



Current Membership	
Oct 2009.....	92
Jan 2010.....	134
Apr 2010.....	146

Newsletter
April 2010

RUTLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER – APR 2010

SCRATCHY'S SCRIBBLINGS



Well dare I say it, but it looks as if the snow and freezing conditions have finally come to an end and the temperatures are starting to slowly rise. Well let's face it is April ! As promised April is the trigger for our next quarterly

Newsletter and here it is. We have some very welcome new contributors this month, in Wizz and Nelly. They have volunteered to contribute a regular column, which covers items topical to them, but looking at them from how they see them, from their very, very own strange little world. I first thought it was Wizz who was crazy, but I was wrong, there both as mad as each other, but are great fun to be with ! Also contributing once again this month is Pete Ward, who has given us a safety brief very relevant to this time of year. Having clocked a fair few miles since the winter period, I have my own little piece of advice for those yet to get out there. Pot holes are everywhere, so be careful, that favourite piece of road that you always enjoy blasting down, has not this year got a pot hole or three along it. Should any other members have an article they wish to contribute, please email it to myself and I will ensure it is included in the next edition. I have also included on this editions front cover the current membership number as each Newsletter goes to print. This will give us a clear indication of how things are going !

So far this year, Sycamores have asked us to provide a Chapter BBQ to support their February Custom Show and their March Launch Event. For those of you that aren't aware, the food for the BBQ is provided free by Sycamores, all we have to do is man the BBQ, cook the food and sell it. We the Chapter get all the proceeds and from the 2 events above we earned ourselves about £900. My thanks go to Sycamores for their continued support and also to all the Chapter Members who have manned the BBQ at these Events.

In March, we had our first 3 planned rides of 2010, all well attended considering the time of year, with 22 bikes to Foxton Locks, 40 bikes on our Easter Egg Run and of course the 16 bikes that attended the Afghan Heroes Ride through Wooten Bassett. The latter proving to be a fantastic event and something I was very proud to have attended. HOG are running a Chapter Challenge Mileage Competition, I know we are a small Chapter in numbers, but as individuals we cover as many miles as the others and should register for

this, I've registered, go on give it a go, forms are available from Stuart at the Shop or from myself.

Horseshoe Rally tickets are on sale and are available either by downloading a form from our website, or by asking any member of the shop staff or Chapter committee member. Don't forget the Rally is earlier this year and you'll need to pre-register by mid June to qualify for a Rally T-shirt and Pin. We have a number of volunteers outside of the Committee who are organising the day to day running of the Rally, if you would like to help please contact either myself or Janet Shepstone. I have flyers available should anybody want any for distribution.

Sofer Rally tickets are now on sale at the HOG website, make sure your get yourself registered asap, this event will sell out. Don't forget the Dealership have promised to support us to this event with the Van along with Richard as a driver. He'll be bringing our new Chapter BBQ and gazebo so that we can have our own BBQ on the Saturday afternoon. For those who haven't attended this event, get yourself there, as Bob would say "it's a banging good do" ! If you didn't know I have had a tow bar fitted to the Heritage and bought myself a trailer, much to the amusement of some. Yes, I have decided it's comfort camping for me from now on, and for all those taking the Mickey, "No I have not got any room" ! And as Shep so kindly pointed out, " the Ice Cream bike now has a Mr Whippy trailer".

Chapter member, Richard Swinscoe, who runs the Harley Diner in Market Deeping has decided to open on Sundays during the Summer season, so if you are at a loss for somewhere to drop in, give it a try I know you'll be made very welcome.

Well here's looking forward to the Summer ahead, we have plenty of planned rides already in the calendar, with a few additions to come I'm sure. In addition to the rides, there are some great Rallies out there, run by other Chapter's, get yourself out there and meet some new friends. In addition to Sofer, I normally attend the Sherwood and Nene Valley Rallies which are both great events. This year I am definitely attending Dunedin's "Thunder in the Glens" in Aviemore, but it won't end there. I keep looking at the fliers as they come through and thinking I fancy that. Trouble is I can't do them all.....or could I ?

Scratchy



RUTLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER – APR 2010

In this Edition

Scratchy's Scribbings	Page 1
Shop Torque	Page 2
Chapter Committee	Page 2
Safety Tip	Page 3
Foxton Locks	Page 3
Hogs to the Dogs	Page 4
Afghan Heroes	Page 4
Views from the Pod	Page 5
Diary Dates	Page 6
Back Page Beauty	Page 7

SHOP TORQUE

First of all I would like to start by saying a big well done to Scratchy as he has produced this entire newsletter by himself, the dealership input is only getting the finished article printed so thank you Scratchy for your hard work.

As I write this the sun is shining and some of us are joining you for your first ride out of the year to Ashby Folville, lets hope this is the start of many more enjoyable events to come.

For those of you who are thinking of trading your current bike for another model, we currently have a fantastic trade in allowance campaign running in which we can give you an additional £900 over and above the trade in allowance we offer, so there has never been a better time to make that change. Contact myself, Stuart or Jon for further details and a fantastic deal.

There have been some changes here at the dealership recently with Matthew Hamblin taking control of the workshop and Richard Auton with his wealth of knowledge has now moved back to his role as a technician. If you do require a service, please don't leave it until the last minute to book as the workshop diary is quickly filling up now spring is here. I would also like to welcome Charlotte to the team here at the dealership, she is joining us as our clothing specialist so please feel free to introduce yourselves to her. There are currently some great in-store deals on accessories and clothing to get you back into the season.

Many thanks to those of you who hosted and supported the Chapter barbeque for our recent open house weekend, it was a great success and helped the chapter raise some funds. For the weekends when we don't have a chapter barbeque we now have a burger van on site for your convenience. A big thanks also to those of you who supported our Ducati launch it was really good to see you all.

We are planning some social events to take place here at the dealership in the near future, any suggestions or ideas you may have would be more than welcome, email me with your suggestions at andrew.winham@sycamoremotorcycles.co.uk.

I hope you are all enjoying getting your bikes prepared for the summer season and I look forward to catching up with you all over the next few months.

Ride safe *Andy*

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For all the Chapter's latest Activities,

Please go to our website

www.rutlandchapter.co.uk

or ring the Chapter Hotline

01572 824090

**Or pop into Sycamores and see our
Notice Boards in the HOG VIP Lounge**



RUTLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER – APR 2010

SAFETY TIP

The riding season is here (at last)!! It's time to whip out the bike out of the mothballs and get it out on the road. This must be done as soon as possible so that you can join the Chapter Group Ride outs without a second thought? - All it needs is a quick polish, and off we go.....**Wrong !!**

First it's time to make sure your machine is as ready for it as you are. Before **every** ride, but especially after a lay-off of any length, **always** carry out a **POWER CC** check as recommended by the Institute of Advanced Motorists:

Petrol. - Ensure you have a full tank of fuel before you arrive for any group ride. Road Captains will have planned fuel stops, when necessary, based on the fact that everybody will have a full tank to start with.

Oil. - Check and top-up oil before every trip. Just because it didn't seem to need any last time doesn't mean it won't need some this time. Driving with insufficient oil, especially in hot weather will prove expensive or even deadly.

Water. - Got a V-Rod ? Check the radiator. Water is just as essential as oil.

Electrics. - Do the indicators, headlights, stop lights and running lights work properly? Also, check for any warning lights ?

Rubber. - Physically check both tyres for damage and wear. Not only could they be illegal – they could prove lethal. Check the tyre pressures when you fill up – before every trip. It's amazing what a difference air temperature can make to tyre pressures. Also, don't forget to make adjustments to the tyre pressures if you plan to carry a pillion (or lots of luggage for a rally).

Cables. - Check for wear or fraying and replace any damaged ones without delay.

Chain. - Or in our case Drive Belt of course. When was the last time you checked the tension/slack and wear in your belt conform to the handbook recommendations ? All this is probably in the realms of sucked eggs for grandmothers for most – but be honest, when did you last do a **POWER CC** check on your bike ?

Brakes - Check your brakes are fully functional. After a lay-up over winter, pads have been known to disintegrate and discs may have become corroded. Making an emergency stop on the motorway is not the best time to discover this.

Also, don't forget to make adjustments to the suspension pre-sets or pneumatic pressure if you plan to carry a pillion. An extra few stone perched on the back moves the centre of gravity backwards and upwards and increases momentum significantly. Give

the machine, and yourself, the best chance possible to deal with the changed handling characteristics.

Ride safe and have fun.

Peter Ward – IAM Observer – March 2010

FOXTON LOCKS – 7TH MARCH

The first ride out of the 2010 riding season was, as always, to Foxton Locks, on Sunday 7th March. This is a very picturesque location and is specifically chosen for this the first ride due to its closeness to the Dealership. With our very unpredictable climate, if the weather is not too clever we can go straight there, which is only about 10 miles, or if conditions are fine, we can extend the ride, to take in parts of Rutland Water and make it a 40 mile trip.

Luckily this year, although it was rather chilly, we were blessed with a beautiful blue sky, the decision was obvious - lets

make the most of it and go the long way ! Lucy always leads this ride, after all she only lives a couple of miles from the Locks, so she shouldn't get lost ! Off we set with a very good turnout for so early in the year, with 22

bikes in tow. We enjoyed a very pleasant ride through the countryside before arriving at Foxton Locks at about Noon. We parked up in the car park

and watched in amazement as Pete went for a ride around the adjacent field, which is used as an overspill car park, during the summer months. Give him his due though he did manage to stay upright and on his return,

parked next to me in the car park. You could tell how cold it was by the lumps of ice floating on the water to the



RUTLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER – APR 2010

side of the Locks. Obviously like us hardy bikers, the Narrow Boaters must be made of the same stuff, as there were plenty of them out for a ride on their fantastic boats, through the locks. After watching them for a while, we all dived into a tiny, but very warm café, for some much needed refreshments. All in all it turned out to be a very pleasant day, it was great to meet old and new friends, but most of all to be back in the saddle again !

Scratchy

HOGS TO THE DOGS – 27th JAN

15 members and invited guests had a very enjoyable but cold January visit to the Peterborough Greyhound track for our 2010 Hogs to the Dogs outing. It was the "In for a penny" entrance fee that attracted our attention as being a real bargain . Even at this bargain price, one member who is known to be careful with his money still had to borrow the penny for the meal. After enjoying the "things in a basket" meal we did a bit of drinking cold beer and a lot of talking, mostly about looking forward to the New Year's riding season. I don't think anybody got rich on the evening but it was a well organised event thanks to Tall Dave. That's the first event of 2010 completed. Here's looking to many more .

Richard

AFGHAN HEROES -

The Afghan Heroes Charity was set as a result of an idea that a mother of a soldier had, after her son had been killed following an explosion in Afghanistan last July. It's purpose is to provide support for those directly involved in the conflict.

To support this Charity, a Mother's Day Bikers Ride was set up with online registration. The intension was to attract around 3000 bikers to parade their support through the village of Wooten Bassett. Support far exceeded their expectations and registration was closed earlier than expected following Police advice, when the number of bikes had surpassed 10,000. In fact including Pillions over 15,000 had registered.

Having registered, it was at this point, I was deeply concerned with reference to safety factor of attending this event. How wrong I was, and boy am I glad I decided to attend.



It had been decided by "Tall Dave", who had organised the Chapter's ride down, to meet a 6.30am at the A14 Services near Kettering. Allowing for a couple of stops and our allocated arrival time of 10am, he was right, there was no getting out of such an early start. Yes, it was chilly but it wasn't that bad – no girly heated grips or gloves for me ! As daylight began to break, with 16 bikes in tow, we headed off and as the sun came out, it became quite pleasant.

Our second planned stop and refuel was at the Tesco's in Swindon, the staff there, willingly opened up the shop to allow us use of the toilets and by this time bikes were everywhere. From here we headed off to cover the final 10 miles to the event start location, Hullavington Airfield.

As we approached Hullavington, there were bikes everywhere, there were also plenty of Police and we were given our first hint of just how well organised this event had been planned. Yes, we queued, but lets face it, getting 15,000 people on motorbikes through and paying their £5 is no easy task. I have never seen so many bikes together in the UK, ever ! We had to wait about 3 hours before we finally headed off from

the airfield, but there were plenty of refreshment and toilet facilities. Each group that left had its own Police escort and the ride was at gentle respectful pace. The streets were lined throughout the route with masses of people frantically waving Union Jacks and as we passed sadately through Wooten Bassett, there was thousands packed into the high street. The atmosphere was electric, yet it was also very sobering and



RUTLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER – APR 2010

patriotic. It was at this point I became very aware that I was taking part in something very, very special!

As pre-arranged we headed back to Tesco's at Swindon, for fuel and refreshments then headed for home after enjoying a fantastic day. It was only when seeing the news and reading the papers, that I became aware just how much coverage this event had been given.

Scratchy

VIEWS FROM THE POD



Views from the Pod

Wizz and Nelly, our very own "Spaced Out" travellers, pass on views and trivia from the inside of their Pod

Trailer Fever !

It seems that trailers are the "in thing" for this year, with our underpant-discarding leader and guru getting a nice shiny one complete with tow bar! (Though he did admit to having done over 80 mph on his way home to test out the handling! I think he regards the 60 mph limit as a personal insult!) I think Monsieur and Madam Fannois (Shep and Janet) are also getting theirs back on the road (I hope the nice pic/Muriel is still on the top!)

The Groovy Baby mk 1 Road pod for Nelly and I is also coming together slowly (as in an asthmatic ant with some heavy shopping) we are hoping to do a 'utility' body first that can be detached (ideal for carrying crap to the tip, food shopping, driving bike/car clubs to the airport etc) followed by the pod/egg shaped body (this will hopefully be fitted with a stereo to enable the chapter to give it large to the phat vibes at rallies) since we both like the 60's (apart from 1969 which didn't exist apart from the blue bit!)

Incidentally, it's a little known fact that the word 'trailer' is an old English term that means 'to carry as much crap to rallies as possible' AND the word itself is made up entirely of letters of the alphabet! What a bizarre world we live in!

Naturally, for those with the monetary means to buy it, there is a trailer available from the company (billet aluminium body, hand stitched buffalo hide cover with optional Conchos and rhinestones) for only £14,995 with discount card!

Bikers Go Mad in Stamford!

A big thanks to the committee for the winter party, hopefully everyone who attended enjoyed the evening. The food as ever was bowel-shatteringly tasty (ta muchly to the First Lady and Mme Fannois) and also much applause to our leader, (the caliph of custom) for booking the band (the floor was rammed all evening!)

Bob mentioned that he wanted them to play next year as well and was overheard saying "that band was saucier than a bomb blast in a Heinz factory; I love the cut of their jibs!"

Nelly was also seen cutting a rug with a small but perfectly formed lady (Bab's mum) who was heard to say "this gig is totally awesome man! It makes me wanna kick ass!"

The Button Mushroom Ride Out

(We all had one bro!)

A big feel the love, live the dream! to everyone who went on the ride to Foxton Locks (despite the fact that I saw a shiny monkey sitting by the cafe crying with 2 tiny things in his hand!



Wizz n Nelly



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presents their



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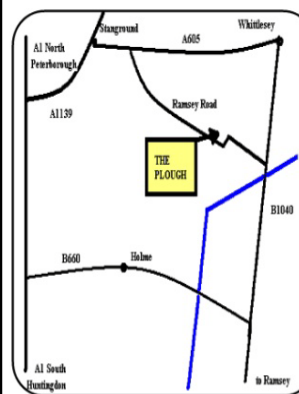
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RUTLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER – APR 2010

DIARY DATES

Sun 18th Apr - Vale Of Belvoir Ride Out

The second chance, for new and old member's to meet, this time on a ride through the picturesque Vale of Belvoir. See views of Belvoir Castle, this ride will call in at a local public house for refreshments.

Organiser Pete Hewitt – Sycamores: 10.30am for 11am Depart

Sun 25th Apr - Skegness

The first ride to the seaside of 2010, to the busy East Coast resort of Skegness. Situated north of Boston, this thriving town has been named the "Blackpool of the East Coast". So grab your bucket and spade, and join us on a run to the sun !

Organiser Pete Hewitt - Sycamores Departure time 10am – Pick up Eye Green A47 Services 10.30am

Wed 5th May- Bike Night at The Plough, Farcet Fen, Peterborough

Wednesday Evening Ride Out to one of the weekly bike nights, held at the Plough Inn, Farcet Fen (our new Rally venue). A chance to meet some new friends whilst also checking out the venue - have look around and pick a spot for your tent come July ! Alternatively meet us there !

Organiser Scratchy – Sycamores: 6.30pm Depart

Sat 8th May - Icen Chapter Meet & Ride-Out

Join us on a Ride to meet our Eastern Neighbour's, the Icen Chapter, at Norwich Harley Davidson. Following some refreshments at their dealership, join them on a dual Chapter ride through the picturesque Norfolk Countryside.

Organiser Bob Galley - Sycamores Departure time TBC

Fri 14th - Sun 16th May - Naseby Field Rally Market Harborough

Join other Chapter Members attending and supporting our local HDRCGB friends, at their popular Annual Rally. This will be an organised Chapter weekend event. This event is pay on the gate so no pre-registration is required. More details will follow as and when they become available.

Organiser Bob Galley.

Sun 23rd May - Matlock Bath


A Ride Out to the motorcycle popular, picturesque Derbyshire town of Matlock Bath. The town itself is set on the side of a Derbyshire Peak and overhangs the river Derwent, which winds its way through the town. There are many Cafes set along the front where you can watch the many motorcyclists pass by ! If time allows this ride out will return via Chesterfield HD.

Organiser Shep - Sycamores Departure TBC

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SHERWOOD FOREST
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MIDDLE ENGLAND
2nd to 5th SEPTEMBER 2010
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**Nene Valley
Chapter Rally**



Back-2-Basics 2010

Market Harborough Rugby Club
20th – 22nd August 2010

**Rutland Chapter
Helpline**
01572 824090



call to hear a pre-recorded message detailing
this week's events plus any last minute changes.



RUTLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER – APR 2010

BACK PAGE BEAUTY



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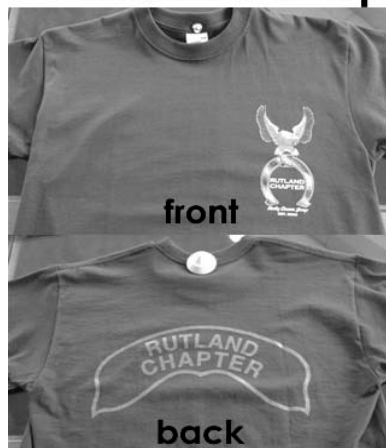
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