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2008

ISSUE 13

HISTORIC POLICE MOTORCYCLE GROUP NEWSLETTER

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David's Page

HONDA RACING, LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE - VISIT AUGUST 2007.



I was looking forward to the HONDA RACING visit it was going to be a 'BIG' highlight of my season. A good number attended, eleven enthusiasts arrived to the normal good summer weather of Rain/Wind and most arrived by car (I do not blame them). Thanks very much to those that attended, I feel sure you enjoyed the day.

Honda man Chris Kingsland welcomed all of the team and explained the function of the Honda Racing Unit, racing Honda motorcycles through the British Super Bike teams H M PLANT and ANIMAL.COM under the rules and regulations for their classes. Riders Ryuichi Kiyonari and Jonathon Rea and Leon Camier the known names this season.

We started with visiting the Animal.com garage, on to the engine rebuild room, the large HGV truck vehicles used to move all the equipment for HM Plant and Animal.com, staff, marques' and riders (not a cheap item). All very well equipped engineering room to make special parts/items for making the standard machine lighter and repair broken items. All high TEC. The engineers were very informative and helpful to any questions thrown at them (well done) The Dyno room (what an eye opener for an old slow rider), the Honda on the Dyno was being prepared for racing in the European Racing rounds.

Then my biggest treat of the visit the HM Plant section the current No1 and No2 British Super Bike machines being assembled for the next racing at Cadwell Park, Lincs. We were able to watch every part being placed on the machines and tightened to the correct amount, very skilled engineers and very impressive (they took the race and the championship). Then we were in the Trophy Room and the display of past machines as used by the likes of M Hailwood, C Edwards, A Slight to name just a few. Well worth the visit.

Thanks to HONDA RACING Chris Kingsland and Neil Tuxworth especially.



David Bragg



Current Operational Motorcycles



BMW R1200RTP - Metropolitan Police, London



BMW R1150RTP- Carabinieri, Rome, Italy



Honda GL1800 - Birmingham PD, USA



Honda ST1300 - Copenhagen Police



Suzuki 125 - Shanghai Police, China



Yamaha FJR1300 - Finland

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A Collection of some of the retired motorcycles in our group



1976 BMW R60/6 City of London



1978 BMW R80RT Surrey Police



1990 BMW K75RT Kent Constabulary



1989 K100RT Hampshire Constabulary



1994 Kawasaki KZ1000P Los Angeles Police Dept.



1988 K100 Special Escort Group
Metropolitan Police

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A Collection of some of the retired motorcycles in our group



1965 Honda CB450P Japanese Police



1970 CB450K5 Dubai Police, Saudi Arabia



1982 Honda CB200 Hampshire Constabulary



1957 Triumph Speed Twin Kent Constabulary



1972 Norton Interpol Lancashire Constabulary



1974 Triumph T100P Metropolitan Police

Chatham Dockyard – April 2007



The Naval Dockyards at Chatham once again hosted their annual Transport Show. We were invited over the Easter weekend by Bill Fowler the organiser and Kent Police Museum to display our bikes along with other emergency vehicles, both new and old. John Endicott, the Police Museum Curator and his colleagues worked hard all day with many visitors admiring their police collection. The range of bikes as ever was wonderful with some new additions. Most admired was probably the 1957 Triumph ex Kent Police with the first radio, a BCC unit ever fitted to a bike. We also had a BMW K75RT ex Kent police ridden and owned by one of their officers. The German bright green BMW R1100RTs' caused quite a stir with the riders resplendent in their green uniforms. Alongside the American bikes, their riders uniforms, a very colourful collection. Once again we were asked to lead the parade of motorcycles around the dockyard with blue lights blazing and sirens wailing, much to the joy of the crowds. The weather was sunshine both days. A super show.



Southern Bike Show - May 2007

Once again, we were invited by Eric Patterson to display our collection of ex police motorcycles at the Southern Bike Show, Kempton Park. On display were a BSA Fleetstar, Norton Commando, Triumph TRW, Suzuki GN250 and LE Velocette, together with our picture display boards, and new item, police helmet corner. Guess what? We won another prize, 3rd place. Special thanks go to David Bragg, Nick Cater, Dick Atwell, Hans Taylor, Robert Scalzo, Bob Pearce and Geoff Reid.



Hampshire Constabulary Families Day - June 2007



Hampshire Constabulary Families Day - June 2007



On Saturday 2nd June, Hampshire Police held their annual families open day at their HQ in Netley. The weather was glorious sunshine, and what a fantastic turnout of retired police motorcycles. A colourful line up of both small and large capacity models, gleaming in the sunshine. I think there was something for everyone to enjoy. On the car front, the French Gendarmerie made their presence with one of their old police cars opposite, complete with a 'air hostess' uniformed mannequin. In the evening, we had the now usual excellent barbeque provided by Steve and his wife back at the accommodation blocks. The event is scheduled for this year, please see the listings on the back page for details.

Beaulieu Motorcycle World - July 2007



The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu invited us for the weekend to join in with the club stands at the Motorcycle World show. Setting up was Friday afternoon and upon arrival, the organisers gave us as a large patch to pitch our tents up outside the main show tents. At this point it had been raining heavily for some time and the ground was sodden, but we managed to erect two large tents together with a smaller one for our tea area, very important. The London Motorcycle museum lent us the cutaway Triumph Thunderbird together with another black Thunderbird and Geoff's BSA. We also had Nick's Triumph TRW and Suzuki GN250, Tim's not so clean Kawasaki KZ1000 and David's immaculately clean Kawasaki KZ1000. Honda also supplied their Honda ST1300 as a modern example. Saturday beckoned and it was still raining, although our spirits were still high. Quite a few more bikes turned up to add to our display including young Marcus from RAF Northolt on their marked Honda ST1100 bomb disposal bike.

The rain did stop for a while in the morning, and we managed to do some circuits of the arena and make lot's of noise the sirens, much to the pleasure of the assembled crowds. Saturday afternoon hammered down with rain and caused a bit of amusement in our tent with visitors. Like Ground Force, we had created our own water feature in the shape of a waterfall between the two big tents. Despite the appalling weather, there were lot's of people still coming to visit our tent.

Sunday morning beckoned and it was still raining. The organisers held a meeting to discuss whether to carry on with the show or abandon it. We all agreed, in true English spirit to carry on with the show. Again there were many visitors and we had on display some 13 bikes. Around 3pm, we started to pack up early, I think the rain and mud as finally got to us in the end. However, the show is great fun, and despite all the problems, it was hugely enjoyable. The event is on for 2008.

Thanks to the National Motor Museum, Honda UK, HGB Motorcycles, London Motorcycle Museum and to our group members.



Beaulieu Motorcycle World - July 2007



Festival of a Thousand Bikes - July 2007



The Festival of a Thousand Bikes beckoned and on the Friday, we made our way to Mallory Park race track. We now have the use of a 7.5 ton lorry supplied by our sponsor HGB Motorcycles, so we had loaded the BMW K100 Special Escort bike, the K100RT Hampshire Police bike, the Honda ST1300 from Honda and the Carabinieri Moto Guzzi. Nick brought up his Triumph TRW and Suzuki GS250, Tim his not so clean (see Beulieu page) Kawasaki KZ1000. Tent was erected and tea area arranged. Once again, our picture boards, full of photographs old and new proved immensely popular with the general public.

The weekend was the usual mix rain and sunshine, with more rain on Sunday. However, it did not dampen spirits, and the track had its usual club parades, machines of all ages and sizes running full pelt, trying to out perform each other. Annie from Morton's and the VMCC looked after us again in her usual style. Sunday was the day of Champions with the old and new racers performing around the track. One special bike we discovered has to be the 1966 Triumph Thunderbird (pictures opposite) we saw in the paddock area. It originally started life as a normal police model complete with all of the usual equipment including leg shield and panniers. It was converted by Triumph to race spec and ran in the TT races in 1967.

Again, another pleasant weekend despite the weather. The event is planned for this year, so please see the events list on the back page.

Festival of a Thousand Bikes - July 2007



Police Day at the Ace Café - August 2007



In August 2007, the Ace Café had its first Police Day. It was an idea to revive memories of the past about the police, motorists and motorcyclists from the past glory days of the Ace Café and the North Circular by having on display both old police cars and motorcycles. On a perfectly beautiful sunny Saturday, under the organisation of PC-UK, some nine bikes and around sixteen ex police cars turned up and the owners displayed them proudly in front of the Ace Café façade. Think it raised quite a few eyebrows with this colourful array of ex police vehicles. Pictures were taken by visitors and questions answered. A good day was had by all, and a second Police Day is planned for this year. Please see the events list on the back page.



Thames Valley Police Open Day - August 2007



Thames Valley Police opened the doors to their training centre in Sulhamstead for its annual open day. Again the weather was kind to us. We were put outside the large white house in the pictures which is also home to the force museum. Cars and bikes mixed up together and made for an interesting display. Behind the main building, there were lots of police displays, including the all important refreshment tent. A very relaxed and fun day was had by all. Thanks to the Chief Constable and her staff for inviting us.

Cheshire Police Open Day - September 2007



Over the weekend of 8th-9th September 2007, we were invited to attend the 150th Anniversary of Cheshire Police at their headquarters in Winsford. They had requested we bring along some older models and we managed to borrow a 1968 Metropolitan Police Triumph Thunderbird and a 1969 BSA Fleetstar from Gwynedd Constabulary, together with two Suzuki GN250s', a BMW K100 Special Escort bike, a Honda ST1300 from Honda and my Carabinieri Moto Guzzi. We laid out a display outside the main HQ entrance. Saturday was a private open day for serving and retired officers and their families. The Chief Constable and his staff made us very welcome. Tea was provided in a large tent on the front lawn. It always nice to hear stories from the retired officers when they look at our picture boards and reflect on their years in the saddle. Saturday afternoon, we went for a ride into the Pennines. What fantastic roads, just like being in the alps. Even the sun was shining. We caused a bit of a stir at a Tesco petrol station when we filled up, the sight of three unusual ex-police motorcycles made quite a few people take notice.

The Sunday was open day for the general public and we moved down to the traffic garage area where the rest of the emergency services were setting up displays. We were joined by a Harley Davidson Road King, a Kawasaki KZ1000P and a BMW R80RT. so we had a good display. Perhaps the highlight was when the retired officer who used to ride the BSA back in 1969, PC 107 Joseph Heddwyn Jones turned up to be reunited with his old 'job' bike. He spent most of the day telling people about his exploits on the bike whilst a serving officer. A busy day was had by all, the sun still shone and we had lot's of enquiries from interested visitors. My thanks go to the Chief Constable and his staff for making us welcome and we look forward to next years event.



Cheshire Police Open Day - September 2007



Retired Police Motorcycle - Triumph Thunderbird



The Police specification Triumph Thunderbird, originally based on the civilian single carb 650, was itself based on the legendary Speed Twin designed by the legendary Edward Turner. It was commonly known as The 'Saint' and between the early 1950's and the mid 1970's was a familiar sight on British roads. Police bikes in the UK were not always white. Many forces used black as stock colours, with the Metropolitan Police (London) running some in red. Equipment varied from force to force. However most of the early models were fitted with leg shields and radio systems. Later machines were fitted with half or full fairings with blue lights built in, panniers, two tone horns and police equipment which has become the norm. Triumph were for many years the main motorcycle supplier to the police in England, as well as to the rest of the world.



Engine: four stroke, twin cylinder
Capacity: 649cc
Maximum Power: 34bhp
Transmission: 4 speed, chain final
Wheelbase: 1500mm
Weight: 385lb (175kg)
Speed: 106mph (171kph)

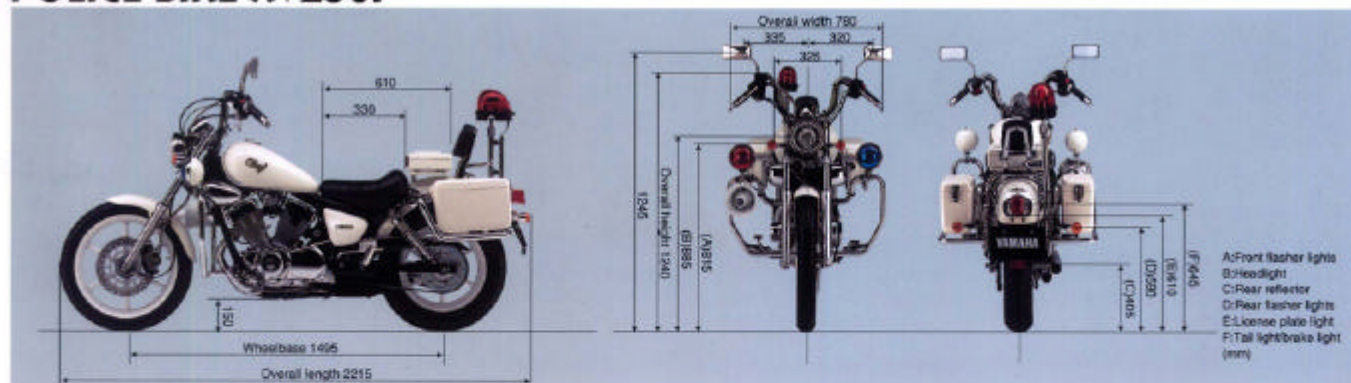
FEATURES AND EQUIPMENT

Leg shields, crash bars,
solo seat, panniers,
optional blue halogen warning lights,
electric two tone horns,
fire extinguisher, radio system

Current Police Motorcycle - Yamaha XV250P



POLICE BIKE XV250P



SPECIFICATIONS

※These values are for a machine outfitted with full police equipment.

ENGINE

Type	Air-cooled 4-stroke SOHC 2-valve
Displacement	248cc
Bore and stroke	49.0mm × 66.0mm
Compression ratio	10.0 : 1
Max. power(DIN)	23.0ps(3000 rpm)
Max. torque(DIN)	2.2kg-m(6000 rpm)
Lubrication system	Lubricated, wet sump
Carburetor	BDS26 × 1
Ignition	Full transistor ignition
Starter system	Electric
Transmission	Constant mesh 5-speed

CHASSIS

Overall length	2,215mm
Overall width	780mm
Overall height	1,140mm
Seat height	695mm
Wheelbase	1,495mm
Min. ground clearance	150mm
Dry weight	166kg
Fuel tank capacity	9.5 liters
Oil capacity	1.8 liters
Suspension : front	Telescopic fork
rear	Swing arm
Brake : front	Single disk
rear	Drum(Leading trailing)
Tire : front	3.00-18 47P
rear	130/90-15 M/C 66F

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT



Attachment of the optional windshield greatly reduces wind pressure and protects the policeman from fatigue in long hours of riding duty.

This motorcycle is manufactured by Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd. while the police equipment/accessories are designed and manufactured by the Yamaha Motor's affiliate company Yamaha Engineering Corporation.

Events - 2008

23rd/24th March - Medway Festival of Transport

Kent Constabulary Museum, Chatham Dockyard, Kent.
Static show. Contact Bill Fowler via HPMG

26th/27th April - 25th International Classic Bike Show

Stafford County Showground, Staffordshire
Static show. Contact Gerry Scott 07808177719
e-mail: gerry.scott@btinternet.com

2nd/3rd/4th May - BMAD Paignton Bike Festival

Paignton seafront, Devon.
We are having a stand with the Bikesafe section of Devon & Cornwall Police.
If you want to display your bike, can you contact Paul H 01895 630442 e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

5th May - Brooklands Emergency Services 'May Day'

Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey.
Contact the organisers office 01932 857381
www.brooklandsmuseum.com

17th May - Essex Police Open Day

Chelmsford HQ, Essex. Static show.
Contact Tony Bailey or Becky Lathford
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

24th May - Southern Bike Show

Kempton Park Race Course, Surrey.
Static bike show. We are having a stand again.
Contact e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

7th June - Hampshire Constabulary Families Day

Police HQ, Netley, Hampshire. Static show.
Contact Steve Woodward via HPMG

e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

14th/15th June - Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Show

Markeaton Park, Derby. Static show.
Contact the web site for further details:
www.derbyfireshow.co.uk

5th July - RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day

RNAS, Yeovilton, Somerset. Static show.
Contact the organisers office 0870 800 4030
or download a form from www.yeoviltonairday.co.uk

5th/6th July - Motorcycle World Show

Beaulieu Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire
We are having a large stand. Can you let me know if you are coming. Contact Paul H 01895 630442
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

5th/6th July - 999 Emergency Services Display

Western lawns. Eastbourne, Sussex. Static show.
Contact Ff D. Stoneham, 01323 488095
Fire Station, Whitley Road, Eastbourne BN22 8LA
e-mail: thestoneham@btinternet.com

12th/13th July - Festival of a Thousand Bikes

Mallory Park, Leicestershire.
Static show. Contact David Bragg via HPMG e-mail

13th July - Dorset Police Blue Light Day

Dorset Police Headquarters, Winfrith,
Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 8DZ
Contact Steve Woodward (PCUK) via
E-mail: steve@policecaruk.com

20th July - National Law Ride

National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire.
Run in honour of fallen Officers organised by the Blue Knights and Staffordshire Police. Bikes only event.
Contact Geoff Martin (Blue Knights)
e-mail: geoffrey671@btinternet.com

27th July - Durham Police Bike Wise

Police HQ, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TT
Static show and events.
Contact Bikesafe organiser Sgt Bob Brown 0191 3752136
E-mail: durham.police@bikesafe.co.uk

2nd August - Police Day at the Ace Café

North Circular, London. Static show.
Contact Steve Woodward via HPMG
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

3rd August - Emergency Vehicles Day

Crich Tramway Village, Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 5DP
Contact the organisers office 01773 854321
e-mail: enquiry@tramway.co.uk

9th August - Thames Valley Police Open Day

Sulhamstead Training Centre, Reading, Berkshire.
Contact Mark Droy e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

10th August - White Dove Transport Show

Cricket Club, Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire. Static show.
Contact John Turner via HPMG
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

16th August - Capel Classic Vehicle Show

Capel Recreation Ground, Capel, Surrey RH5 5LD
Static show. Contact Andrew Forsyth
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

7th September - Wiltshire Emergency Services Show

Hullavington Airfield, Wiltshire. Static show.
David Bragg e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk

21st September - Cheshire Police Open Day

Police HQ, Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2UA
Static show. If you want to display your motorcycle, can you contact David Crowther 07899 901458
e-mail: davidjcrowther@hotmail.com

18th/19th October - Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show

Stafford County Showground, Staffordshire.
If you would like to exhibit your motorcycle, can you let us know. Contact Gerry Scott 07808177719
e-mail: gerry.scott@btinternet.com

If you have any more events or shows that might be of interest, can you send details to HPMG
e-mail: policebike@hotmail.co.uk