

YOUR COMMITTEE

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NEXT BRANCH MEETING

15th May 2012



www.thamesvalley.nortonownersclub.org

The Pete Allen Memorial Run Sunday 22nd April

There was a good turnout of bikes old and new at Arborfield to await the start of the Memorial Run. Pete was a member of the organisation for Advanced Motorcyclists in Reading and a Norton owner. He was overtaken by cancer a year ago and the run was organised by the family to celebrate his life. Arrivals were welcomed by Lyn, Pete's wife.

The run was intended to be at a leisurely pace and was certainly suitable for first timers looking for an introduction.

The run was well organised with faster bikes travelling ahead to indicate the route at road junctions. With Pete's son Robert riding Pete's 1953 Norton Dommie Model 7 at the front and with backmarker Lyn Allen on a Norton Dominator 88 the marshalls knew exactly when to ride on. After an entertaining run through the Hampshire countryside the first stop was Loomie's at West Meon, a popular biking haunt, for coffee.



Loomie's 'car' park at the coffee stop

After coffee one set of riders set off towards Petersfield and then to Alresford. I mistakenly followed a group of six bikes that I thought were heading off on the proper route but they were riding straight to Alresford. We parked and set about more coffee and eats from the West Country Buffet at Alresford Station before boarding the reserved carriage on the 13.43 for a 20 mile steam hauled trip to Alton and back. The ride home from Alresford for me was a very wet one. What was forecast as one of the days showers turned out to be fairly heavy and persistent rain so I was a little damp when I got back. However it had been an enjoyable day and the Commando mostly behaved itself apart from an occasional stutter which I am inclined to think was some dirt in the fuel. We shall see. Thanks to Lyn and family for organising a splendid event. It would be great to do it again next year – Didcot or the Aylesbury Railway Centre perhaps.

Skittles match with Solent Branch

Tony reports "It was a very close match between Solent Branch and Thames Valley but Solent eventually won by 151 points to 150 (and yes we did have a recount), I think there were 9 TV members plus a further 9 associates, I would like to make a special mention of the Verinder clan as the three youngest not only played well but acted as pin clearers and ball returners for the entire match. We were also ably assisted by a number of members from the Waterlooville Motorcycle club.

I hope we can have a rematch in the not too distant future and restore the trophy to it's rightful place !"

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Events

A few more up and coming events are listed below.

May 19th

The Southern Classic Bike Show and giant autojumble opens 10am at Kempton Park racecourse near Sunbury. See www.egp-enterprises.co.uk or phone 01344 883961.

May 22nd

An array of classic motorcycles will be one of the attractions at a Charity Jazz Dance at the Preston Cross Hotel, Little Bookham in Surrey. Old bikes are very welcome to join the static display. Music by the Sussex Jazz Kings. The prebook only ticket price of £10 will go to H4H, with refreshments including a 'special jazz menu'. Starts 1pm. If you have a suitable old bike and would enjoy an afternoon of musical merriment, please contact ken.rawlinson@googlemail.com.

June 1st - 4th

You don't want to miss the Norton Owners Club National Rally which takes place at Brook Farm Dairy, Weeley (no not that sort! - Ed) in Essex. Features of the weekend include Norton Day at Castle park, Colchester on Sunday 3rd June, free camping, rides out, trophies, live music, licensed bar and all day catering. Details and bookings form Brian Harriss, phone number 01376 512549 or 07771 907038 or see the club website (www.nortonownersclub.org).

June 17th

The Banbury Run takes place at Gaydon Heritage Centre in Warwickshire. Admission £7. See www.banbury-run.co.uk June 23rd

The Berkshire Branch of the Triumph Owners Motorcycle Club host an Old Motorcycle Gathering from 11am to 5pm. Open to all marques up to 1972 which are ridden in to Burghfield Community Sports Association, James's Lane, Burghfield, Reading, RG30 3RS. Free entry. See www.berkshireromcc.org.uk. Donations welcome to Air Ambulance.

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Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar

Date	Event	Contact	Status
May			
17 th	Thames Valley Branch Club Night – Location The Swan, Three Mile Cross	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
June			
1 st - 4 th	Norton Owners Club National Rally at Brook Farm Dairy, Weeley, Essex	Brian Harriss	Confirmed
3 rd	Norton Day at Castle Park Colchester; access from 7.30, display bikes by 10.00	Brian Harriss	Confirmed
28 th	Thames Valley Branch Club Night – Location The Swan, Three Mile Cross	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
July			
17 th	Thames Valley Branch Club Night – Location The Swan, Three Mile Cross	Tony Ripley	Confirmed