than the cost of half a pint in the bar afterwards and it should help build on the excellent community relations which allow us to enjoy ourselves in other people's backyards.

Simon Robson writes: I believe exactly as he suggests, that it represents a very low cost opportunity to "get ahead of the anti's" on the PR side of things, in which we are not always as slick as they are. It is

essentially just a PR thing, but nobody these days can ignore the effect of the big publicity push and the response from this current government to any suggestion they think is going to win them a few more votes at ballot time.

While Sue Scott says: Just to say I think this is a super idea! Please recommend to the committee. Perhaps we could have a (voluntary) contribution box at Signing Off.

From Mike Crewes: As a Traffic Cop (Met Training Unit) and regular legal columnist in a Classic Car Club Magazine, I would like to add some advice to the 'mobile phone' piece. The legislation actually bans 'the use of mobile telephone equipment'. This, in my book means not using it at all, but virtually everyone I have argued this with (and never reported anyone for) has argued that you have to touch the phone. So beware, if there is another me out there, members might be in for more trouble!

Chris Sawyer Recalls: The 2CV bit in the NOTW reminded me of an Exeter Trial some 25 years ago when the fragile Imp diff broke even before I picked up my passenger. I went home and collected my company car which was a 1.0 Metro HLE (the fuel consumption special). I added a toolbox to the footwell and a rope on the front and didn't let the tyres down much. Front wheel drive trialling was a bit of a novelty to me, but I considered clearing 3 sections a great success, even getting to the top where a 2CV didn't make it.

Memories are made of this.....

MEMBERS SMALL ADS

(Please note: All these advertisements have appeared in NOTW and items may have been sold)

FOR SALE: Marlin in as new condition 'B' series. 1800 engine bored 60 thou with fast road cam, not yet run in. Virtually all new parts, hood etc. Garage space required. £3,750 O.N.O. **MGC GT 1969.** Red, webasto roof. Overdrive, wire wheels, stainless exhaust. Professionally maintained. Radio etc. Recorded mileage 90,000. £5,500. **Telephone Michael Phillips 01202 424138 or Mob: 07842 149212.**

FOR SALE: Toyota MR2 1600cc trials car for sale tax & tested. Why get your shoes muddy letting down tyres ? This car cleared Simms on road pressure settings. Probably the second most comfortable trials machine to Dave Turner's BMW. Electric windows, heated rear screen, sun roof, 12 function adjustable seat etc. Awards gained in both Class "0" and main event. Not all the right shape or colour but loads of fun. Can be seen out on this years L.E. Spares wheels, gearbox, drive shafts Inc. £300 plus road fund at value.

Jonathan Laver 01963 371417 or on event.

FOR SALE: Yamaha XT 500 R reg 1976 on SORN Fairly original condition with quick detachable sidecar available as used in MCC trials in the 80's. Standard exhaust and special for chair use (bit rusty). Good fun machine unused for last seven years. Spare engine and rear wheel plus long range alloy tank. Needs a little work to be usable again such as cam chain but nothing drastic. The chair has been stored outside so needs work such as wheel respoking. Quite a few spares such as sprockets etc and factory service manual. £950 for the classic trail bike. **Contact Jon Hodges 01550 720494 (South Wales) or email jon@myddfai.com**

FOR SALE: "Alpha Roaring" (3 digits) Mk 11 Farina. 1965. Good basis for excellent classic rally car (reason for sale: current owner can no longer pretend he will achieve this). Disc brakes, servo and 1 and a half SU. Last on road 1996 (previously every day use for 27 years with second owner). Needs more than TLC but can be heard running. Dry stored. Black/grey roof. Viewing recommended after successful ascent of Crackington this Easter (3 minutes deviation). £500. Multitude of spares. Many new. £250. Prefer not to separate. **Nick Robinson 07785775001**

FOR SALE: 250c.c.Can-Am. Bombardier; dressed in demob-suit, 21" front wheel, alloy tank, MT43 tyres. £300 Need the space for Lands End Centenary project. Peter Vaughan **01935 823776**

FOR SALE: Two interesting cars looking for good homes. **Dellow XMC333** Over £2000 just spent on a professional rebuild including axle parts by Quaife. Please telephone for full details. No sensible offer refused.

Wolseley 18/80 "Landcrab" 1971, 1798cc, 99954 miles in good working order, professionally maintained. £600 ovno **Telephone Exeter [01392] 422995 or 438661 [evenings]**

FOR SALE Cannon style class 8 special Alfa Romeo 2 Litre engine with Alfa trans axle drive line .De dion rear suspension. £3000 ono. To include spare engine, gearbox diff & clutch unit, numerous small spares & wheels also tyre inflation gas cylinders . I have no intention of any further trialling so space in the garage is now required Full details **Tony Rothin 01562 850084**

WANTED, Baja Beetle wings etc. to be fitted on a 1973 1302S Beetle, I'm going to be in class 7 with the mods already planned so I just as well make it a bit lighter. Please contact Paul Brooks 07843 657848 or email **paul@denmans-florist.co.uk**

WANTED: I am trying to locate some 590x14 or 600x 14 crossply tyres but am not having much luck. Can any members help me out. I can be contacted by E-mail at **stephens402@btinternet.com**. Thanks. Howard Stephens.

FOR SALE: Ford Crossflow 1700, Engine components, Engine block (711) bored to +90 thou. with new pistons, crankshaft with new main & bigend bearings, Kent hi-torque cam with offset dowel kit, sump & sundries. £350.

Also 1600 Crossflow engine for spares or repair. £30. Brian Bailey, **01873 853058 (W)** [Abergavenny]

GLOBAL WARMING.

Now I have had the chance to look back over recent letters on the Eco/Global Warming subject which has brought so much interest, I find it encouraging to find MCC members thinking of something other than the immediate problem of how to climb the next hill. While many take a cynical view on what is being done it is clear that many more believe we should adapt to a changing world if motoring in general and the sport in particular can continue to exist.

One hundred years ago the MCC was founded by a group who wanted to enjoy the sport. They also wanted to prove to a doubtful public that the motor vehicle was more than a passing toy for irresponsible rich young men but would very soon become an accepted means of transport that did not deposit piles of horse excrement in the roadway. The motor vehicle was pretty unpopular in those far off days; not much different from today when congestion, pollution and erosion are, like many other ills, blamed on the motorist.

So much of the motoring media from *Top Gear* to the *Autocar* features little else but noisy spinning wheels and the relative merits of a Ferrari or Lamborghini creating an irresponsible boy racer image. Rather they should be urging efficient public transport to help the commuter avoid the need to use the car while showing how we who enjoy the sport can continue to do so with more social conscience. As a club The MCC can be proud of its efforts to foster good relations with those whose villages it visits but there's a lot more we could and must do if our sport is to continue.

As a senior citizen in the world of motor sport the MCC should take a lead. Compensatory tree planting, encouraging more eco friendly machinery burning greener fuel, cutting routes so the run to the start replaces the night run, or gentle reminders that spectators going to a game or families going on use fuel too, have all been mentioned as possible ways of improving our image. ***Perhaps the most important thing is that we are SEEN to be doing something.***

TAILPIECE - GOOD OL' BURT:

During March many members have enjoyed watching the DVD entitled **The Fastest Indian** in which Anthony Hopkins desists from eating people and instead plays the part of an elderly New Zealander who takes his highly tuned old Indian motorcycle to Bonneville. Here are some of your comments;

From Buck Shinkman: On the Hopkins film, we got it out and enjoyed it very much. What I also remember, however, is that the DVD includes an interview with the real Burt Munro and I thought he came across as a rather irritating eccentric. Eccentrics can be either loveable or not. I think old Burt falls into the latter category. One can easily imagine the trail of irritated people -- government officials just trying to do their jobs and others -- he left in his wake. Still, a delightful film (even for a Harley enthusiast).

From Peter Mountain on the same subject: My wife dragged me to see this film. She was right (she says she always is); it is a wonderful film, not least because of the loving attention paid to period detail by the film makers. There must be something wrong, but as somebody who did his bike riding in that period I could not fault it. Oh and the writing and acting are superb. A must for all grey haired petrol heads.

David Alderson recalls: For my sixtieth birthday last Nov (yes I know!) my elderly and lovely, indulgent mother-in-law, bought me not only the DVD of the film but a book to go with it, 'One Good Run, the Legend of Burt Munro' by Tim Hanna ISBN 0-14-301974-0 published in softback by Penguin and readily available from Amazon.

I have to say that the book is equally as entertaining as the film. In real life Burt Munro appears to have been even more eccentric than Anthony Hopkins' portrayal of him if that's possible. My daughter and son-in-law borrowed the DVD and both agreed that there was more than a passing resemblance to 'Dad and some of his friends', in the Hopkins' portrayal of Munro!

While two members even visited the Burt Munro museum in NZ where one of them met his old girl friend

.....and that really is all on this subject except to admit that I too have now enjoyed the Munro saga..... thanks to Amazon.

Many of these items have appeared already in News of the Week (NOTW) the weekly informal newsletter which is only circulated by Email to those members for whom we have Email addresses. If you do NOT receive this but have access to the web please let us know so you can be added to the list.
