



# Newsletter

April 2014

## Man likes Norton shocker!

It's funny how thoughts creep up on you while you are riding. I don't know if it's something to do with the amount of concentration required, but it seems like a non-essential part of my brain gets free reign for a while and thoughts sort of leak into my consciousness. Imagine a pot of gently boiling mince where each slowly expanding bubble bursts with a plop and releases some random realisation without any apparent effort.

The most recent revelation is that I really enjoy riding the Commando. Now, I've been riding the Ducati recently which is the original and classic M900 and undoubtedly a conveyance of delight. So much so, that in '93 I traded a 750 Roadster for one and have never regretted it. The Monster is a bike that can make me smile from the moment I sit on it. But riding into work this morning on the Norton, one of those mince bubbles burst and what came out was "I'm really enjoying being on this bike". Despite its drips and smoke trail, despite its rattles and appetite for destruction, despite its marginal brakes and despite it's quaint handling, I still find the Commando such a comfortable, relaxing and satisfying thing to be on.

I'm going to suggest that part of what makes the Commando so enjoyable is that I mostly ride it on roads that suit the bike and the type of riding I enjoy. I then pondered as to which came first - do I pick the route that suit the bike or do I have the bike that suits the roads? The answer is, I don't care! Especially since I'm lucky enough to have a choice of bikes to suit the occasion. If I had to part with one of them, if I had to decide between owning the Commando *OR* the Mong, that would be tough choice indeed.



## Gazebo

I have taken delivery of an official Norton Owners Club gazebo for use at rallies and events. It was described as being the size of an oversized set of golf clubs and I imagined that it might have been possible to transport it on the bike. However, when the delivery driver brought it out the van on a pallet, that notion was squashed - the frame is about 5 feet tall and weighs about 25 kg! There are two other bags, one for the roof and one for the sides. Once it's been assembled the roof can be left attached when folding it up, but it's still a hefty lump. Should be a useful shelter for the registration at a rally or to protect a band from the burning heat of the sun.

## Events

Just a reminder that the scheduled weekend away at Invergarry has been cancelled. Hope everyone attending "Bikes in the Park" had a good time and I'm looking forward to hearing about it.

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Next Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014