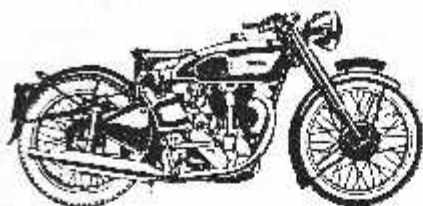




April 1988
No. 3

The South Wales Section

Newsletter



Dear Member,

Suddenly it's spring and once again it's all rush to get the winter jobs on the bike out of the way so that the riding can restart. For me it was a last minute rush to get the timing side of the Brough's JAP engine reassembled before the April 10th Felix Burke road trial. It was a job I had hoped to have done in Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March and then finally got around to in April. Typical !

Before a Felix Burke report let's have a quick round up of recent events.

March 19th saw the South Wales Section flag flying at the Cotswold Section St. Patrick's Night Quiz. And although we were just shaded out of the bronze medal position a good time was had by myself and Dianne, Ian and Anne Bone, Bill and Jean Phelps and stalwart John Isaac. P.S. don't mention Citroen alternators to Bill though ! Club night on March 22 featured the annual Sunbeam MCC v VMCC Quiz Night and then a film night followed two weeks later. If you missed them shame on you - they were two enjoyable nights. John Davies was the Mächen Magnus Magnusson on quiz night once again and did his usual cool job. Thanks again John. Standby for a Pioneer Run tale from John in the next newsletter. On the return from the West Wales Section Pendine Get Together on March 27th the AIO broke it's puny dynamo chain but it was easily repaired in the following few days. About 20 West Wales members gathered in the Beach Hotel and yours truly couldn't resist a record attempt up the beach on the Beesa. Saw IIO on the clock and then had to ease off for the red flags ! You don't believe that do you ? Johnny Thomas borrowed a fearsome beast, a 1904 Etna tricycle powered by a water-cooled, 2 litre vee twin. It really went quickly. Mind you it looked as if the local blacksmith had made it which in 1904 is probably what happened.

Rob Jones on his Velo, Ian and Anne with the Panther outfit, Di and I on the B.S. and John Isaac on his Sunbeam solo represented our section at the 34th Felix Burke Memorial Road Trial on April 10th. Rob, Ian and I choosing a different route from John who was riding with Dennis Beale. A sunny day through sleepy (until Punk arrived !) Cotswold hamlets to the various controls had us getting lost occasionally and just failing to hit our target of 15 controls in 60 miles. But I had a kiss from an enthusiastic senior citizen lady marshall for answering three bonus questions correctly, the sun was out, we went green laning, we saw free range pigs and there was a cauldron of mushy peas waiting at the finish ! What more could a man or woman ask ? Unless your names Rob Jones of course and then you go back and ask for another meat pie, mushy peas and..... I think we all enjoyed it but next year, when there will be at least ten bikes instead of this year's four, better route planning on a par with Monty in El Alamein will put us in contention. A recommended event.

Overheard at the quiz night "Do you think he'll sell the alternator on his 2 CV ? They fit a Velo don't they ?" And to think of the mickey taking that car has taken.

Forthcoming attractions as they used to say and top of the list goes to Rob Jones' Merthyr Sprint Run on Sunday May 1st. The sun has been booked so there's no reason why 20 or 30 bikes shouldn't gather at the sprint track which is part of the old Swansea road on outskirts of Merthyr. If your lost just ask anyone in Merthyr, they all know where it is. Arrive at the track just after 11, have a look at the competition machines and then at 12 go for a short run calling at the Brecon Mountain Railway for a cuppa, returning to the sprint track at 2. The sprint proper starts at 2 and during a lull in the event we will be invited to demonstrate our motorcycles up the course. An event that deserves good support.

Monday May 2nd is the Singleton Park Show. I'm taking the Brough down to put on show and would welcome company. I've got a bundle of entry forms if anyone is interested. It's quite a big show with old vehicles of all shapes and sizes.

The Cardiff Pageant of Motoring promises to be the biggest event of it's kind in the area this year. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 18 and 19th June at Cardiff Castle and the adjacent Cooper's Field. A run on Saturday and a show on Sunday organised by the Historic Motoring Fed., of S. Wales and sponsored by the Echo. Regs (closing date 22 May) from Me.

Pen Profile : This month Rob Jones of Aberdare.

Parents and especially non motorcycling parents can, with the best of intentions often wish to see their offspring having nothing at all to do with motorbikes—dangerous things that they are. In my case my first desire a 350 Enfield was denied as being too powerful and so at 16 I started out with a worn out C11 but in Rob's case he had to wait many more years before he was able to own a motorcycle. This was a small Suzuki and on it he passed his test. It had been bought for Helen (his better half) but mainly he rode it. What are now called classic bikes were met by accident via a classic bike magazine. Higher qualifications in teaching brought extra reward and this was put to good use by the purchase of a 1951 MAC Velo, the year of the rigid rear and front telefork. It cost £400 (this was 1983) from a vendor down Swansea way and came with many spares. Registered PNK 52, hence the reference in the Felix Burke write up to Punk arriving! It has given thousands of miles of pleasure and looks like becoming a fixture in the Jones household. Other machines came along such as DI and D7 Bantams but they didn't stay long, one or both being sold to finance vital repairs to the Velo's engine.

On John Isaac's Good Neighbours Run of several years ago the Velo played up. A few miles from Penderyn top gear disappeared, sometime later first gear went the same way. What was left stayed there to the finish but to get there included riding up to Ystradfelte via that very steep climb from Heol Senni. Exciting stuff. I reckon a bit of clutch slipping took place. Whatever happened the Velo got to the finish.

Rob enjoyed organising with John Isaac the vintage bike show in the grounds of Cyfartha Park at a European Trials round a couple of years ago. He's a regular at Aberdare road races, marshalling on the course for the past 4 or 5 years.

For the future, when work at home allows there is more riding to be done and maybe build that spare engine and box into a Velo frame but as for Punk—he's definitely staying!

As Section Public Relations Officer listen out for him on Red Dragon and BBC Wales this year promoting the Vale of Glamorgan Run. He'll be contacting local press and doing whatever is required for maximum publicity for public awareness for the event.

FOR SALE/EXCHANGE/WANTED

Long standing member Tom Lafford has decided to sell his 1926 Round tank BSA. It's complete with all the right bits. If your interested then ring Tom on Barry 734751.

I rang up FTW Motorcycles the other day to ask where my 'sent for remagnetising' Sunbeam mag was. Answer in the post. And so it was arriving next morning. Chatting to the owner he asked if I wanted to buy a BSA. Well no says I but someone might down here. So I took details. 1950 BSA A7. Plunger sprung. 99% complete but in need of restoration. £400 ono. Tel 0742 336269

Foraging in a Barry scrapyard for Mini bits the other day the owner offered me a new set of cylinder holding down bolts (odd design) for the post war B series Beesa's. No use to me. Call at Neil Holmes Diswantlers, Lower Guturie Street, Barry. Or I can collect for you.

Ian Bone still wants names and addresses of helpful businesses providing services or parts for motorcycles, perhaps during restoration, maybe a service that helps to keep them on the road. I've told him of the grit blaster on Barry docks who knocked hell out of the rust on the frame, forks, guards etc of my Sunbeam and was very cheap. If you know of something like this then do let him know. He'll be collating all the information, putting them on one sheet and then it'll be issued with the newsletter. Tell him club night, out with the bikes or ring him on Cardiff 552563.

The South West Coast Run on May 8th will see me and Dianne there on the start line with the B.S. Organised by the Bristol Section it's an enjoyable event—ask Bill Phelps, he and Jean did it last year, the run that is! Pat Taylor's got regs, I've got regs so what about a South Wales contingent taking part?. Ring me on Barry 742119 if your keen.

For club night May 31st I propose a temporary change of venue. It goes like this. We all meet at the security gatehouse at Aberthaw Power Station for a guided tour of the site. Time yet to be decided but not too early in the evening. After the visit we all ride/drive off to a local pub with large enough lounge to continue meeting for the remainder of the evening. Being a positive type unless I hear otherwise I shall go ahead and make the arrangements. Further details, inc., a map will be published in the May 17th newsletter.

Bruce Grant
Chairman S. Wales Section VMCC

Late Ad. Wanted front fork and front wheel complete or parts thereof for late 30's Ariel. Contact Phil Vaughan-Williams of the West Wales Section.