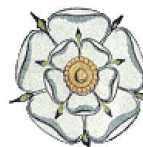




Yorkshire Branch



Branch Meeting Minutes – 12th November 2014

Venue – The Marsh, Pudsey.

1. Chairman (Barrie Blayney)

Barrie opened the meeting at 8pm and welcomed all 20 branch members in attendance.

2. Secretary (Andy Lodge)

Apologies for absence – Martin Holdsworth, Harry Day and Ian Jayne.

Andy attended the branch secretaries meeting on Sunday 12th October, this was held at the Donington factory where Stuart Garner had kindly provided a 2nd floor room for the NOC to use. Twenty two people attended the meeting (branch secretaries and NOC EC members).

Discussions took place about: the role of the Branch Secretary, Branch constitution and membership, The branch as a public face to the public, Branch grants, Donington – how best to use the facility provided, The web site, Rallies, use of the Norton logo, Branch subscriptions, Machine inspections (Branch Secretaries are now going to be asked to verify details of machines in their areas).

The 2015 International Rally will be held in the Republic of Ireland (Wicklow Rugby Club – 33 miles from the centre of Dublin), dates are 29th May to 1st June.

The 2015 Norton Rally will be held at the Seiont Nurseries, Caernarfon, Wales will run from 26th to 28th June (the organisers are trying to move activities away from the Sunday where everybody has to leave half way through the day).

The 2016 International Rally will be in Italy (Rimini I think!), the organisers are looking at the possibility of organising wagon transport to take 30 bikes to avoid having to ride 900 miles each way. Initial enquiries reveal that the cost for this would be approximately £120 for each bike return from Dover; however, another start point could be from the North of England, possibly Manchester. People would then need to arrange flights / train travel to get to the destination. More details will follow as the plans are firmed up.

Stuart Garner dropped in and said hello to the group and to ensure the facilities provided were OK. Stuart went on to give a status update for Norton Motorcycles and told the group about a number of very positive developments, which included more investment in the business and orders from Australia for 50 bikes per month for the next 5-years.

Embarrassing confession - Andy attended the meeting on his 961 Commando, the following E-mail was circulated to people who attended the branch secretary's meeting to explain why he had a problem with the bike after the meeting:

Following the Branch Secretaries meeting at the Norton Donington factory yesterday (12th October), some of you witnessed a nice shiny 961 with smoke pouring out of the exhausts and the bike refusing to run properly, this obviously looked bad and didn't appear to reflect well on Norton Motorcycles, here's where the embarrassing confession comes in, the bike was perfect unfortunately the numpty riding it had put diesel into the tank 90 miles previously!)

At the time I didn't know what I'd done and thought the ECU had lost its marbles, Stuart Garner came to my assistance, he called one of his young engineers (sorry I didn't get his name) who drove to the works and spent an hour or two checking everything over, finally it became clear what I'd done and they were able to drain the tank, refuel the bike, put some new plugs in (Stuart stopped throughout this process to assist) so I could get on my way. Even when it became clear what I'd done both were very understanding (I'm not sure I would have been as I couldn't believe it).

A few lessons learnt:

Shell garages sell V Power fuel that is diesel as well as petrol!

The 961 engine will run for at least 90 miles on diesel (a 50/50 mix of diesel and petrol ended up in the tank) without apparently doing any damage (don't try this as it's really embarrassing having to confess).

Diesel makes the engine smoke much worse than a 2-stroke.

Things that were just reaffirmed:

The guys at Norton Motorcycles really look after their customers (even the numpty's). Stuart wouldn't even let me pay for the time spent fixing the bike or the new spark plugs that were fitted. I'm sure no other bike manufacturer I know of would be able to respond in this manner.

On the bright side:

I got to chat to Stuart and his young engineer, both proper nice guys with a true passion for what they do.

Andy Lodge

NOC Yorkshire Branch Secretary

As a result of this embarrassing confession, Andy was rightly awarded the Chairman's Numpy Gnome award at the meeting! (Picture on the web-site).

A branch order has been placed for 20 NOC 2015 Calendars; individual orders were placed at the meeting to enable the branch to benefit from the reduced price of £6.60 per calendar (the normal single purchase price being £10). Members paid their money on the night to reserve a calendar, calendars were ordered by members not attending on the night (Ian Jayne, John Preston (2-off), Martin Holdsworth and Dale Middlehurst). The calendars will be taken to the December meeting for distribution. Note the order has been submitted so anybody else who wants to purchase a calendar will now have to order as per the advert in Roadholder and pay the full price. This year the Norfolk branch are organising the calendar production and distribution.

3. Ride Outs 2014 (Andy Lodge)

The 2014 programme has been completed, ride outs will recommence in April 2015, as always volunteers are requested to come forward to organise a run between April and September 2015.

4. Treasurers report (Peter Driver)

The branch has a balance of £829.83 in the bank account at the present time

5. Branch 10th Anniversary (2015)

No further progress has been made with this subject.

6. Any Other Business (Barrie Blayney)

Dave Roberts informed the members that the Sowerby Bridge Classic Bike show will again be run in 2015; the date has now been set for Sunday 24th May 2015. The club is welcome to take their NOC shelter and put on a display.

Dave Bell also informed members about the Hebden Bridge Vintage weekend that will occur over the weekend of 1st and 2nd August 2015, again the club should be able to take the NOC shelter and put on a display.

Both the events are organised by the local Rotary Clubs with proceeds going to charity.

The meeting was formally closed and sandwiches were provided by the staff at the Marsh.

Andy Lodge – Yorkshire Branch Secretary

Don't forget all details of the branch activities can be found on our web-site -
<http://yorkshire.branches.nortonownersclub.org>

Date of next meeting 10th December 2014