



WEST WILTS MOTOR CLUB

Hon. Sec. Kay Gerken, 20 Gibbs Lease,
Hilperton, Trowbridge, Wilts. BA14 7QN
Club Meetings 3rd Tuesday in the month
7.45pm Dog & Fox, Bradford-on-Avon.

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NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2014



June Club Meeting	Tuesday 19th June	Venue to be confirmed
July Club Meeting	Tuesday 15th July	Venue to be confirmed
Errington Cup Trial	Sunday 12th October	Venue to be confirmed

Rather a gloomy Newsletter this month I'm afraid, we have been forced into cancelling two of our forthcoming events. **Why, you may well ask? I had better set out the situation.**

First the **James Cup Trial**, our Secretary of the Meeting, Phyllis Sweeting, had received only 8 entries up to the Thursday before the event! Even allowing for entries on the day this was hopelessly too few to justify running the trial, Phyllis and Brian Shuttleworth conferred and agreed that the only option was to cancel. This was immediately put out on the club website and just to make sure nobody was left in the lurch they went to the course on the day and only three riders, who had not seen the notice, turned up. So the James Cup Trial for 2014 was quietly laid to rest.

As if this wasn't bad enough, at the club meeting, Tom Gerken, Secretary of the Meeting for our forthcoming **Steve Hillman Trophy Hare and Hounds** announced that he had received only 32 entries with less than a week to go before the closing date for entries and from his experience only a handful more could be expected before the closing date. After some discussion, it was decided that it would be impractical to do all the course preparation work and get the already booked services on site for an entry likely to be less than 40. So the Hare and Hounds at Naish Hill has also been abandoned.

The remainder of the meeting became a, "where do we go from here", session. Some of the views expressed were as follows:

One of the main problems is the apparent ever increasing unwillingness or inability of riders to commit themselves ahead to entering an event.

It seems that the attitude of many is that they want to wake up on a Sunday morning, look at the weather and decide if they would like to have a ride that day! Oh yes, West Wilts (or whoever) are running a Trial/Hare and Hounds today, weather's nice so I will go over and have a go. Entry on the day costs extra? No problem, it will only cost a few quid more. Bit of a headache or its raining, doesn't matter, give it a miss, this no loss to me, haven't paid an entry fee yet so why worry?

This attitude is extremely inconsiderate; it gives no consideration to the people who have given their spare time to doing the secretarial work and course preparation work. Plus in the case of speed events, such as Hare and Hounds, the financial commitment by the club for the provision of Ambulance and first aid cover plus toilets provision and refreshment vans. Most of these, not unreasonably, require unrefundable payment "up front" so it is a loss to club funds.

One option considered was to make entry "on the day", massively more expensive or ban it altogether. But some felt that this would be counterproductive and in any case late entry was not allowed in the regulations for our Hare and Hounds. Although rumour has it that a "few" have been allowed to get away with it so reducing the potential risk of just turning up and being sent packing without a ride plus suffering the cost of wasted petrol money getting there.

The result of all this is that fewer and fewer clubs will be able to find members who are prepared to take on the work of preparing courses and doing the secretarial work. So there will be less events being run and fewer opportunities to take part in your sport, which presumably you enjoy, as you have made the expensive commitment of buying a bike and all the other equipment necessary to compete.

If riders do not take a more responsible attitude then it seems that off road motorcycle sport will die out completely. A gloomy prognosis maybe but it is up to you.

One further point in relation to our Hare and Hounds is that the club has let down the family of Steve Hillman in whose memory they had given a trophy for the winner of the event. The club will be apologising for this result of the cancellation.

Think about it.

All the best, Terry P