

Rutland Chapter



NEWS



**HOG Chapter
No: 6730**



**Newsletter
November 2011**

SCRATCHY'S SCRIBBLINGS



Well it's happened again! The bloody summer has shot by; it's almost as if the Months are shorter! I've checked though, they aren't. Mind you the best weather we had all year, was on the Isle of Wight trip, which took place on the last weekend in September!

The Isle of Wight trip, now what a cracking weekend that was. The weather, the accommodation, the location and most of all the company, were all fantastic. It was the first weekend trip that Mike had arranged for the Chapter, and didn't he do a great job. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and I know that Mike is already looking at possibilities for next year!

Well as usual, August and September were very hectic, with me attending several other Chapter Rallies, the best of which for me this year, was Nene Valleys. There was a good turnout of Rutlander's and all had a fabulous time. Special thanks to Dave and Dragna for Saturday night's nibbles and the bar (with optics). Quite a few of us dressed up for the Pirate themed Fancy Dress, where I caused a bit of a flap and won a prize. Still don't know what it was for!

After 2 successful Rallies at the Plough in Farcet Fen, we have decided to change venues. We were not happy with the landlord, although the food was very good, when it was going to be available was anyone's guess. He opened when he wanted and we would have to eat round him - which is no good. We looked at several possible venues before finally finding a superb scenic campsite, on the banks of, and overlooking Rutland Water. Finally our Rally is going to be where it should be, next to the County's most scenic landmark. It will cost us a lot more and will be a lot more work. From the dates offered we have selected Friday 27th - Sunday 29th July 2012, we will be setting up a Rally Committee and any volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

At the request of many the AGM has been changed to December and will take place at the Dealership, there will be free food and drinks kindly supplied by Sycamores. The majority of the Committee is all willing to continue which is fantastic, but none wanted the Directors job so it looks like it will be another year of me! Unfortunately though Mark Buckmaster, our Treasurer has decided to stand down for personal reasons, he is no longer

able to be as active a member as he would like to be. Mark is the longest serving Committee member and will be greatly missed. I personally would like to thank Mark for all his hard work throughout the years and he has been a vital cog in getting the Chapter to where it is today. Richard Kitchen has agreed to swap across to Treasurer; he has experience of this role at other clubs. As a result we would like volunteers to join the Committee for the role of Assistant Activities.

Hopefully, this winter won't be like last year and there will be plenty of riding days throughout. Our Christmas Toy Run to the Children's Ward at Peterborough Hospital has been confirmed and will take place on Sunday 11th December (see back page) and I hope to see you all there. Also we will be holding a Winter Party on Saturday 12th February at Cummins Sports & Social Club in Stamford. Watch out for text messages for updates on upcoming events.

Scratchy



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RICHARD'S MUSINGS



It was at the last chapter meeting when Scratchy asked for contributions to the Rutland newsletter, I realised I had been a bit behind on my musings at a number of events that I had attended. So here goes,

from memory...

SOFER RALLY - BISLEY

SOFER is a regular event now for us. Another very good turnout from the chapter and Sycamore's generously lent us the van (and Richard to drive it) so you could drop your gear, tents and sundries at the shop, not pack it on your bike and it all arrives safely. Again, this year, we met up at Brampton services where I managed to get lost in the car park... again.



We got to Bisley rifle centre without incident and after much field changing etc, managed to get all

pitched up in close proximity to each other (and the toilets and showers.) We did a bit of shopping at Sainsbury's and also grabbed a meal at a local pub



before it was back to site for the start of the rally.

Now I have been going on rallies with the chapter for a few years now, but I don't remember seeing an itinerary, where the priority appeared to be to play hide and seek with vodka and wine. After about 3 hours nobody could remember where it had all gone (and to be honest nobody seemed to care). About 7'ish we all set off for the halls and to see the bands. Well, when I say we all set off, some got further than others. Some got to the main halls and



some only got as far as the ditch and decided to abandon further travel for the evening.

Saturday morning DHL Pete led us on a ride-out to Boxhill. 15 set off, with most of managing to arrive sometime in the afternoon as the traffic was awful and we got separated along the long the way. I even tried off-roading on the Fat Boy. My excuse was that I was concentrating on some guy photographing a young lady in a field. Really must concentrate more. Crikey, anybody would think that I haven't seen a pair of breasts before. Well that's my excuse.

Saturday evening we had a chapter bar-b-q where we had open house to anybody who wanted to come along. Surprisingly enough we decided to play hide the alcohol again. We did all make it to see the Band's this time. I can't remember who they were, might have been The League of Mental Men.

Sunday came and it was dry. So after a good hearty cooked breakfast we packed up and headed for home. I really like SOFER, but there are rumours that it might not be on in 2012 if the Olympics need the site. However if it's on, I am sure we will go again, but remember to book early, it's really popular negated and I was given an invite to their rally and they were a very friendly bunch.

BACK 2 BASICS RALLY

This was another enjoyable camping weekend organised by our neighbouring chapter, Nene Valley. We had a good chapter turnout, congregating around Dave and Dragna's gazebo, complete with optics and nibbles.



Friday night's entertainment was a Ska band. Should have gone on my scooter... NOT. But the music was good and Rutland Chapter didn't let the side down when it came to strutting their stuff on the dance floor.

I think there might have been a ride out during Saturday but I don't think many of us made it,



must have been something in the water. Saturday evening was fancy dress with a pirate theme. That's pirate not parrot Scratchy! Our Chapter Director managed to win first prize for his 5-foot high bird costume.

I've never seen so many Captain Jack Sparrows at a rally. Now dear readers, we appear to



have rather a lot of male members in our chapter who are partial to wearing make up. Bit worrying. We all trooped down to the Rugby Club Social Hall for the band and the copious amount of shots, generously supplied by our Host. Halfway through the evening there was a lady burlesque dancer who was equipped with cream cakes. (One chapter member woke up with a crème horn in his pocket and couldn't remember where it came from.) The Rutland Chapter Formation Dancing and Drinking Team again held their own, in making ***** of themselves, into the small hours.

Sunday morning, as we left we thanked Martin Dickinson, the Chapter Director of Nene Valley for a brilliant weekend. That's another one in the calendar for next year.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Last year we went to the Autumn Blitz, but it was not taking place, as they couldn't get the smell of fish fingers out of the main hall. So Mike organised a



trip to the Isle of Wight, on the corresponding weekend for anyone who wanted to come. 17 of us booked up. I followed Shep and Janet for the last 50 metres to the meet up point at Brampton for this one. However this time I didn't get lost but Shep and Janet missed the entrance to the service station and sailed up the A14. I thought he changed his mind about coming on the last weekend event of the year.



We had booked on the 13:00 ferry from Portsmouth to Fishbourne and arrived at our B'n'B, The Palmerston Hotel in Shanklin without any problems. After booking in we rode to the village of Godshill and the Old Smithy for tea and scones. Now this is more refined I thought. Oh how wrong I was...

Friday evening we had a meal on Shanklin sea front at The Steamer Inn, before heading into town for a beer of two. We found a pub that was in my Good Beer Guide. They had a band on and we stayed to listen to both sets (hoping for "Yellow River" or something by The Nolan Sisters) before departing for a good night's sleep in our accommodation. The owner, Pete, looked after us and set us up for the day



with an all you can eat breakfast. We toured the Island on Saturday. The weather started off cloudy but brightened up as the day went on. We visited Alum bay, as Mike wanted a sandy lighthouse, before

heading for Ryde for lunch. It was then back to the hotel for afternoon beer.

As the evening meal was good on Friday, we went back to The Steamer Inn, resplendent in our chapter vests, on Saturday evening for Dinner. At least the landlady, Maria, was pleased to see us... The food was excellent quality again and they had a band on in the bar, however the music they played could best be described as morose. Next doors restaurant also had a band on their veranda, which we applauded throughout the evening, as at least we recognised the tunes. The highlights of the evening were; Mick rock'n'rolling with passers by on the promenade, Maria's unrequited love, the spitting image of Mick Fleetwood plying Scratchy with alcohol, being told that we could only go into the restaurant next door to The Steamer Inn as long as we did not to cause any trouble, and trying to get back up the hill/cliff face to the hotel when we had had enough. Oh, nearly forgot, our beloved Chapter Director managed to regurgitate his evening meal, early hours Sunday morning. Must have been all that foreign food!!



The sun shone all weekend, so it was with some regret and sore heads on Sunday morning that we made our way back across The Solent to get home safely Sunday afternoon. This was a truly memorable event in more ways than one, well done Mike. Scratchy, get it on the events calendar.

FOOTNOTE

I went to France on the Harley this year with Lucy, Little Pete, Martin and Val. I was so enthusiastic when I came back that I booked a few days with Sue (Mrs Richard) to go in the car in August. We had a very smooth crossing. On the way over on the ferry to Cherbourg (That's in France, you know) we got talking to a pair of conjoined twins, Lesley and Roy. "On your way to France I see, are you going for scenery, its really pretty?" I asked.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 17th Nov – Chapter Meet & Social Evening

Monthly meet held at the White Horse Pub in Morcott (A47). Catch up with the latest updates on Chapter Activities and general chinwag with fellow members.

White Horse Public House, Morcott (A47)

Sun 11th Dec – Annual Charity Toy Run

Annual Toy Run to the Children's Ward at the New Peterborough Hospital. This Event is open to all bikers so please invite your friends along. All we ask is that you purchase a gift label it Boy or Girl; include an age group where applicable.

Ride Departs Sycamores @ 11am

Fri 16th Dec – Annual Chapter AGM & Christmas Drinks

The Chapter's Annual AGM Meeting in the HOG Lounge at Sycamore Harley Davidson. None of the current Committee would like to step up into one of the Primary Officer Roles, so those Roles (Director & Assistants) will remain unchanged for 2012. Mark Buckmaster (Treasurer) has decided to stand down this year for personal reasons. Richard Kitchen will step up to the Treasurers Role from Assistant Activities – Richard has previous experience of similar roles within other clubs. For obvious reasons this role has not been offered up for election. As a result we have at least one vacancy on the Committee, so if any member is interested in joining the Committee, please contact either Scratchy (rutlandchapter@btinternet.com) or Andrew Winham at the Dealership.

Also at the AGM we will be setting up a separate **Committee for the organisation of our 2012 Horseshoe Rally**. Could interested Parties please attend or make their interest known prior to the AGM

Sycamores are once again laying on some **Free Food and Drinks** to Chapter Members

The HOG Lounge, Sycamores Uppingham for 7pm

Sat 12th Feb – Winter Party

Annual Chapter Winter Party held at the Cummins Sports Club in Stamford (same place as last year it's just changed its name). As usual there will be a disco, buffet and most importantly a bar and it's sure to be a great night. Once again this event will be free to members.

Free Admission - Cummins Sports Club, Wharf road, Stamford, from 8pm

**FOR CHAPTER TEXT UPDATES CONTACT
PETE HEWETT**



"Not that bothered, we live in the centre of a town" replied Lesley, the twin on the right.

"Well do you like the food? Snails and frogs legs and that sort of stuff" said Sue.

"I am not really that keen on foreign food," said Lesley. (Bit like Scratchy I thought)

"There's a lot of history with the D Day beaches. There is also the Bayeux tapestry and you might get to go round with Mick Jagger. That's got to be the reason" I said.

"We are not into history" Lesley responded

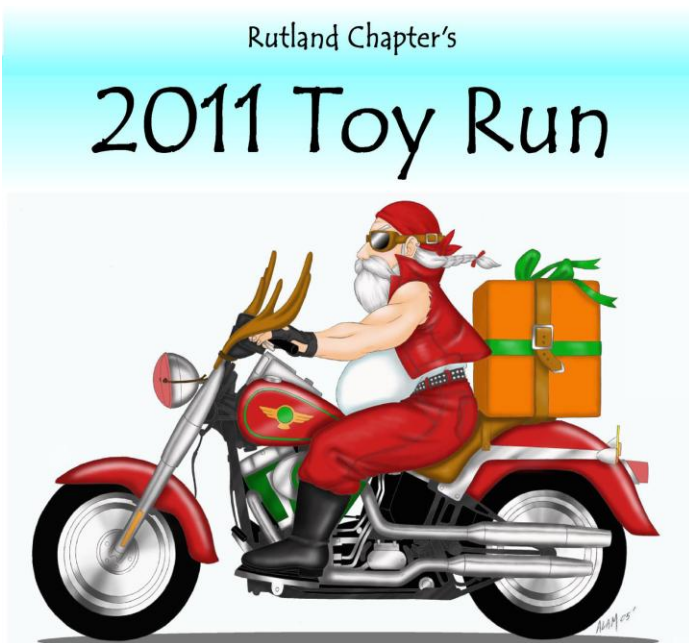
"Well why are you going?" I asked the Siamese couple and Lesley said, "It's the only chance that Roy gets to drive.

Final footnote

If you are reading this and don't understand some of the references i.e. to fish fingers, The Nolan Sisters, Mick Jagger etc. see me and I will fill you in on all the details. Just don't leave it to long, my memory is not what it was...

Richard

(Not very diplomatic but I am easily led)



All bikes are more than welcome

Annual Christmas Toy Run to the Childrens Ward at the New Peterborough Hospital. All gifts should be labelled "Boy" or "Girl" with an age group where applicable. These gifts can be dropped off prior to the event at Sycamore Harley Davidson in Uppingham, who are providing a van to support the event.

Sunday 11th December

Arrive Sycamores 10.30am for 11am ride departure
Passing through Oundle town centre at 11.30am (no stop)
Ride stops at the Notcutts Layby Orton at 12noon (last pick up)

RUTLAND COMES HOME

As mentioned earlier in this Newsletter our 2012 Horseshoe Rally will be held, where it should be, in the heart of beautiful Rutland. Finally we've managed to find a campsite, on the banks of Rutland Water, with fantastic views out over it.



Lyndon Top Campsite is located between the villages of Manton and Edith Weston on the South Shore of Rutland Water. The site includes a large brick barn where we will be holding the night time entertainment.



There are no permanent onsite Toilets and Showers, so we have hired mobile units to support the event. Shower trailer is a 4 Shower Unisex unit.

We will continue to review ticket sales and order more if required.



Obviously we need a bar there, so we have booked the same outside mobile unit, used successfully by Sherwood Chapter for the last few years. The owner is a HOG member and is familiar with our needs, they are fully self supported units and most importantly their prices are reasonable.



Catering is currently being looked into and I'm confident that we will be able to get what we want. This is to mirror the catering provided by Market Harborough Rugby Club for the Riders Club and Nene Valley Rallies. Good food at a reasonable price! That's the beauty of attending other Rallies; you get to see what works and what doesn't.



Unfortunately other than camping, there is no onsite accommodation; however there are plenty of B&B's and Hotels in the area to meet all pockets. Check out accommodation in the villages of Manton, Edith Weston and Normanton if you wish to stay nearby.



Our Chapter and our Rally over the past few years has developed enough to allow us to both financially and numerically make this move. Yes it will be more work, yes it will cost us more, but we now have the finances and support to pull this off.

We are lucky enough to be named and based in a very beautiful part of the Country. To my knowledge this year alone, 6 Chapters have held ride out to and around Rutland Water. Well next year they can come for the weekend!

SHOP TORQUE

Well here we are again; nearly another riding season is over – but not just yet! Here at Sycamores we now have a full range of winter riding gear as well as all weather bike protection products to get you and your bike through the cold months. We also have some great service offers in place so contact Matt for further details.

Last month Scratchy and I went looking for our next Rally venue around Rutland Water. After a wander around we came across Lyndon Top Campsite which is a rally site on the banks of Rutland Water with fantastic picturesque views. After several phone calls we managed to secure the site for the Rutland Rally which is fantastic news as it now gives us a great platform to hold our event and quite easily grow it into a larger event year by year. But before we start we need to create a Rally Committee Team to plan and organise the event so please speak to myself or Scratchy if you are interested in becoming a member of the team, the more volunteers we have will ensure we produce a fantastic event.

Coming up shortly is the Christmas Toy Run which we hold every year. The dealership will of course support the event by providing toys and the van to deliver them to Peterborough Hospital. This is always a great event and hopefully this year I will be in attendance.

Matthew is currently busy planning next year's Custom Show which will be held on 3rd & 4th March at the dealership and will again consist of an evening of entertainment at a local venue with the Hound Dogs already confirmed to perform so it should prove to be another enjoyable evening. If you are interested in entering your bike please contact Matthew for further details.

The next event to be held at the dealership is the secret sale weekend which is being held on 17th & 18th December and this will give you a chance to grab some great bargains on bikes, parts, clothing and gifts. Also in December we will be holding the Chapter AGM and Christmas drinks evening. This will be held on 16th December and if anyone should wish to discuss Committee places they should speak to me or Scratchy before the event.

LADIES – Charlotte is holding a Ladies evening on Wednesday 30th November. The theme this time is Pampered Chef and it will also be a fund raising event for breast cancer. A Pampered Chef evening consists of cooking demos, recipe ideas and a chance for you to get involved and use the equipment on show. Why not come along with a friend, relax, have fun and a glass of bubbly on us! If you are interested in

attending please contact Charlotte on 01572 823296 or charlotte.tyers@sycamoremotorcycles.co.uk as places are limited. Your support would be greatly appreciated for this fantastic charity. My only request for the evening is **PLEASE WEAR PINK!!**

Ride Safe

Andrew



JANET HELPS OUT SMITHY WITH SOME SUN CREAM ! KEEP SOME FOR HIS FACE JANET !!

*Merry Christmas & A Happy
New Year to Everyone*

CUSTOM BIKE SHOW

3rd & 4th March 2012



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