

VMCC Notts and Derby February Newsletter



Sue Mahl took the Club Member of the Year Award for her hard work towards a number of events. The icing on the cake was this lovely bouquet.

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What's on in March.

4th Duke William.

5th Natter Night

14th Sat Morning Coffee Run. 10am Griffins Head, Papplewick. Graham 07745 888938

21st Sat Tiddlers Meet, 15bhp 12 noon Tissington. Chris 07970 675524

21st Sat Morning Coffee Run. 10am Ripley Market Place. Graham 07745 888938

22nd Sunday Lunch Meet. 12 Noon onwards. Monvash.

Section News.

Vacant Post: Deputy Secretary.

I am repeating this plea in the light of my latest Prostate Cancer diagnosis. I won't be shuffling off this mortal coil yet but there may be periods when I suffer fatigue from the therapy and would appreciate some assistance. This would be with a view of taking over the role when I feel that I am ready to hand it over completely, having done the job for around ten years.

Please note, the Newsletter is something I do off my own bat and would not necessarily have to be continued.

The first thing to remember is that you are not being asked to do the Secretary's duties, just be ready to step in if something happens to me.

The Secretary is the main route of communication between Allen House and the Section. As most communication is by the internet I find that a laptop or pc is essential, although an ipad would probably cope. I find that I cannot log in to edit the website on my Samsung phone.

My main duties are submitting Section Notes and run calendar details to Allen House, keeping records of our AGM and communicating with current and new members by email.

Over the years it has become more based on the internet and if I was no longer available, nobody else knows what to do – **yet.**

It takes on average about an hour of my time per week, with more on one or two occasions such as submitting all our runs to HQ, which is probably the largest job, and preparing for the AGM.

I have prepared a training program which would involve four sessions with all guidance written down in documents to be referred to if you need to take over.

I took on the role when I retired; I got (and still get) so much enjoyment from the runs and the company that I felt I wanted to give something back. I find the job very rewarding and I get to know the members a little better too.

If this description arouses your interest but you are not quite sure that you could do it, talk to me and find out a little more. If you then find it's not for you, then you have lost nothing. (07442 168932)

Bruce.

Your Committee.



I had a question from a member who rides regularly on our runs, asking who are the committee members for our section.

Although the roles are mentioned in the minutes of the AGM every year (as they have to be) I realise that not everyone reads them.

In case anyone else is curious, this led me to create a new page in our website detailing the roles and the members who hold them and what each job entails.

You can find this page here: <https://nottsandderby.vbcc.net/Your-Committee> although it might not be quite finished when you visit.

Reunited through the Newsletter.

Last month's newsletter contained an article about a Suzuki A100 restoration. The author's name was familiar to one reader and he asked me to check if it was the same person he knew 30 years ago. It was and they are now back in touch with one another.

Sunday Lunch Meet, 18th January.

During the winter, we don't schedule normal runs in case the weather forces us to cancel. This could involve a lot of planning time being wasted. Instead, we have Lunch Meets, and if the weather's fine, you can get a ride anyway. Otherwise, the car is fine.

This week's meeting at the National Stone Centre, was in damp, and in places, foggy weather and only ten or so turned up. Nevertheless, the atmosphere was great and we had a good catch up.

Rides start again next month.



Annual Section Dinner and Prizegiving, Hogs Head, 24th January.

Around 40 of us enjoyed our meal, the raffle, the quiz and the awards presentation. It was good to catch up with old and new pals and have a good old chat. We all agreed that we can't wait for the better weather.

The whole evening was very much enjoyed and we all extend our thanks to Sue for her organisation.

We had a special award to honorary members John and Pat Salisbury who made a massive contribution to running the section and special events over many decades. Sue Mahl was awarded Club Member of the Year for her tireless efforts organising not only the meal and the Christmas party, but also major events like the annual trips to Wales and Hawes.

Graham Bower won the Organiser of the Year Award for the great efforts he puts in organising the runs calendar and ensuring that there are leaders for them all.

Mike Ransom received the Barrie Sherras Award for outstanding runs contribution for his fabulous Ridges Runs. Now almost 90, he can still outride many of us younger ones!



Sue Mahl (left) receives the Club Member of the Year trophy from our Chair, Kate



Graham Bower receives the Organiser of the Year Award.



Mike Ransom and the Barrie Sherras Award.



John and Pat Salisbury receive their special award. A lovely engraved glass plaque.



Much deliberation over the quiz, which had some intriguing questions, both motorcycle-related and general knowledge.

Air Ambulance Collections.



On every club run, Graham Franks (left) rattles his tin and each rider donates £1 to the Air Ambulance. (As the photo shows, some are less willing. Well, Mick IS the Treasurer.)

Graham raised £500 on last year's runs and at the meal, he handed over the cheque to our Chair, Kate, who will take it to the Air Ambulance shop in Belper. A great effort by Graham and thanks to all who donated.

LUNCH MEET, FAMILY TREE, 8TH FEBRUARY.

Funny how our winter posts seem to centre around food. However, it's always a social occasion and often the weather is too inclement to encourage riding, although four bikes were present.

The rides begin again next month but for the present we had a great get-together at Whatstandwell.



Darley Moor Sports Centre.

Darley Motor Motor Cycle Road Racing Club Ltd has operated Darley Moor Sports Centre under a lease from the landlords since it was formed. After 61 years the present landlords have decided to put the site on the market. The Club would like to explain that this decision will not affect the activities of the Club. The Club wish to confirm that Darley Moor Motor Cycle Road Racing Club, Darley Moor Sports Centre and The Chequered Flag Cafe will continue to operate for the foreseeable future as normal under the terms of the current lease.

We will issue a further statement as more information becomes available.

Don Ryder
Club Chairman

Dave Degens.

Dave Degens, of Triton fame, passed away on 19th January.

In the early 1960s, having developed his skills to keep his Triton faster than the bikes of his mates, he purchased Dresda Autos, a scooter repair shop. He drew on his experience with tuning Triumph engines to help Dresda become a leading aftermarket manufacturer. At one point, the shop had a dozen full-time technicians.

Dave's bikes raced on British circuits against the likes of Rex Butcher, Dave Croxford and even Mike Hailwood.



David Degens

28 July 1939 - 19 January 2026

His home-brewed motorcycles could compete with the world's best, proving that cafe racers were more than just back yard specials.

In 1965, he and Rex Butcher took one of his Tritons to the Barcelona 24-hour Endurance Race in Spain, beating the factory machines by a comfortable margin. After a second win, Honda hired Dave to help with their racing team's frame development.

In later years, Featherbeds were getting scarce, so he produced the Dresda frame and later moved on to Honda and Suzuki engines, but Tritons were always in the workshop and Dave was still building them as recently as last year.



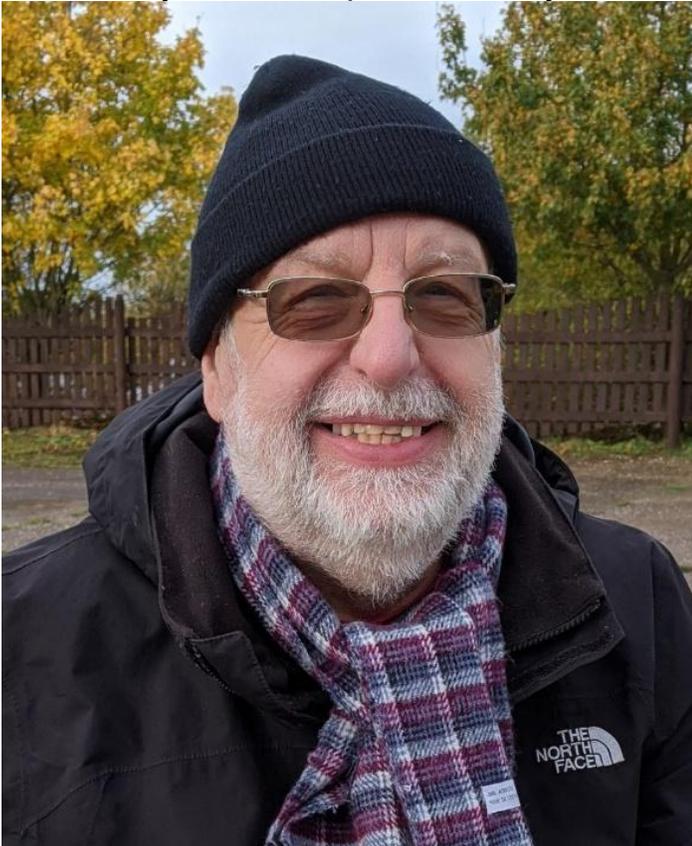
(left) Dave working on a Triumph engine.



(right) Dave at Barcelona, 1965.

Les Emery.

Les Emery of Norvil, passed away on Saturday 24th January.



Always a lover of Nortons, he built and tuned Norton & Norvil Racers for over 45 years, modifying many components.

In the 1970s, Les was one of the first people to use belt drives, to improve gearbox reliability.

In the 1980's he re-wrote the Haynes Norton Dominator workshop manual at their request and his extensive alterations can still be seen in the latest editions of this manual.

His early involvement with the Norton Owners Club, came through the founding of Fair Spares, moving on to found Norvil.



It's well known that not everyone got on well with him but he would man a daily technical help line every evening; it could be frustrating to be told "You will have to ring back and talk to Les between 4 and 5," but his knowledge of Nortons was unmatched and you knew you would get the best advice possible.

His other passion was heritage railways; he was very involved with Chasewater Railway Museum and he owned a railway carriage and a diesel locomotive.

Mystery Photo.



Who is the Kawasaki rider?

Last Month's Answer.



Last month's sidecar pilot was, of course, Steve Abbott, pictured here with passenger Scott Whiteside. Interestingly, I taught Physics to Steve's daughter, Lauren.

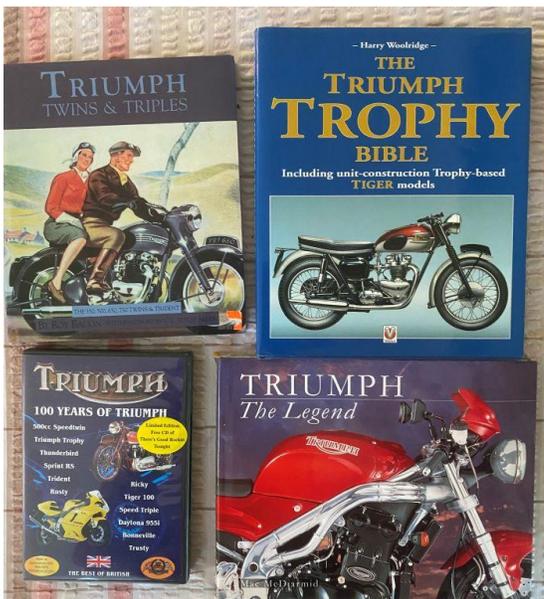
When she started the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, I teased her and said she couldn't attend unless I got a signed photo of her dad. I got one the following week!

FOR SALE:

Magazines and Books.

I have been clearing out my stacks of Motorcycle Magazines. I have however saved a small number of the ones from 50's 60's and early 70's. I wondered if anyone would be interested in having for free them before I bin these too?

(Trophy Bible now sold.)



I also have some hard back Triumph pictorial and technical books I no longer need. If someone is interested in these, I will consider their offers in the low £'s. The titles are in the photograph.

hornsby_jm@yahoo.co.uk

Single Motorcycle Trailer.



Belonged to a N&D member who passed away.

£150.00 ono.

Please contact Graham Bower, who is acting on the widow's behalf for details.

07745888938 or

graham.bower@hotmail.co.uk



CONTACT US:

Let me have any stories from the past, recent or distant, amusing or otherwise, concerning motorcycles, or any technical information, rebuild stories, photos or news of events by replying to this email.

Let us know what you've been up to by emailing me at:

vmccnottsandderby@gmail.com

Use the same address and format if you have any items or motorcycles for sale. Don't forget to include a phone number and a price.