

## GROUPS

**BLACK COUNTRY** Chris Braznell, Tel: 0121 421 3086  
1 & 3 Thurs, 9pm, The Mitre, Church Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton

**BRISTOL** Martin Harding, Tel: 0117 969 6674  
2nd Mon, Warmley Community Centre, Deanery Road, (A420), Kingswood

**CAMBRIDGE** Richard Palmer, Tel: 01353 688344  
1st Thur, Golden Ball, Boxworth

**CHESHIRE** Tony Bramah, Tel: 0161 366 6813  
2 & 4 Mon, The Robin Hood, Buxton Road, High Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport

**CORNWALL** Sally A. Madgwick, Tel: 01208 74411  
Ring Secretary for details

**CUMBRIA** Roger Harris, Tel: 01539 725198  
2nd Tuesday, Derby Arms Hotel, Witherslack, Nr. Kendal

**DERBYSHIRE & SOUTH YORKSHIRE**  
Kevin Marsh, Tel: 01246 237910  
2 & 4 Tue., Carbrook Hall, 537 Attercliffe Common, Sheffield

**DEVON** Richard Arscott, Tel: 01803 612950  
2nd Tue, The Welcome Stranger, Bickington, Nr. Newton Abbott

**DORSET** Tony Summers, Tel: 01202 894419  
1st Tue, Greyhound Inn, Winterbourne, Kingston, Nr. Bere Regis

**EAST MIDLANDS** Graham Chinnery, Tel: 01332 863433  
2nd Wed, The Chequers Inn, Main St, Breaston, South Derbyshire, J25 on M1

**EAST SCOTLAND** Les Mollison, Tel: 01382 738530  
2nd Wed, Glencarse Hotel, A85, Perth to Dundee Rd.

**EAST YORKSHIRE**  
Howard Wadsworth, Tel: 01405 860904  
1st Tue, Boot & Shoe, Gowdall, Nr. Snaith

**ESSEX**  
Aelwood Finch, Tel: 01245 329118, Mobile: 0374 471251  
2nd Wed, The Swan Public House, Great Eastern, Nr. Dunmow

**GLOUCESTER** Wayne Little, Tel: 01452 611735  
1st Tue, Painswick Institute, Painswick, Glos.  
3rd Tue Worcester Auto Club, Perdiswell Park, Worcester

**HERTFORDSHIRE** Colin Adlam, Tel: 01727 875618  
1st Wed, Coach & Horses, Newgate St, Nr Cuffly

**HIGH PEAK & POTTERIES**  
Simon Lowe, Tel: 01298 24388  
1st Tue, Stafford Arms, Bagnall & 3rd Tue, Cheshire Cheese, Buxton

**ISLE OF WIGHT** Mark Gregory, Tel: 01983 867730  
Last Thur, The White Lion, Arreton, IOW

**KENT** Jeff Hayward, Tel: 01322 863521  
2nd Tue, Pied Bull, Farningham, Nr Brands Hatch

**LANCASHIRE** Keith Westley, Tel: 01704 893215  
1st Tue, Hindshead Pub on A49, Charnock Richard

**LINCOLNSHIRE** Alan Wilkinson, Tel: 01529 460793  
4th Thur, The Queens Head, Kirkby-la-Thorpe, Sleaford

**LODDON VALE** Bernard Green, Tel: 01344 50289  
2nd Thurs, Inn in the Park, Woodley Centre, E. Reading

**NORTHUMBERLAND** Steve Bertram  
Tel 0850 863620 11am-6pm Tel & Fax 0191 261 9629  
1st Tue, The Beamish Mary, No Place, Co. Durham

**NORTH WALES** John Mills, Tel: 01477 534425  
1st Wed, Hope & Anchor, Ewloe Place, Buckley

**OXFORDSHIRE** Pat McGuire, Tel: 01844 238414  
3rd Thurs, Duke of Marlborough, 1.5 miles N. of Woodstock

**PEAK DISTRICT GROUP** Phil Sadler, Tel: 01332 344495  
1st Thursday, 8pm, Travellers Rest, Ashbourne Road, Derby

**RIBBLE VALLEY** Tony Broughton, Tel: 01200 423239  
2nd Tue, Pendle Hotel, Chatburn, Clitheroe (off A59)

**SHROPSHIRE** Lynton Powell, Tel: 01743 358423  
2nd & last Wed, White Horse, Shrewsbury

**SOMERSET** Kevin Parfitt, Tel: 01935 72343  
Last Thur, The Canal Inn, Wrantage

**SOUTHERN** Russ McDermid, Tel: 01703 812371  
3rd Tue, The Phoenix, Twyford, Nr. Winchester

**SOUTH LONDON & SURREY** Brian Wright  
0181 680 5734 Wed-Sat, 01797 363373 Sun-Tue  
9pm every Wed, Ewell Sports & Social Club, Banstead Road, Ewell, Surrey

**SOUTH NORTHANTS**  
Trevor Gardiner, Tel: 01788 815927  
2nd Mon, The Live & Let Live Pub, Harpole, nr. Northampton

**SOUTH WALES** Stuart Dodwell, Tel: 01446 710851  
1st Thur, Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff, 8pm

**SUFFOLK** Richard May, Tel: 01787 374073  
Last Wed, Manger Pub, A134 Sudbury Rd, Bury-St-Ed.

**SWINDON** Pete Owen, Tel: 01793 750557  
1st Wed, Jacobs Ladder, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon

**SUSSEX** Bevis Billingham, Tel: 01243 585128  
Last Thurs, Ashing on Social Club, Rear of Red Lion, A24, 9 miles North of Worthing

**TEESSIDE & NORTH YORKS**  
Leo Crone, Tel: 01325 380117  
1st & 3rd Wed, Blacksmiths Arms, Swainby

**THAMES VALLEY** Don Hoaglin, Tel: 01474 704530  
3rd Mon, District Arms, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex

**WEST ANGLIA** David Knight, Tel: 01933 313816  
1st & 3rd Thurs, Scott Bader Clubhouse, Opp. Parish Church, Woolaston, Wellingborough

**WEST MIDLANDS** Richard Hawker, Tel: 01527 893874  
1st & 3rd Thurs, Wilmcote Mens Club, Stratford on Avon

**WEST SOMERSET** David Dyer, Tel: 01643 841139  
2nd Wed, Anchor Inn, Exbridge

**WEST YORKSHIRE** Gordon Carr, Tel: 01535 644568  
1st & 3rd Thur, Bankfoot Cricket Club, Wickets Close, (off Cleckheaton Rd), Odsal, Bradford

**WILTSHIRE** Bill Riley, Tel/Fax: 01225 863811  
1st Tue, The Toll Gate, Holt, Trowbridge

**WORCESTERSHIRE** David Gunster, Tel: 01905 616400  
3rd Tuesday, Worcester Auto Club, Perdiswell Park, Worcs.

**WYVERN** Steve Pighills, Tel: 01902 672479  
Every Thur, 10pm, Potter's Rose & Crown, Colley Lane, Halesowen



Patron: Lord Strathcarron

# TRAIL

JUNE, 1997

No. 226

The Bulletin of the TRF, the National Club for all who wish to ride Legal Motorcycles on Legal Carriageways.

EDITOR: Michael "Nettlebed" Pedley.



*Relaxing on the Trail, Brompton-on-Swale, N. Yorkshire*

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*All Contributions to the Editor ..... Please keep it short and sweet!*

**COPY DEADLINE: FIRST POST, 1ST TUESDAY OF MONTH**



## TRF OFFICERS

- CHAIRMAN** ..... Tony Stuart, Cambrea, Worthy Hill, Trebetherick, Wadebridge, Cornwall, PL27 6SG. Tel/Fax: 01208 862960, Mobile: 0831 467273.
- PUBLIC REL. OFFICER** Mark Holland, Corn Farm, Devauden, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, (Gwent), NP6 6NS. Tel: 01291 650240 (Weekends only).
- MEMBERSHIP SEC.** ... Graham Stratford, 38 Thornton Crescent, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1LH. Tel: 01737 553599.
- SECRETARY** ..... Dave Clegg, 10 Hardwick Road, Pill, Bristol, North Somerset, BS20 0DG. Tel & Fax: 01275 373652.
- TREASURER** ..... Alan Wilkinson, 29 Christopher Close, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9SA. Tel: 01529 460793.
- EDITOR** ..... Michael Pedley, Nettlebed, Newsholme, Gisburn, Clitheroe, Lancs., BB7 4JF. Tel & Fax: 01200 445657.
- RoW OFFICER** ..... Steve Neville, 40 The Sandpipers, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5QB. Tel: 01474 332785.
- BMF LIAISON OFFICER** ..... Derrick Collins, 11 Grangewood Road, Wollaton, Nottingham, Notts. NG8 2SJ. Tel: 0115 9282806.
- KEEPER OF STATIONERY** ..... Aelwood Finch, 8 Hallowell Down, South Woodham, Ferrers, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 5FS. Tel: 01245 329118, Mobile: 0374 471251.
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*The views expressed in 'Trail' are those of its correspondents and not necessarily of the editor or the T.R.F.*

## EDITOR

Do not antagonise other countryside users', we are told.

We go out of our way to avoid confrontation, making sure that we use only legal lanes, ride at sensible speeds, are considerate to animals, exercise *voluntary* restraints, etc. But is this enough? Apparently not.

Last night I had a phone call from a young man who had been doing some gentle trail riding on his own (foolish but not illegal). He was stopped and attacked by two farmers, one wielding a heavy tow rope, the other attempting to ram him with a quad - all this on a legal lane.

We also hear about landowners waving guns around, etc. - I've seen one. I myself have been threatened by two stick wielding gamekeepers (I was on my own at the time).

My advice to anyone finding themselves in this sort of situation is do not take the law into your own hands, report the matter to the Police and insist that they interview the people involved, because ours is a legal pursuit, isn't it?

Anyone out there from the farming community reading this, please pass the message on - we are not going to be intimidated by a bunch of rural thugs.

### NETTLEBED

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our second National Meeting of 1997 has just taken place and was attended by a total of 18

members, or just over 1% of the membership. I know meetings can be a fag and boring, but attending and having your say is the way you influence the future of YOUR Club.

Although we are keeping our non-essential expenditure to a minimum, we now believe that we have got ourselves over the financial hump of last September and can look forward to the future with renewed confidence.

A new advertising leaflet incorporating a membership application form will be available in draft form for the next Meeting and will be printed when our present stationery stocks are exhausted. Meanwhile will ANYONE holding at stationery (leaflets, constitutions, application forms, etc., or extra copies of TRAIL less than 12 months old) please let Aelwood Finch know roughly what you have got.

Went straight from the Meeting in Birmingham to the BMF Rally at Peterborough. Have never seen so many bikes in one place! I took the TRF Mobile Exhibition Unit to use at a joint trail bike display area, with The Container Company from Norfolk. I talked TRF to quite a few potential members in addition to what the South Northants Group did at their excellent stand in the main Show area. They apparently signed up about 20 new members. Many thanks to Mick Hulbert and his merry men.

Ideas for the future of the TRF? I have received an excellent letter from a TRF Group Chairman, which I will probably discuss at the next National Meeting. Meanwhile if any of you have any ideas for improving the image and appeal of the TRF in the minds of present and potential members and the perception that others have of us - please write to me.

Tony Stuart



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## GROUP NEWS

### SUFFOLK GROUP

Four of us did Derbyshire on the weekend of the 26th April. Saturday was mostly the Dark Peak - and it really was - it lagged it down all day, we couldn't even see the bottom of the quarries we were about to fall into. From a (late - we had to bump start (several times) the newest bike - Chris's *Serrow*) Chesterfield start, we got to Hope for snap time - excellent, biker-friendly & most importantly dry cafe, opposite the church. Hunger Hill, as the first lane was a bit of a shock for flat earthers, but I took pity on them and we rode it downhill. We got as far west as Chapel Gate, before doing the dams and arriving out of the clouds at the Fox House. As usual with my runs it was nearly dark (and even wetter), so we ear 'oled it back. No breakdowns, nobody fell off, although Dave did mount the bank on Excelsior and Bamford. Down over the rocks from Hope Cross and Ouzelden Clough was the most difficult bit, but even Chris, who's only ridden in East Anglia and Wiltshire before, made it OK - he wasn't impressed though when I told him we had to go back up due to the reservoir road closure! Sunday - another late start due to being knackered this time, but the sun was shining. Kelstedge woke everyone up with a horse, mud, two fords and a tricky rocky climb - the perfect lane - except for Dobbin. We sat outside another cracking cafe in Mionyash for lunch, after riding through a disappointingly bone dry River Lathkill - we'd make up for it later! Pilsbury brought us down to earth - literally for me. Chris and Dave had to push the *Serrow* - the trail tyres not working too well on mud with a gradient. Much more water in the Mianifold (river, inlet and exhaust?) at Ludburn and wet feet for me and Steve, (thanks for the push) when my XT died again. Then after refitting and adjusting Steve's rubber chain yet again, it was Hollinsclough down and Lymer Rake up - hard, but we all made it one way or another. Tenterhill - Booth's Farm was a magical spot by the packhorse bridge, in the sunshine. Unfortunately it was getting late again, so we blasted over the Chelmorton back roads then pulled in Pilsley, Edensor and Beeley. Shouldn't all green lanes have an ice cream van at the top? I had to get back, but the other three rode the Taddington area on Monday morning - and then it rained again! Thanks to Phil in the Cheshire Group for the map marking and Trail Bike magazine for a few others. There's so many more lanes to do we'll just have to go back again.

Suffolk CC RoW dept. have provided me with information about our TROs! There are only three confirmed at present, but 23 others are either awaiting confirmation or advertising! Their policy since 1993 has been to investigate traffic management as each lane is reclassified. Up to now, the outcome, without any monitoring or proper consultation with user groups has been permanent TRO. Off the record, the word is that they didn't really know what they were doing, they thought that TROs were the only answer (in spite of our input) and that they have been learning and are now considering other options. However they do concede that local resident and councillor pressure often forces the issue. The reasons put forward are always ground conditions and the safety of horse and pedestrian



users. We will continue the fight.

The AGM was held on 30th April. I sent out 47 notices and rang two other potential attendees. We had ten people present and two apologies, a modern day record! Founder Norfolk & Suffolk members, David Rose and Andy Downes came back and hopefully will stay with us. Hobson's choice means that the committee for the next year is:-

Chairman: Richard May  
Treasurer: Gordon Greenfield  
2nd Signatory: Peter Mumford  
Secretary?: Chris Broster

We have eight members in Suffolk and seven in the group (including one each from Norfolk and Cambridge) No-one has yet come forward to attend national &/or regional meetings.

The view on recruitment was that we should advertise in the local press and ask local dealers to hand out notices with each bike sold. Apparently a similar policy brought over a hundred to the first meeting many years ago and a membership of 30 to 40. It was agreed to pursue this policy as soon as we have decided on a new central venue in the Stowmarket area. Gordon has volunteered to undertake a survey of possible pubs! We will continue to meet at our usual venue until further notice. Group funds are still fairly healthy, but there has been no income since the horse events stopped contributing in 1995. The view is that we should look at Group run and meeting fees and other fund raising activities.

There's been a little local difficulty with horse ride marshalling, which will hopefully be sorted soon as there more people interested in helping out.

The Essex Group would like to start doing horse rides and are hoping we can show them how. Additionally they would like a joint run up the Peddars Way in August and are hoping to invite us to the second running of their trail bike trial. Also they have members who have the time to do RoW work and could help us out.

The first evening run of the year took place on the 14th. Three of us rode until after dark, from Long Melford towards Bury, before looping around to finish at the Wickhambrook ford. Steve would have joined us, but for an early morning close encounter with a deer, just after leaving home on his way to Exmoor, on his new XT660. Hope it gets better soon - the bike that is. Dave led an excellent run, in which we tackled a couple of new lanes, one of which involved fighting through a jungle - a definite find. The rest of you missed out again, why not join us for the next one?

The next events are: June 22nd Holkham Bay, Norfolk Horse Ride, June 29th Sunday Run, July 6th Horse Ride - Kings Forest West Stow Bury St. Edmunds, July 16th Evening Run, July 19th Horse Ride - Bacton BBQ Stowmarket, July 26th Horse Ride - Wimpole Way Cambs, July 27th Horse Ride - Hockham, Norfolk, August 3rd Horse Event - Angles Way, Hommersfield (Run if any demand), August 13th Evening Run, August 31st Horse Event - Euston Park, Suffolk (Run if any demand).

Richard May

## South Western Region Meeting

APRIL 1997

There's nothing like the lure of the talents of a new Chairman for ensuring a good turn out at a meeting - either that or Swindon's Neil Hennion spent a past life in a press gang. Whatever, the first of our two meetings this year was very well attended both by Regional Groups and National Officers.

As usual a vast range of topics was covered from Rights of Way to publicity and from member motivation to the value of Peter's bike (both rather low). Briefly, here are a few of the main topics and the opinion of the Region upon them:

### FINANCE

Ways to generate income were discussed, all Groups present being active in recruitment (posters in bike shops, adverts in magazines, hand out cards for unattended trail bikes etc). Other sources could be from organised runs (like the popular Coast to Coast) perhaps.

### PROTECTING LANES

The Region had funded Peter Banks, Tim Stevens and Neil Hennion to attend a CLA conference. On balance it was probably better to be there than not, though our display material needs very careful inspection for this sort of hostile audience! Peter highlighted the need to recognise allies and not to alienate people with largely similar aims to ourselves - especially Ramblers and horse riders. Quite a lot of aims are common (preservation, conservation, rights of access) and we mustn't forget this.

### MEMBER MOTIVATION

Neil Hennion asked us all whether we had a problem here. Unanimous yes! Compared to other groups, noticeably MAG, TRF members are not, in the main, very proactive, possibly due to them not fully appreciating the threats to trail riding. MAG members asked parliamentary candidates from the recent revolution (oops sorry, election) for their opinions on motorcycling issues. DID YOU?

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

We had the benefit of TRF member and local County Councillor Martin Harding being present. A lot of sound advice was given on effective canvassing or campaigning - from the inside - as it were. The professional approach of other bodies was highlighted and it was thought that the TRF had fallen behind here. We desperately need some GOOD printed material.

There was of course a lot more discussion, old maps were sold, food, beer and coffee consumed, "things" were passed around. If you would like a copy of the full notes (I don't DO minutes, you need a proper secretary for that...) please ring me, number on the back of Trail, and I'll send you a copy. Failing that come to the next meeting - Saturday November 8th 1997 at Puriton Village Hall, Somerset. ALL welcome!

Sally A. Madgwick, Secretary SW Region



## WHAT HAPPENED?

### TRF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING, 10.30 TO 17.00 HOURS, SATURDAY 17TH MAY. THE BARN, HOCKLEY HEATH, SOLIHULL.

This is Mark Holland's actioned summary of meeting with actions from draft minutes. However, there is no substitute for being there. The meeting is only as good as your input. All welcome.

See April TRAIL (p5) for agenda. 18 present, usually 35.

**MINUTES** Previous approved, actions checked and progressed. This time the minutes to all group reps on Nat. Exec. - SAE to David Clegg if not received by end of June.

#### REPORTS - PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

**Dave Clegg** - various points of interest.

**Steve Neville** - topical discussion on reclassification of RuPPs, Planning Inspectorate, vehicular rights on 'County Roads', contact with new Labour Ministers ('Bike to Basics'), etc.

*Action: Tim Stevens to send list of new Ministers to TRAIL.*

**Mike Pedley** - asked for photos for TRAIL and calendar. Meeting concerned at letter critical of a member and at 'gung-ho' terms.

**Mark Holland** - written report. Discussed possible new countryside legislation, briefing notes for new County Councillors, Daily Telegraph, etc. Thanked members for cuttings - include page no. and address.

**Alan Wilkinson (not present)** - written report discussed. Savings on print costs.

*Action for all: Chairman's approval for printing.*

**Graham Stratford (not present)** - 1508 members.

*Action: GS to investigate Standing Order.*

**Tony Stuart** - meeting omitted to remind him to give report!

#### REPORT - COAST-TO-COAST TRAIL RIDE

Tony Stuart had taken part - said enjoyable, good for local trade, good for TRF. Article soon.

#### REPORT - PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mark Holland circulated a draft general leaflet - liked.

*Action: Fred Ellison to mock-up.*

#### REPORTS - CO-OPTED OFFICERS

**Derrick Collins** - TRF stand at BMF Show. Attends BMF meetings, BMF affiliation worthwhile, better representation on the way.

**Colin Patient (not present)** - TRF acknowledgments in horse event programmes and glowing sincere thank you letters.

#### REPORTS - REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Only Fred Ellison, Northern present - very useful.

(Above are only reports given or sent).

#### NEW GROUP - new to agenda

Dave Gunster came to gain approval for Worcestershire Group. Interesting comments on image and promotion of TRF. They had been helped by the Glos. Group. As they had sufficient enthusiastic people to form a Group they were APPROVED.

#### FUNDING - new agenda item

Northern region wanted new leaflet, membership drive and free articles in magazines. Mark Holland said the best way was TRF posters in motorcycle dealers with a box of cards with group contact on.

Lottery funding difficult unless capital. Much of what we 'want' is already

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Highway Authority duty. Funding for computer mapping? Dave Clegg - ask other green lane motorcycle clubs and leave money in your will.

#### FORWARD PLAN

##### (a) Cataloguing of Vehicular Rights of Way

Action: Steve Neville to fill gaps in Map Controllers.

(b) TRF Regionalisation - still gaps. Fred Ellison said regions give good feedback to groups via Regional Rep.

(c) Hierarchy of Routes Initiative - Tim Stevens explained workings. Presently in Lake District National Park. Report expected September 1997. Way forward elsewhere.

Action: Tony Stuart find volunteers to apply initiative elsewhere after report.

(d) Develop External Liaison - ongoing but uneven - including exhibitions. All groups please seek advice from Steve Neville and Mark Holland.

(e) Improve Publicity - all groups try to send Strategy and Caring leaflet and meet County Councils, Councillors and National Parks.

(f) Develop Member Skills - other clubs train - perhaps we could send TRF members. Tim Stevens asked for suggestions for next LARA Conference (send direct or via Sec): Derrick Collins suggested training on confrontations.

##### (g) 1988 Forward Plan

Action: Tony Stuart to draft and distribute (please send in your new and old ideas).

**DISCUSSION OF MOTIONS FOR AGM**  
Refinement of Constitution - handout only.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Wadsworth (Derbys) - paramedics on trail bikes. Discussion - including obstructions.

Do groups/members have problems with 4WD activity? Should we invite 4WD Club to TRF meeting? Distance, disown or distinguish? TRF Constitution - co-operate with those with similar aims. 4WD Clubs also support LARA.

# POA

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## EXTRACT FROM DORSET GROUP NEWSLETTER

GARRY's GAD

27-4-97

When Dave Greenslade was unable to lead this run, Garry Makepeace stepped in at the 11th hour. (Lucky there are some people who will lead runs, there are one or two that won't).

Six men followed him starting from Dorchester riding a few lanes new to me but also including those old favourites. I don't recollect riding through Mintern Parva and reading the sign "Track to Buckland". Then on to Cosmore Drove where after crossing the bridge that isn't, Dick took time to check the hedge was of regulation depth. At some point we did that lovely little lane that snakes down through the trees and a stream (the XT balked at the water here I care to remember) just north of Rampisham. Bit of a hold up here while Dick checked out the mud of shinny wood, It's low!

We then rode the short link a mile north of Batcombe, which has a small stream to cross and then on to Chetnole. Here John Williamson stopped to thoroughly wash the air filter in the XT 350. After a drying out period, it was off to the pub with Gary's tractor pulling the XT.

At Sherborne we filled up, Graham's XR 400 took about a fivers worth, John's a dose of fin rot treatment and the rest about £2.50. (These 400's look high and thirsty to me.)

And so onto the lanes around Nether Compton. We followed this with a visit to see Cromwell, but he'd moved on. On his way south he'd removed the Sleeper and built a bridge over the stream near Thornford. But at the start of this lane we laughed when Dick, always acting the fool, looked or fell into a ditch.

Shame Olly forgot to fill in the ford at Knighton, and it doesn't look like it's been used since. Perhaps it was he who nailed the gate shut on the bridge? Any way we made tracks (sic) back to our starting point to finish a great day. Thanks Garry

## Coast-to-Coast Did you get yours?

Would you like another sweatshirt or T-shirt?

Phil Fawcett still has 4 sweatshirts and 7 T-shirts left.

**SWEATSHIRTS £12 + £1 p&p**

**T-SHIRTS £5 + £1 p&p**

All Proceeds to TRF funds.

Contact Phil Fawcett on 01287 634972.



## FLAT CAPS AND WHIPPETS

Have a good look at the photo. It's a group of riders from the Lancs area. Do you recognise this lane? Go on have another look. No it's not The Gap or The



Monks Trod, in fact it's not famous at all. I will give you a small clue. As the crow flies it's four and a half miles from the centre of Rochdale. Still no nearer. Well here comes a big clue, it's name is Tunshill Lane. This is the first hill you hit when you come trail riding from the vast flat lands of North Cheshire, Wigan and Astley. When Alan Hodson, (flatlander, colour co-ordinated XR 250 rider and inspiration to all his fellow trail riders) gets to this point we usually stop at the pub to allow him to acclimatise to the altitude to avoid a nose bleed.

This lane is in fact a RuPP and runs from the A672. Denshaw to Ripponden road, to Milnrow just outside Rochdale. It may come as a surprise to some of you but not all Gt. Manchester is full of Coronation St. type terraces and smoking mill chimneys. I once had a work colleague who lived in Southampton and he was most surprised to find that I did not wear a flat cap and breed whippets. This RuPP is one of a total of 119 in the Rochdale area and is under threat from reclassification. Tunshill Lane is listed on a tithe map of 1846 and Yates, Greenwood, Cary and Hennet maps but we have very little user evidence for it. If you have ridden Rapes

Highway then you will probably have ridden Tunshill Lane, the ends of each lane are only 100 yds apart.

Now this is where you come in. The TRF needs to know if you have used this lane in the past, the older the evidence the better. If you rode a Cotton or a B.S.A. Goldflash down it in 1951 and say a Montesa Capra in 1975 then this would count towards 46 years user evidence.

If like me you are put off by the thoughts of writing a letter then fear not, all I require from you are the following:

- 1) Your Name and address
- 2) Name of the lane.
- 3) When you first used the lane and how often since.  
e.g. First used in 1972 and used four times a year since.
- 4) If you have been stopped or challenged on this lane.

It's as easy as that, so if you can do it for one lane then I bet you could for a few more. No long replies required, use a post card or the back of a fag packet with a stamp on it.

- 1) Rapes Highway. Map 109 Ref. 979122 to 998121
- 2) Tunshill. Map 109 Ref. 944132 to 978119
- 3) Edge Gate Lane. Map 109 Ref. 955121 to 964112

Thanks, Phil Lord TRF, LARA  
84 Fallowfield Drive, Shawclough, Rochdale, OL12 6LZ.

## INSTITUTE OF RIGHTS OF WAY OFFICERS

P0 Box 78, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 4UP. Telephone: 01535 637957  
Fax: 01535 637576 Email: 100275.1103@compuserve.com

## NEWS RELEASE

### NFU MEMBER NEW LEADER OF RIGHTS OF WAY MANAGERS

Helen Blenkhorn from County Durham - smallholder and National Farmers' Union Countryside member - is the new president of the Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers.

Helen will set out goals for her two-year term next Friday (30 May), when she chairs her first IPROW meeting in Manchester. Top of Helen's agenda is improving mutual understanding of the problems faced by landowners, path users - and local authority rights of way officers!

She said: "The last 50 years show that laws on their own do not provide an access network that meets the legitimate needs of path users and landowners.

"As the only organisation dedicated to representing access managers, I'm determined that IPROW builds ever greater partnerships with all interested parties, thus reducing conflict in the countryside.

"And whilst people have rights to live, work or enjoy themselves in the



countryside, such rights equally demand responsible behaviour and respect for others.

"Thus I wholeheartedly support tough legal action against landowners - or path users - who intentionally and selfishly flout access laws.

"As a farming tenant of land crossed by a public footpath, my appointment quashes the myth that rights of way staff are somehow biased against landowners.

"I'm sure that by fostering more tolerant attitudes, IPROW will help its members make best use of their often inadequate resources.

"And as the Labour party is so enthusiastic about countryside access, I challenge the new Government to put right the decades of underfunding and neglect."

Helen, 42, is moving to North Yorkshire from County Durham, after becoming the rights of way manager for the new Darlington unitary authority.

She works her 18 acre smallholding near Northallerton in partnership with fiance Colin Bowman, who now has a forestry business after many years as a farm manager and gamekeeper in Teesdale.

Like many of her colleagues, Helen did voluntary and part-time work as a countryside ranger before becoming a rights of way officer in 1988, although she originally trained to be a geography teacher.

More recently she graduated with a Master's degree in Environmental Management at Durham University.

In what little spare time the smallholding allows, Helen enjoys walking, tennis, music and local history.

#### Note

The Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers - formed in 1986 - represents the majority of local government countryside access managers in England and Wales, along with practitioners working in the private sector and for access charities.



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## ACROSS COUNTRIES FOR OXFAM

Three intrepid women, three trail motorcycles plus lots of maps and local knowledge, begged or borrowed, combine this summer in an attempt to ride the length of Britain 'off-tarmac', literally across countries, to raise money for Oxfam.

As well as raising funds for Oxfam, they are hoping to raise the profile of motorcycling, particularly women's involvement (why should the lads have all the fun?) and to highlight access to the countryside on green lanes, currently under threat.

These ancient highways offer rural routes through the heart of the British landscape to all classes of users; walkers, cyclists, horse riders, carriage and motor vehicle drivers, and form just a small part of our public rights of way network.

The three riders are all members of a national organisation, "The Trail Riders Fellowship' (TRF), which over the last twenty seven years has been instrumental in protecting our heritage of green lanes, researching historical evidence, fighting closures and maintaining access.

Local groups of the TRF and other interested individuals are helping to

plan the journey's exact route, (of necessity somewhat indirect to avoid surfaced roads as much as possible), and, along with members of the 'Women's International Motorcycle Association', will be providing accommodation and information en route.

The 'Container Company', specialist importers of trail bikes, are kindly lending motorbikes and A.V.H. Vehicle Hire will provide a support van for the northern half and the return journey.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the trip in any way can contact Jacky German on Tel:01453 751560 or Fax: 01453 872430.



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## 1997 COAST-TO-COAST - THE CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

What can I say? Surely a dramatic run to ride from the North Sea on the East coast of England at Scarborough to the Irish Sea in the West at Morecambe!

Approximately 100 riders met at Scarborough on the Saturday morning and divided into 11 pre-planned groups each with their own leader who had chosen and planned his own route. This formula was repeated on the Sunday morning from the half-way halt at Hawes. Amazingly we only came across 3 other groups in the 2 days, and saw little evidence on the ground of other riders. We only had one objection from a householder - but you always get one don't you?

We rode through just about every type of scenery and every type of hazard, mud, rocks, trees, grassy climbs - and the local speciality - bogs! Little bogs, big bogs, shallow bogs, deep bogs - they had the lot! The old tow rope certainly came in useful on several occasions, with always plenty of willing(?) helpers to pull when one of us got stuck.

A most pleasant and sociable couple of days, not only for some very dramatic trail riding but also giving people the opportunity to meet members from other areas.

Many thanks to Phil Fawcett for all his undoubted hard work in organising the event and to Ken Brass for his hospitality and spectacular display of riding Skills on Salter Fell. I was particularly impressed with his technique for getting himself un-

cross-threaded. This was to do a handstand on the handlebars before thoughtfully throwing himself on the ground in a position to break the bikes fall! Nice one Ken!

Right then, what effect does the Coast-to-Coast have on the TRF? The tradespeople in Scarborough are no doubt grateful for the business on the Friday night and likewise in Hawes on the Saturday night. Also the watering holes along the route. Because of the way we were divided up and the varying routes taken I do not believe we caused any more offence to householders or landowners or damage to lanes than with any other trail ride.

Thanks again to all involved and my riding companions - and looking forward to next year!  
*Tony Stuart*

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## MAP MARKING, DEATH & POSTERS

The TRF needs new members to replace those lost by:


- moving onto other interests
  - change in circumstances or death
  - marking their maps and doing without the Fellowship.
- (Of course you don't need to be in the TRF to ride a legal motorcycle on legal carriageways. However, would there today be trail riding or even green lanes without campaigning by the TRF? Is £20 a year too much to help perpetuate trail riding into the next millennium.

We also need more members to have a wider geographical coverage, to gain even more influence and to fund the desires of the members.

Don't forget to look after existing members in your area. Try to get a volunteer to follow up non-renewals and a person to look after newer members. If groups have problems then please ask National Officers for advice or send your Group Representative on the Executive to Executive or Regional Meetings.

The TRF does advertise nationally but some has a low return.

One successful method is to put the TRF posters (available from Aelwood Finch) in motorcycle dealers. Staple a holder (with reinforcing behind) to the poster and supply contact cards similar to:

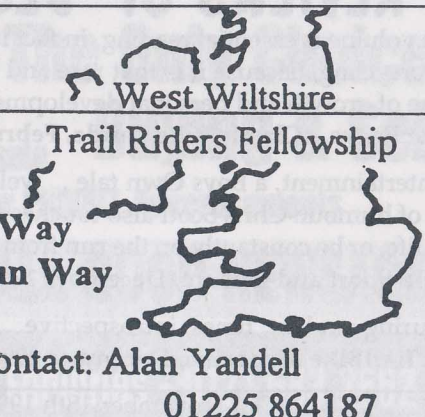


West Wiltshire

**Trail Riders Fellowship**

**Rights Of Way  
- The Fun Way**

**Contact: Alan Yandell**  
**01225 864187**



Invite enquirers without obligation to your next meeting and to one or two trail rides.

*Mark Holland, Hon. Nat. P.R. Officer*



## MID-SUMMER BIKE RIDE FOR CHARITY

National Rally - July 5-6 1997

Sean Blowers, alias John Hallam of *London's Burning*, is calling all motorcyclists to saddle up for Mencap in this year's National Rally, which shifts into gear July 5-6. The prizes on offer to riders raising funds for Mencap are enough to set any saddle blazing: A weekend in Amsterdam, a weekend break in Cumbria, a ferry crossing to France for two, RAC membership, a Canon camera and road atlases are all on offer.

The National Rally is a unique event for the road riding enthusiast. Organised jointly by the Auto Cycle Union, British Motorcyclists Federation and the Civil Service Motoring Association, the rally is not a race but a test of navigational skill, and an opportunity to take a great ride through some of Britain's top scenery when the sun is at it's highest. Riders have to visit a number of the 50 controls spread throughout England before finishing the overnight ride at the Cheltenham Racecourse.

For this year there is a special reason to make the trip. Money raised by bikers will go towards *Mencap's Blue Sky Appeal*. Mencap is working to raise much needed funds to set up Family Advisor Services across Britain for people with learning disabilities and their families. Mencap is asking motorcyclists to gain sponsorship for completion of the 18 hour, 500 mile rally.

For a National Rally entry form please send your name and address to: Auto-Cycle Union, ACU House, Wood Street, Rugby, Warks, CV21 2YX. Tel: 01788 540519. Fax: 01788 573585.

## RECENT REVIEWS OF 'DESERT TRAVELS'

... this little volume is essential reading. In fact it's plain good reading anyway, even if hate motorcycling, because it is that rare and best sort of travel book, where the journey is one of growth and personal development ...Desert Biking comes high up our list of Best Books ...*Classic Bike Guide*, February 1997.

It's pure entertainment, a Boys Own tale ... well written and accessible with a good sprinkling of humour. Chris Scott also touches on the philosophy of travelling - is it to seek out life, or be constantly on the run from it? Interesting stuff and a good read ...*Motorcycle Sport and Leisure*, December 1996.

Funny, alluring and at times introspective ...Highly amusing and highly recommended ...*TrailBike Magazine*, December 1996.

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**PLEASE SEND YOUR ORDER AND REMITTANCE** (cheques payable to TRF) **TO:**  
Rob Sawyer, 22 Gloucester Close, Weedon, Northants, NN7 4PA.  
Tel: 01327 341255.

# LETTERS

## WEEKEND IN BRECON

It was the usual rush on Friday night. Roger and I loaded up the car and trailer and set off for Brecon. We arrived at The Beacons Guest House about 8.15pm. The journey down was superb, just over 3 hours travelling from Manchester. The 4-lanes on the M6 certainly help the traffic flow over the infamous Thelwall viaduct! Martin Davenport and Alan Ogden arrived just before us. Carl, Anthony, Steve and Keith had already unpacked. These four 'youngsters' arrived first and are from the Ribble Valley group. It has been said that they like a drink. The fact that their initials spell CASK is no coincidence! They had joined us this time as four Lancashire group members had to drop-out. Some of the reasons for not going were very weak too! One had a broken leg. Two others had a change to some dates:- wife's having a baby, my brother's getting married. What feeble excuses!! They should get their priorities sorted. Joking apart though, I hope the 'Barnoldswick Boys' had a good weekend.

The experiences are once again too numerous to mention, and there's also my Alzheimer's to consider (I can't remember these days). Our guide for the weekend was, once again, Charlie Morriss. It was nice to see Vic Hodge again. I first met Vic when Charlie took me and Ian Wright on a run from Monmouth about 18 months ago. We were joined on Saturday by two Glos. members on a DR350 and KDX250. Their names were... oh damn that Alzheimers!

Saturday was the day we did the more famous lanes. Charlie took us on some other interesting lanes too! The first lane went from Llanfaes to Upper Cantrel Farm. A nice 'green' lane that changed to a slightly rocky finish. The second was a beauty. It started by fording Afon Cynrig, turned sharp left and up over some nice rocks and some tricky rock steps along the way. This certainly caused some problems for quite a few of the party. We all managed it in the end, but after 40 mins we had only covered 6 miles! The next lane was the sole reason I arranged this trip in March, The Gap Road. I took a photo to show the T.R.O. If you didn't already know, 'The Gap' is only open in March and from September 1st to October 15th every year. It was a pleasure riding this road, so steeped in history. There is a part of the road that is known as the wash-out, where a bridge was washed away in a storm. It was good fun. Some made it, some didn't. Martin almost made it on his new XR400. He didn't quite make it over the small rock step at the top. Still, there's always a helping-hand, four of them on this occasion. I know cos' I took a photo, I need something to counteract my memory loss! From The Gap we turned east to ride the road by Talybont Reservoir. The views were magnificent. We then rode a series of lanes near Bwlch and Crickhowell. We meandered our merry way to another famous lane, Grwyne Fawr. This is a superb lane, the views, the history, the variety of



conditions all contributed to the experience. We travelled NW over Grwyne Fawr, the easier route. We can't wait for our next trip to Brecon, to do it again the other way round. Charlie took us back to Brecon using a variety of lanes on the NW side of the Black Mountains. An end to a day I will never forget. We had lunch at The Sun Inn at Llangynidr.

We met Charlie in Sennybridge on Sunday. John, on his KTM400 was the new 'Tail-end-Charlie'. Vic and the others must have had prior engagements. Charlie took us on some wonderful trails again. Today's lanes were not famous but just as enjoyable. In the morning we did a northern loop, the afternoon took us on a southern one. We met a variety of conditions throughout the day. Tree roots, rocks, mud, and gravel to name a few. We also met a sort of sandy mud although we didn't meet a good deep Welsh bog, maybe next time. A lot of the lanes were overgrown, but passable. I suppose there are so many 'long' lanes in the area with few gates that are used a lot. The shorter lanes, with more gates, must not get used as often. Consequently, they do become overgrown. However, it does make an interesting ride! We had lunch at the cafe at Sennybridge.

There are a few events which deserve a mention. Carl and Anthony tried to emulate collies as they rounded up some stray sheep. They obviously need more practice as one got away. We scored them 9/10 for the lift and 8/10 for the drive! Martin let Keith have a go on his XR400. Unfortunately we came to a ford... I know what you're thinking...the new XR got wet. NO! Martin dropped Keith's XR250 in the water. On dry land again, remove plug, pump out water, empty carb...running again! The oil seemed O.K. but time will tell if there's been any damage. Everybody had wet feet except me, dry as toast. I was wearing my Alpine stars Gore-Tex® socks...best £40.00 I've ever spent! A few people have heard this phrase before! We saw a Red Kite on a lane south of Sennybridge. It was flying ahead of us for a moment with a young rabbit in its talons. What a spectacle! There are probably other things that other people will remember about that weekend. I can only apologise for missing it out and blame it on old age. The Beacons Guest house is superb! Somewhere to keep the bikes safe, good food and friendly people.

There is no way that this letter can do justice to that weekend. Thanks to Charlie for being a superb guide. Thanks also to John and Vic for being 'last-man'. All your efforts gave us two days we will never forget.

*Alan Hodson, Manchester*

## COAST-TO-COAST '97

Firstly I would like to thank all the lads from Group 3, who so kindly sent me a bouquet of flowers as a thankyou for my help with the Coast-to-Coast - to you all, it was a pleasure, they were lovely.

The Coast-to-Coast is one of the very few times that I can get involved with Phil and the bikes, apart from the two-up runs (which are few and far between)

and I can honestly say I really enjoy it. We make it a family weekend, as our two boys come along and they think it's brilliant.

It's great to meet old friends and make new ones and everybody I hope, enjoyed the run this year as much as we did! Apart from the weather and the odd injury everything went according to plan and from the feedback we've had, a good ride was had by all!!!

I hope to see everybody again next year for the '98 Coast-to-Coast.

Lastly I'd like to thank Phil for another good weekend.

*Linda Fawcett, Van Driver, Phil's Wife!!!*

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**HONDA MTX125** carb, tank, shrouds and side panels. Honda XL125s carb, XL125R crank, XL125s crank. Trail tyre 2.75 x 21 new, trail tyre 4.10X 18. Yamaha XT600 petrol tank. **WANTED** Alloy rim 1.85X18 to suit XR200RC. Tel: 01225 862923.

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**SUZUKI RMX250** enduro, "L" reg, 12 months MOT, pro racing revalved suspension, £1700. Not raced by me or previous owner, Re-tuned for low end torque. Mark on 01444 413457 (W. Sussex).

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