



# Newsletter

May 2015

## **International Rally and other drivels** *From Gino Rondelli*

First an update on the International Rally, we are sitting with around 150 people pre booked which is great and means we should at least break even (which is the plan) Looking forward to it now, meeting up with everybody.

We only need some decent weather now, not sure how many of you have been out lately but I for one am thoroughly fed up with the cold and rain. I've been at a few rallies lately and must admit my patience with the weather is wearing thin, if the summer doesn't start soon I'll have to plan a journey to a hot place!

The Nortons are going well and even ran without a hiccup on the run down from Inveraray last weekend, at times a boat would have been a better bet than a motorcycle. Really enjoying it but as always every run shows up some adjustments that need made, some need looked at right away (like the plug in Fi's Commando unscrewing itself, obviously mechanic error) and some I can live with, like the slightly sticky clutch on the Mk3, can't be bothered pulling the primary off again just yet!!

Finally, I put my name to a letter which will be in Roadholder soon, a group of us feel its time we changed the way we vote in the EC and club officers, in this modern day allowing the 80 people out of 4000 odd member decide the committee isn't probably the most democratic, if nothing else it'll stir the club up a bit and encourage debate hopefully.

Apologies in advance for not making the meeting this week but hopefully see you all next month and hopefully more of you at the Applecross meeting in

Regards

Gino

## **...the chilling of the evening**

As you probably know Ann and I had extended leave in January and February and enjoyed a superb trip round the South island of New Zealand. It's a fabulous place and a great way of extending the riding season. When we arrived back, spring was already in the air and I was delighted to get back on the Norton (and the Ducati). Somehow though, we seem to have gone backward!

Its possibly an age thing, but I'm finding that I'm getting really weary of being cold and wet seemingly every time I go out on the 'bike. Two weekends ago, snow on the way back from Strontian. A week ago lashing rain on coming home from Skye. Last weekend I got so wet on Friday coming home from work, I didn't even venture back out on the 'bike. The bank holiday weekend I knocked off early on Friday and got out in quite bright sunshine. I didn't get far before the constant traffic stream was irritating me, and was cold enough to need to stop and put on my waterproofs. Possibly just as well, because another ten miles or so, the rain came on and at that point, I could say that I wasn't really enjoying the ride. If you aren't enjoying it, why suffer it? With that notion, I turned off the main road and up Glen Douglas and suddenly everything was better – there was no traffic (it is single track), the rain stopped and the sun even came out as I reached the top of the hill. It really did perk me up.

As the roads get more and more busy during the day, I find that a short run out after dinner can be a real pleasure. It is inevitably colder and in the gloaming you need to keep a watch out for deer, but having the road to yourself is a joy.

Almost every time I go out, I think “Why don’t I do this more often?” I can only think that the answer is laziness – it can just seem like too much effort for the short time spent riding. Getting dressed up and preparing the ‘bike takes the same amount of time to go out for an hour as it does to be out all day. You have to ask yourself, of course, when does quantity become quality? Is a shorter, more enjoyable ride better than a longer one which has a mixture of good and bad bits in it?

One night last week I did just that and dragged the Commando out about 8:00pm. The sun was getting low, but the roads dry and very quiet. Not wanting to go too far, I weaved my way to Ford on Loch Awe and then over the forest road to Auchindrain on the A83. It’s mostly a well graded surface with only a few muddy or rocky sections and not another soul to be seen. I wouldn’t want to try going fast on it – I’ll leave that to Steve McQueen types - but the views at either end of the track are well worth the effort. And that sensation of a hush descending on you when you stop and kill the engine to look out over the hills is just magical.

## June Events

Inverness Classic Motorcycle Show  
Jun 14, 2015  
Fairways Leisure, Castleheather,  
Inverness

Jimmie Guthrie Memorial Run Jun  
21, 2015  
The Green, Denholm, Hawick

Bob McIntyre Classic Races  
Jun 20, 2015 to Jun 21, 2015  
East Fortune Race Circuit

NOC National Rally  
Jun 26, 2015 to Jun 28, 2015  
Riverside Camping, Seiont Nurseries,  
Pontrug, Caernarfon, LL55 2BB

SCMCC Summer Run  
Jun 28, 2015 from 10:00  
Red House Hotel, Coupar Angus

