



THE BUSH NEWS



LEOMINSTER CLASSIC MOTOR CYCLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2015



Seen at Prescott bike festival - 5 litres of beautiful engineering, hand start!!

All Change at the “TOP”

After a period of relative stability with the members of the committee, this has now changed with the following changes effective now

After many years as Chairman Terry Bass has stepped down and Mike “Bigfoot” Davies has agreed to take on this vital role at least until the AGM, more if we are extra nice to him

Vernon Parrat our treasurer has reluctantly stepped down as he is due to leave the area soon, Terry Bass has now assumed the role of Treasurer.

Will Morgan has also decided to step down as Newsletter editor and I didn't duck fast enough so looks like you are getting a short fat bald and grumpy new editor namely me, Dave Robinson

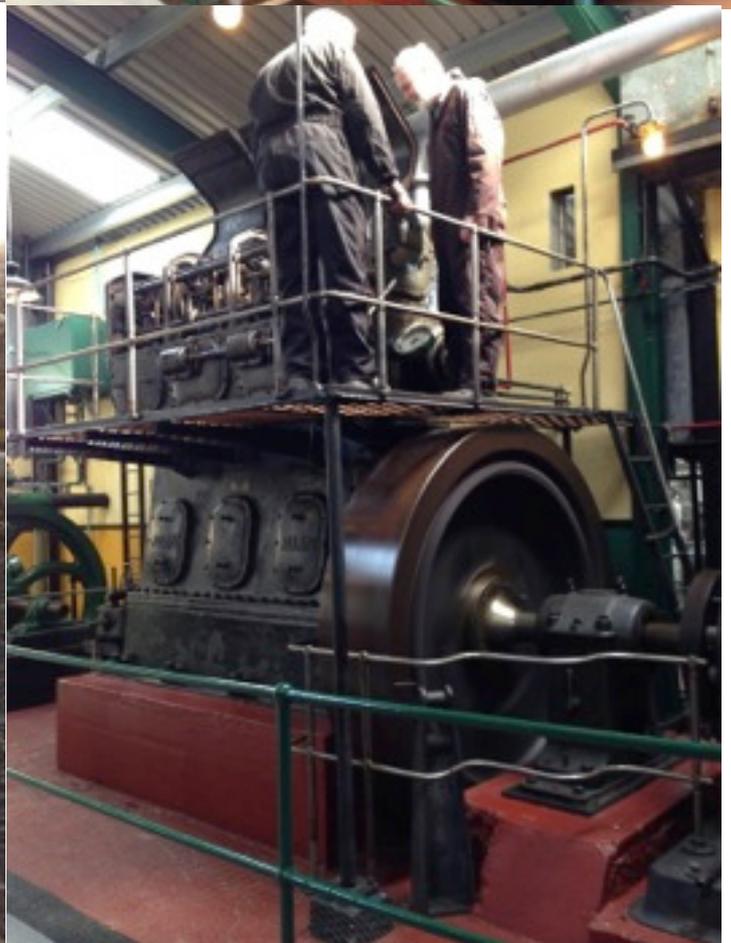
In case you are thinking that we all had a falling out on the committee no such luck, just the natural progression of life and change.

Now please help me to help you by supplying any relevant stories and pictures. If you can, send them via email that would be great; send to editor.lmcc@yahoo.co.uk

If not then hand them to me at club night or on the weekend runs.

Annual Easter visit to Internal Fire Museum - Tanygroes

For the last few years Pauline and I (your new Editor) have visited the Internal Fire museum near Newcastle Emlyn, I spent many happy years as a child visiting my grandmother here so the area has a lot of space in my heart, so being the romantic soul I am I drag my long suffering lovely wife to look at big engines! We do stay on a lovely site nearby and walk on the beach as well. If you like industrial history, engines and noise then this place is a must, the campsite is a bit special as well, Nice bike - what is it?? No prizes but spot it at club night.



Sidecar outfit good, bad, ugly or just fun?

This story begins more than 30 years ago in Birmingham at Moseley road car auctions on a Tuesday night. I sat with my friend looking at cars to buy to restore and sell, that night nothing worth a look came through, sipping my styrene cup of tea and thinking of a pint on the way home a Jawa Cz 350 with velorex sidecar came through, don't see them very often I thought...anyway nobody was bidding and the auctioneer was asking for 50 quid, my hand shot up and well I bought it, without even looking at it first.

All paid up and time to ride it home, I never made it out of the car park, it shook its head so violently that I thought bugger that and left it there and went to the pub.

Next day a friend who knew about these things came back and rode it home, said it was a sweet outfit and to practice in the car park. in those days I didn't have a car so after getting used to its ways I used it for shopping, winter riding and camping trips.

Forward 30 years or so and the annual depression sets in around November, bikes put away for the winter and a more grumpy version of me emerges.

After dinner at the table with a glass of wine (before I gave up) Pea and I planned the winter months activities and I moaned that I hated winter because I couldn't ride my bike.

(I know you can but of late it never feels comfortable on the roads around here) so the conversation turned to what we could do to improve my mood and I said a sidecar would be the answer, so get one she said and maybe that will stop the grumps.

So a lot of research began, chats with other owners, sidecar manufacturers, maybe I could use the Matchless (brakes are marginal at best two up so that was discounted).

Really wanted British, favorite was a modern Bonneville as they are said to make good tugs. The cost was rising as more info was added, nothing that was worth the money came up, they are still unusual and rare so the choice is limited.

Enter Gumtree one lunch time and a very pretty Watsonian Monza with a new Honda Nc700x, way over my budget but very interesting. I sent a polite email saying that it would be a perfect but way over my budget and good luck with the sale. The bike was in Inverness so couldn't pop over and have a look.

Over the course of the next week emails passed back and forward and the full story came out, the owner had suffered a terrible injury and lost the use of his right arm and couldn't balance anymore so he commissioned this to be built, which took 8 months, when he tried to ride he found the conversion to left throttle and brake too hard and at the time he was ill again so it only did 17 miles. He passed away mid June 2014.

The widow became disheartened as the dealers were hounding her and she questioned me on the phone over my intentions for the sidecar, so told her the story and after a further delay of a week she rang and asked my how much I could afford to pay, told her and waited for the loud exhale, instead she said ok its yours on the the condition we sent her updates every so often.

I then had to arrange to get it back, I really wanted to ride it back (Dave Peake wanted to come along as well) but in the end the weather, distance and left hand throttle made the decision to courier it back, money transferred and then wait(I know transferring money without seeing is a bad idea)

It arrived 4 days late due to bad weather exactly as described with all receipts, books and info(didn't panic at all) and the conversion back to right throttle and brake completed.

So part two is for all the doubters and naysayers!

Firstly let me have a wee rant, it is not a bike that doesn't lean, or even a trike or a poor man's car substitute, it is a sidecar outfit.

Let me explain a little about the set up, it is a Honda NC700x but with the dual clutch transmission, which in effect makes it automatic with manual changes via buttons on the left bars, the sidecar is a Watsonian Monza single seat, with a boot and tonneau cover plus a full rain hood, alloy wheel in black.

So on to the riding for those that have never tried an outfit. Forget how to ride a bike, or drive a car or a trike this is a totally new way to enjoy the thrill of the roads

So firstly left and right hand corners are approached differently, the road surface although not as critical as on a solo plays a big part as does the camber of the road.

Coming up to a left hander the speed you approach must be lower than your max corner speed as you are going to accelerate into the corner to drive the bike wheel round the sidecar, don't even think about braking as you will go straight on into the oncoming lane.

Right hand bends are a little easier but again wrong to a solo rider, you approach the corner with excess speed, which depending on the severity of the corner you scrub off with brakes or just shut the throttle and turn in, if you push on hard the bike wheel tries to lift which when you add power again makes the tail of the bike lively.



The nature of the gear changes on this bike mean you can just keep the throttle pinned open and the bike will not weave as you change gear, nice feature.

Anything else to worry about, well right hand junctions that have a rise up to main road are interesting, you need to pull out with a twist of power, back off turn right then back on the power, coz if you don't you go straight on!!

Can you have fun, well in the bad weather we had a ball, sliding out of roundabouts, power sliding away from junctions, riding in all weathers, attracting a lot of attention, from the "I used to have one of those!"

Is it better than a solo, in a word NO, would it ever take its place, not until my knees no longer allow it, but I have discovered a whole new experience that is so different and requires so many new skills that I find it fun, rewarding and above all else it has banished the winter blues, and to those other comments that we will be holding up progress on club runs, don't think so.

Last word, despite the fact you can ride in weathers safely you still need to clean the beast. *(Dave Robinson).*

BIGFOOT'S RAMBLINGS:

As most of you know by now there has been a few changes at the top table, our Vernon is off on a new adventure. We will miss his words of wisdom at our committee meetings. So good luck and thanks for all you have done for us, enjoy yourself. So young Terry Bass is moving to the treasurer's job after 5½ years as chairman a big thank you Terry for all your hard work over the years; and now for the bad news you have got me as your Chairman, aren't you lucky. I will stand until the AGM and then if the club is happy for me to stay on and I am happy to do so I will stay for a 3 year term and then stand down. After 5½ years Will has also retired as editor, a big thanks for all you have done for us, so Dave Robinson has taken over the Bush News. With all this shuffling of chairs it is easy to forget that the 2015 season has kicked off with Steve Hackett's "B" road bash, a very enjoyable morning even if the weather did its best to spoil it. Then off to Winstanstown show, a cool ride up on the Ariel then the sun came out and a nice day started. There must have been about 30 members on site, I really like this show, come and go as you please, lots of yacking, loads of interesting bikes and tea at a £1 a mug loverly. Let's hope 2015 turns out as good as 2014 did
(*Bigfoot*).

NEWS SNIPPETS

Welcome Welcome New Members: Ann Evans, Richard Mackley, Peter & Jacqueline Dutton

Clubnight Raffle

Prizes Donated by: Will & Karen; Phil Ball; Frank & Rosemary; Clive Gillanders; Old Rockers; Steve Keith; George Vaughan; Chris Brewer; and Alan Kiley
Money raised £53.00
Raffle Babe: Lyn Wilshaw

The Leominster Ludlow Run has been confirmed 10th May

Kington Show 15th & 16th August

Skittles Match at Malvern Motorcycle Club 31st July (Friday)

Interesting event - There is an Open Classic Car Event "Summer Solstice" on Saturday 20th June in aid of St Richards Hospice at Shelsley Walsh. WR6 6RP

Top Gear Trivia

Bristol-born Top Gear star James May is selling eight of his motorcycles at auction. The most valuable of Mr May's eight bikes – a 2010 Yamaha SR400 Grievous Angel – is set to fetch around £10,000 at the auction at Bonhams in Stafford on Saturday, April 26. The other seven bikes, mostly 1970s models, are expected to sell for around £15,000 in total. Mr May, 52, who was born in Bristol on January 16, 1963, said: "Just because I'm unemployed now doesn't mean I have to get rid of everything. I was going to sell the bikes anyway." Mr May's Top Gear colleague Richard Hammond, 45, is selling four of his motorbikes at the same auction and they are expected to fetch between £27,500 and £36,500. Ben Walker, Bonhams International Head of Motorcycles, said: "James and Richard are offering for sale some great motorcycles from their collections including examples of Yamaha, Suzuki, Honda and Norton and we expect the collection to attract a lot of attention." Richard Hammond said: "As a serious collector of motorcycles, it's important to review one's stable regularly. "I also have a canoe and some Wharfedale hi-fi speakers if anyone's interested."

1976 Suzuki AP 50

1971 Kawasaki 250CC A1 Samurai

1973 Honda CD175

1979 Suzuki TS250

1980 Ossa 250CC Mar Trials Bike

1974 Yamaha 49CC FS1-E

2010 Yamaha SR400 Grievous Angel

1975 Honda CB200

Jungle drums: The Touratech Motorcycle Travel Show is on 1st – 4th May at their HQ in Ystradgynlais in South Wales and will feature all sorts of stuff about ‘global adventure touring’, with obvious emphasis on Touratech’s extensive (and expensive) range of bike accessories. Their latest promotional film shows a new use for their infamous aluminium luggage – it’s used as a drum kit for the soundtrack by a heavy metal rock drummer!

PRESIDENT’S PLATFORM

Good news - Ray Griffiths, as you may know had an “off” on one of his track days, and injured himself badly, we knew his was in Coventry Hospital: What a pleasant surprise on club night to see Ray with us the Bush Inn - Mind you he was moving about very slowly! So would I be with those injuries. Get well soon Ray from all of us.

My thanks to Sue Hunt and her mother for letting us have some of Trevor’s awards, trophies etc. I had requested something to go into our cabinet in Leominster library (I wasn’t aware of that part of the club history either but will be sure to visit when next in town -Ed) as you may know Trevor in his time has won most of the awards available . I shall display those that show him winning using his old Ariel 500cc 1937 bike or his 1932 BSA three wheel car.

At committee this week I shall hand over some cash to Terry Treasurer (£85.90) - this is the money collected for clothing, tools etc you have donated to go to club funds - Thanks you very much.

(Ron Moore)

CHRIS’S COMMENTS:

We’ve had a bit of a reshuffle in the committee, as you know, Vernon our Treasurer is moving out of the area very shortly - so his post is being taken by Terry Bass. As a result, the post of Chairman is being taken by Mike Bigfoot Davies. Also Will Morgan feels he has been holding the post of Editor for more than long enough (more than 5 years) so he too is leaving the committee and looking forward to being a “normal” club member so Dave Robinson has offered to try his hand as Editor, but Dave has a full time job and is aware that time will not be on his side.

So firstly - please make sure you help Dave by feeding him snippets for the newsletter, anything of motorcycle related content, photos as well

Secondly - is there anyone out there that enjoys using the computer who might like to help with the editor’s role. You could perhaps share the role, one month about. Any help would be great, not too much commitment, give it a try. I am sure you would all agree that the newsletter is a vital part of the membership package, especially to those that can’t get to meetings/runs/events.

Whilst on the subject - Vernon has been an excellent Treasurer - efficient, dedicated; always a word of wisdom at committee and always there to help at all events. Thank you Vernon, we will miss you.

Terry has been an excellent Chairman, but he will also be an excellent Treasurer so we’re not losing him.

Will has been the best editor - a very hard act to follow - Thanks Will

(Chris Moore).

BIOGRAPHY SLOT

Now to try and let you get to know some of our club members we are going to have a starting with our Chairman, Mike ‘Bigfoot’ Davies

I started riding motorcycles way back in August 1965 on a 1953 125 Excelsior cost £8, then came a BSA Bantam 125 cost £20, my first proper road bike was a 1938 AJS 350 cost £25. I then started riding in trials in 1972 and rode for 30 years on Sprite, Bultaco, Honda, Yamaha and Kawasaki, what great times they were.

I joined the Vintage club in 1965 and was one of the founding members of the Herefordshire Section which was formed in 1976; alas I am now the last one left. I joined LCMCC on 19th April 1995 at a committee meeting and along with Chris Moore we were co-opted onto the committee and 20 years later we are both still here. Over the years I have acted as committee member, Runs co-ordinator and now club Archivist.

In the past I have served 18 years as a committee member for the Herefordshire Section vintage club, several years on the Trials committee of the Western centre ACU and was also involved in organising Trials from Open to Centre and British Championship. I have organised runs for the Vintage club, , BMW club, Our Club and for over 10 years ran Bigfoot tours, with up to 30 runs a year.

I also belong to the Moto Guzzi club, Raleigh club, Ariel Club, Royal Enfield club, LCMCC of course.

Over the years I have owned and ridden 8 BMWs, 3 BSAs, 4 Bultacos, 5 Hondas, 3 Kawasakis, 2 Royal Enfields, 1 AJS, 1 Ariel, 1 Scott, 1 Francis Barnett, 1 Sprite, 1 Norton, 1 Raleigh and 1 Suzuki

My favourite bike is the one I am riding on the day, they have all given me good service and lots of smiles per mile. My worst bike was a BSA C15T, lots of fun but we could not stop it leaking oil despite 3 rebuilds. That's about it, 50 years of fun in a few lines but lots of good memories.

Ride Safe - Bigfoot

FOR SALE

Honda Pan European ST1100, 2001, X reg, only 14,908 genuine miles, Burgundy in excellent condition with standard panniers. Full Service carried out on 11/11/14, all new plugs, front brake pads, brake fluid, clutch fluid, coolant, carbs stripped, cleaned and balanced. MoT until 17/01/16. £4,200 o.n.o. (50 litre Givi top-box available separately £75). Contact Dave on: 07967720245

Mercedes tow hitch, complete kit to fit Sprinter van/motor caravan, £50.

Trailer wheels & tyres, a pair, 8 inch, £15.

For either of the above contact Ron Moore 01544 388621

MEMBERS SERVICES

Eric Rees Motorcycles: Barton Road, Hereford. (Run by club member Ray Griffiths) Discount MoTs for club members: £23.00 (25% off, normally £28.65), MoT sidecar outfits £26.50 (normally £38.55). General repairs & servicing on all bikes. **Agent for Helite AirBag jackets.** Phone 01432 266164.

John Baber sells Car Components, Service Equipment, Motorcycle Batteries and makes Car Number Plates all at Discount to Members. 07798 573337 or 01981 250004

Richard Logan provides welding services 01886 888419.

Terry Bass: Chainsaw chain, ultrasonic cleaning for motorcycle carburettors, stockist of Peek Metal Polish, genuine parts available to order for Hinckley Triumph & Honda 1990 to date, including bikes, mowers, generators etc. Up to 10% discount on genuine parts and massive savings on pattern parts (normally in stock for lawnmowers generators etc). Phone: 07968 648237 or see www.terrybass.co.uk

Bill Wilson operates his own transport business. If you need anything moved please ring Bill on 07791 751954 (anytime).

Lynda Wilshaw Classic Cakes. Homemade cakes baked for any occasion. Phone 01432 760540

Dave Robinson (Kington Farm Supplies) offers 10% discount on production of club membership card for Morris Oils including Classic single grade SAEs or Classic Film multi-grades (for old bikes), semi & full synthetic oils (for modern bikes) and good quality tools including AF & some Whitworth. Phone 01544 230661 and ask for Dave.

Sew Bright Clothing Alterations, Repairs, Tailoring, Bridal, Military, Leather, Curtains, Cushions Celia at, Sew Bright, Berrows House, Bath Street Hereford. Opposite Hereford Police Station
Tel 01432 352622 Open Weds, Thurs, Fri 9.30am - 5.00pm. Saturday 10am - 1.00pm
Same day alteration available. (Highly recommended by many club members)

CLUB SHOP

Club shirts & other clothes etc: Clubsport have set up an online shopping facility for us:

www.clubsport.co.uk/index.php/clubshops/category/85-leominster-classic-motorcycle-club

Or you can order at any of their shops: Leominster (South Street), Hereford (All Saints Court), Ledbury (Bye Street), Ludlow (Old Street), Newtown (Broad Street), Ross on Wye (High Street) and Kington (Church Street). **Please note:** The design for the club logo is held at the Clubsport base in Kington but any branch's staff can find it amongst the local sports clubs listed on their in-house computer system.

Badges, stickers etc: Enamel lapel badges £2.00. Club stickers £1.50. Club drinks coasters: £1.00. All available from Frances Bass at club nights or phone 07968 648237.

Club book: Copies of Sheila Whittingham's history of the club can be ordered direct from Blurb. The webpage to order is <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/2563482> Price: £13.95 + p&p

Disclaimer: The Leominster Classic Motorcycle Club and committee cannot accept liability or be held responsible for any loss, accident, injury, death or loss of claims due to tips or suggestions given in this newsletter. The articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or club committee.

Note: Any information that Leominster Classic Motorcycle Club holds remains confidential. Your personal data is stored on digital media in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the Data Protection Act of 1988 and will only be used to contact you on club matters.

RUN SHEET

Title: Viaducts, Views and Valleys

Date: Sunday 26th April

Start: 9.00am Holmer Road garage, Hereford. **Finish:** Bronllys 4.30pm.

Route: 150 miles, mostly A & B roads with some lanes. **Warning:** This will be a brisk run including both 70mph dual carriageways & 20mph side streets in mining towns. **Please make sure you and your bike are capable of both!**

Meal/Drink Stops: Morning – Honey Café, Bronllys (9.45am). Lunch – Afan Valley Visitor Centre (only basic snacks at café or bring a picnic). Afternoon – Honey Café, Bronllys.

Special Requirements: Fill your tank at the start – there's no fuel in the valleys except coal!

Organizer: Will Morgan

Contact: 01600 890057 or 07811 059185 on the day

WITHINGTON SHOW – MOTORCYCLES ANCIENT TO MODERN

Date: 10.30am to 4.00pm Sunday 3rd May **Venue:** Withington Village Hall, HR1 3PP
(signposted off A4103 just east of Hereford)

Bring your bike to display at the club's charity extravaganza.

Raffle – Bar – Food – Tea & Cakes.

Title: Steve Powell's Run

Date: Sunday 17th May

Start: 10.00am, Texaco garage, Holmer Rd, Hereford.

Route: Total distance 120 mile give or take, with places to have tea & buns.

Places of Interest: Roman Museum & Amphitheatre Caerleon, then hang about over the river Usk !!!

Special Requirements: Bring your plastic and buy a new bike.

Organizer: Steve Powell

Contact: 07777607379

RUN SHEET

MID-WEEK MEET

Date: Wednesday 20th May **Venue:** The Red Cow, Pontsticill, CF48 2UN
(Between Talybont-on-Usk & the A465 Heads of the Valleys road near Merthyr Tydfil).
Meet from 12.00 noon for lunch or just a drink and a natter.

Title: Bob Dean and Frank Edgar Run
Date: Sunday 7th June
Start: 9.30am BP garage Leominster **Finish:** Watering hole Amerstry
Route: A & B roads
Meal/Drink Stops: Church Stretton
Special Requirements:
Organizer: Bob Dean **Contact:** More info next month

Title: Three Musketeers Run
Date: Sunday 14th June
Start: 09:00 Texaco Garage, Hereford **Finish:**
Route: A run to Weston using back roads, **Organiser:** Allen & Lorraine Turner **Contact:**
01905 355756

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

(Events in italics are non club events)

	MARCH		APRIL
Sun 1 st		Wed 1 st	Club Night
Wed 4 th	Club Night	Sun 5 th	
Sun 8 th	Steve's B Road Bash	Wed 8 th	Committee Meeting
Wed 11 th	Committee Meeting	Sun 12 th	Prescott Bike Festival
Sun 15 th		Wed 15 th	Mid-Week Meet: The Sun Inn, Leintwardine, SY7 0LP
Wed 18 th	Mid-Week Meet: Countrywide Store, Ledbury, HR8 2JQ	Sun 19 th	
Sun 22 nd	<i>Wistanstow Show</i>	Wed 22 nd	
Sun 29 th	Sunday Meet: Three Horseshoes, Felindre LD3 0SU	Sun 26 th	Will's Viaducts & Views Run
	MAY		JUNE
Sun 3 rd	Postman Pat Withington Show	Wed 3 rd	Club Night
Wed 6 th	Club Night	Sun 7 th	Bob Dean & Frank Edgar's Run
Sun 10 th		Wed 10 th	Committee Meeting
Wed 13 th	Committee Meeting	Sun 14 th	Three Musketeers Run
Sun 17 th	Steve Powell's Run	Wed 17 th	Mid-Week Meet: Bottle & Glass, Picklestock, SY6 6NR
Wed 20 th	Mid-Week Meet: Red Cow, Pontsticill, CF48 2UN	Sun 21 st	Will's Run
Sun 24 th	Bigfoot's 1 st Classic Run	Wed 24 th	
Wed 27 th		Sun 28 th	Terry's Run
Sun 31 st			

	JULY		AUGUST
Wed 1 st	Open Night	Sun 2 nd	Dave Browning's Run
Sun 5 th	John & Lynda Wilshaw's Run	Wed 5 th	Club Night
Wed 8 th	Committee Meeting	Sun 9 th	Bigfoot's Classic Bike Run
Sun 12 th		Wed 12 th	Committee Meeting
Wed 15 th	Mid-Week Meet: (<i>Terry Bass</i>)	Sun 16 th	John Peters & Dave Peake's Tenby Run
Sun 19 th	Steve Hackett's Run	Wed 19 th	Mid-Week Meet: Steel Horse Café, near Abergavenny, NP7 9AY.
Wed 22 nd	Bigfoot's 'Cos We Can Run	Sun 23 rd	Den's Burn Up Run
Sun 26 th	<i>Aberdare Races</i>	Wed 26 th	
Wed 29 th		Sun 30 th	Dave Browning's Run
	SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER
Wed 2 nd	Club Night	Sun 4 th	Memorial Run
Sun 6 th	Will's Run	Wed 7 th	Club Night
Wed 9 th	Committee Meeting	Sun 11 th	
Sun 13 th	Shelsley Walsh BikeFest	Wed 14 th	AGM & Committee Meeting
Wed 16 th	Mid-Week Meet: Old Station, Tintern, NP16 7NX	Sun 18 th	
Sun 20 th	Bigfoot's Classic Bike Run	Wed 21 st	Mid-Week Meet: Bell Inn, Pensax, WR6 6AE
Wed 24 th		Sun 25 th	
Sun 27 th		Wed 28 th	
Wed 30 th			
	NOVEMBER		DECEMBER
Sun 1 st	Brass Monkey Run	Wed 2 nd	Committee Meeting
Wed 4 th	Club Night	Sun 6 th	Winter Idiots Run
Sun 8 th	(<i>Remembrance Day</i>)	Wed 9 th	Christmas Club Night
Wed 11 th	Committee Meeting	Sun 13 th	
Sun 15 th		Wed 16 th	Mid-Week Meet: Queenswood, HR6 0PY
Wed 18 th	Mid-Week Meet: Bush Inn, HR4 8EH	Sun 20 th	
Sun 22 nd		Wed 23 rd	
Wed 25 th		Sat 26 th	Boxing Day Meet.
Sun 29 th		Sun 27 th	
		Wed 30 th	

(Events in italics are non club events)