

Rutland Chapter

A man in a HOG Chapter uniform is playing bagpipes on a set of stone steps. He is wearing a dark blue jacket with a "ROAD CAPTAIN" patch, a green and blue plaid vest, and a dark blue kilt. He has a black beret and a goatee. A microphone is positioned in front of him. In the background, another person is visible holding a camera on a tripod.

NEWS

**HOG Chapter
No: 6730**

**Newsletter
April 2013**

PETE PUTS PEN TO PAPER

Welcome to the first Chapter Newsletter of 2013, and my first as Chapter Director.



Winter is of course the worst time of the year for us. Whilst we occasionally get the opportunity of the odd day between December and March, even if taken, any enjoyment is invariably cancelled out by having to wear so many layers of clothes you can hardly move, and the fact that cleaning the prized possession afterwards takes twice as long as you were out for! But do not despair, Spring is in the air (along with still a bit of snow).

It seems an age since our last Rideout on the toy run in early December, but since then we have managed to keep our Harley passion alive with a Christmas meeting and drinks at the shop, a bowling night, our Winter party, and the Custom show, all of which were well attended. In addition, the committee has put together an exciting mix of events and ride outs, including new owners rides, days out at the seaside, Rally weekends, European road trips, as well as some good old favourites that we do year after year. There are still a number of weekends where nothing is planned so if you have anything special in mind please let anyone on the committee know.

In other news, Mike Grant has agreed to join Shep as Assistant Director, and Health & Safety Richard has kindly agreed to edit this newsletter. Many thanks to both.

I would like to finish off by thanking Scratchy for the last 4 years of being Director, his passion and enthusiasm rubbed off on all of us and has put the Chapter in a strong position both

in terms of membership and finance. (Good job he paid for his own beer otherwise we would be skint !)

It's all about riding bikes and having fun.

Peter Hewett
Director

CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE



We now have a Facebook page just for Rutland Chapter members so that we can communicate with each other as and when required. The page is 'Rutland Chapter of HOG'. If you are not on it yet you will need to speak to a member who is and they can invite you in, or you can email Mike Grant on mikemowbray@ntlworld.com and he will get you onto it.

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RICHARDS RAMBLINGS



Writing for the early year issue of our chapter magazine is always difficult. It's always done in the middle of winter which means short days, long cold

nights, usually snow

and in recent years and not too much riding. Up to Christmas 2012 wasn't too bad and we managed to get the chapter out on numerous new owners runs, a memorial ride on the 11th

November to Duxford, a dry toy run and a few trips to the Iron horse diner (Formerly Harleys café). Most of the runs, I completed on my Sportster. The Glide's and Softail's are the flagship bikes of the Harley range (excluding CVO's), however Sportys represent most HOG members introduction into Harley ownership.

I first bought a black XL883 in 2005 for £4000 from a dealer in Walthamstow London, which has now closed. It only had 7 miles on the clock even though it was 1 year old. I had it delivered to my house by the dealer without having ever ridden a Harley or even heard this particular bike run. The first opportunity saw me all toggged up ready for a ride and it wouldn't even start. What had I bought? I had a flat battery, which was quickly sorted by connection to an Optimate, but it took a week to arrive.(Good tip no. 1)

Managed a few wobbly runs around Peterborough, until after about 1 month of owning the bike, I managed to drop it going backwards down a slope outside my house. A neighbour just stood and watched and thinking to himself "Silly old fool buying a Harley at his age!" I picked it up by the method of standing with your back to the fallen bike, holding the bike firmly with both hands, keeping a straight back and bending the knees. (Good tip no. 2)

Whilst I had it I attended the 50th Anniversary Sportster rally at Market Harborough in 2007 with the HD Riders Club GB, which was

excellent fun. I owned that bike for over two years. I had it taken out to 1200cc with a re-bore and Wiseco pistons (personally I didn't notice that much difference) as well as staging it and fitting screamin eagle pipes. I will say back then a couple of times it was mentioned that it was only a Sportster. Snobbery existed then in the chapter that isn't present now. Size isn't everything. Like a lot of Sportster owners I felt I needed (wanted) a bigger engine so I traded it in for a Street Bob that I kept for nearly 3 years before trading that in for a Fat Boy. I was made redundant after 25 years at Indesit, oh how I love Italian companies (PS goodbye Ducati) so I had the finances to buy a second bike and so I looked around for another 883 to use a winter Harley. Not as easy as it seemed as it looked as though others were starting to realise the value that a sporty represents. I looked at some right dog's, until I found a 2009 silver denim Iron 883 in the shop that was in my price range (i.e. relatively cheap). As a side issue I like to look after my bikes and have never had any finish problems with most of the Harleys I have owned. Following a ride, even in winter weather my cleaning regime (for the bike) consists of a good wipe down with a damp cloth/chamois, shiny parts get cleaned with Mr Sheen Multi-Surface Polish, denim and matt gets the Mr Muscle Window & Glass polish treatment and then I follow this up with a good spray of Scottoiler FS365. (Good tip nos.3-5)

Regrettably Harley got the paint finish on my Iron 883 wrong and the paint on the frame, brakes and mudguards needed consistently touching up. Despite this, after staging and fitting Khrome-werks pipes the bike ran well and was really quick! I didn't intend to sell it, but on my weekly trip to Sycamores one Sunday I saw a 2006 XL1200L that took my eye. It had only done 500 miles in just under 6 years and was a real bargain. The deal was done there and then and I swapped the Iron for the Low.



I still have the bike now. It has been added to, single seat, Street Bob apes, V&H straight shots and foot forward

controls etc. It's a brilliant, easy to ride and manoeuvrable bike, the quality is excellent and it looks stunning in white and back with an orange pinstripe. I find that unless I have to take the wife out or if I am going to have to carry luggage it's always my first choice ride and the Fatboy stays in the garage.

So that's my experience of Sporty ownership and just leaves me to say that if you are able to afford another bike or for those reading this magazine who don't yet own a Harley, get a Sportster. You won't regret it.

Richard

(Sportster - Blowing away big twins since 1957)

THE 2013 RALLY



Location - The Fox and Hounds in Exton from Friday 12th July to Sunday 14th July.

Expect great bands, food, beer and dancing. Ride out planned for Saturday and games in the afternoon. Also we shall be running our ever popular Karaoke and this year I have been promised it won't rain.

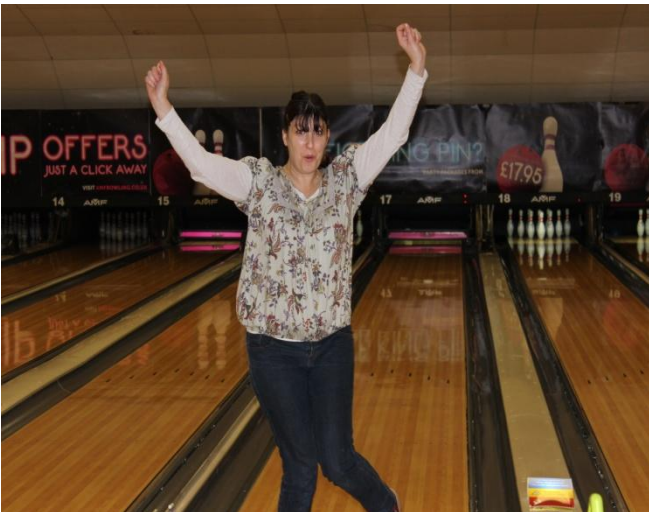
Don't forget this is a limited ticket event. Camping space is tight however we are hoping to have the use of the village hall again this year for indoor camping. Get your tickets early.

Please also note there is a strong rumour that in addition to bikes we are also planning a dog show

We went, We bowled, We went home



Around Sixteen budding enthusiasts turned up at Peterborough on January 30th for an action packed night of 10 pin madness. Although not everybody bowled, two teams fought tooth and nail for the honour and glory and being top dog.



The North South divide was alive and well on lane two where an Anglo/Celtic fight to the death ensued. Accompanied by the clashing of swords between England and Scotland, Dave Smith and myself fought bare-chested in a bid to carry forward the honour of our respective forefathers. I am tormented to report that Scotland pipped England by a meagre 5 points in the eleventh hour, and despite attempting to rubbish Dave on Face book afterwards by altering the score card, I gracefully accepted defeat.

A great night was had by all who attended, (I may have embellished actual events, particularly the semi-naked fighting part)

Alan H

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ride out Foxton Locks Sunday 7th April

A gentle ride out that's open to all members old and new. Located on the outskirts of Market Harborough, Foxton locks are one of the seven industrial wonders of Great Britain? Plenty of opportunities for snacks and photos.

Organiser Lucy Gumbley – Sycamores 10:30 for 11:00 start.

Chapter Meeting & Social Evening Wednesday 17th April

Monthly Meeting and Social Event held at the White Horse Public House at Morcott. This is situated on the A47 about 3 miles east of Uppingham. Find out all the latest information on upcoming events and the gossip from previous ones

All Members – White Horse, Morcott (A47) from 20:00

Ride out Hunstanton Sunday 28th April

'Sunny Hunny', fish and chips, parking for a pound, what could be better. The only west facing resort on the east coast and a nice ride through the Norfolk countryside, leaving the shop before picking up at Eye Services.

Organiser Tall Dave – Sycamores leaves 10:30 and pick up at Eye Services at 11:00

Chapter Meeting & Social Evening Wednesday 15th May

Monthly Meeting and Social Event held at the White Horse Public House at Morcott. This is situated on the A47 about 3 miles east of Uppingham. Find out all the latest information on upcoming events and the gossip from previous ones

All Members – White Horse, Morcott (A47) from 20:00

NEW OWNERS RIDES

Saturday 13th April 2013 sees us set out on the first of our 'New Owners Rides' that are being organised in conjunction with the shop. This one is around Rutland.

Note that through out the riding season Andrew (Dealer principal) is writing to all new Harley owners who have purchased a bike in the preceding six weeks and inviting them to attend the rides. But all new owners and chapter members are more than welcome as it is an opportunity to meet and greet new or potential new members to the chapter and introduce them to group riding. It is also an opportunity/excuse to get out on your bike!

Ride safe!

Mike

DAVE DOES ARUBA

I have been a member of HOG and the Chapter for about six years now, might even be longer! and have never put pen to paper before so here goes and hope you enjoy my ramblings. I'm sitting here in front of the computer, it's March and outside it's freezing cold and we still have snow on the ground and I just had bloody Anglian windows knocking on the door. But I digress. I am remembering a rather different climate last Christmas on a small island in the Caribbean riding around on a guided tour of an Island and what's more on a Harley too. Well it had to be really didn't it.

It was on December 27th when our cruise ship steamed into port on the island of Aruba. Aruba I hear you say, where is that that then? Well, it's a Dutch colonial island about twenty miles off the coast of Venezuela in the Caribbean Sea. It was a beautiful day as I remember, clear blue skies, a gentle breeze and hot. The wife and I walked the short distance from the ship to the Harley dealer in Oranjestad, the capital, where I was to pick up our mount and join our guide for the day at Aruba Harley Davidson. I had booked the trip direct with them whilst in the UK.

Here we met our guide Eric, a large jolly gent who was born on the island, completed the paperwork and was introduced to our mount a gleaming red Heritage softail classic. I was very surprised that we were the only ones on the tour so it made for a very private event. There



followed a thorough briefing from Eric as to where we were going, where we were going to stop and certain hand signals he was going to use whilst riding. The most important of these was a frantic waving and pointing at the road to point out where sand had blown onto the road making it rather slippery. That was a bit of an understatement as you could easily see it because the road disappeared in front of your



eyes to look like a beach. It required very smooth operation of the throttle and NO braking in the corners. Otherwise you would have been off down the road, deposit gone, ouch in more ways than one. Anyway, off we went.

First stop was to the very western end of the island and a place where there was an old lighthouse then off to the first chapel built on the

island. After some pictures and the necessary water it was off to our next stops. A church, the first one built on the island apparently but to get there involved riding over some very sandy roads and we were surrounded by massive dunes and cacti. If you have ever been to Arizona desert in the US it was a bit like that. One stop was at some unusual large round stones, house sized that looked like someone had just thrown them down after playing a game of marbles and later a rather secluded beach on the eastern side of the island .

We must have travelled on every road Aruba had to offer but the riding was fantastic in those temperatures and there was minimal traffic to out in the countryside. I hate to say it protection was at a minimum, helmet, T-Shirt, shorts and training shoes and it was still baking. The best stop of the day was at a bar in the old part of Oranjestad called "Charlies Bar and Restaurant" a real old bar full with nicknacks and memorabilia. That larger slipped down like the bar scene in the film "Ice Cold In Alex" where



John Mills downs that Carlsberg. From here it was back to the dealers in the rush hour. Yep, they do get them in the Caribbean and it was gridlock. Thanks to Eric's local knowledge and us being on bikes we managed to use some very questionable back roads. It was a fantastic days riding at a very reasonable cost. No incidents with the bike and even the wife enjoyed it, I think! She's not normally a bike person. So if you ever get to visit Aruba this is one thing you must do. By the way if the picture of me with the bike is published it's not really that small and I'm not really that big.....Honestly.

Dave Russell

Limited Tickets
Tickets on sale from 1st October 2012
www.nenevalleyhog.co.uk

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16TH 17TH 18TH AUGUST 2013

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Bike Show

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10th - 13th May 2013

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On site chalets
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High quality pitches for caravans and motor homes
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1940s theme to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Dambusters in their own town

OnLine Booking available from mid October 2012
www.ironhorserrally.co.uk

SHOP TORQUE

For those of you who are not aware our Chapter Director Scratchy has decided to step down after doing the role for the last 4 years. I would like to thank him for carrying out the role over this time as he has done a fantastic job in building the chapter to what it is today and he will be missed, but I know we will still be seeing him at events.

Receiving Scratchy's resignation left me to find a replacement and have appointed Peter Hewett in the role as Chapter Director. Mike Grant has also taken on the role of Assistant Director and Richard Garner has taken over as newsletter editor so I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to their new roles and offer them my support to carry on the good work.

Last weekend saw us hold our 2013 custom show and with over 40 bikes on display, local live music during the day and a great after show party I'm sure those of you who attended with agree it was a fabulous weekend and the weather wasn't too bad either. Many thanks to those chapter members who manned the barbeque for the two days, please see our face book page and website for photos of the weekend.



We have two new bikes to show you next month and the first being a new Street bob with the 103 engine, ABS, custom paint and wheels. The bike will be in-store for our launch weekend of 23rd & 24th March so please do pop down and take a look. The second bike we are taking delivery of is a standard version of the CVO

Breakout which looks absolutely stunning and will be in store mid April. We will be holding a VIP preview evening for this one so look out for your invitation nearer the time.

The workshop here at Sycamores is getting very busy so if you need an MOT or service before you start riding again please call us ASAP to avoid an unnecessary wait.

I'm pretty sure the weather is going to change any time soon and I am really looking forward to seeing you and your bikes hanging around the dealership in the next few weeks it's been way too long!

Andy

H.O.G. 30th Anniversary Celebrations, Port Grimaud, Golfe de Saint-Tropez, 2nd-5th May 2013

