

## GROUPS

**AXE VALE** Malcolm Preece, Tel: 01275 844757  
2nd Mon, *The Star, Star (A38), Nr. Shipham, Somerset*

**BLACK COUNTRY** Nick Hammond, Tel: 01902 700749  
1 & 3 Tues, 9pm, *The Mitre, Church Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton*

**BRISTOL** Paul Andrews, Tel: 01179 659255  
4th Mon, *Keynsham Rugby Club, Bristol Road, Keynsham*

**CAMBRIDGE** John Brooker, Tel: 01767 692805  
1st Thurs, *Golden Ball, Boxworth*

**CORNWALL** Sally Madgwick, Tel: 01208 74411  
3rd Thurs, *The Ship Inn, Wadebridge, 8pm*

**CUMBRIA** Anthony Hayhurst, Tel: 01539 721115  
2nd Tues, *Derby Arms Hotel, Witherslack, Nr. Kendal*

**DERBYSHIRE & SOUTH YORKSHIRE**  
Kevin Marsh, Tel: 01246 811949  
2 & 4 Tuesdays, *The Angel Hotel, Sprinkhill, Eckington, Nr. Chesterfield, Derbyshire*

**DEVON** Rob Williams, Tel: 01626 364564  
2nd Tues, *The Welcome Stranger, Bickington, Nr. Newton Abbott*

**DORSET** Mark Way, Tel: 01258 451397  
1st Tues, *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 YORKSHIRE**  
Howard Wadsworth, Tel: 01405 860904  
1st Tues, *Boot & Shoe, Gowdall, Nr. Snaith*

**ESSEX**  
Dave Anderson, Tel: 01277 657783  
2nd Wed, *The Swan Public House, Great Eastern, Nr. Dunmow*

**EXMOOR** Ron Rickarby, Tel: 01271 326653  
2nd Wed, *The Hartnoll Hotel, Bolham, A396 1 mile north of Tiverton*

**GLOUCESTER** Wayne Little, Tel: 01452 611735  
1st Wed, *The Winget Social Club, Tuffley Avenue, Glos.*

**HERTFORDSHIRE** Dave West, Tel: 07768 402424  
2nd Thurs, *The Old Guinea, Ridge, Near Potters Bar*

**HIGH PEAK & POTTERIES**  
Simon Lowe, Tel: 01298 70680  
1st Tues, *Black Horse at Endon (A53, about 3 miles west of Leek, Staffordshire) & 3rd Tue, Cheshire Cheese, Buxton*

**ISLE OF WIGHT** Andrew Hawkins, Tel: 01983 617232  
1st Wed, *The Eight Bells Inn, Carisbrooke, Newport, IOW*

**KENT** Gary Westbrook, Tel: 01843 590184  
2nd Wed, *Pied Bull, Farningham, Off A20, Nr Brands Hatch*

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

**LINCOLNSHIRE** Paul Vernon, Tel: 01522 889079  
4th Thurs, *The Dog & Bone, John Street, Lincoln*

**LODDON VALE** David Cook, Tel: 0118 901 4481  
2nd Thurs, *Inn in the Park, Woodley Centre, E. Reading*

**NORTHUMBERLAND** Chris Moody  
Tel 0191 387 3507 6-10pm or 0860 302001 (mobile)  
1st Tues, 8pm, *The Swan Inn, Heddon on the Wall*

**NORTH WALES** Richard Hughes, Tel: 01244 533855  
1st Wed, *Capenhurst Social Club, OS 116 371 740*

**OXFORDSHIRE** Kevin Lindsey, Tel: 01993 823865  
3rd Thurs, *The Red Lion, 127 Cassington Road, Yarriton*

**PEAK DISTRICT** Neil Walker, Tel: 01788 811919  
1st Thurs, 8pm, *Travellers Rest, Ashbourne Road, Derby*

**RIBBLE VALLEY** John Hargreaves, Tel: 01254 721897  
2nd Tues, *Pendle Hotel, Chatburn, Clitheroe (off A59)*

**SHROPSHIRE** Rob Latham, Tel: 01952 592324  
2nd & last Wed, *White Horse, Shrewsbury*

**SOMERSET** Steve Hounsell, Tel: 01460 66452  
2nd Thurs, *The Bell Hotel, Curry Rivel, Nr. Taunton*

**SOUTHERN** Russ McDermid, Tel: 02380 812371  
3rd Tues, *The Phoenix, Twyford, Nr. Winchester*

**SOUTH LONDON & SURREY**  
Steve Sharp, 0208 773 4204  
9pm 1st 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 Thurs, *Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff, 8pm*

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

**SWINDON** Keith Owen-Bines, Tel: 01793 751129  
1st Wed, *The Carrier's Arms at South Marston, Swindon*

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

**TEESSIDE & NORTH YORKS**  
Mark Bieganski, Tel: 01904 656469  
3rd Wed, 8.30p.m., *Blacksmiths Arms, Swainby*

**THAMES VALLEY** Laurence John, Tel: 07768 174964  
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** Colin Bott, Tel: 01386 834105  
1st & 3rd Thurs, *Wilmcote Mens Club, Stratford on Avon*

**WEST YORKSHIRE** Gordon Carr, Tel: 01729 830569  
1st & 3rd Thurs, *Bankfoot Cricket Club, Wickets Close, (off Cleckheaton Rd), Odsal, Bradford*

**WILTSHIRE**  
Alan Yandell, Tel: 01225 864187 Mob: 07813 503012  
1st Tues, *The Bell On The Common, Broughton Gifford*

**WORCESTERSHIRE**  
David Gunster, Tel: 01905 452742 Mob: 07970 919790  
3rd Tuesday, *The Fox at Bransford, Worcs.*



Patron: Lord Strathcarron

# TRAIL

NOVEMBER, 2001

No. 279

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

EDITOR: Fred Ellison.



Wish You Were Here?

Read B. Carrigan's 'Letter from the Algarve' on page 19.

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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** ..... André G. Confavreux, 18 Water Tower Close, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1XS. Tel: 01895 237453, E-mail: andre.confavreux@swanhill.co.uk
- VICE CHAIRMEN** ..... Dave Tilbury, Oakbank Cottage, Oakbank Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 6PA. Tel: 023 8061 8937, E-Mail: dave@hants-lanes.fsnet.co.uk  
Tim Stevens, 99 Cheshire Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 1AE. Tel: 01630 657627, E-mail: timLARA@aol.com
- PUBLIC REL. OFFICER** Mark Holland, Corn Farm, Devauden, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 6NS. Tel Mobile: 07941 427774 (evenings).
- MEMBERSHIP SEC.** ..... John Pritchard, 8 Chantry Close, Bishop's Stortford, Herts., CM23 2SN. Tel: 01279 505343, Fax: 01279 501599, Mobile: 07879 804614, E-mail: trfmemsec@aol.com
- SECRETARY** ..... Sally A. Madgwick, 1 Halgavor Road, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 1BW. Tel: 01208 74411, E-Mail: sally@samadgwick.freeserve.co.uk
- TREASURER** ..... John Gardner, 119 Hallbridge Gardens, Up Holland, Lancs., WN8 0EP. Tel: 01695 622792, E-mail: kytra99@hotmail.com
- EDITOR** ..... Fred Ellison, Sheepcote Farm, Moor Lane, Wiswell, Clitheroe, Lancs., BB7 9DG. Tel: 01254 823893, Fax: 01254 887999, E-Mail: print@ellison.sagehost.co.uk
- RoW OFFICER** ..... Charlie Morriss, The Bell, Brimscombe Hill, Burleigh, Stroud, Glos. GL5 2PU. Tel: 01453 885323, Mob: 07710 336528, E-mail: charlietrf@aol.com
- BMF LIAISON OFFICER** ..... Steve Sharp, 4 Nelson Court, 17 Denmark Road, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 2JH. Tel: 0208 773 4204.
- LARA REP.** ..... Richard Fordham, 3 Adelaide Road, Norton, Doncaster, S. Yorkshire, DN6 9EW. Tel: 01302 702793.
- KEEPERS OF STATIONERY** ..... Leaflets & Membership Forms, John Pritchard. *Membership Secretary.* Letterheads & Compliments Slips, Fred Ellison. *Editor.*
- DISPLAY EQUIPMENT CO-ORDINATOR** Leo Crone, Tel: 01325 463815 (7a.m. - 5p.m.). Display boards held at Unit 10, Red Barnes Way, McMullen Rd., Darlington.
- EQUESTRIAN EVENTS LIAISON OFFICER** Colin Patient, 14 Ryecroft Close, Woodley, Berks., RG5 3BP. Tel: 0118 969 6783.

TRF Website <http://www.trf.org.uk>

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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.

## EDITORS

The calendar competition is now closed. The standard of photographs is high and once again selecting a winner is going to be hard but this time, thanks to Fuji Film, there will also be a second and third place and each will win a 35mm zoom compact. I've been trying to come up with a cunning plan for yours truly to win one of them but it has been suggested that if by some chance I did win one it might be better for my health to leave the country, so maybe next time!!!

Foot and mouth seems like a distant memory for most of us but there are still a few pockets which are closed so check before planning your ride in the Yorkshire Dales, Lake District and other sensitive areas. But Christmas is looking good, i.e. shouldn't be any restrictions by then. Wow, all that freedom. Pity we won't get the right to roam over huge areas of open countryside like the bobble hat brigade and I bet they still look miserable. Can't imagine why they do it!

*Fred Ellison*

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# FROM THE CHAIRMAN .....

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28 OCTOBER 2001

It was an unfamiliar start to the year with the AGM Part 2 at which your new executive was elected.

#### Keynote statement

As a keynote statement, I can confirm that the TRF is making progress in addressing the issues thrown up by the CroW Act. The importance of this is that if we are not proactive in endeavouring to mitigate the effects of this act, then the enjoyment of our hobby will be seriously curtailed.

#### Foot and Mouth

Sadly the start of the year was blighted by the outbreak of Foot and Mouth. The Executive introduced a voluntary restraint on Trail riding. This was regarded by our peers and bodies who are aware of our activities e.g. farmers etc., as the act of a responsible organisation whose aim is to work with those who have an interest in preserving the countryside and rights of way for the future. Fortunately, as the instances of outbreaks subsided so we have partially lifted our voluntary restraint. Let's hope that we can fully lift the ban in the not too distant future. (Don't forget to look on the ministry Website for up to date guidance).

My thanks to the members for acting with restraint as it demonstrated a thoughtful/considerate organisation and was probably one of the best ways of promoting a mature image of the TRF to a large audience and will provide considerable collateral when negotiating with public bodies over the CRoW Act.

#### New Equipment

To administer the membership register requires considerable time and commitment. To help automate the system and ease the time commitment, we have upgraded the computer equipment so that the same efficiency can be achieved with a considerable saving in time.

#### Communications

We have held three executive meetings this year with the fourth due on the 1st December. Following these meetings, a summary of the main issues is circulated to the Group Reps so they can brief their groups as to the matters discussed, decisions taken and action required.

From a logistical point of view I have been holding the various meetings at different locations to help ease the burden of travelling - for some anyway.

#### Rights of Way Officer

You will recall Charlie Morriss took over from Richard Marshall as RoW officer. However due to personal circumstances he is not able to continue in post so we are looking for a new officer. My thanks go to Charlie for the great efforts he made during his tenure

#### Public Relations Officer

Mark Holland has held this position since 1995. During that time the TRF has witnessed many changes not least in the way in which we communicate our message with the public at large; authorities; landowners; and other user groups.

On behalf of the TRF membership I would like to express a vote of thanks to Mark for all his efforts during his long period of tenure.

#### Training

During the year LARA have been going around the country and putting on 'Training Road Shows' explaining the principles and procedures for researching rights of way. If you haven't already attended one then please do so. Speak to Tim Stevens.

#### Local Access Forums (LAFs)

LAFs are to be set up in place of the Rights of Way liaison Groups. The consultation period ended on 23 October 2001 (England) to which we replied. They are to advise on the improvement of public access for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment. They will affect what we do in the countryside so each group should find out about them and have TRF members elected to them.

#### CRoW Act

You heard at the last AGM about the adverse implications of the CroW Act. Your Executive felt it was important to draw together the views of organisations to present a body of opinion to influence the drafting of those statutory Instruments, which will adversely affect our hobby. As a result an organisation was established, call the Trail Users Alliance (TUA), which will address the immediate and long-term issues raised by the CroW Act. This has been funded by the TRF initially and it is hoped that as the organisation finds it feet other members will also become contributors.

#### Paid Help

At the AGM in 2000 (part 1) we made a significant step forward in converting the TRF into a more professional organisation with the commitment of funds to be used by the executive at their discretion. The first part of this has been used to initiate the establishment of the TUA.

It is my intention to appoint a paid third party starting 1 November to provide help in Rights of Way and Public Relations matters and review in depth, the future needs of the TRF in terms of paid help particularly in relation to RoW and PR.



Therefore last year's new subscription, which had, as its motivation the funding of paid help, will, with the agreement of the meeting, be renewed at the same level for the year to 31st December 2002.

### The Future

#### Paying for work done

During the year the executive will have to address the issue of paid help and more particularly paid officers (possibly). The matter is complicated and there will be no quick fix.

#### The TRF Structure

I do not see the current structure as being inadequate. However the demands to which the executive has to respond have increased in number and complexity. As a result more help is required to respond effectively to this new level of demand. If this help is not forthcoming then response times will lengthen and some issues will have to be ignored. The answer is not more money but more help from the membership. If, for example, a Group Rep took back with him to his group a task which the executive needed addressing then that's one less for the centre to do. I hope you've got my drift.

#### The TRF

I enjoy trail riding immensely. The environment in which this hobby can be indulged has changed and is changing. The TRF, in its present form, is the best organisation to preserve the Status Quo. Therefore it has a lot going for it.

#### My thanks

To all the elected and co-opted officers and the Group Reps who make up the executive my thanks. Also to those who have written me letters of support and everyone else who has offered help or helped me in any way whatsoever, again my thanks.

*André Confavreux*

## NOTICE BOARD

### INTEREST IN RoW?

Those interested in RoW will find a useful resource at:

[www.highwayman.demon.co.uk](http://www.highwayman.demon.co.uk)

Follow the link to Byway and Bridleway.  
Loads of interesting stuff in B&B Extras.

*Wander Trunkenbold*

# Meeting of the TRF Executive

Saturday 1st Dec 2001

The Travel Inn Meeting Room, The Turnpike Beefeater  
Harpole Turn, Weedon Road, Harpole, Northampton, NN7 4DD.

Telephone 01604 832340

1 mile from Junction 16 M1 on the A45 towards Northampton

10am for 10.30am start

## Agenda

- Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence
- Declaration of AOB
- Short presentation by Richard Clare on Incorporating the TRF
- Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive on 15.09.01
- Matters Arising:
  - Trail Users Alliance (AGC)
  - Training Protocol (D. Tilbury)
  - LARA Workshops (Tim Stevens)
  - Co Ag Funding (Tim Stevens)
  - Merchandising (John Hargreaves)
  - MAG Affiliation (S. Madgwick)
  - Foot and Mouth (AGC in response to AGM request for clarification)
  - LAF Consultation response and schedule (AGC & Dave Tilbury)
  - Officers Reports (John Gardner and John Pritchard)
  - TRF Presence at National Exhibitions and Shows (AGC)
  - Public Relations a) Vacancy (AGC) and b) Recommendations from BMF (Steve Sharp)
  - Public Relations issues: (Mark Holland)
    - a) Limiting Group size in Constitution
    - b) Image of the TRF
    - c) Re naming the TRF
    - d) Problems facing the TRF
  - Affiliation to Scotways (Jacky German & AGC)
  - Display Equipment, updating equipment and material (Charlie Morriss and AGC)
  - Declaration of Group Funds/Termination of Cheshire Group (AGC)
  - Co-opted Roles (AGC from AGM)
  - Any Other Business
  - Dates and venues for 2002 (SAM and AGC)



# MILESTONES/MILLSTONES OF MOTORCYCLING

## PART 6: CULTURAL STEREOTYPES

Remember Mods and Rockers? For our younger readers let me take you back to the heady days of the sixties, when sex was free (or at least very cheap), rock music was cool (from either side of the Atlantic) and Brylcreme was a style statement. If you had to use two wheeled transport, you had several distinct choices.

1. Ride large British twin or single complete with race-type accessories such as rear sets, big tank, clip-ons and a loud exhaust.
2. Ride a scooter, preferably a Lambretta, complete with lots of mirrors, chrome and the odd tail from some fluffy creature or other.
3. Ride a commuter type bike with windshield, leg shields etc. and wear 'sensible', ie plastic or waxed cotton clothing, in comparative obscurity.

Option 3 was not an option if you wanted to belong to an identifiable group or look 'cool'. There did appear, however, a distinct division between people who used their bikes for leisure and those who just needed cheap transport.

What is there deep in the human psyche that drives people to seek other like minded individuals and then create a movement? It's bad enough if this is a political party but, for a pastime such as motorcycling, which praises freedom and individuality, why is it that we feel the need to join groups that restrict said freedom, by imposing strict dress and behaviour codes (good or bad)?

If you wore a leather jacket and rode a big British bike, this made you a 'Rocker'. This meant that you had to like Jerry Lee Lewis, wear Brylcreme and show off your riding skills on the nearest bit of 'A' road between roadside cafes. It also meant that you had to adopt a tough image in the style of Marlon Brando or James Dean. In other words 'a rebel without a clue'. "Hey Johnny what you rebelling against?" "What you got?"

A 'Mod' on the other hand had to wear a parka with a fur collar, like Italian clothes and listen to the Who and soul music.

Anybody that liked parkas and Triumph Bonneville's or liked leather jackets and James Brown was asking for trouble, or treatment for split-personality (can't spell schizophrenia). Is a quadruple personality 'Quadrophenia'?

A phenomenon, which exposes the slimy underbelly of human nature, is that every recognisable group cannot exist without an enemy. This is the theme

of Orwell's 1984. For a stable, controllable society, a constant state of war is essential, whether the enemy is real or imaginary. This was how it was between Mods and Rockers. Just like all famous battles, the battleground was set, but at Brighton rather than Hastings or Crecy. The date? Not 1066 but just before teatime on every Bank holiday.

Such group membership produces a mob mentality at odds with an apparent desire to be individuals. Psychologists would say that wearing similar clothes harks back to species recognition in other animals.

Stereotypes abound. Politicians are crooked, solicitors are self-serving money-grabbing bastards, police are fascist-pigs (but keep on getting younger, dammit) and bikers are thick, smelly hooligans, right? Well, possibly, but you get the point. The creation of image is a powerful tool. Who would have believed, for instance, that the punk movement of the 70's would end up as a mainstream influence in design of clothes and hairstyles.

Motorcycling has a powerful image which is forever being exploited in advertising and promotions. Nobody in their right mind would be prepared to pay lots of money for an overweight lump of noisy, vibrating, unreliable metal, unless it was made by Messrs Harley and Davidson. The fact that H.D. has created such a lasting image, which has been copied (and improved) by the Japanese, is proof positive that we can be led in any direction advertisers want to

take us. "Easy Rider" gave credence to the 'cruiser' image, even though it would have been more comfortable to travel to New Orleans on a fully-faired BMW. 'Sacrilege', you say. The film was all about freedom, man. The freedom to encounter biker prejudice and the contents of a 12-bore cartridge or two. In the pursuit of freedom we can often lose sight of that which we pursue. Deep eh!

What are people who ride small cruiser clones (Kawa 250, Fantic Chopper and those funny Taiwanese, Honda-esque 50's/125's) thinking as they cruise Main Street, Bolton?

Ever seen photos of all those fat, balding, bearded bandana'd 'Hells Angel' types at the Sturgis rally? They are probably lawyers and stockbrokers taking an image break! It always amazes me that violent, anarchic people like Hells Angels could be bothered to

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form a club in the first place. The 'Hell' might have gone now but the image, like the Cheshire cat's smile is the only thing to remain.

The image phenomenon has turned full circle with Steve McQueen, posthumously, elevating a Ford Puma to cult status alongside, his Triumph twin and Ford Mustang (I prefer the Dodge Charger R/T). Even Dennis Hopper managed to jump onto this rather tacky bandwagon and didn't even have the common decency to die first.

Strange cults are still with us. One seems to insist on a uniform of brightly coloured leather, often with back padding to give the impression of being a hunchback. Their sign of recognition seems to be to wave their knees about on corners. This must be a religious cult, since knee protection is always worn (the more scuffed, the more devout). Worship seems to take place at holy sites such as Box Hill and Devil's Bridge, where 'soul food' of slices of smoked, cured pig meat on leavened bread is consumed in great quantities. A strange 'rite de passage' then takes place where supplicants travel the pilgrimage road, giving corners numbers, like stations of the cross.

Another cult venerates ancient roads. In strange rituals of self-mortification they seek out the most difficult, badly surfaced, pilgrimage routes on which to travel. Then, clad in gaily coloured clothing or, in the case of the most devout, a hair shirt or a strange suit of waxed cotton, they travel the ancient routes, often

flinging themselves to the ground, or wallowing in mud in a state of ecstasy. This strange cult meets regularly to study the sacred scrolls, consisting of arcane Cabalistic symbols, which, when deciphered, can give the direction to the Holy Grail, a building offering a conucopia of food and alcohol, served by lovely 'vestal virgins' (at least if you get there early enough). In a strange ritual, brightly coloured squares of plastic, covered in apparently meaningless symbols are applied to their steeds. Rumour has it that these pieces of plastic confer invincibility on the rider.

Can we truly be individuals, when there is so much pressure to belong? In a "Goon Show" Eccles was asked, "What are you doing here?" "Everybody has to be somewhere", he replied.

*Rodger Davies*

## MINUTES OF TRF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at: Motorcycle Museum on 28 October 2001

Present: As attendance book, or computer record.

Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting and gave a resume of the day's business and reminded members that two officers were needed for the Executive posts of Public Relations and Rights of Way.

1. Apologies for absence: G Thomas, R Marshall, B Williams, G Stratford, R Varey, W Little, C Hurworth, A Hawkins and T McCusker

1.1 Declaration of Any Other Business:

Jackie German: Scottish RoW.

2. Approval of the Minutes The Chairman asked for the approval of the minutes of the previous AGMs (Part 1 and 2). Dave Giles reminded the meeting that the last AGM had approved the TRF setting up of a Trail Users Alliance, this was not reflected in the minutes and he felt it should be. All Agreed. The minutes were then approved.

3. Matters Arising: There were none reported.

4. Elected Officers' Reports:

Chairman's Report: The Chairman spoke to his circulated report, which covered his activities over the past year. He noted that the CroW Act is the most important action to deal with and that there would be a presentation later today on this Act.

The Chairman went on to report the effects of the Foot and Mouth disease, which has disrupted all activities in the countryside for a considerable time. He thanked members for their restraint during this period and noted that Farmers and Landowners appreciated the responsible attitude of trail riders. Ted Scott asked for clarification of the TRF policy on riding lanes at present, because his North Wales Group were not going out, but had noticed that walkers, cyclists and horse riders were out and about, even though his area still had closed signs on routes. The Chairman suggested the Executive revisit this topic at the next Executive Meeting and give more advice to members through TRAIL.

The Chairman went on to report investment in new equipment, mainly for the Membership Secretary, to help with officers' workload. He thanked all the officers for their commitment and especially Mark Holland and Charlie Morriss who are standing down this year.

The Chairman reminded members of their agreement last year to put funds aside for paid help for specific tasks. One of these tasks was the TUA, which Dave Giles has been working on. He felt that this meeting needed to renew the authority given to the Executive last year for up to £15,000 to be used for paid help and extend the period to 31.12.02. There followed discussion on whether there should be a ceiling on the

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amount, whether any funds left over this year are added to next years' amount, etc. Finally a proposal was put by Brian Read that 'This meeting authorises the executive to engage paid help to support the Executive Committee until 31.12.02 (maximum £15,000 plus any under spend from previous year 2001)'. Seconded by Malcolm Robson. Carried by show of hands, with one abstention.

The Chairman continued his report noting that Dave Tilbury was stepping down from his Vice Chairman role because of the possibility of a conflict of interest arising from the Chairman asking him to do some paid work for the TRF over the coming six months. The Chairman felt there needed to be discussion about payments to officers at the Executive Meetings. He feels the structure of the TRF was about right, but there is a need to identify Groups who may be willing to take on some of the projects currently landing in the Officers' laps.

Finally the Chairman thanked all the Officers, Co-opted Officers and Members for their support.

Public Relations: Mark Holland reminded members that the primary concern today was to find a volunteer to take over from him. He hoped members had read the insert in TRAIL that gave details of the help available to the new Officer. He thanked all those who had helped him over the past 6 years, and asked for any questions.

Brian Read asked what are the main challenges in the role of Public Relations. Mark felt that as a Principal Officer he was the one who gets blamed when things don't go right. But on a more positive note he reminded members that he had created a more useful Constitution in which the TRF is able to raise funds for paid help in this cash rich/time poor era.

Colin Patient wondered if Mark had any comments on the Job Description. Mark felt that a group could share the whole post, or a number of people, e.g. the MAG Liaison post could be separate as is the BMF Liaison role. Expertise could be bought from outside for specific problems.

Mark was asked to give examples of PR projects he had covered. He reminded the meeting that he had produced a paper on doing Horse Events, contributed to consultation on 'Making the Best of Byways' etc. And he had recently had discussions with the CLA. He felt that the PRO needs to talk with outside organisations to try to give them an understanding of what trail riding is and why we do it, as he felt there is ignorance on the public's part of what the TRF is about.

Membership Secretary: John Pritchard reported that membership was at 2460 to date with subscriptions coming in all the time. At this time last year membership was 2866 indicating that Foot and Mouth had had some impact, but not a lot. He reminded members that the subscription rate had risen last year, but even so, donations to the fighting fund had increased by 20%. John noted that the investment in new equipment for his role had been to the sum of £7000, but the time saved and increased efficiency was well worth the cost.

Discussion centred on whether Bank Standing Orders, Direct Debits or even Internet payments may be more helpful, whether advertising was proving efficient in getting new members, currently this is done mainly through Trail Bike Magazine and Trials & Moto Cross News, but we have also attended the BMF Rally and other events.

Colin Patient thanked John for getting the new systems up and running and felt that the enquiries he deals with as a membership contact are more responsible than a few years ago.

Treasurer: John Gardner circulated the accounts and reported some aspects of the funds. He noted more income coming in from advertising in TRAIL and thanked John Hargeaves for his help. He thanked members for their continuing support and especially Rod Butterworth for the funds raised through the sale of Carey's Map on CD.

John said he would stand for office next year, but then would hand over to new volunteer.

Leo Crone asked if the Treasurer was any nearer finding out what the TRF assets were in the groups. John noted that only a third of groups send in their returns and they don't necessarily say what assets they have. Discussion followed on the concerns about potential fraud within the groups, and if Limited Status will be affected by this lack of knowledge about group funds. The Chairman stated that the accounts presented today were only for Nationally held funds.

There was further discussion on groups which close down, since the Cheshire group closed and it was thought that all the TRF items were returned to the National body. The Chairman asked John Stansfield to investigate what had happened to the Cheshire TRF items and let him know. He asked for this to be an Agenda item for the next Executive meeting.

John Gardner proposed the accounts be adopted. Tim Stevens seconded. Carried by show of hands.

RoW Co-ordinator: Charlie Morriss gave a brief report in which he expressed disappointment that his work had become very busy this year and that he felt he couldn't continue as RoW co-ordinator for the TRF. He had been pleased to attend the BMF Rally and hoped to encourage a Norfolk group to set up. He reminded members that he has copies of the 'blue book' for sale.

Secretary's Report: Sally Madgwick reported the attempts to get the Group Returns in, thanking Wayne Little and John Pritchard for their help. She had got all but five of them, but it took three mail-outs to get them. She noted that she had sent out a lot of information to the groups both before and after Executive Meetings and hopes that this keeps them well informed of TRF activities.

Sally went on to report on the presentation given by the MAG Chief Executive Officer at the September Executive Meeting and that that Meeting had agreed to affiliate to MAG. This now needed ratification from the AGM as stated in the TRF Constitution. John Pritchard proposed a resolution to ratify MAG Membership. Seconded by Keith Westley. Carried unanimously.

Editor: Fred Ellison thanked all those sending in articles to TRAIL, but asked for more items and also more on groups' runs. He discussed the suitability of photographs for Trail and the calendar; he needs good quality photographs for reproduction.

Vice Chairman: Dave Tilbury explained that he has printed some papers on how to claim Byways and also on researching lanes. These were available today to be taken by members to help their groups. There was further discussion on the information



available to members and also on both display equipment and material provided. The Chairman asked that display material be on the Agenda for the Executive Meeting.

#### 5. Co-opted Officer's Reports:

BMF Liaison: Steve Sharp reported that he had received help from the BMF in preparing a PR Strategy for the TRF. The BMF has also helped with the CRoW Act. Steve noted a report on Public Liability Insurance and wondered if it would help with the TRF Limited Company Status. The Chairman explained that he has invited Richard Clare to give a presentation on this to the next Executive Meeting, before making the decision either way.

Tim Stevens asked Steve to indicate how big a job the BMF liaison role was and if he would help set up the MAG Liaison position. Steve volunteered to do both the BMF and MAG Liaison roles as he was already in contact with both organisations. The Chairman thanked him for this offer.

Equestrian Events Liaison Officer: Colin Patient reported on the horse events his group had attended this year. He expressed concern that groups are not reporting to him on events attended, so he is unable to produce any kind of directory or list of useful contacts. Colin felt these events were well worth marshalling as they not only provide a good day out, but also bring in funds at the same time, but it does need commitment from TRF members. He showed the meeting the bibs he has produced for the marshals. Mark Holland reported on some horse events the Gloucester group had attended although some events have not run because of Foot and Mouth.

LARA Rep: Richard Fordham was encouraged by the way LARA operates and felt that the TRF is getting good value. He noted that recreation got a good airing at the Steering Committee Meetings. He also found it helpful to hear what the motorsport people have to say about their particular pastime.

6. Motions to the AGM: There were no motions to the AGM.

#### 7. Election of Officers:

Chairman: Andre Confavreux agreed to continue and was duly elected.

Vice Chairman: Tim Stevens was proposed by Andre Confavreux and seconded by Brian Read.

Tim Stevens expressed concern that there may be times when there was a conflict of interest with his work for LARA. Andre felt this would be no problem in most circumstances and could be sorted out should it arise. Tim was voted on by show of hands, with 1 abstention.

PRO: There were no nominations so this post remains vacant.

Membership Secretary: John Pritchard agreed to stand for one more year. There were no other nominations and John was duly elected.

Secretary: Sally Madgwick agreed to continue and was duly elected.

Treasurer: John Gardner agreed to stand for one more year and was duly elected.

Editor: Fred Ellison agreed to continue and was duly elected.

RoW Co-ordinator: There were no nominations so this post remains vacant.

The Chairman expressed his deep concern that the two posts were not filled today and asked all members to help find volunteers.

Co-opted Officers to be ratified at this AGM:

BMF/MAG: Steve Sharp was proposed by Tim Stevens, seconded by Mike Hannigan. Carried.

LARA Rep: Richard Fordham was proposed by Keith Westley, seconded by Charlie Morriss. Carried.

Keeper of Stationery: This is a function of John Pritchard and Fred Ellison.

Display Equipment: Leo Crone was proposed by M Holbert, seconded by Malcolm Roberts. Carried.

Equestrian Events Liaison: Colin Patient was proposed by Brian Lyons, seconded by Mike Hannigan. Carried.

There were other officers co-opted by the Executive and not needing ratification here at the AGM.

The Chairman went on to thank all the Executive Officers for their work over the year. All Agreed.

#### 8. Other Declared Business:

Presentation on the CRoW Act:

Alan Kind presented information about the capping of the Definitive Map in 2026 and the research project by the Countryside Agency, which is called 'Discovering Lost Ways'. The University of Gloucester is running this project and have asked Alan and others to help. Phase one is an investigation on how big a problem there is. Phase two which will start early in 2002 will take whatever is advised by phase one forward. Various amounts of funding have been suggested for this work, but nothing definite had been confirmed yet. It will still need volunteers to help with the research work, but there may be the opportunity for some paid work. The advertisements for some of this work will be made around March/April 2002. Alan asked that those interested in knowing more should give him their details.

The meeting discussed Alan's information and expressed concern that the Countryside Agency appears to be asking for our help, when they are not very willing to accept our rights in the countryside. Alan confirmed that this project was designed to find all the routes not currently on the Definitive Map. There would still be the need to get vehicular status confirmed.

Tim Stevens gave his presentation of what the CroW Act means to trail riders. He covered various aspects of the Act and the concerns highlighted by the changes to the Road Traffic Act regulations, which will make it impossible to defend oneself if taken to court.

The Chairman opened discussion on the 'What do we do' aspects of this presentation. He confirmed that he had contracted Dave Giles to form an alliance with other user groups. This is being done, but it may not continue in its present form. The TRF will now need to stand back from the leader role and let the TUA take its own form. The



funding for Dave Giles would continue to the end of this year (2001). TRF groups must understand the importance of their input into the Statutory Instruments, which gives the Act its legality.

The meeting discussed various aspects of this Act and the need for the TRF to put its own views forward as well as through the TUA and LARA.

The Chairman summed up this part of the meeting reminding members of what lays ahead for them and what the Executive is doing to help the TRF survive, but that the Executive needed all the help it can get from the members.

RoW in Scotland: Jackie German explained that although vehicular RoW don't exist in Scotland in the same way they do in England, there was a need to be in contact with Scottish organisations to know what was going on there. Jackie mentioned the Scottish RoW Society that she is a member of, which is cataloguing the Scottish RoW. Membership is £50 for an organisation with 100 members or more and she feels the TRF should join, in order to know what they are doing. Alan Kind also felt the Scottish are trying to do their RoW research properly, and there are a lot of routes out there which are not known about.

The Chairman asked for this to be on the Agenda for the next Executive Meeting.

9. Date and Place of next meeting: The next AGM will be held on Sunday 27 October 2002, venue to be advised.

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## ... I've had enough!

Well, here I am, 10:30 on a Tuesday evening with nothing to do but respond to DEFRA consultation on Local Access Forums and consultation from the Countryside Agency on National Parks and ... I've had enough. Then I remember that the Editor asked me to produce a piece on trail riding. A tad more interesting task, me thinks!

As Fred well knows, riding in Hampshire during the winter one will encounter wet chalk, and if you northern fellows think snow is slippery, think on. So, let me take you on a reconstruction of a ride I recently took with a Fellowship member.

My companion on this ride is a bloke called Paul – a professional, family man, of about thirty. He was, until recently, a sports bike rider but this means of transport was taken from him in one of those 'sorry mate, I didn't see yer' situations. He admits that he needs to rebuild his confidence and so acquired a Suzuki DR350 and joined the TRF. Two good choices for a start.

I met Paul at the appointed hour and we headed off toward Compton. At Compton End the tar-macadam stops and an earth track took us across Compton Down to join Whiteshute Lane, the old road out of St Cross (now a Winchester suburb) to Romsey. Taking an unclassified road around the west of the Winchester golf club we turned right onto Lanham Lane. This is currently recorded as a bridleway but retains carriageway status. Just think how much riding CROW and the s.34 RTA modifications will make to a day out!

Our next unsealed section of road was Ham Green. This is currently little more than a footpath in appearance but it should be in the region of eighty feet wide. A classic case long term neglect by the highway authority. The road past Newbarn Farm is a good hard surfaced lane with nothing more than a puddle or two and on this we overtook a large party of walkers. God knows why they do it, they all look so miserable. When I go for a walk with my chums we are usually laughing but ...

We carried on, past Up Somborne, turning left onto the next byway that runs south to Ashley. This is a great lane that is well used by farm traffic (and copes well with it apart from the centre section). South of the 'technical' section I stopped and chatted with a lovely Canadian woman whilst I waited for Paul. I guess he'd been working on his fear of falling off, but I didn't ask.

Right at the end of the lane and next left took us past Garlic Farm. Well, I know it as Garlic Farm because that is what it is called on all the old maps. Today it is called Hoplands. Just before the farm, on the right in the trees, is a memorial to a WW2 German aircrew that crashed nearby.

And so it was that we made our way via Steven's Drove, Broughton Drove, The Hollow, etc., to West Tytherley. We entered the village on the



original lane through Stony Batter – The Coach Road, the wide road that now links to the village, not coming into existence until around 1840, a period of much road building in Hampshire. I had planned on making it a little further west but it was lunchtime. We made our way back to Broughton, via a couple of other lanes, where the Tally Ho beckoned. A favourite of mine, it offers good grub and good ale (yer, yer, and orange juice!).

After lunch we headed back up Broughton Drove and on to Danebury. A right onto Church Road, that took us down into Longstock. If you like wet chalk this is the lane for you. I have slipped and slithered along here in the past only to be passed by an elderly couple in an Austin 1100. Here we have another 'daftness' in the CROW act. Such lanes are everyday roads for country dwellers, even in an 'unrural' county like Hampshire. It is only 'sufistikated tarnies' that think roads are only roads if they have blacktop.

A lane through the John Lewis golf club (yes, they do stare) brought us out on the A30. From here we rode east to the Crawley Beeches, via a circuitous route, and down Hacks lane in to Crawley. Hacks Lane was set out by Act of Inclosure as a public carriageway but the northern half is now blocked by locked gates and is about to be claimed as BOAT.

We then took the old Andover to Southampton road that follows Mother Russell's Post and another lane through West Wood to the junction with the Standon Road at the Farley Mount Country Park. The old hollow way is still there under the line of yew trees. Although much of this is not currently recorded, or is recorded as bridleway, an Order has been made to add this old road to the definitive map. Much of Mother Russell's Post is now only half the width it was twenty years ago due to a new fence and bank. My application to have this route recorded as BOAT brought petition gatherers onto the streets of Winchester in an attempt to keep the route from the definitive map. No one seems to mind that a public carriageway has been, in two parts, completely ploughed out and much narrowed in another. And so, via one more (there always has to be one more) lane we returned to Eastleigh.

So, there you have it. We were only out for about four hours, which equates to about one 'rubber/terra firma interface failure' per hour for Paul, but we had a laugh and we stopped and looked at plenty of interesting stuff. No lofting of front wheels or rooster tails. Just the quiet 'chuff, chuff, chuff of the DRs.

For more information visit [www.hants-lanes.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.hants-lanes.fsnet.co.uk) – where you can also contact me via e-mail.

*Dave Tilbury*

PS – artistic licence allows me to remain silent on any rubber/terra firma interface failures I may have encountered – OK!

## A WORLD OF THEIR OWN

The Countryside Working Group (Wales) of the County Surveyors' Society met on 4th May 2001 to discuss two national disasters: foot and mouth disease and the CROW Act. The meeting was told that the National Assembly has "allocated £2.4 million for the implementation of the CROW Act in Wales... There are concerns that this will be insufficient to carry out all the duties set out in the Act. The £2.4 million has been split between local authorities using a standard formula which reflects lengths of PROW and visitor populations. The money is not ring-fenced and unfortunately, it appears that in the majority of authorities in Wales it will not be allocated to PROW work".

Further on the surveyors note "User groups are likely to receive grant aid to carry out research into historical evidence... Worries about Government grant being used for the purpose have been expressed previously, and highway authorities would be unwise to make orders without carrying out the research themselves. It would be more logical for grant aid to be directed at local authorities to enable them to carry out the necessary research because the local authority has to be able to defend any order it makes and has a strong interest in getting it right".

*Taken from Byway and Bridleway 2001/9/41*



### LETTER FROM THE ALGARVE

Have I died and gone to Trail Rider's Heaven? No! I retired to the Algarve six months ago having had my fill of the wet, cold English days of summer and long winters.

Once established here I looked around for a trail bike, having sold my previous bikes in England. I found a Serow with 1000k on the clock and began the usual barter with the Yamaha dealer in Portimao, this time offers in escudos. After the usual banter with Antonio and deep intakes of breath and shakes of the head the deal was sealed with a handshake. Dealers are the same the world over. I am now the owner of a lovely little Serow. I now only have to tax, insure and transfer it into my name. Easy in England but a different story when you speak little of the language and read even less. With help I obtained all the appropriate rubber stamps and the Serow and I were ready to explore the interior of the Algarve.

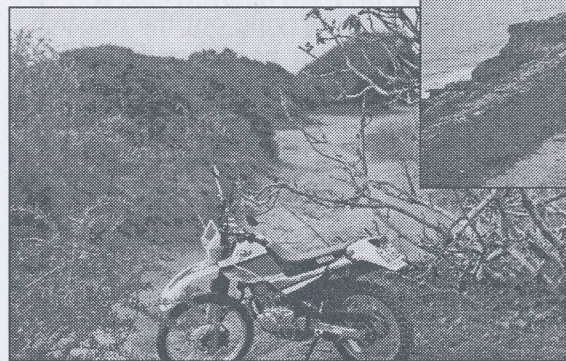


I found my old trials helmet that had been hidden in the removals (sentimental value). It reminds me of my younger wobbling days. As I cannot bring myself to ride in shorts I pulled on jeans, trainers (no socks) and, with pride, my Coast-to-Coast T-shirt.

With cell phone in the bum bag I said my goodbyes; pressing my electric boot I was off to explore the interior and hills of Monchique.

As any visitor to the Algarve will appreciate the roads are not up to the tarmac standard that we Brits are used to, but with the road tax for my Serow at £2.50 sterling per annum I won't dwell on that too long - everything has its price.

The roads of the interior are no more than old mule trails that wind and meander over the countryside and disappear into wooded pine



forests. The majority of these trails are still in use and sooner or later you happen upon a small village with a watering hole where you can relax and think how lucky you are sitting

here in October still in just a T-shirt, and looking forward to the ride home over the yellow trails - a delight to any trail rider - in the sunshine with the warm breeze, the smell of the pine forest and the stunning scenery I feel glad to be alive and still young enough to cock a leg over a trail bike.

I hope this letter warms your envious cockles, etc.

*B. Carrigan, Ex-member*

P.S. Would anyone like to purchase some heated grips?

**Ed.** Dear Brian, you don't have to be an ex-member. You could still be one of us. Just send 30 quid to John Pritchard and you're back on the mailing list.

### GREEN LANE DAY - SOUTH LONDON & SURREY GROUP

A big thank you to the 9 hardy TRF people who spent a very wet Sunday working on BOAT 526 Wotton Lane/Crockers Lane, Surrey.

Together with 6 GLASS people and 1 Surrey County Council Highway

person we erected around 25 large posts to stop rogue 4x4s destroying the ancient banks, erected new Byway signs and cleared a lot of overhanging branches.

Despite it raining all day everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and all parties mixed really well. We managed to achieve all that we set out to do and hopefully generated some goodwill for the TRF and GLASS. The Surrey County Council PR person will be issuing a press release which will hopefully get published in the local papers.

We hope to do some more work on this lane and suggested that other user groups get invited next time so that they can see that we are not three eyed monsters (well, not all of us).

This lane is presently under threat of closure due to rogue 4x4s and illegal riders, so this work was valuable ammunition in our fight to keep it open. We are also very fortunate in having an understanding Highways department.

*Steve Sharp, South London & Surrey Group TRF*

### MYSTIFIED

It mystifies why some riders insist on riding trails with their light on. I agree it's a good idea on the road, but over the hills or in the lanes, it lets every farmer for miles around know you are coming, looks aggressive and I don't think it does our image a favour.

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What do other members think, and why do some riders insist on it?

*Paul Mules*

P.S. I know on certain models the lights stay on.

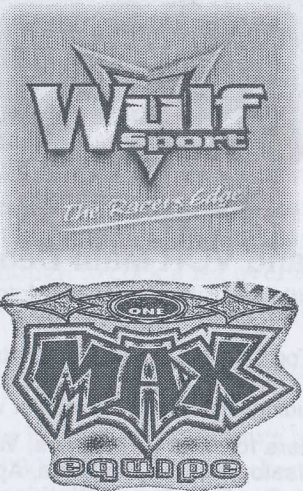
## BIG TRAIL BIKE CLUB

Over the last twelve months in TRAIL there has been reference to the Big Trail Bike Club (BTBC) so I thought it time to inform TRF members about its existence. Set up by Paul Clarke of Sheffield a few years back (I am not sure if Paul is still a member of the TRF). The BTBC is a group of people with an interest in big trail bikes and their uses. The bikes range from large singles up to twins and triples, but have three things in common - their size, their ability to cover large distances on tarmac and their potential to carry on when tarmac ends.

The club was formed to share technical knowledge on bikes, put fragmented groups of riders in touch with each other, share "grin factor and Rights of Way information on surfaced and unsurfaced roads and create an international database of events, riding days, weekends and holidays organised by groups within the club.

*Ron Varey, Lancashire TRF.*

P.S. A lot of members of BTBC are TRF members



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## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Does the TRF understand just what it is up against? I have just returned from Somerset County Council's Regulatory Board Meeting in Taunton. Agenda item no. 10 was a proposed byway order on the old coach road north of Wells near West Horrington - a claim put in nearly 10 years ago by the Mendip Bridleways and Byways Association (principally a horse club). Most members spoke against the byway, some grudgingly thought a bridleway was appropriate but local Lib. Dem. councillor spoke up firmly for byway saying he had been deterred from using it on his own motorcycle because it was gated. Two Mendip District Councillors turned up to protest as members of the public - one had even lobbied me for a vote a few months ago. I told him I was pleased I hadn't voted for him and that was why I had stopped voting Conservative 15 years ago!

Apart from my lone voice, no-one turned up to speak in favour of byway on our ancient unrecorded green lanes.

The TRF's motto is supposed to be protecting green lanes. Why is the membership so moribund? Why is the TRF not putting in byway claims as a matter of urgency? Alan Kind warned the TRF some years ago to wake up. Clearly his message has yet to strike home. 2026 may sound light years away but it takes seven to ten years to get a byway onto the Definitive Map. Perhaps I've answered my own question. The first ever byways in Somerset came about on Mendip after a lot of hard work. Has the membership the stomach for the struggle?

*Gwyn Thomas, Somerset*

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**BREAKING 1982 SUZUKI DR400S.** Most parts available. Tel: Karl 01425 657629 (Hants/Dorset).

**DR350** Sub frame number plate unit, £20. Headlight cowl, £10. Manual, £10. XL500 overlanding Acerbis tank, £35. KLR manual, £10. Tel: 01446 406977.

**YAMAHA SEROW 1990/G,** blue/white, e/s, 8000kms, T&T, £1100. **Honda NX650 Dominator 1989/F,** red, 24000m, new MOT, road use only, £1200.

**Dave Cooper 2-bike trailer,** £120. Tel: 01483 760293 (Surrey).

**FOR SALE 1 pair gold wheels** (single disc type), VGC, rear sprocket & DID X-ring chain for Transalp. Tel: Ron 07831 302836 (Lancs.).

**HONDA CRM250R 1989,** 8000 miles. Full road equipment. 12 months tax, MOT. Rebuilt and fully prepared. £895 no offers. Tel: 01257 241289 (Chorley, Lancs.).

**SUZUKI DR385 "K" reg.** Many quality extras. Good condition. Bargain for somebody. £1275. Tel: 01248 853994 (Anglesey).

**SUZUKI DR200J,** yellow, 3000 miles, ready to go, £980. **Honda CB125 T2 1986,** unrestricted, vgc, £600, suit learner. **DR400S** white, good tyres/condition, new shocks, 1981, ready to go, £660. Tel: 01298 26122

(Derbys).

**HONDA XR280R 1998,** SRC Wiseco kit, 2000kms, T&T, Acerbis hand/frame guards, tank cover, grippy seat cover, very clean, looks and goes like new. £2200 ono. Tel: Adam 01271 860375 (07810 124241).

**FOR SALE Honda XL250R Baja "H" reg.** 13000kms, T&T, good condition, very reliable. £1250 ovno. May be interested in a swap with a Gas Gas Pampera. Tel: 01530 833038.

**SUZUKI DR200 1990,** excellent condition. Micron exhaust. HEBO hand guards, O-ring chain, 12V. 15000 miles, 1 year MOT. Perfect green laner. £995. Tel: 01298 79274 (Derbyshire).

**SEROW XT225 "J" reg '92.** Electric and kick start. Good tyres, clean and tidy. Red/white. £2100. Tel: 01189 724338 (Reading).

**WANTED** Aftermarket exhaust for Honda CRM AR. Tel: 01200 428844 or 07773 854581.

**HONDA CRM250 MkII.** 11 months MOT, 6 months tax. 8500kms. Acerbis twin headlights. New chain and sprockets, new plastics and graphics, new tyres, brakes and discs, new rear shock. Excellent condition. £1695 ono. Tel: 01200 423227 or 01200 428778 or 07970 758392 (Lancashire).

**HONDA XL125/185S** parts for sale. Almost complete bike with log book ("X" reg) and running 185 engine; I don't have the front forks or wheels. £120 the lot? or make me an offer. Tel: 01293 400967.