

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman

Mick Hunter
Tel: 01483 725704

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Chris Fry
01932 227548

Newsletter

Rob Latham
01628 825202
robert.latham@btinternet.com

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

19th October 2004



www.noc-tv.co.uk

The Overhead Camshaft Norton – Part 4



IT'S ALL OVER (ALMOST) The following year, 1962, was to be the last full year for the production Manx with the most obvious change being the front brake now a 7 inch diameter twin leading shoe, dual drum component with a surface area a little over 71 square inches!! Some riders found that the old 8-inch twin-leading shoe was a bit lacking, particularly when coming down the mountain on the l.o.M. The only disadvantage was the increase in the unsprung weight. A larger capacity oil pump and a cut-away at the rear of the petrol tank for the 500 were additional improvements.

In July, the news broke that Norton's were leaving Bracebridge Street. AMC were not doing too well and production was to be transferred to Woolwich in London. Doug Hele decided to go and left in 1962. Manx production stopped during August 1962 but restarted again in November. 42 were produced between November 1962 and January 1963. Some of these were unsold and were moved down to Woolwich where they were stored as complete machines and gradually sold off during the year. With AMC fully in charge the Manx was now finished and spares gradually dwindled away.

During 1966 Colin Seeley purchased what remained of the spares and tools and which eventually moved on to John Tickle in 1969. Tickle went on to produce and build entire machines incorporating a few of his own detail modifications, and these were redesignated the Manx T5. He was subsequently to manufacture his own frame, similar to that of the Norton, but much lighter. This in addition to manufacturing new engines and spares. Unfortunately Tickle's business slumped in the early 1970's and Unity Equipe bought the Manx rights and provided the spares service.

Very recently Andy Molnar has purchased the rights to the Manx name and some original tools and spares from Unity Equipe. The Manx is now in complete production again thanks to enthusiasts like Andy Molnar, the Summerfield brothers and Bernie Allen. Bikes and spares are in a better state than they have been for many years.

EPILOGUE

Today, many Manx Norton's can still be seen battling round the circuits of the world and of course the Isle of Man. Many clubs now cater for the Manx on these racing circuits and the Lansdowne Cup (organized and run by Richard Thirkell and named after James Lansdowne Norton) is an race series especially for pre-1963 Grand Prix Motorcycles and always gathers a good turnout of camshaft Norton's. There is now a trend for part or complete replicas to be raced, with originals being more cosseted although some do still appear on the circuits to be raced.

Quite a few Inters remain on the road with riders still fighting the losing battle to keep oil inside the cambox and not outside. On the road is where they should be, just at the manufacturer intended!

It has not been possible to list every alteration in detail on the Over-head Camshaft Norton's but finally Number 105048 are you out there somewhere, for you are the last Bracebridge Street Manx.



This photo of Barry's has been modified to remove an unsightly blue gate that obscured the full glory of number 79. In making the alterations I expect the eagle eyed aficionados will doubtless spot an error or two in my interpretation of some of the detail. And yes some bits of blue do remain – but I do have a life to lead as well!!

©Barry Stickland

2004 Events

Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar			
Date	Event	Contact	Status
October			
Tues 19 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers*	Ian Verrinder	Confirmed
November			
Tues 19 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers*	Ian Verrinder	Confirmed
December			
Tues 19 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers*	Ian Verrinder	Confirmed
January 2005			
Tues 18 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers	Ian Verrinder	
February			
Tues 15 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers	Ian Verrinder	
March			
Tues 15 th	Thames Valley NOC clubnight – Cricketers	Ian Verrinder	

- For the uninitiated The Cricketers is at Hayley Green, Near Bracknell