

YOUR COMMITTEE

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NEXT BRANCH MEETING

20th October 2009



www.thamesvalley.nortonownersclub.org

NOC and the Branches

As Thames Valley Branch Secretary Tony Ripley intends to go to the meeting outlined below, if there is any issue you want to add then please let Tony know. He is working closely on this with Kev Feltoe and both are committed to improving the branch role in the club.

“At the AGM this year the Executive Committee took on board the view of the meeting to put more money into Branches. We want to do more than that and better involve Branches in the life of the club, and that includes the decision making.

A few of us from the EC want to sit down with as many Branch Secretaries as possible and work up plans to improve things. We have booked a meeting for Sunday 13 December 2009 and would like Branch Secretaries to be there. The topics for the agenda will be:

- 1) Find ways to strengthen branches
- 2) Clarify their duties and benefits in the Constitution
- 3) Improve the allocation of central funds to branch events including branch equipment
- 4) Develop branch events such as camping and rallies
- 5) Improve the handling of joint/family members
- 6) Review the introduction of the new member database and the branch interaction
- 7) Discuss the formation of a 'high mileage section'

The invitation is to the Secretary from each Branch, just one representative. So do let Tony know as soon as possible of any thoughts you may have on the issue.

NOC Jubilee Passports

Had an email from Kev Feltoe, to ask members to send in their passports if they managed to get any stamps in them. If they include an SAE they will get them back again.

Please ensure you indicate which Branch you are in when you send the passports as this information was omitted from the book.

Commandos in Classic Bike

Ron Fromant's 850 Commando has been pitched against a 750 model in the October issue of *Classic Bike*. The front cover prominently pictures Ron's machine and the magazine includes a comprehensive article with revealing performance comparison charts. These show that bigger engines don't necessarily mean better performance though I am more than happy with my 850!

Forthcoming events

October 24th

The EGP Autojumble opens 10am at Kempton Park racecourse near Sunbury. Huge bike jumble with around 250 outdoor and indoor stalls, five minutes from J1 off the M3. Admission £5. See www.egp-enterprises.co.uk or phone 01344 883961.

October 25th

The South of England Classic Bike Show returns to the South of England Showground at Ardingly near Gatwick. Excellent array of bikes displayed under-cover in a super venue. Range of awards for various classes plus all entrants go home with a commemorative souvenir. Enter your classic early, because places are limited, or ride along on the day to enjoy the bikes, club stands, autojumble, trade stalls and refreshments. See www.elk-promotions.co.uk or call 01797 344277. Meeting sponsored by RealClassic magazine with judging duties performed by Frank Westworth. RealClassic magazine subscribers should bring their blue membership cards along to claim a quid off the admission price on the gate.

November 1st

The Malvern RealClassic Bike Show opens 10am to 3pm at the Three Counties Showground at Malvern (J7/8 off the M5 or J1 off M50). Club stands, private entries, all kinds of classics, indoor trade stands and outdoor jumble. Phone 01484 452002 or see www.classicshows.org. There will be a display of NORTON CHALLENGERS as part of the end-of-season get-together for all those who've been bagging Nortons this summer. To join the Norton Challenge you just need any old motorcycle and the nous to find somewhere called 'Norton'. What better than to find somewhere called Norton on the eponymous bike! RealClassic say all are very welcome to join the fray!



November 13th to 15th

The Classic Motor Show at the NEC, Birmingham, includes the dedicated CLASSIC BIKES hall with displays from many major clubs plus private entries, displays from the National M/C Museum, concours competition and more. Admission to the bike show also includes the full motor show with over 1000 vintage four-wheelers plus the MPH performance car show. Entries are invited to join the bike show (which provides

parking pass and admission for the weekend, so worthwhile). Call 0121 767 2772 to enter your bike or see www.classicbikesatclassicmotor.com. Advance tickets are much cheaper so prebook recommended, either online or call 0871 230 1088. Don't forget to allow for the standard car parking charge at the NEC.

27th November - 6th December

Norton is back returning to the Carole Nash International Motorcycle & Scooter Show in Birmingham at the N.E.C., the city in which Norton was founded back in 1898. The Norton stand, located in Hall 1, will showcase the new Norton Commando 961, and the cafe racer styled Commando. News is that the limited edition 961SE is sold out.



Also on the stand, the Norton NRV588 Race bike, as ridden by Michael Dunlop at this year's Isle of Man TT will be on display. Norton CEO, Stuart Garner recently set a world speed record on the Norton rotary NRV at the Bonneville Salt Flats in the USA, logging over 180mph.

Editor's Note: if you attend any of these or similar events how about sending in a few words and/ or photos for the newsletter? I still need your inputs.

Technical bit

The following condensed article appears on the Northern California Norton Owners website – note prices are in dollars. There are a number of technical papers there and if these are of interest I can pass on more in future editions.

Alan's Wrench

Condensed from the INOA Norton News #143 January 24, 2006.

'I did a series of brake tests over 2000-2005, including six types of brake pads, and my findings are summarized below. Several of the pads I tested are no longer available, so the current choices are limited. Of these, the best are the Ferodo Platinum pads, now stocked by several suppliers of Norton parts. When I originally tested these, they were only available from Michael Morse (Vintage Brake), who had them machined

from Honda pad sets, and I found them to be a superior part. Since then, Mike was able to persuade Ferodo (now part of Federal Mogul) to produce them for the Norton-Lockheed brake.

The EBC pads are also very good, and have held up well in 5000+ miles of extended testing. One list member commented that he had fit problems with these, but I had none.

The SBS pads are supplied as "Genuine Norton Parts" available from many parts suppliers, and are also good, but are slightly less effective than the other two. None of these pads caused accelerated wear or visible grooving of the rotor. As with all brake relining, a bedding-in period is needed for proper system performance, and this can be helped by sanding and thorough cleaning of the disk surface when new pads are installed.

Reducing the size of the master cylinder to 13 mm by sleeving or substitution is an essential upgrade, no matter which pads you use.

Commando Disc Brake Pads – summary 1-15-2006

The following reflects testing performed during 2000-2005 by Alan Goldwater

Opinions are those of the author – your results may vary. Prices are approximate.'

Mfg	Part #	Description	Vendor	Price
EBC	FA27	Best initial bite and good fade resistance	Vintage Brake, Fair Spares & many others	\$29
Ferodo	2420	For racing only, poor performance when cold	No longer available	N/A
Ferodo	FDB88P	Platinum Series, good bite cold and excellent fade resistance	Old Britts, Brit. Cycle Supply & others	\$37
NHC	06-6005T	Taiwan made. Poor performance hot or cold	Domiracer, EMGO?	\$15
SBS	505HF	Good initial bite and fade resistance. Lasted 10k miles!	Supplied as "Genuine Norton Parts" 06-6005	\$25
UNK?	Sintered ceramic	Good initial bite, no fading but max. braking limited when hot.	Vintage Brake	\$20

2009 Events

Thames Valley Branch NOC - Events Calendar

Date	Event	Contact	Status
October			
20 th	Thames Valley Club Night at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
November			
17 th	Thames Valley Club Night at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed
27 th -6 th	International Motorcycle & Scooter Show at the N.E.C, Birmingham		
December			
17 th	Thames Valley Club Night at The Cricketers Hayley Green	Tony Ripley	Confirmed