

TRF

BULLETIN

TRAIL RIDERS FELLOWSHIP

A national club for the encouragement of
non-competitive green roads motorcycling
and maintenance of rights of way.



BULLETIN NO. 71 - APRIL 1979

FORTHCOMING RUNS

Bristol:	April 21st/22nd	Joint runs with Bournemouth & Poole Group. Meet both days at White Hart Hotel car park in Tetbury. 10.30 on Sat. and 10 am on Sunday.
	May 6th	10 am at Henry Fielding Inn on A38, 1-mile north of Bridgewater. Leader Ian Thompson, tel: Burnham-on-Sea 786263.
	June 16/17th	Welsh camping weekend. Phone Geoff Barfoot, Dursley 3403, for details.
Cumbria:	June 24th	10 am at Settle market place.
	July 15th	10 am at Kendal railway station.
East Midlands:	May 13th	Peak District run. Details at Group meeting on May 9th.
	June 17th	Details at Group meeting on June 13th.
	June 20th	Evening run from the Flying Horse, Kegworth, at 7 p.m.
South East:	Monthly	Runs in Kent, Surrey or East Sussex. Tel: Alan Jackson after monthly meetings on 01-778 5046 (home) or 01-357 2048 (office).
Southern:	April 22nd	Whitchurch area. Tel: Peat Gleed, Compton (Berks) 411, ext. 295, for details.
	May 13th	North Hants area. For details send SAE to Laurie Hopgood, 22 Chesterfield Road, Basingstoke, Hants.
	June 3rd	Absolute beginners run. Start at Lunways, details later.

FORTHCOMING RUNS (Cont'd.)

Teesside:	May 6th	East North Yorkshire Moors run. 10 am at Birk Brow Top. Dales weekend. Venue to be decided, 10 am both days.
	June 2nd/3rd	
Derbyshire & South Yorkshire:	May 29th	Evening run in North Derbyshire, contact Ian Dunsire.
	June 17th	South Yorkshire & North Derbyshire run; contact Ian Dunsire.
	June 19th	Evening run in South Yorks, contact Ian Dunsire.

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EDITORIAL GUBBINS

The TRF will be represented at the BMF Rally at the East of England Showground, Peterborough, on Sunday, May 13th. Come and support us. Any suitable photographs for display at the Rally please forward to Bruce Roberts. If return required, please send SAE or collect them from the TRF marquee at the close of the Rally. Should be good fun - it usually rains. Come along and say hallo to those idiots you read about in these hallowed pages - Bruce, Brian, Howard, Seymour, Nick, etc. - see what they really look like!

Talking about Committee members, the next Committee Meeting is on June 9th, 1979, at the King George V Memorial Hall, Hockley Heath, Solihull, West Midlands, at 1.30 p.m. The meeting after that will be on September 8th, but don't worry - I'll remind you.

All TRF members holding office within their own local group and requiring TRF headed notepaper, will they please contact Howard Wadsworth (TRF Treasurer), 7 Hammond Road, Knottingley, Yorks., and not Bruce Roberts.

Nick Walker.

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INDOOR MEETINGS

Anglia: 4th Thurs - White Lion, Sible Hedingham.

Bournemouth & Poole: 1st & 3rd Weds - Dorset Knob, Alder Road, Branksome, Poole.

Bristol: 2nd Mon - Stanshawes Court Hotel, Yate.

Cheshire: 1st Thurs - Robin Hood, Buxton Road, High Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport.

Derbyshire & South Yorkshire: 2nd & 4th Tues - Victoria Hotel, Neepsend Lane, Sheffield.

Devon & Cornwall: Every Fri - Pig & Whistle, Little Hempstone, near Totnes.

East Midlands: 2nd Wed - Flying Horse, Kegworth, on A6.

East Yorkshire: 2nd Wed - Kellingley Social Centre.

Essex: Every Tues - Warley Sports Centre, Warley Gap, near Brentwood.

Lancashire: 1st Tues - Eagle & Child, Church Road, Leyland.

West Anglia: 3rd Thurs - Changing venue, contact Bruce Roberts.

South East: 2nd Tues - White Swan, Crayford, Kent.

Southern: 3rd Tues - Fountain Head, Brook Street, Winchester.

South Midland: 1st Thurs - Lions Den, Hockliffe, on A5.

Teesside: 1st & 3rd Weds - Station Hotel, Stokesley, $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile south on the Kirby road.

Thames Valley: 3rd Mon - District Arms, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx.

West Midlands: 1st & 3rd Weds - King George V Memorial Hall, Hockley Heath, Solihull.

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GROUP NEWS

BRISTOL: Rep - Geoff Barfoot, NEW ADDRESS: 20 New Road, Cam, Dursley. Tel: Dursley 3403.

Please note my new address, as above.

Moving our club night to Stanshawes Court Hotel has proved very successful, with the owners being most helpful and not charging us for the use of a room.

Bill and Anne Riley have been most active in our part of Wiltshire on the Rights of Way front. Bill is hoping that we may be able to borrow a chain saw from the Council for lane clearing activities. Membership of the Group remains steady with a turn-out of 15-20 at club nights.

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BOURNEMOUTH & POOLE: Rep - Stephen Russell, 56 Winston Ave., Branksome, Poole.

Local members should refer to Friday's Bournemouth Echo, Clubman Scene page, for future information on runs, etc., that is if they are unable to attend the club evenings.

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DERBYSHIRE & SOUTH YORKSHIRE: Rep - Ian Dunsire, 1 Lodge Drive, Harley, Rotherham, South Yorks. Tel: Barnsley 742475.

The Group AGM was held in February and all the officials were re-elected for a further term of office. The general consensus of opinion appeared to be that the Group was being run in the right manner, so no changes were made to our run and meeting policies. The question of finance was discussed at length, with several members pointing out that the cost of running the Group was falling on the shoulders of those members who bother to attend meetings and official runs. I have therefore applied for a promoter's licence under the Lotteries Act, which will enable us to raise funds from outside sources. The licence will cover the TRF as a whole, so if any Groups are planning external fund raising activities, save yourselves £10. on the licence fee.

Unfortunately, the weather forced the cancellation of the official February and March runs. Some of our lanes are just becoming usable again after being blocked by snow continuously since December. However, the weather did not prevent an intrepid lane clearing party from doing their thing on Jack Lane at Bradfield - good effort lads.

Our first March meeting was brightened up by a visit from Pete Plummer and Geoff Diamond, who laid on a most entertaining slide show. Several of us failed to understand the photographic techniques involved, but the finer points of Pete's last four slides attracted close attention.

Local RoW work has continued, despite the snow. In South Yorkshire, Derek McGinlay accompanied me to a public meeting to defend our trails over Wharfedale Chase, which is currently the subject of a local planning review.

Surprisingly, no opposition was encountered and we even managed to agree with the Ramblers Association spokesman on several points. Exploration in the Barnsley area will be needed in the near future to prepare for the limited review due later in the year.

Several hysterical reports have appeared recently in the Derbyshire Press, despite our efforts to engender a good relationship with the landowners and other users of the countryside. We could do without bad publicity at present, so if you are planning to ride in the area, please make sure to keep down the size of run parties and - above all - keep those bikes quiet! If you are not sure where to ride, please contact me and I will try and arrange a guide.

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(Are noisy bikes becoming a problem? Is it just anti-trail riding people moaning, or are there too many loud machines around on green lanes? Let me know - Ed.)

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EAST MIDLANDS: Rep - Richard Marshall, 1 Burlington Close, Breaston, Derby. Tel: Draycott 3416.

Rights of Way news: We now have a complete set of 1:50000 maps covering our area on which are marked up all currently usable 'Green Roads', i.e. Unclassified County Roads, RUPP's claimed as Byways and Bridleways where we have evidence of vehicular rights. The areas covered are: Derbyshire (south of Bakewell), Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Kesteven part of Lincolnshire and Staffs (Peak District). These maps will be available for copying at all East Midlands Group meetings, free of charge to members, but anyone wishing to have their maps marked up by my long-suffering wife, Kathleen, will be charged £1. per map, 50p. of which will go to Group funds.

Consultation is still taking place with the Leicestershire CC over their forthcoming Special Review. We had a meeting with the Footpaths Officer, a senior Highways Official and one of the County Solicitors, where we explained our position regarding Byway claims and especially the upgrading of several Bridleways. They appeared to be sympathetic to our proposals and we feel we will get a fair hearing from them over our detailed claims. The old county of Rutland, which was absorbed by Leics in 1974, is a problem area though. A large number of lanes were classified as Bridleways when the Council did their initial survey under the 1949 Act, which were in fact Public Carriage Roads. Conclusive evidence to support upgrade claims is very scant, as all the historical Official County Highway Maps have been lost or destroyed, including the 1929 Local Govt. Act delegation maps. A search through the minute books of the County Highways and Bridges Committee 1888 to 1939 has produced some success and further research through the 1910 Finance Act field books and maps held by the Inland Revenue is continuing, as is investigation of Enclosure and Tythe Awards.

If anyone therefore has any evidence that may assist in these claims or has used any of the green roads in Rutland for more than three years, please contact me.

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LANCASHIRE: RoW Secretary - John P. Gillett, 18 Hilton Ave.,
Ansdell, Lytham St. Annes.

AGM Report: Group membership stands at 15. In general the Group just managed to stay in the black, due to certain members donating a large amount of paper, club cards, etc. Colin Thompson has had to resign from being Secretary. Our thanks must go to Colin for all the work he has done since the formation of this Group. Thanks must also go to Nigel Foulds and Keith Westley for their help with RoW and, of course, to all those members who do their bit and never seem to get thanked for it.

The following were elected to serve on the Group Committee:
TRF Representative - nobody put themselves up for this post.
Chairman - nobody put themselves up for this post.
Secretary - Leslie Windsor, 10 Lincoln Ave., Little Lever,
Bolton, Greater Manchester, tel: Farnworth (0204) 792743.
Run Records Secretary - Keith Westley, 6 Briars Lane, Latham,
Ormskirk, Lancs., tel: Burscough (0704) 893215.
Treasurer - Alan Almond, 18 Alder Drive, Hoghton, Preston,
Lancs. Rights of Way Secretary - John P. Gillett.

Group membership fees to stay at 50p. Run fees to go up to 25p. for members and 35p. for non members. It was decided that a meeting must take place between our Group, the North West Trail Riders club and Brian Thompson for the purpose of a Rights of Way lecture. 50 requests have been put into Lancs, Greater Manchester, North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire concerning status checks. Two Section 108's had been received during the year; both were found not to be worth bothering with. Volunteers were called for to research old maps, etc. If you can spare the time, get in touch with the national TRF RoW Officer or your Group RoW Officer.

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SUSSEX: Chairman - John Penfold, Marriners, Nyton Road, Aldingborne, Chichester, W. Sussex. Tel: Eastergate 3036.

We have now formed a Sussex Group of the TRF. We had our first meeting on 28th March at the Hassocks Hotel and the following officers were elected: Chairman - myself.
West Sussex RoW Officer - Bevis Billingham, 182 Elmer Rd., Middleton-on-Sea, tel: Middleton-on-Sea 5128. East Sussex RoW Officer - Simon Webb, 15 Morris Road, Lewes, tel: Lewes 2045. We now require a Press & Public Relations Officer and a TRF Bulletin link man. We are holding an inaugural run on 8th April, combined with a RUPP clearance at Graftonham with Charles Shipman's Sussex Rights of Way Group (Ranblers, British Horse Society, TRF combined).

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WEST ANGLIA: Report from Bruce Roberts.

The Group is seeking a new venue and until advised of this, please contact Bruce Roberts for address of monthly meeting place.

We hope to put on a display (photographs, slides, maps, info) in several libraries in the Bedford area; this is considered to be a possible good public relations exercise. Perhaps other Groups could consider something similar. The TRF is to be registered with the Bedford Central Library.

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BRIAN THOMPSON'S RoW BIT

Rights of Way workers training weekend. September 22/23 at Hollowford Centre, Castleton, Derbyshire. Arrive on Friday evening, depart Sunday at about 3 p.m. Bed, breakfast and evening meal £7.50 each for the weekend. Mornings will be spent on the Peak green lanes, afternoons under instruction indoors at the centre from me and Dick Marshall (TRF Assistant RoW Officer). Plenty of time for questions. No boring lectures. Charade type practice dealing with militant ramblers and Public Enquiry cross-examination techniques.

Useful for experienced and newcomer RoW Officers. Pub or BT's lousy film show in the evening. 8 places only at the centre. £2. deposit to me to book. Another 8 can be fitted in during the day, but you must find your own accommodation. The TRF has made a grant of £1. for each entrant, hence keeping costs down to £7.50. It is hoped that the ACU/BMF will also make a grant for this worthwhile weekend. It is essential to train more Rights of Way experts. The next two years are going to be very busy and we could soon be swamped with lengthy Public Enquiries.

A green lane society has been set up and is now known as the Byways and Bridleways Trust, 9 Queen Anne Gate, Westminster, London. Formed to protect all green lanes with vehicular rights as Byways. BF elected on small executive committee. Horse riders and cyclists will form the main body and attempt to bring all amenity groups together, and it may get one expert to represent all bodies at Public Enquiries. It is run by Mrs. Braham, who is a Barrister, with Lady Kirk and Charles Shippin in key jobs. The TRF executive wish the Trust every success and will play an active part. The Trust has applied for charity status and a grant from the Countryside Commission. We are going to need all the friends we have in the difficult times ahead.

Government changes in the law. In two phases: first to drop the requirement for the Secretary of State to confirm the Public Enquiry Inspector's decisions. The inspector will decide. This will be in the Countryside Bill 1979. Second phase: to drop all reviews and replace them with Orders on each lane as needed. Orders can be brought by County Council. Starting about 1981? All of which seems sensible; present delays are intolerable for all. BUT Clause 10, 2nd phase (Countryside Bill 1980) says that all RUPPs re-classified as Bridleways will have all vehicular rights extinguished. This is very bad news; we do not know if it also closes dual status BR/OCR lanes, or those awarded Public Carriage Road, or even if Section 34 (prescriptive rights) applies.

The ramblers, County Councils (especially Somerset), Countryside Commission and the Country Landowners Association are said to be in favour of this clause; they represent important pressure groups with a lot more clout than the TRF. We will do our best to get the Government to drop this clause, but we must accept the possibility of defeat which would be a major setback; large areas of the country would eventually be closed to trail riding and membership of the TRF would decline in these regions. Later I shall be asking all members to write to their MP's when the Bill comes before the House. Is this the beginning of the end?

Map marking up: John Higgin, 11 Askew Drive, Spencers Wood, Reading, Berks., tells me he can mark up maps for Kent, Surrey, West Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire and South Oxon and a reminder that my wife, Jean, does Derbyshire, Yorkshire and the Lakes for £1. each. She has been quite busy lately and this service is appreciated. Note those dashed red lanes are for use at your own risk, being non-definitive. See me if in dispute.

Legal aid: It is widely believed that the TRF will automatically defend any member in court. The Committee ask me to point out that this is not so. Each incident has to be looked at on its merits.

Derbyshire: Two TRF members and two ACU members summonsed for 'riding a motor vehicle on open moorland' are to be defended in court by the same Bakewell solicitors who handled the successful Police vs. Green brothers TRF case in 1977. The riders assure me they were on the proper highway and this is seen to be another attempt to stop trail riding in the Peak Park. Riders were on the Jacobs Ladder track between Edale and Hayfield, which is an Unclassified County Road, although both access roads are closed by traffic order. If the charges are changed to contravening a traffic order we will still defend the action as a test case because they were not actually on the closed section. Police were waiting for them as they dropped down into the valley - a nice welcome!

Norfolk: Miss Kay Smith of Gorleston has offered to look after Rights of Way matters in Norfolk - the only reply to Geoff Diamond's MCN request for help in this much neglected County.

An apology to newer members: I have been in the habit of using too many abbreviations and some readers are confused. I do apologise. The Editor cuts my report if I am not brief. These are also used in official papers, so a list of those in common use is a good idea:

RUPP or RUAPP - Road Used as a Public Path.

OCR or UCR - Unclassified County Road.

BR - Bridleway or Bridleroad.

FP - Footpath.

BW or BY or BOAT - Byway.

RoW - Rights of Way.

CC - County Council or Countryside Commission.

NT - National Trust.

NFU - National Farmers Union.

FC - Forestry Commission.

BHS - British Horse Society.

DC - District Council.

PC - Parish Council.

49 Act - National Parks & Access Countryside Act 1949.

68 Act - Countryside Act 1968.

59 Act - Highways Act 1959.

NP - National Park.

Section 108 - Closure power from 59 Act.

D of E - Department of the Environment (Government).

RA - Ramblers Association.

CTC - Cyclists Touring Club.

RTO - Road Traffic Order.

TRF - Well, you know that one!

Film - 'On any Sunday'. If any Group wants to show this, I can put them on to the film hire people. £20. per night.

Brian Thompson, 39 Warren Road, Thorne, Doncaster, South Yorkshire. Tel: 0405 814388.

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Points of interest (and moans) from the National Membership Secretary, Colin Patient:

To all who are reading this Bulletin first hand, thank you for renewing promptly. Since November 1978 I have received about 60 letters a week; enrolments, renewals and enquiries. It is very satisfying to answer queries - but time consuming. Perhaps now it's over I can complete my Triumph Adventurer (yes - another one), it's 'T' reg and taxed, but never run.

There are five or six of you who have two membership cards and/or membership numbers - this is either because you did not renew in 1978 or you used the wrong form. Applications to join are handled differently and I don't know all existing members personally. There are now 1,740+ names on file in chronological order - and I'm not looking through all past member books (I have five now!)

To those reading this issue second hand - how about assisting in offsetting the cost of producing the mag, which you obviously follow, by renewing or joining??

Over the past few issues you have been asked to indicate 'renewal' or 'new member', 'original membership number' or 'county', but I have still received some 40 applications with only an address (present) and a cheque. To this end will anyone who knows J. Crew (Oxford) or A. Williams (Dunstable) please get them to contact me by phone on Reading 696783.

a) Will Group Reps please note that as a result of discussions at the last Executive Committee Meeting there is only one application form to be used - available in quantity from Ian Dunsire or Bruce Roberts.

b) A new membership list is ready for typing if anyone cares to volunteer (at my home on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings), tea/coffee provided, but typewriter and skill must be supplied. It is hand written, 13 pages of A4 and contains over 600 up-to-date names and addresses and phone numbers, including Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Group Reps and Secretary to receive first printouts ASAP.

c) Group Reps will receive BMF affiliation cards for 1979 soon, together with a list of lapsed members for their areas.

d) To avoid confusion, will all changes of address be directed to me, not local Reps. I will pass them on to the Circulation Department.

Colin Patient, 14 Ryecroft Close, Woodley, Berkshire.
Tel: Reading 696783.

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REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

Well, my fellow members, here we are well into 1979 and yet with little riding since the AGM in November last. I found the whole weekend of this last AGM thoroughly enjoyable and much of the enjoyment was attributable to your enthusiastic and convivial comradeship. I thank you and particularly the members of the Derbyshire & South Yorkshire Group for their hospitality over the weekend.

The indications are that this years AGM will be held in the Bristol area on either Sunday, 7th or Sunday, 14th October. Geoff Barfoot, Secretary of the Bristol Group, advises me that preliminary enquiries have been started as to the venue and that accommodation will be available. If the final choice of venue is Bristol, I am confident we will all be afforded a most enjoyable and educational real ale - sorry, weekend.

Although I have not enjoyed much riding since the last AGM, the Fellowship has enjoyed certain accomplishments. First and foremost, Brian Thompson has been appointed our representative on the newly formed Byways & Bridleways Trust. The Trust is composed of all types of bridleway and byway users and is an attempt to bring all amenity groups together. This cannot but be a good move for the future.

Secondly, Richard Marshall, who has been the East Midlands Group RoW Officer, Representative, Secretary, etc., has been appointed an Assistant to Brian Thompson. Richard has proved himself one of our most able and enthusiastic members and I feel sure you will join me in wishing him well in the future.

Price Margery, Heather Cottage, Farnhill, Keighley. BD 20 9AJ	Crosshills 33515
Purser Adam W.M., 65, Park Avenue, Sherburn in Elmet, Leeds.	S. Milford. 683722
Reckert J Nick A., 36, Kyme Street, York, YO 1	
Ridley David, 4, George Street, Addingham,	A. 830268
Robinson Brian, 17, Hill Clough Grove, Laycock Nr. Keighley. W Yrks, BD22 OPT	
Robinson Howard, 4, Coniston Grove, Bradford, BD9 5HN	
Saddington Stuart, 12, Woodview Terrace, Quarry Lane, Woodkirk, Dewsbury. WF 12 7JH	
Scarth Peter, Quarry Cottage, Quarry Lane, Ripon Rd, Harrogate,	
Shearer J.H., 21, Woodfoot Road, Moorgate, Rotherham.	
Sills Les, 19, Holme Close, Sheffield, S6 4LA	
Smith Brian, 3, Gravehill Lane, Whitley Bridge, N. Goole,	
Smith Gerald S "Rosina" Myers Grove Lane, Stannington, Sheffield, S6 5LA Tel 344699	H 711718
Smith Paul, Keepers Cottage, Wath, P ateley Bridge, Harrogate,	
Soutar J, 45, Brackendale Drive, Thackley, Bradford,	
Stefanski P, 104, South View Cres, Sheffield, S7 1DH	
Tate Maurice, 23, Cleveland Avenue, Knottingley. W. Yorks.	
Thompson Brian, 39, Warren Road, Thorne, Doncaster, Yorks, DN 85PP	0405 814388
Vaughan Idris, 19, Blackmoorfoot, Linthwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5TR	Slaitwaite 2825
Wade Adrian B, Piper Hill, Rombalds Lane, Ilkley.	I 608912
Wade Harold J, West End, Tollerton, YO6 2EH	T 355
Wadsworth Howard, 7, Hammond Road, Knotting ley	K 83400
Walster Peter, 28, Mowson Lane, Worrall, Sheffield, S30 3AJ	Oughtibridge 3134
Winterburn M.T. Red Lion Farm, Bolton Abbey, Skipton.	B... 351

THE END

I apologise to those members who are not yet on this list, but a new list is already on the stocks which will be more up to date!

I know Brian certainly welcomes Richard's assistance and that they both hope to produce in the next few months a more presentable and useful guide to Rights of Way than has proved possible in the past. The guide will, of course, be available to all group RoW Officers.

Whilst referring to rights of way, I must re-emphasise the considerable amount of effort that goes into our RoW work, a fact which seems not to be appreciated by many. Without our RoW Officers, both local and national, our vehicular rights would rapidly disappear. Individuals are still coming forward and approaching Brian Thompson for advice, but they are still not in sufficient numbers. Please, consider your wish to go trail riding and ask yourself: "What can I do to help, both myself and the Fellowship?"

To return to progress within the Fellowship I am pleased to report that the new membership forms and posters produced by Ian Dunsire have been well received. Ian has put considerable effort in here and is continuing to do so. Future plans include postcard sized cards and stickers for car windows. Such productivity is seen to be reaping its reward with new members joining because of the increased publicity and motorcycle dealers participating as well.

To conclude, but unfortunately on a somewhat sombre tone, I must report that I have heard that some members do not always agree with the decisions reached by their committee. Please remember your committee is elected by you and that besides the TRF's executive officers, the committee is made up of each Group's own representative. Now, one sees the same Group Reps attending meeting after meeting, but they do not represent all the Groups. If your own Group does not send a representative your views are not known. Thus, I ask you, ensure your Group sends a representative to the committee meetings (next meeting June 9th) and votes on your behalf. In fact, I would particularly request that you persuade your Group Rep. to attend the next Committee meeting as it will be specifically biased towards our vehicular rights, which are possibly threatened more now than at any other time. You have been warned!

Bruce Roberts.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

24 Sandyland,
Haxby, York.
Tel: 0904 761594.

Dear Nick,

I am sure a number of members are interested in runs outside their home area, but the cost of accommodation is a problem. How about a reciprocal accommodation scheme for those interested? Some members may be willing to put up others for a night, and possibly even to show them some of the local lanes if there is no official run taking place. How about a register of such members? Alternatively, to set the ball rolling, can any member offer accommodation for a run on the Ridgeway, or in the Lake District, and I'll reciprocate for the North Yorkshire Moors.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Dalgarno.

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Keepers Cottage,
Wath,
Pateley Bridge,
North Yorks.

Dear Nick,

Do all TRF members realise that downgrading Byways to Bridleway status can endanger not only our use, but all use. Bridleways can be ploughed and trees can be grubbed from the sides of them. This changes the whole character and individuality of byways for all time. Surely this reason could be explained to more reasonable people who do not realise the full effect of downgrading. There are too many people not understanding the full implications of these actions who, if fully informed, may support our point of view. It could even mean that old lanes with a wall either side of them could have the walls removed if the landowner owned both sides and the byway was downgraded.

Paul A. Smith.

P.S. Howard Wadsworth would be lost if all the walls were taken down and then where would we be?

Copy of letter from Thames Valley Group RoW Officer, John Higgin, to Brian Thompson:

Dear Brian,

A great victory! On Friday I called at the County Council Offices to enquire about the Transportation Sub-Committee meeting when the Traffic Restriction Order on parts of byways on the Binfield bridleway circuit was discussed. The Council had been asked by the Binfield District Council to close parts of the so-called Binfield bridleway circuit to vehicles as they felt that some yobs on motorcycles were using the circuit for pleasure and that this was wholly unnatural since the natural part of the country scene in this area was the horse and many affluent ratepayers kept their own horse.

Following many letters of objection from members of the Trail Riders Fellowship and the AJS/Matchless Club, the Council members, to their horror, discovered that their opponents were lucid, literate and even humorous, but otherwise quite determined to stop them closing the byways to vehicles. They decided to meet members of these organisations 'on site', giving little enough notice to make sure that the invitation to the AJS/Matchless Club arrived after the date of the meeting.

However, only pausing long enough to cast aside our bowler hats and rolled umbrellas and don our hacking jackets, Nick Walker from the TRF and myself of the ACU/BMF Countryside Committee met members of the Council, pointed out the error of their ways, showed them what responsible, caring and considerate country lovers we were (are) and sent them back to their next meeting where they recommended that 'the Council SHOULD NOT PROCEED with this Order.' The committee duly adopted this recommendation. Hurrah!

John R. Higgin.

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Obstructed Green Lane Report Form.

Please fill in and send to Brian Thompson if you find a Right of Way in a poor, overgrown or obstructed condition.

.....
Date of inspection:

Path No:

OCR/Bridleway/RUPP (Delete as appropriate).

Grid reference. From to

If you were following a map or guide book, please give details here:

.....
Description of condition of path, obstructions, etc.
Draw a sketch map on a separate piece of paper, if necessary.

Name & Address of Sender:

.....
.....

INFORMATION APPEAL NO. 5.

(Nearly) Fully enclosed chain for ALL. This mod employs two Montesa Cota 348 chain tubes and can be adapted to fit any machine. The tubes cover top and bottom runs of the chain leaving only part of the sprockets exposed. Attachment to the swinging arm is achieved by a simple home-made mounting bracket. Total cost - £3. per tube (from your friendly Montesa dealer) and odd pence for the two brackets. SAE to me for comprehensive fitting instructions. Hurry while stocks last; a genuine not-to-be-missed offer.

Clutch and brake levers: It has been mentioned before (somewhere), but to avoid broken levers, slacken them slightly (not hanging below the bars, dummy) so in the event of a fall they move rather than snap.

Honda XL 125 gearbox sprocket: A Honda 90 gearbox sprocket fits straight on and is one tooth smaller than standard.

Chain oilers: Pete Plummer's T & M News column of 5th January described a chain oiler for 20p. I've had several letters commending this particular device and saying it actually works. Don't all look surprised. If you missed the article an SAE to me will ensure a copy.

Grab handles: For a cheap substitute for pukka grab handles, try rope lashed round indicator stalks or something similar.

Useful address: Sammy Miller, for most things. Gore Road, New Milton, Hampshire. Phone: 0425 616446.

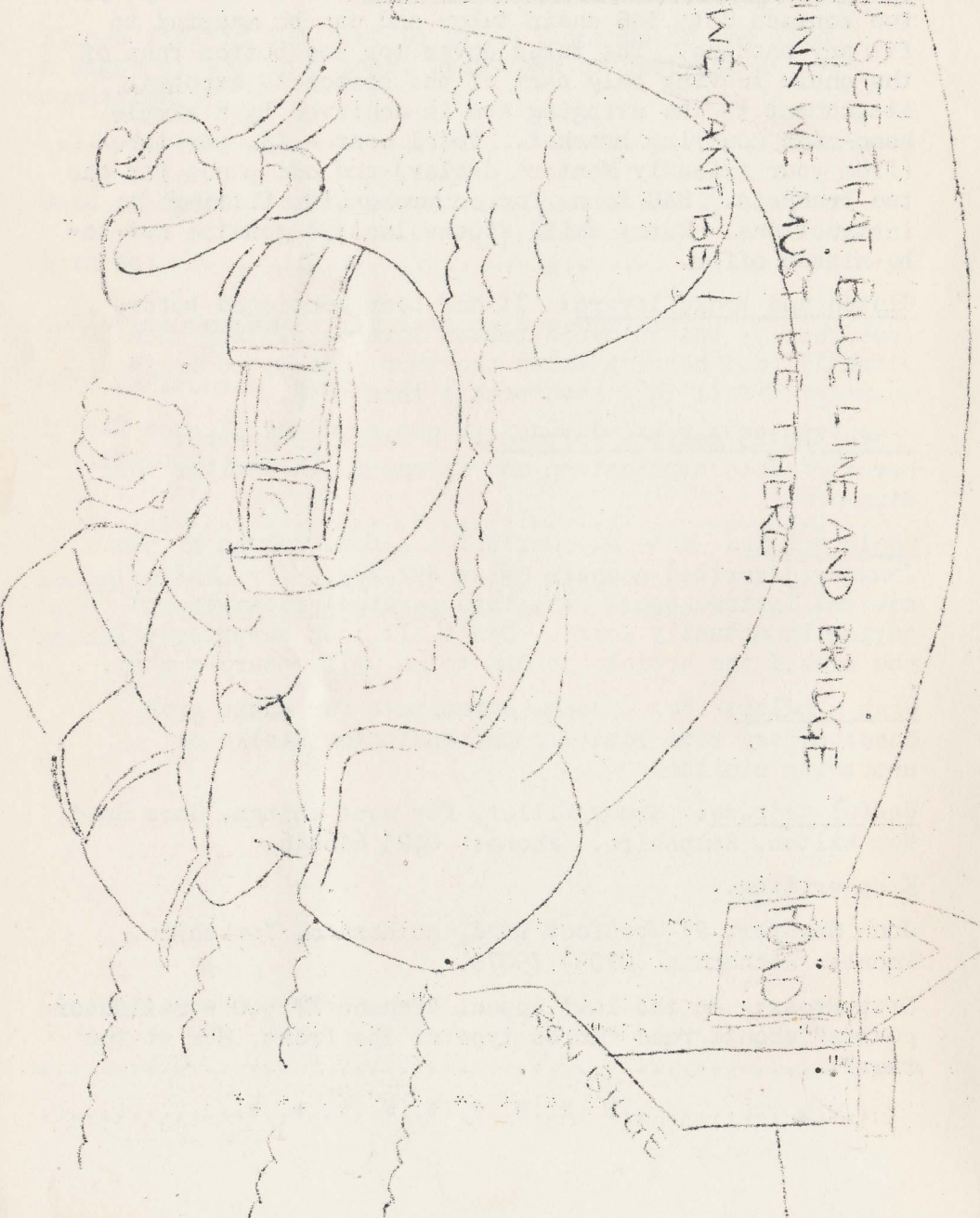
Keep writing.

John Shearer, 21 Woodfoot Road, Rotherham, Yorkshire.
Phone: Rotherham (0709) 79078.

Stop Press: In the last Appeal "Yamaha XT 500 - Stilmotor guards" should read "Maico type at the front, SWM at the rear".

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YOU SEE THAT BLUE LINE AND BRIDGE
I THINK WE MUST BE HERE!
NOW WE CAN'T BE!



RUN REPORTS

BOURNEMOUTH GROUP RUN - 14th January, 1979.

The start was at 9 am with 11 riders attending; the weather in the Bournemouth and Winborn area was cold, but without snow and ice. Arrived at the first lane on OS map 164 near Tidpit, everybody looking for mud. To our surprise the lane was covered in snow drifts; needless to say, so were the rest. We pressed on through 4 and 5-ft. snow drifts and sheets of iced water - what a day! We covered 25-miles of snow and ice covered green lanes; knackered was not the word for it - I think we pushed and walked most of it. We had visions of the Slalom ski events, ice speedway and, to cap it all, Scott's fatal expedition. It seemed even worse when the fog decided to engulf us. John Stockley had his 8mm movie camera and took 50-ft. of film to prove it was for real and no nightmare; unfortunately, we lost two interested parties who wished to join. God, we were glad to get home!

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CUMBRIA RUN - 4th February, 1979.

The run started on a bleak morning from Sedbergh. Eight motorcyclists (Mike Hill, Reg Turnbull, Ted Chapman, Pete Deeley, Cliff Brown, Alistair Whittaker, Roger Harris, David Howe) set off up Garsdale to Dandra Garth and took the old road over the slopes of Rise Hill to Cowgill, in Dentdale. The snow underfoot slowed the group down so lunch was taken at Dent village.

The afternoon run started up Flinter Gill Outrake behind Dent which proved to be an exciting ride as there were many ice patches. At the Coal Road the southern branch was taken and good time made to the Nun House Outrake. Here conditions deteriorated and deep snowdrifts were met. After a mile or so the riders called it a day and returned along the Coal Road northwards to the Barbon road. Good views abounded of the hills, snow clad, in all directions. From Cawthorpe the nice road over Longstone Fell brought the group back to Sedbergh at mid-afternoon after a strenuous and exhilarating day.

David Howe.

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TESSIDE GROUP RIPON RUN - February, 1979.

A somewhat smaller group than of late made the rather chilly run down to the town square in Ripon - John Law, Peter Taylor, Ken Wilson, Ken Turner, Mark Wilson and friend, and me.

A cold and misty start was made down the small lane west of Littlethorpe (OS map 91, GR 318694) where the party slipped and slithered in a gingerly fashion. Pete's bike needed attention, suspect carburation, which was cured by a new plug cap! Moving south to Burton Leonard, we headed for the pleasant ford crossing at 'The Bottoms' (GR 324628). Whilst the more seasoned campaigners stopped to assess the situation, young Mark and helpless friend dived straight into the depths - under went both men and machine, scoring maximum points from the judges for style and execution. (Eat your heart out Howard!) After 20-mins. of frenzied activity the Bultaco fired up and poured a couple of gallons of H2O from its exhaust. The trail continued to South Stainley (GR 306632) with no further mishaps.

Lunchtime was looming, so a quick buzz along to a pub just outside Burnt Yates (GR 257612) saw us tucking into a wholesome repast whilst the Bultaco boys dried out, having decided not to continue after lunch.

The normally easy lane from Shaw Mills (GR 259628) was particularly tricky as the snow began to get deeper, not helped by well iced tractor tyre ruts, and some real foot slogging antics were required across the fields at Bowes Green Farm. It was a rather weary troupe which rode past the eerie Brimham Rocks. On to the B6265, an exploratory session was instigated along the straight lane via Round Hills across Pately Moor (GR 209668). The going was very tough, both Kens 'throwing away' their machines along the mile that we were able to do. 4-ft. drifts prevented completion, so all turned back. With the temperature falling, we headed back to Ripon where Pete suffered a mysterious deflatory experience. With that rectified, the group pushed north along winding country lanes to Burneston. (GR 308851).

BOURNELOUTH GROUP TRAIL RIDE - 11th February, 1979.

Here we turned east on to a nice green lane leading on to the A1. Heads down and a fairly chilly run up to the A19 and home via Leeming Bar and Northallerton ended a memorable day, which just goes to show that the shorter runs are not necessarily the most trouble-free!

Gerard Stokeld.

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BOURNELOUTH GROUP TRAIL RIDE - 11th February, 1979.

OS map 184 - Berwick Down, Oxdrove, Whitesheet Hill and Swallowcliff.

Started promptly at 9 a.m. from Steve Russell's home. A good press announcement giving route and various pick-up points made for a smooth assembly; nevertheless, only 10 riders decided to brave the cold and generally atrocious weather.

Excellent morning trail; once again spent largely negotiating frozen snow drifts. Dropped down from the 'tops' to a village pub for lunch, only to be examined by the publican's wife and duly condemned as an unsavoury gathering. She repented after a private conference and served lunch in a barn/garage.

The afternoon was sabotaged by a farmer's over zealous ploughing, there being no sign of the highway. One by one the bikes became clogged with mud and the ride turned into a rescue effort. Worst affected was Ralph on his immaculate Triumph 500, which had to be physically carried from the battle area after the clutch burnt out. Once safely out we assembled as a sorry bunch and headed for home on our blocks of mud.

Never mind - next time!!!

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(.genre 'The Bournelouth') x1000

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SOUTHERN GROUP RUN - 18th February, 1979.

We met at Lunways at 9.30 am on a freezing morning. After we had sorted out who was to lead the various groups, we set off. So the three of us (yes, that's right - three!) left - Peat Gleed assisted by an SL 125 (re-bored to 750 by S. Mauller Ltd.), Pete Wildsmith accompanied by an SP 370 (converts to a trials model at the push of a button) and last and probably least, me with my XT (500-1b.)

Anyway orft we went towards Alresford. After having done, gasp, two miles, we stopped to thaw out our hands, quite damn cold old chap. Through Alresford on to the Cheriton Triangle which we did, then headed for the West Meon Hut. The next lane was at the top of a short hill covered with 2" of ice. We slithered and slid up the hill (is that possible?) and upon reaching the top, P. Gleed showed us how to play aeroplanes. You know, where you slide down the hill with your arms out? (Mmmm, yes.)

Back to the run. Next bit was the climb up to HMS Mercury, long and fiddley. We then came to the top of Butser Hill, looked down the steep bit, said "steep innit" and proceeded down the easy side. The next lane of note was short, in a deep gully with much rubble, water, mud and, at the farmyard end, a pool of liquid shhh, you know what. Now for sadists, we rode the Lyth Farm lane; this is very muddy and slippery, but above all, steep and about $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile long. Very exciting, riding a beastie like an XT up slopes like that. After reaching the top we stopped to pick up our hearts. Small bit of roadwork and we went up Wheatham Hill, you know 1 in 3, muddy, etc., (boring eh?) Now for the finale - we rode up another hill, steep, long, muddy.... not again!

Anyway, to sum up this and the remainder of the ride home. I can describe the run as a Bumbruisin, Armwrenchin, Legbreakin, Chainstretchin Knackertrail.

Note: Last word for Howard Wadsworth's dictionary of trailterms.

Nick Chalk (Gullible XT owner.)

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A BRACE OF BOURNEMOUTH & POOLE GROUP RUNS

25th February, 1979.

This was one of our short days out over the OCR's in the Tolpuddle and Mitton area in Dorset.

A good day was had with three new fellows having a first taste of green lanes. I sometimes wonder what the percentage is of prospective members who end up joining the TRF. The highlight of the afternoon was the very wide and fast flowing ford at Mitton. Some of our more cautious riders chose the tempting footbridge. Ralph Phillips, who is a real campaigner with the real grit, made the river half way with his new DT 125.

The day ended in aerobatics at 30 mph on a gravel lane in a front wheel to rear end knock - a lesson to all to keep a safe distance.

11th March, 1979.

North New Forest area, OS map 184. Our start was at Fritham, off the A31. Two of our members, already very experienced men, Mike Parker and Chris Ellis, explored the forest route. Nine members attended, all mounted on Yamahas of various cc's, except one Montesa rider, Andrew Marshall. Yes Andrew, I think your idea of fitting a large tank would be a good one, we don't like to lose men with such true grit.

The morning went well, covering all the lanes intended, apart from one that was blocked with thick cut saplings for 100-yds. After a chat to the local farmer in his yard and explaining that three months previously we had found the lane in the same condition, he assured us that it was not intentional or permanent. We lunched at Whaddon village, only to lose one of the non-members out on his first green lane; he found the going too much on his XT 500. Although he had battled through the morning it was too much for his metal, lost his gristle and turned to jelly. After saying cheerio to Mike Parker as well (other commitments in the bike scene) Chris Ellis and I led the route.

We commenced with Pepperbox Hill, retracing to Downton for 'Black Gold', then up the A338 to Charlton. Then on to RUPP's 7, 14, 13 and 6 and on to Coombe Bissett. The going for the day was extremely sticky with thick bogs of mud, but luckily having such a capable team this Sunday we conquered all. Wish I could ride through thick mud feet up, like Chris. I believe I held the days score in having a mud bath four times. From Coombe Bissett we turned left to Stratford Tony to ride the newly discovered byway and with a lovely wet start we ploughed the ford, with such success some went back for more while I was filming the group's fun for posterity.

The day was finished riding the Ox Drove and by the look on his face, this was Julian's favourite. Mud and more mud - oh for some grip. The day ended at 5 p.m., a distance of 100-miles having been covered by the time we all reached home.

Stephen Russell.

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CUMBRIA GROUP RUN - 25th March, 1979.

The start was at White Moss, Rydal, and 8 motorcyclists began their green lane run with the road behind the car park. Then they skirted Grasmere, over Red Bank to Elterwater for Owlet's Nest, the old road over into Little Langdale. The interesting group of roads through the Tilberthwaite Woods were tackled next, then Arnside Intake brought the party to Coniston. With so much snow having melted overnight from the fells, the riders decided to go over the 2,000-ft. high Walna Scar road. This turned out to be a struggle in the wet conditions, streams having eroded the road in many places. Lunch was taken near the top of the pass where a view over the Duddon Valley was spied when the mist lifted. The descent was virtually snow free and from Seathwaite to Broughton Mills the Park Head Road was taken. By now the weather had turned more foul, so the motorcyclists turned for Ambleside after one of the wettest runs for some time.

David Howe.

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ADVERTISEMENTS (Free to members)

FOR SALE: Honda XL 125. 'R' reg with 175 conversion fitted 500-miles ago. Very clean condition. 3,500-miles. £325. John Onion, phone Nottingham 812956.

FOR SALE: Barum trail tyre. New. 3.00 x 16. £7. 8 Alric Drive, Brinsworth, Rotherham. Tel: Rotherham 72561.

FOR SALE: Montesa 247 Cota Mk. V, 1973, 'L' reg, new big end, mains, gearbox bearings, fork seals, handlebars, etc. MOT till July. £230. o.n.o. Delivery possible. Tel. Roy Dean after 6 pm on Epsom 24980.

FOR SALE: BSA B 50 MX. Road registered, lights fitted, taxed and MOT'd, Preston Petty's fitted. Price includes spare tank and seat and some engine and cycle parts. £425. Peter Sheppard, tel: 01-5792424, ext. 2643 (office) or 01-977 8028 (home) or 940 4094 (other home.)

ENGINEERING: Norris Bomford, The Orchards, Salford Priors, Evesham. Tel: Bidford on Avon 3333. For crank grinding, cylinder boring, heads and blocks skimmed, bearings and pistons supplied, valve seats cut, etc. A single motorcycle bore costs £3.50. Quick service guaranteed.

FREE: To collector. Front and rear mudguard, foot rests, all flasher lamps for DT 175 Yamaha. Tel: Brian on 0596 72606 (9 am - 6 pm.)

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