



Newsletter

December 2013

If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

I think it safe to say that Winter has, indeed, come. We have had the usual nanny panic advice – “Don’t go out without your hat” – and the inevitable emergency scrabble when the electricity is off for more than a few hours. How did people survive before we had experts telling us how to stay warm indoors? Are there really people who can’t figure out that they can wear two jerseys at once?

Although I recently saw a kid walking along an Oban street wearing a tee shirt and a trapper hat with ear flaps, so perhaps some special advice is required. I was on the ‘bike so naturally had thermals, shirt, jersey, fleecy shirt, leathers and a lined oversuit on. Despite the bulk, Ann says she could see my shoulders going up and down laughing at the extremely cool fashion victim.

Talking about “waterproofs” has me building up to a rant, so I’m going to spare you that. Focus instead on the service and maintenance opportunities afforded by the dismal weather and enforced leisure period of the festive break. Even if you don’t get out for a ride, you need to be working on your Norton because the Spring will be here before you know it.

Possible success.

I dropped the Commando barrels into a machine shop and had some material milled off the bottom of the timing side block. A straightforward reassembly and I’m much happier with the fit. I think it may have been a neater job taking all the pad back rather than leaving the step, but Chris Oddling, the machinist, wanted to preserve as much of the finish as possible.

He restores pre-war bikes and is obviously more concerned about such things than me!



I’m following the usual re-torque procedure when fitting a composite gasket of re-tightening after initial start up, again after 50 and again after a few hundred miles. After the first re-tighten I had a day off work and went for a run round Newtonmore and Errochty Dam – always a favorite and so quiet in mid-December. There was oil on the timing chest at Fort William so I wiped it clean and nothing more appeared even after the blast up Drumochter. Fingers crossed I’ve got to the bottom of that.

I have also swapped the Boyer and coil for a new Pazon kit. Seems like good gear, easy to fit and more compact than the Boyer box.

Branch AGM

Just a bit of forward notice to remind you the Tay valley Branch AGM will be on the 20th February the Pitcairngreen Inn. Remember, this is your chance to voice what should be done, shouldn’t be done, should never have been done or must never be done again.

You might want to think about taking on a committee position and if you have any ideas for events large or small, let me know. Send any business to be added to the agenda to me please.

Enjoy the holidays and best wishes for the New Year
Next Meeting: December 19th