

DESMO 14

Well, this one's been a long time coming, but there are reasons for it, but I won't bore you with them just now. Instead, I'll just try to assemble what I hope (if that's the right word), my last Desmo.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

We did finally get together for an AGM last month, and these are the important things that resulted.

1. An emergency set of club rules were democratically arrived at by those in attendance, which will be binding as from now, although there has been made a provision for amendment of them in fine detail only at the moment. The biggest rules of interest to all will be, generally: that a provision has been made for an AGM every March; that any member either expelled from the club or refused membership has the right to appeal to the President; that subscription to "Desmo" is now optional at extra cost (more of that later); that any person, Ducati owner or not, is now able to obtain all club benefits such as discounts etc, by virtue of a 50 pence subscription. Non-owners will not, however, be granted a vote at the AGM.; and that a clause has been inserted to indemnify the Committee against loss of club funds (that means through robbery or fire or such like, NOT mis-use).

Anyone who wants a copy in full will be happily sent one on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope sent to me.

2. A new committee was elected, which reads as follows:

President; Ray Elliott, C/O Coburn and Hughes, Luton.

Chairman; John Stevens, 32, Weaver Avenue, Rhyl, Clwyd.

Vice-Chairman; Chris Bennett, 12 Heracles Close, Roundshaw, Wallington, Surrey.

Secretary; Me, or, if you like, Dave Knight, 10 Longstaff Croft, Lichfield, Staffs.

Treasurer; Helen Boyes, 21 St Annes Rd, Lichfield, Staffs.

London Branch Representative; Tony Ainslie, 41 Octavia House, Southern Row, London W1

Burton Branch Rep; still to be nominated at time of printing.

As one complaint about last year's Committee was that we were a faceless few, I will attempt later on to draw a pen portrait (for pen read typewriter) of the new Committee as I see them.

3. It was agreed that subscription rates would be amended as follows. Subscription for full or Associate membership (for owners and non-owners respectively) will be a flat 50 pence. This entitles anyone to the benefits as described on the membership form and the letter of introduction when the fee is paid. Non-Ducati Owners (Associates) however, will not get a vote at General Meetings and cannot serve on the Committee. Subscription to "Desmo" will now be optional but will cost a further £1.00 if you want it. The actual economics of publishing Desmo were discussed with a view to increasing the sub, but it was agreed that Ray Elliott's kind offer of a subsidy should be taken up. Basically, this means that if the cost of producing Desmo goes over the £1 a head we are asking from you lot, then Ducati Concessionaires will make up the difference. A deeper analysis of this will be made at the next Committee meeting. In any event, we give our grateful thanks to Ray for this generous offer.

4. It was agreed that we would not, as a National Club, affiliate to either the BMF or the ACU. However, Branches are quite welcome to affiliate their members on a regional basis if they so wish, and indeed, this will be encouraged by the Executive Committee.

5. The London Ducati Club agreed to put the changes in the rules to their members to decide at their AGM on returning to the DOC as a branch. I was subsequently notified that the changes to the rules and subs were enough to persuade the LDC members to re-instate the LDC as a branch.

6. It was agreed that the Secretary would distribute a full list of all current members names and addresses as soon as possible. This will follow in the next week or two, as it is proving impossible to raise a complete list to send out with this Desmo.

Well, basically, that is what happened.

I said above that a set of rules would be sent out later, but after consultation with other Committee members it has been decided that a page of this Desmo will be allocated for the purpose of publishing the rules, so if you want to read them turn to the back page.

RALLIES.

This Desmo is being rushed out in the hope that it reaches you before you depart for the distant shores of Douglas, Isle of Man for the TT. Because on Tuesday of race week (June 8th) there will be a club rally. Meeting place will be as last year, at the Bungalow at 5 p.m. with the intention of having a quick chinwag and then moving on to a convenient pub afterwards to get stoned. Bob Boyes and Tony Ainslie will do their best to organise things.

The national rally has been put in the hands of the Burton branch to organise, with some help from the Executive Committee. The date set is the 17/18 of July, and the venue is near Darley Moor in the midlands. Unfortunately, this time we have to pay for the site, which is a proper camp site, but we think it is fair to ask for 50 pence per bike, plus 10 pence per pillion passenger. Bearing in mind that food will be provided free of charge, and cooked as well (we hope in a better way than last years hot dogs) that to my mind is pretty good. We will make an attempt at some awards for furthest travelled attendee and concourse competition etc, but we'll have to wait and see what we can get. Saturday will have it's share of amusements, so get there as early as poss, and Sunday the 'Stars at Darley' meeting is on just around the corner, so if you get bored (God forbid) you can always take in the racing. Otherwise we hope to have organised a routed run around the area with perhaps a prize thrown in for that as well. Well, hope to see you all there.

DISCOUNTS.

And the BIG, BIG news is that we now have a 10% over-the-counter spares discount from Mick Walker. The way we will work it is as follows. A copy of the list of members will be sent to Mick at the same time it is distributed to you, and as long as you quote your name and full address on any spares order, Mick can check it against the list and give you the discount. This obviates the necessity to produce a club card, so you can get the discount on C.O.D. orders as well. The important thing is to make it plain when ordering spares that you are a club member, or you will find yourself paying full retail price. Lastly, remember that the discount will not be in operation until the list of members is published and drops through your door, which should be in a week or so, so don't go asking for the discount straight away, 'cos you won't get it.

You can, however, upon production of your club card get a 10% discount on spares from the Italian Centre (London Motorcycle Centre) 57, East Hill, Wandsworth, London SW18. Tony Barton is the proprietor and is a very nice guy, even more so now after this.

The last new discount to be announced this month is the 10% we have been granted by Swagman, who hang out at P.O. Box 25, Redditch, Worcs, B97 7PX. Swagman, as you will probably already know, do tank top bags and tank panniers etc.

Alf Hagon is willing to do a 20% discount on Girlings and Boranni's, but we have order them in sets of three at least. Anyone want to act as a co-ordinator for orders for these? If so write to me.

Craven have been approached for a discount but we got a flat 'Nothing doing', as they would upset their trade contacts if they gave clubs a discount on direct retailing.

Tony Ainslie, who's address is on the front page, is currently taking orders for the third batch of Mistral Electronic Ignition sets for the 750 V twins. These can be had for a mere £35, which includes two new coils, pick-up, black box etc etc, all fittings and brackets and wiring to bolt straight on. If you're interested at this cut price offer write to tony or ring 01 960 1070.

FORMULA DUCATI RACING.

Although I have tried myself to get something built on the foundations of last year's Ducati race at Gaydon, time and my limited racing contacts have inhibited somewhat the plans for further development. It is therefore good news that someone else is willing to have a go instead. Tony Ainslie is the name again, and Tony says he would like to hear from anybody interested in a projected series, be it on the racing or organising side. Of particular interest will be the views of the racers themselves on how you think a series ought to be composed. Don't delay, write today!!

CONTINENTAL TOURERS BIT.

Anybody going touring on the Continent this year or taking in some of the Grand Prix's etc, will be interested to know that one of our club members stationed over there will be pleased to assist with good routes, viewing spots etc, and a good bit of English banter at the trackside.

Ctnd.

CONTINENTAL TOURERS BIT (CTND).

24228890 CFN Easley T.E., SHQ CYCLOPS, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, BFPO 17 is the address if you want to get in touch, or alternatively look out for an orange and blue tent with a 250 Mk LII (Reg. KN 372 B) outside.

EDITOR WANTED.

As I said last time Desmo was printed, I am finding it more and more difficult to type and print Desmo myself. Shortage of time is the worst offender. As the club gets bigger every month (we now have some 300 members, not including the 100 or so yet to join from the London Ducati Club) so the work of looking after memberships and keeping in touch with various club projects increases. Not even allowing for my own personal interests, which I like to devote a bit of time to now and again, that means much more work, and I cannot do Desmo as well. As no-one came forward at the AGM to do the job, I volunteered to edit this one, for the last time, until we can find someone to take over. So ... I am now asking for volunteers for the job, so anyone interested please get in touch as soon as possible. Access to a photocopier (or at least some form of printing device) is a necessary qualification, as is the willingness to give up X amount of hours to type and print. Preferably, we would like the printing done free, but if that isn't possible, we will just have to get it as cheaply as possible. To re-iterate, this is positively the last Desmo to come from my fair scribing hand, so please, we really DO need an Editor.

DOC SHOP.

Cheif Marshall at Gaydon for the NGMCC, Alex Duguid, is selling his 450 MkIII. Alex informs me that it is A) Immaculate and B) Very fast. Equipped with Amal Concentric, TT100's, fairing and Megaphone, and with only 3000 miles on the clock, Alex is asking a mere £450 for it. Year is 1974, and anyone at September's meeting at Gaydon will have seen John Goodall thrashing round on it. Phone Gloucester 69848 if you're interested.

Kevin Alexander, 9 Brookfield, Stirchley Village, Telford, Salop wants to sell a 200 Elite flywheel puller, for which he is taking offers.

If you want a good oil painting of yourself, your bike, or, for that matter, anything you particularly like, then get in touch with David Langford. As a reference, David had two pictures (Phil Read and Klaus Enders) in the MCI Race Guide, and he says that he will do the same sort of picture from any good quality photo or colour cutting. Prices for 18 by 22 inch paintings are £15, or £20 framed. 26 Walton Cres, Oxford, is the address.

LONDON DUCATI CLUB.

We are very glad to hear that the LDC had there AGM at the end of July, and agreed that on the basis of the new club rules and the democratically elected committee, plus the revision of subscription rates, they would rejoin as a bona fida branch. This is very heartening news, not only because it swells the club ranks by some 100 members, but also because it means we have once again a united club. I am sure I speak for all when I say "Welcome back, London Ducati Club".

This therefore seems an opportune time to give some details of a couple of forthcoming LDC events. 19/20 June is their camping weekend, at the Red Lion Inn, Wainlode Hill, Glocs. It's just a couple of miles from Norton, which shows signs to Wainlode Hill, off the A38. On Monday the 28th June, there will be an excursion to visit the Burton Branch, who are now meeting every Monday at the New Talbort, Anglesey Rd, Burton-Upon-Trent, Staffs after 8 O'Clock. The LDC are still meeting every Wednesday at the Fox and Hounds, near the Chiswick Flyover Hogarth Roundabout. Meetings begin around 8 to 8.30.

NEW BRANCHES (?)

Two people are currently trying to get together enough people to start a branch. Chris Bennett (address on front page) is waiting for people to contact him about getting a Surrey Branch going south of the Thames, so anyone within easy reach of the Croydon area, please contact Chris.

The other is Chris Dell, who has been endeavouring since last year to get something moving up in the Warrington (Cheshire) area. Having now got the use of a free clubroom for the asking in Fleetwood, will anyone in that area who would like to meet other Duke-type bikers write to Chris at 122 Walton Rd, Walton, Warrington, Lancs.

Nearly forgot to mention that David Ross, 72 Felton Rd, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, wants to get the members down there together. Anyone in that sort of area interested contact Dave.

DUCATI OWNERS CLUB

Rules of the "Ducati Owners Club (G.B.)"

- 1) The name of the organisation is the "Ducati Owners Club (G.B.)", hereafter referred to as the club.
- 2) Membership.
Qualification of full membership is to own a Ducati motorcycle. Social membership will be granted to non Ducati owners. Subscription for all members is £0.50 per annum, plus £1.00 for subscription to the club magazine if it is desired. Benefits are identical for all members, but social members will not be allowed to vote at General Meetings.
- 3) The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the club, and any alteration to these rules or the administration of the club can only be made at a General Meeting or at a Committee meeting with all committee members present. All organisers of Branches of the club which may be formed are to be accountable to the Executive Committee. In addition to this the Committee has the power to invite and/or co-opt any person or persons who in its view have a useful contribution to make to any meeting.
- 4) Committee meetings will be held at regular intervals at the discretion of the Secretary. Minutes of each meeting will be recorded in a minutes book and signed by a member present. Minutes are open to scrutiny by any full club member.
- 5) Benefits.
Members will be informed of benefits available to them in the club newsletter. All members will be eligible for all such benefits.
- 6) In addition to normal membership charges there may be made, at the discretion of the Committee, an extra charge to cover the cost of airmail of the newsletter etc. to overseas members, the sum concerned to be decided upon as and when an application for membership is received.
- 7) The Committee has the power to reject any application for membership with a valid reason should it so desire. Also, the Committee may at any time terminate the membership of any member should they think it necessary, with a valid reason. Any member or prospective member so treated has the undenied right to appeal to the President of the club, whose decision is subject to ratification at the next General Meeting.
- 8) The Chairman or any other three Committee members may call a Committee meeting, giving a minimum of two weeks notice to all other Committee members, which should be replied to. A quorum of four is deemed sufficient to call a meeting.
- 9) The Annual General Meeting is to be held in the month of March, a month's notice being given to all members.
- 10) An Extra-ordinary General Meeting may be called by the President, or by the Chairman on production of a petition signed by 10% of all Full club members.

So that just about wraps it up. I apologise to anyone who has perhaps sent me ads for DOC SHOP or such like if they haven't been included, but you can all see how short of both time and space we are this month. I hope that the next Desmo will be slightly better organised. So for the last time from me,

Good Biking,

Dave Knight (Sec), 10 Longstaff Croft, Lichfield, Staffs.

Tel. Lich 51605.