



CLUB TORQUE

Quarter 2 2019

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RMDC

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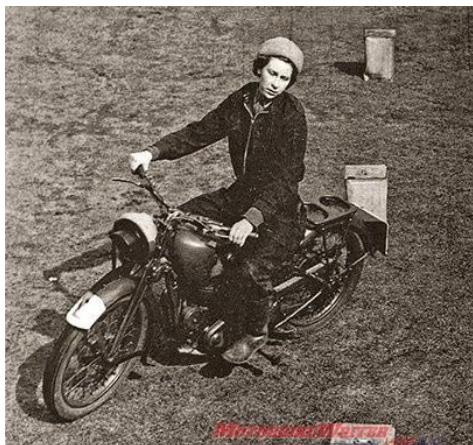
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Her Maj is a natural on two wheels

WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

Now a quarterly publication but still packed with something for everyone. Thank you all for your contributions. Keep them coming!

RMDC GETS A ROYAL CONNECTION

Forget Royal Ascot and those scantily dressed women and chaps with no socks quaffing pimms and champagne. Instead think Royal RMDC with tight leather and the smell of oil and petrol. To that end dear readers we have a couple of interesting royal things to report in this edition, some of which may shock you.

For those of you who follow all things Royal you may already know that Her Majesty is pretty adept at riding motorcycles. It started in her younger days when she like many others was doing her bit to keep old Fritz firmly on the other side of the channel. Apparently she was a natural and she has continued to keep her skills sharp by rounding up the corgis using a bright orange KTM which is affectionately known as Ma'malade.

Now a sprightly 93 she has just announced that she has been persuaded to take part in the next British Superbike Championship. Apparently it all came about at a recent honours ceremony when she chatted to a RMDC member who was there to carry his wife's coat and handbag. As they were talking whilst her Grandson handed out gongs she let it be known that she was looking for a new challenge. Our RMDC member wasted no time in telling her, and I quote, "Just go for it Liz, if I can do MotoGP you will have no trouble with the Superbikes!" So there you have it guys and gals the RMDC by Royal Appointment and this magazine has an exclusive on what she will be riding and wearing on page 3.

Hey Doug can you give her a bell please and gently remind her that her subs are still due for this year's club membership!

CLUB TORQUE DISCUSSION PAPER – DOES THE THOUGHT OF OWNING AN ELECTRIC “MOTORBIKE” CAUSE YOU TO HAVE A BAD CASE OF THE SCREAMING EAGLES?

The world it is a changing and there is much talk these days of the demise of the internal combustion engine. In the UK the Diesel is now an endangered species and Petrol Engines will no doubt follow the same path.

Hot news in the press these days is the latest from Tesla and the traditional car manufactures fightback with their own versions of Electric Vehicles (EV) and the planned steps away from Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) as the main power source. More recently we have started to hear of manufactures looking to seriously place into production Electric Motorcycles (EM) and the Zero has been available for a couple of years now in the US where California is determined to take out all the fun of owning an ICE vehicle, especially those dirty 6 litre and above V8 family runabouts.

It was whilst reading such an article that my mind drifted back to a warm summers day in Cambridge. Agreed, Cambridge like Oxford can be regarded as a car hating city however it does welcome push bikes and motorbikes. Now call me old fashioned but I've always preferred armour and leather to tight hugging lycra together with a throbbing engine between my legs. For trips into Cambridge City centre I always used the Triumph thereby taking advantage of the free and convenient motorbike parking they have on offer.

It was on such a visit that I parked up at the motorcycle parking bays on the corner of Sussex St and King St where I got chatting to a guy who had just returned back to his bike. I say bike, it was a Harley but hey he was happy enough with it. When he fired it up the noise was deafening. Illegal undoubtedly, impressive, very. The rumble on that slow tick over hit your chest which started to thump in time with the engine.

Oh happy days! So where am I going with this I hear you ask, well to the latest on EM offerings of course and how are they developing. I'll start with one you can order up today from Regent Motorcycles of Sweden which is available in either left or right hand drive.



Their retro-styled Regent NO. 1 electric motorcycle is now set to go into production. The company is aiming for a May 2020 release of this eye-catching bike. Powered by an 11 hp continuous, 20 hp peak rear hub motor it delivers a top speed of 75 mph. The battery is a 72 V and 80 Ah pack, offering nearly 6 kWh of capacity and a range of 93 miles. Not cheap at nearly £9000, about around twice the price of a 250cc machine, a useful commuter if you really want to show off your green credentials.

Whilst Regent Motorcycles is one of many niche market players it's back in the main stream where BMW's new electric motorcycle concept offers a vision of the electric bike for the near future

The Motorrad Vision DC Roadster is the most coherent electric two-wheeler concept to come out of Munich and certainly looks the part.



If you look closely you can see that BMW have made a number of "Traditional design ques" such as the "Radiator" which actually helps to cool the battery pack.

It maybe electric and quiet however clearly it retains the familiar BMW style we petrol heads can comfortably relate to.

However it's not just road bikes that are getting the EM treatment. I was surprised to read that off road is also firmly getting into the trend.

Husqvarna may not be the first company that comes to mind when you think of electric motorcycles, electric lawnmowers maybe but surely not electric.

Husqvarna is working to change that perception with the launch of their first electric motorcycle model, the EE 5 electric dirt bike.



The Husqvarna EE 5 takes the form of a 50cc-class dirt bike designed for beginner riders.

The bike packs a 5 kW peak mid-drive electric motor into its little frame. It also includes six different ride modes to allow riders to select the proper profile for their skill level. Easy riding will allow up to 2 hours of run time. Expert riders that push the bike to its limits will see closer to 25 minutes of riding time.

As with most electric vehicles at the moment range is still an issue. Whilst recharge times are reducing I can't help thinking it is at the expense of battery life/longevity.

Current battery technology has probably been pushed to its maximum and if range anxiety is to be overcome as well as charging rates it will require a significant step change in battery design and type. The current lithium batteries were first developed to power portable video cameras back in the 80's. Still that said bike manufacturers continue to test the market and another mainstream player, Honda, recently unveiled an electric version of their CRF450 Motorcross machine at the Tokyo Motorcycle Show.

Now ignoring the range issue and 500 mile long 13amp charging lead for a moment I'll ask you straight out would you really want an electric motorbike.

It appears BMW have already discussed that very question with regard to the electrification of their cars. BMW executive and board member Klaus Fröhlich told reporters this week that the shift to cars powered by electricity is "overhyped," and said that there is "no" consumer demand for them.

He carried on to say the drive towards EVs is political rather than consumer lead. Now I think it is certainly the lack of demand that will hold back the growth of electric bike and for a very sound reason. For me the reason why an electric bike will always be inferior was demonstrated by the Harley in Cambridge I mentioned earlier. I've yet to see an electric bike cause the plate glass shop windows to physically move back and forth in time with the beat of its engine as it pulls away!

PHEW JUST ENOUGH ROOM FOR OUR PAGE THREE PIN UP!



TRUST IT TO RAIN ON OUR 34TH SHOW

Well as I sit here listening to my favourite Wet Wet Wet song I'd like to thank everyone who came or supported the show either as a "punter" or for helping out the day before, the day of and the day after.

Your efforts over those 3 days was impressive. None more so than El Presidenti Ben!!

Ben was at Rectory Farm by 9am on Tuesday....and Wednesday....and Thursday. Shifting signs and posts and everything to make the show happen. He truly puts us all to shame!

As usual it was a massive undertaking and the well-oiled process of setting up is now becoming a natural process, I think!

Still some tweaks to be had re those pesky car drivers. Personally I think police "stingers" on the verges should do the tricks. Happy to share your thoughts on this.

One thing I have noticed this year, and it was probably due to the bad weather and low turnout, is that nobody chased me to know the amount raised. So here is the first pass:

With various deductions made the total we will have to donate is around £4500.

Ok we raised £15500 last year but we didn't get the rain etc. and that rain really put the numbers off from riding out this year.

Still we had about 1000 people on site, with 900 paying visitors and let's be honest £4500 isn't a small amount of cash, even though we are used to bigger numbers!

So once again well done RMDC and here's to doing it all again next year!!

Thanks again

Mark

URGENT CHARITY APPEAL

The ST John ambulance are looking for old bike gear, Helmets Leathers etc. for their training sessions if anyone has anything that may be useful contact their local branch

Peter C



BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

RDMCC Royal correspondent, Ima Dook

Congratulations to Angie Thompson, wife of Doug, who received her MBE for services to nursing from HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 9th May. Angie, below, looked resplendent proudly showing her MBE outside the Palace.



Observers were keen to comment that behind every success story is a partner working tirelessly behind the scenes in support. As one is always faced with the problem of 'what to wear' at the Palace for such occasions, Doug (pictured above) duly trotted along to a leading Savile Row tailor to find something off the peg and his eye caught a nice discrete pin-striped suit. The assistant, a seasoned gentleman in this sort of high-end outfitters, advised Doug that this particular style was a 'Strictly Come Dancing' cut of cloth. Doug, unsure what the acronym XXXXL meant and asked wistfully if it would make him look like Craig Revel-Horwood or even Bruno Tonioli, the assistant merely advised it would give him 'plenty of ballroom' and a wry smile.

Realising Doug was clearly in need of professional advice, the assistant returned with a suit marked XXL (above) and when Doug tried it on, the assistant described the fit as 'snug' but had the advantage of incorporating a 'self-iron' feature in that once you eventually got into it, the outward pressure on the cloth eliminated any creases that might otherwise be introduced. The assistant added that **all** suits tend to shrink as they get older as most men can testify. 'Sod that' said Doug and took it. They all lived happily ever after.

Congratulations Angie - a fantastic achievement!

GRAND DAY OUT – CRACKIN PICTURES GROMIT

OK so you go on a ride or you organise a ride and then nothing to the Editor. So to make it easy for you to share your days out in the magazine please send a couple of pics – Selfie, Group, etc. with a note of who, where and when. (No excuses you all have the smart phones on you!)



So to get the bike started here are some that kind readers sent in earlier:-



Dunstable Downs – April 2019 (Steve Wilson)



Peters Official Birthday Photographs
April 2019 (Hello Magazine/Doug Thompson)



© Chase Photography

Our friend and Club member, Chris Mungovan.

Chris sadly passed away peacefully at the Arthur Rank Hospice in Fulbourn with his family at his side. He had bravely suffered and resolutely fought a neck cancer for almost the past 2 years and never once complained about his situation. He was 73.

As a long standing member of RDMCC, he will be sorely missed as will his extensive knowledge of Triumph motorcycles.

Thank you Doug for a great photograph, it's just how we all remember him.

April 2019

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Peter and All our Friends at Royston & District Motor cycle Club

I am proud and absolutely delighted to be able to share with you that SERV Suffolk & Cambridgeshire – The Bloodrunners have been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities and we have been chosen as one of 281 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. SERV Suffolk & Cambridgeshire have received the award for "providing free transport of essential blood products, samples and donated breast milk to hospitals and air ambulances."

As nominees, it has been a long, varied process and it gave us great pleasure to be told that our customers really appreciate the work we do.

I wanted to thank you personally for the continued support RDMC have given. Without you, we would not be where we are today. Later this year we will be invited to receive the award from the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and we really hope you would accept an invitation to join us at this celebratory event.

Each and every one of our volunteers gives their time willingly and without question. This prestigious award is a testament to them and their professionalism.

It's what we do!

Kind regards

Mrs Cindy Dickerson

Chairman for SERV Suffolk & Cambridgeshire



Suffolk &
Cambridgeshire