

**YOUR
COMMITTEE**

Chairman

Mick Hunter
Tel: 01483 725704

Secretary

Ian Verrinder
Tel: 01252 318524
Ian.Verrinder@virgin.net

Treasurer

Chris Fry
01932 227548

Events/Newsletter

Jonathan Holt
01635 866304
07802 459 242
jonathan.holt@lineone.net



www.noc-tv.co.uk

**NEXT BRANCH MEETING
19th November 2002**

AGM 2002

From the Secretary..

The AGM of the Thames Valley Branch of the Norton Owners Club is to be held at 8pm on Monday 25th November at the Brownlow Hall, Warfield. This is the normal venue and is next to the Plough. More details to follow later.

TRACK DAY 2002

A Contribution from Richard Mason..

"A marshal's view

Arrive at 8 o'clock sharp, weather bright but a bit nippy, what's the order of the day?

First job before I've even signed on – out on the track (with the Gaffer) taking cement and a broom to cover up the oil spilt the previous day by film crews and car people. Back to the paddock area to sign on, get my radio and breakfast ticket then off to the burger van for a juicy bacon roll and a cup of hot coffee. By now most bikes were getting ready for the first session so all marshal's to their posts – lucky me I've got post 3, the chicane at the end of the long right hander. I've been teamed up with a

guy called Mac (from the Triumph owners club) so we set up our position to await the events to come.

As usual the first lap of the first sessions were lead by the pace car (the Gaffer in his Porsche). He told me he would bring them round at about 50 mph but I'm sure he was going a lot faster than that by session four, (the chicane on 2 wheels was quite impressive and gave the bikers a false sense of security).

During the first few sessions we had quite a laugh – if there were 70 riders we had 70 different lines coming into and through the chicane – but eventually everybody sorted themselves out,well almost everybody. We had people running out of brakes, running out of petrol and some running out of road in the most spectacular fashion. I don't know who it was, but the guy who took the short cut down the kerb, across the gravel, up the kerb, up into the air, down on the front wheel, down on his n**s and kept going deserves all the praise I can give, mind you I don't think he came round again next lap.

There were some down sides, one guy didn't make the bend and ended up with a dislocated collar bone and during a later session we had to red flag everybody because of a collision or something just outside our visual area. One of the riders we stopped asked me what was happening, I explained that there were a couple of riders laying on the track with possible debris and

oil affecting riding conditions and we were waiting for the ambulance, he retorted "does that mean we won't get all our f***ing laps in, I paid good money for this". Well you can't please everybody.

I think it was a very good day, well organised, well attended and I look forward to being there again next year.

Richard Mason (the guy on the Virago)."

If I can just add the thanks of all who took part to the organisers, scrutineers, administrators, marshals who – once again – made the day possible. This was one of the more eventful track days held but all contingency and safety plans put it place went smoothly.

For those who haven't heard the story about a late entrant this is a classic example of the difference between those who help and those who don't!

<<At 09.30 on Saturday morning a chap had telephoned Claire Verrinder and announced that he was a member of the Norton Owners Club. He said that he had a free day and would like to have a ride at the track day. "Is it too late to get a ride?" he said! Clare pointed out that the entry had

been full for some time and that a ride was out of the question. She then added that as he was evidently free maybe he would like to pop along and do a bit of marshalling. At this point he rapidly lost interest and terminated the call, giving Clare the impression that he felt hard done by!>>

NEWSLETTER

With my impending emigration to Oz (yes I know it has been pending for some time – blame the solicitors) I sincerely hope this will be my last newsletter – if it isn't then the solicitor selling my house is going to get a good kicking!!

Seriously - although the newsletter can be hard work it is also good fun picking up snippets of info and gossip and repeating it in print.

Occasional contributions like the one from Richard in this issue make life a lot easier - please make the life of the next person in the hot seat easier by following Richards example.

Hope you have enjoyed the newsletters – signing off.

Jonothan Holt



EVENTS/DIARY/ NOTABLE DATES

Date	Event Details
November	
Tue 19th	Clubnight. Ian Verrinder
Mon 25 th	Annual General Meeting, Brownlow Hall
December	
Tue 17th	Clubnight. Ian Verrinder