



# Newsletter

September 2015

## **The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.**

Living in Northern climes compresses the main motorcycling season into quite a short window. The lack of anything resembling a Summer has made it even more noticeable this year, with many riders complaining that they only managed a fraction of their normal mileage. So I'm really pleased that as we approach the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness that there have been some excellent events in this end of the calendar.

## **Applecross Camping Weekend**

Always a good weekend and this year was no exception. The weather forecast was for high winds and heavy rain which clearly discouraged some. Despite the dire warnings, we had a glorious run over on Friday and were rewarded with one of the best panoramas of Skye and Raasay I have ever seen. The rain did come in later but not heavy enough to stop Euan from riding up after work, arriving in the bar after midnight having nursed a dragging clutch much of the way.

Of the usual carousing nothing more need be said, except to recommend both the Applecross Inn and the Walled Garden for excellent food and an entertaining evening.

By Sunday morning the skies had cleared allowing us to enjoy a dry, if busy, run home.

## **Begonia Rally**

The Flanders Branch Begonia Rally is something to look forward too. The high cost of ferry travel from the North can make it a very expensive weekend especially now that there is no service north of the border. The format of the Rally was different this year with the Branch hosting Peter Williams as a

special guest. Peter is promoting his companies limited production run of replica 1973 TT winning 'bike. Not to be confused with replicas of the factories JPN, these replicas are the real thing! With the full 'Monocoque' chassis, brand new Mick Hemmings motor and a Quaife gearbox these are a work of art.

Check out

<http://peterwilliamsmotorcycles.com> to read more and place your order.

Peter was interviewed on Saturday evening in the bar and the silence of the audience really demonstrated the level of regard he is held in.



*When is a replica the real thing?*

After the interview, the more "normal" Begonia activities ensued accompanied by live Rockabilly music.

I had scheduled the Begonia at the end of a holiday visiting the Pyrenees. That was a fantastic tour – breathtaking scenery, superb riding, great food, drink and friendly, helpful people. For the outward journey I had booked a ferry from Plymouth to Santander, but hadn't booked a return route. I would typically travel Amsterdam to Newcastle but being quoted over £300 one-way just knocked that right out of contention.

There had been a lot of delays at the Tunnel and also during the week at the Calais port, but in the end I gambled and booked a crossing on the tunnel on-line. Never having used the Tunnel before, and with all the stories in the news, I was a bit trepidant. In the end it couldn't have been more straightforward – I entered the booking number into the check-in, passed through security and got waved on to a waiting train almost two hours earlier than I expected! The ride was smooth and quiet – yes, there is no seating and the only facilities in the carriage are toilets, but for a half hour journey what more do you need? The only fault I could find was that after disembarking I still had almost 600 miles to home.

### **Joint Branches Borders Weekend**

Using the same venue as last year in Town Yetholm, near Kelso, this meeting brings together the Tay Valley, Edinburgh and Northumbria Branches. It is a well maintained site which reserved a camping space for us – not sure if the intention is to keep us together or to keep us away from the other members of the public. I had thought the site may have been busy as a stage of the Cycle Tour of Britain had finished in Kelso earlier in the week, but I think there was only one other camper on the site.

The weather on Saturday didn't encourage going for a run – last year John Powel had lead a circuit of some glorious countryside and interesting stopping points – so campers devised their own entertainment.

An enjoyable weekend in good company, a chance to meet potential new Branch members and a ride about on and old motorbike. Splendid!

### **September Events**

SCMCC Autumn Classic Gathering  
Sep 20, 2015 from 11:00  
The Four Seasons Hotel, St Fillans

### **October Events**

Peebles Autojumble  
Oct 4, 2015  
Drill Hall, Peebles

TVNOC Autumn meeting  
Oct 25, 2015  
Tullybanocher café, Comrie

### **For Sale**

No advertisements this month, but a word of thanks to those that expressed an interest in the 650ss I had advertised. The first caller bought it after seeing the 'photos, so here's hoping another Norton will be back on the road soon. The owner, a widowed lady, was delighted that the machine would be returning to her hometown and really appreciated the help and consideration she received from everyone she had dealt with in the club. What was that advert – "You meet the nicest people on a..."



*Sometimes riding and looking at the same time is too hard.*