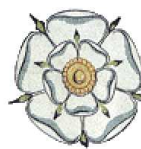




Yorkshire Branch



Branch Meeting Minutes – 14th October 2015

Venue – The Marsh, Pudsey.

1. Chairman (Barrie Blayney)

Barrie opened the meeting at 8.00pm and welcomed all 16 attendees.

2. Secretary (Andy Lodge)

Apologies for absence – Martin Holdsworth, Ian Barnes, Bob Nabozny, Ian Jayne, Dave Bell and Gary Standley.

- Andy explained to the group that he had now parted company with his 961 Sport Commando after 20 months and nearly 8,000 miles of ownership, he has taken a 1952 plunger framed Norton 500cc ES2 in part exchange for the bike. His 961 had been reliable with the only serious problem being linked to the starter motor (appeared to jam once and refused to engage for 15 minutes), this was replaced by Norton under warranty without any issue. Andy stated that his major reason for letting the bike go was comfort over longer distances, vibration through the footrests at over 4,000 rpm being the main issue. Andy went on to praise the support and customer service element of the Norton Motorcycles operation.
- Barrie Blayney has also reported that his Electra is running well, Barrie and Peter Holland met up in the past month to compare their Electra's. Photo's of the pair of Electra's have been posted on the branch web-site, noting that it's a rare sight to see 2 together.
- International Rally 2016 (Rimini, Italy) extract from NOC web-site :-
For participants travelling from the UK to the International Rally next May, the site is a long way - around 860 miles from the Channel ports taking a direct route across Northern France and the Alps. Some people may wish to ship their bike out and ride back or vice-versa or even ship both ways. If there is sufficient interest, the Norton Owners Club will assist with arranging transport for motorcycles from the UK to the rally and back, offering two possibilities:-

Eurobiketrans

The NOC has negotiated transport with Eurobiketrans from its depot in Manchester to Ancona, about 75 miles down the coast from Rimini. After the rally, the return journey will be via the same route. Luggage attached to the motorcycle (in panniers, or secured in another way) will also be transported. If a sufficient number of bikes is being transported, there may be space to include an extra luggage container for helmets, clothing and other equipment.

Outward

Bikes must be delivered to the Manchester depot on either Wednesday 18th May or Thursday 19th May, between 10:00 and 14:00. They will be packed up to ship on the 20th. They will then be available for collection on Wednesday 25th May from Ancona. The NOC will provide transport from the rally site to Ancona the following day, Thursday 26th (the first official day of the rally). There will be a small charge for this.

Return

Bikes must be delivered to the Ancona depot between Monday 30th May and Thursday 2nd June, preferably all together. They will be packed up to ship on the 3rd. They will then be available for collection on Thursday 9th June or Friday 10th June from Manchester. Again, the NOC will provide transport at cost from the rally site to Ancona. Motorcycles can be shipped outbound only, return only or both ways which still offers the potential for 8 days of riding in Italy. The cost estimate for a one way trip is £350 and for both ways £495, both inclusive of VAT. With some ferry, fuel and accommodation costs then taken out of the equation, it is not as expensive as it might seem. This service requires a minimum of 10 motorcycles in either direction in order to run. Participants may arrange alternative dates directly with Eurobiketrans, shipping bikes between Manchester and Prato, near Florence, which is about 2½ hours riding to the rally.

Courier

The NOC has an offer from a private courier who specialises in moving motorcycles into Europe using a modified van and enclosed trailer setup. This service operates door-to-door includes shipping of riding gear and other items. The estimates for this are £630 return and £400 one-way, depending on the UK pick-up point and the number of bikes being moved.

This service requires a minimum of 8 motorcycles in either direction in order to run.

For both shipping options, the NOC requires only 'expressions of interest' before payment is required. If there are too few positive responses, then shipping of bikes will not go ahead. Full payment will be needed by November 30th 2015 and again, if less than the minimum number of bookings is not achieved for any of the journeys then that leg will be cancelled and monies refunded

- Branch Secretaries meeting – this was originally provisionally scheduled for the 11th October however it didn't take place, another proposed date has been put forward for Saturday 31st October but this is also uncertain and Andy cannot attend as he's away on holiday. If the meeting goes ahead we will try to organise a representative from the branch to attend.
- Ian Barnes is thinking about riding down to the National Motorcycle Museum open day on Saturday 31st October (weather permitting), if anybody is interested in joining him please contact Ian directly.

3. Ride Outs 2015 (Andy Lodge)

The planned branch ride out on Saturday 12th September had to be cancelled on the day due to persistent rain fall at the time of the meet and the forecasted poor ongoing weather throughout the day. Andy contacted all the 'regulars' that had indicated they might attend to make sure nobody had a wasted and very wet journey! Unfortunately Gary Standley had ridden down from North Yorkshire earlier in the morning on his 850 Commando in the hope of attending his first ride out.

The ride out was rescheduled and took place on Saturday 26th September in near ideal biking conditions, the route went into the Derbyshire Peak District via Holme Moss, Glossop and Ladybower stopping in Castleton for lunch. 5 bikes (7 people) attended the run which covered approximately 85 miles.

Andy went on to explain that he would like to try organise an additional ride out around the Dales, but due to other weekend commitments this could be as late as 21st / 22nd November!

4. Treasurers report (Peter Driver)

The branch has a balance of £864.52 in the bank account at the present time, with a cheque for £39.75 to be cashed which covered the balance of the cost of free drinks issued (to celebrate the branch's 10th anniversary) at the September meeting.

5. Any Other Business (Barrie Blayney)

Barrie reminded the assembled members that next month we will be voting for the branch 'Member of the Year' award, Peter Holland was last years recipient. Barrie reminded members about the branch rules that say the branch Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer could not be nominated for the award (Barrie, Andy and Peter).

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

Andy Lodge – NOC 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 11th November