

THE VINTAGE MOTOR CYCLE CLUB  
CYCLEMOTOR AND AUTOCYCLE SECTION  
NEWSLETTER NUMBER ONE, SUMMER 1981

Edited by Rory Sinclair, 20 Clifton Avenue, Hartlepool, Cleveland

Editorial

At the Committee meeting on the 5th July 1981, the names of P. Bickerstaff, R. F. Currie, J. R. Greaves, and L. Vincent were added to the list of Founders.

The Membership Secretary reported a current membership of 31.

Bob Currie was elected the First Honorary Member of the group in respect of his services to the Cyclemotor movement.

Paul Hornby is to assist the Cyclemotor Marque Specialist with Cyclemaster, and to make copies of the CYCLEMASTER WORKSHOP MANUAL available for sale to members.

Bob Light and Stan Greenway are to organise a 100 mile event in the Midlands in September 1982, with finisher's awards.

The Section Annual General Meeting will be held on the 27th September 1981, following the V.M.C.C. Oxfordshire Section 'Chalgrove Run'.

Contributions of articles, letters, and news items would be gladly received for the autumn issue of the newsletter.

The First Ten Years

The Vintage Motor Cycle Club Cyclemotor and Autocycle Section was founded on the 11th April 1981, and was the inspiration of Stan Greenway of Leamington Spa. He had planned a gathering of 1950s cyclemotors at the British Two Stroke Club/ Scott Owners Club Rally at Evesham in the summer of 1970; and although the meeting failed to materialise, it enabled contact to be made with like-minded enthusiasts.

In 1973, Stan went so far as to produce a lapel badge for a Club which was to be called "The Magic Wheelers". However, it was not until 1976, when motorcycles made after 1950 were eligible for V.M.C.C. events, that the Warwickshire Section took the opportunity to include a class for cyclemotors in their Social Run. A Cyclaid, two Cyclemasters, a Lohmann, and a Tailwind joined the Vintagents on a special 21 mile route devised by Greenway, starting at Abbey Fields Car Park, Kenilworth, and finishing at Hatton Fete.

The First Cyclemotor Social Run was such a success that it was repeated in 1977. Bob Currie gave the event advance publicity in MOTOR CYCLE and ten cyclemotors were present at Stratford-on-Avon Motor Museum for the Run. Meanwhile, letters to THE VINTAGE MCC JOURNAL and MOTOR CYCLE proposed a non-territorial V.M.C.C. Section for cyclemotors and autocycles; and a Cyclemotor Marque Specialist was appointed.

For the first time in 1978, a calender of cyclemotor and autocycle activities appeared in THE JOURNAL, and cyclemotorists rode to the Founder's Day Rally at Stanford Hall. By now, the Cyclemotor Social Run was an established fact: the 3rd Run in the series was exclusively

for cyclemotors and autocycles. Eighteen starters, including a 1914 Wall Autowheel, set off from the Red Lion Inn at Norton Lindsey near Warwick. The following year, the cyclemotor contingent headed north for the 4th Cyclemotor Run, which was incorporated in the Mid. Lincs. Section Veteran and Belt-Drive Weekend at Goulceby. Eight stalwarts covered a total of 50 miles over two days in atrocious weather.

For 1980, the venue of the Run was once again Warwickshire, and seventeen competitors descended on the 'Little Chef' at Long Itchington. The essence of the meeting was summed up by Bob Currie in MOTOR CYCLE WEEKLY, "There was nothing regimental about the run. No speed schedule, no one-minute intervals, just a casual wave of the hand - a sort of 'Go when you feel like it.'"

Long may it continue.

### News Clippings

Jack Stuart White, 164 Leeds Road, Barwick in Elmet, Leeds, LS15 4HS, has 1½ Scott Cyc-Autos, dated 1945 and 1949, and would like to compare notes with someone. His father was President of the V.M.C.C. in 1964.

Firefly cyclemotor contact for the Vincent Owners Club is Peter Bickerstaff, St. Dunstan's House, Magdalene Street, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9EL. He is prepared to help those in need with spares and literature.

Three Cyclemasters complete with wheels and a collection of spares are available from V.M.C.C. member B. E. Bradley, 5 King Street, Coalville, near Leicester, LE6 2QS.

Those who read in THE V.M.C.C. JOURNAL of my Magpie model petrol engine, adapted in 1948 to propel an Elswick Hopper bicycle, may be interested to learn that the maker of the engine, 78 year old Gerald Smith of Nuneaton, has agreed to rebuild it. He will make a new crank-case using a pair of unmachined castings as patterns. Anyone know of a pre-1939 Elswick Hopper bicycle?

A display of cyclemotors at a local industrial archaeology museum created more interest amongst members of the public than most of the 'concours' restorations, according to Norman Broadbridge, Chairman of the Goodwood Section of the V.M.C.C.

Section member, Arthur Bucknall, Ventnor Cottage, Sough Road, Darwen, Lancs., has a very good lady's frame for a B.S.A. Winged Wheel if anyone wants one. He requires the main bearing outers and weird sized rollers for his Winged Wheel engine, which is rusted internally.

By courtesy of Bob Currie and MOTOR CYCLE WEEKLY, the following have contacted the Section with items for disposal.

1914 Sunbeam bicycle, 24" frame, 28" wheels, requires rebuilding, and 1928-1935 Raleigh bicycle, 21" frame, 28" wheels, 3-speed gear, are for sale at £25.0 each. Also 1930s gents New Hudson, 26" frame, dismantled do it yourself project, £10.0. Apply to B. Porter, 4 Summerfield Avenue, Waltham, Grimsby, S. Humberside. 0472-824839.

A Cyclemaster engine with spares and a Villiers engine are available for collection from G. W. Fitter, 10 South Lane, Ash, Surrey, GU12 6NG.

Old age pensioner T. H. Hutchings, requires offers for a Mini-Motor with log book and instructions; and a Cyclemaster less tyre. His address is 14 King's Road, Laindon, Basildon, Essex, SS15 4AB.

John Young, 9 Kitching Grove, Ridgeway, Darlington, County Durham, tel. 55101 ext. 38, has a Vincent Firefly missing silencer, tank, and rear spindle mounting stay. He wants £40.0 for it.

Bob Currie tells me that he has done a 'write up' of the 6th Annual Cyclemotor Run, and it will appear in MOTOR CYCLE WEEKLY around Christmas.

Tailwind III will be out again at the V.M.C.C. N.E. Section Topcliffe Road Safety Rally on the 23rd August 1981. 70 miles over the North Yorkshire Moors... Umph.

Stan Greenway is very excited about his latest find. It is a "brand new" 1955 German Rex cyclemotor, and was discovered in Ireland. Stan has obtained a Raleigh 'Superbe' bicycle for it, and hopes to use the machine on our runs in 1982. The 49cc Rex engine was also used in the Phillips motorised bicycle, and Stan would appreciate the loan of a chain cover from one of these devices, which is missing from the Rex "kit" - so forward Phillips owners!

#### Event of the Season

On the 5th July 1981, twenty five enthusiasts rode - or carried by nefarious means - their cyclemotors to the start of the 6th Annual Cyclemotor Social Run at Long Itchington, Warwickshire. The award for the most meritorious performance (if there had been one!) would have been won jointly by schoolboys Andrew Roddham and friend, who coaxed their Cyclemasters 90 miles from Ipswich, Suffolk; and Brian Slater who travelled all the way from Dalkey, County Dublin Eire, on a Mini-Motor which he had fitted to a bicycle only days before the Run. Believe it or not, Peter Bickerstaff rode his solo motor cycle from Glastonbury in Somerset, with a Vincent Firefly lashed to the pillion.

Also having their first ride were Joyce Hughes, John Greaves, and Richard Rosenthal. Tired of following in a tender car, Joyce was running in a "brand new" Cyclemaster for the family. Regulars Bob Pearce, Peter Cornelius, Peter Gunnee, Paul Hornby, Bob Light, and Fred Pateman, had successful rides on their Cyclemasters. It was nice to see John Lycett and the Norman Cyclemaster again after a gap of a few years. I counted fourteen Cyclemasters on the Run, which must set some sought of record...

It was the first outing for David Davies' Berini, imported from the Netherlands last year; surprising how few Berinis have survived. Alan Knight's 1939 Rudge autocycle looked fine and had not been on the Run before. Zeigy Hughes rivalled Muriel Hind with her handling of the Power Pak. Most unusual machines present: the Lohmann of Manuel Hughes, which ran well after a broken twist grip had been repaired with a

"Jubilee" clip, supplied by Doug Whittaker, and Tailwind III ridden by Stan Greenway, who had loaned his Ducati "Cucciolo" to Bob Currie for the day.

Reliability was the keynote this year, only punctuated here and there by the odd "blow-out", all competitors arriving at the finish at the Three Horseshoes, Princethorpe. My Cyclaid disgraced itself at the start when the engine proved recalcitrant, however twenty minutes of exhaustive pedalling and carburettor dismantling got the cyclemotor running well enough to chug its way round the short course at the rear of the pack.

Roll on next year!

### Calender

- 9th August 'Social Run and Concours' - V.M.C.C. Founder's Day.  
Meet at 'Blue Boar Garage', Dunchurch, 10.00 a.m.
- 16th August 'Road Run' - Special Route on 'Coventry Parade'.  
Phone Pete Booth (Coventry 78965) for Regs.
- 31st August 'Static Display', Town and Country Exhibition, Stoneleigh.  
Phone Fred Nicklin (Coventry 415580) for Regs.
- 6th September 'Social Run' - Northants Section 'Old Towcester Run'.  
Phone Doug Whittaker (Northampton 844157) for details.
- 27th September 'Road Run' - Oxfordshire Section, Special Route on  
'Chalgrove Run'. See V.M.C.C. Journal for details.

### For Sale

Brand new chain for Cyclemasters, made up into loops. Primary £3.25.  
Secondary £5.20. Plus post and packing. P. Cornelius, 4 Cuckman's Drive,  
Chiswell Green, St. Albans, Herts., AL2 3AX, tel. 65580.

Vincent 'Firefly', unit only, believed complete (tatty!) with log book -  
£35.00. Wall Autowheel, engine only, with magneto - £20.00. Power Pak  
package, believed 2 complete units with fittings (good to excellent)  
one log book - £45.00. Mini-Motor, unit only, engine, mag, carb, tank,  
some fittings - £10.00. Cyclemaster engines, some with mags, carb, tanks,  
(no wheels) - £5.00 to £15.00, or offers. 26 x 2 x 1¾ tyres - £5.00 each.  
2 only 26 x 1¾ x 1½ Motorette tyres - £7.00 each. Letters only (s.a.e.)  
buyer collects. S. Greenway, 25 Pine Court, Cubbington Road, Leamington  
Spa, Warwicks, CV32 7AE.

### Wanted

Petrol tank for B.S.A. Winged Wheel. P. Cornelius, 4 Cuckman's Drive,  
Chiswell Green, St. Albans, Herts., AL2 3AX, tel. 65580.