

Manx Grand Prix Riders' Assoc. Christmas 2005

Chairman's Report

Jim Hunter

There certainly were some fantastic performances in this year's races and memorable moments aplenty. Alan Jackson putting his 750 Kawasaki round at 122mph in the Senior was mightily impressive as was Seamus Greene's winning 120mph average in the same race. Then of course there was Maria Costello's becoming the first lady to stand on the rostrum at the Manx. The Newcomer's Ultra Lightweight class was won by young Sam Dunlop who paid a particularly moving tribute to his Uncle Joey as he picked up his winners trophy at the Villa Marina Prize Presentation. The event also saw the emergence of Welsh flier Nigel John as a star of the future – not only did he comfortably win his class in the Newcomers race he also finished second in the Lightweight race proper. In an equally astonishing feat, Nigel left Geoff

Spirit of the Manx

Sportsmanship, endeavour, commitment

*An award for 2006, to be
presented by the MGPRRA during
the 2006 races.*

Eligibility: Any rider still competing in the Manx, likely to be competing in the 2006 races.

NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate the following rider for the "Spirit of the Manx" award

Name: _____

He/she deserves the award because:

My Name: _____

Return this nomination form to:

Jim Hunter,
5 King Orry Place,
Glen Vine,
Marown
Isle of Man
IM4 4EP

By the end of April 2006

Senior. **Seamus Greene.** 120.04mph



Junior. **Ian Pattinson.** 118.03mph



Lightweight. **Gavin Bell** .110.37 mph



Ultra Lightweight. **Paul Corrin** .107.13 mph



WINNERS 2005

Cannell pretty much speechless at the Prize Presentation when Geoff suggested that perhaps interest in the 250 class was dwindling which would account for the lack of entries – “*lack of interest? No boyo – it’s down to poor promotion of the class by organisers*” came the swift response. Graham Rhodes finally came home the victor in the Senior Classic race following a thrilling battle with Dave Madsen Mygdal. Congratulations Graham – I think we can safely say that you deserve your moment of glory after all those years of trying!

It happened in the beer tent!

I was delighted that when we had our “Get together in the Beer tent” on the Sunday before race week we had a marquee full of people, including 37 riders from this year’s races. As part of the proceedings we made a presentation to guest of honour Geoff Tanner, had our draw for the van/driver ferry ticket for next year’s races (*thank you Steam Packet Company* (Winner: Phil Guillou)) and presented the “Spirit of the Manx” award to Brian Spooner. Brian had something up his sleeve for his good friend and fellow 250 rider Neil Kent in the shape of a *Village People* type Firemen’s’ outfit. Quick as a flash, Neil had the outfit on, went round the tent and raised the best part of £200 for the Association! The get together was of course preceded by the AGM where it was great to get some input from current riders including Senior / Classic man Huw Hews (famous for riding the Rotary Nortons) and that man again, soon to be fireman Neil Kent.



Star Studded night out in Shrewsbury

In February we are joining forces with bike race enthusiasts “Moto Nostalgia” when we put on a chat show evening at a venue in Shrewsbury. Already on the list of people attending are Robert Dunlop, Guy Martin, Ian Lougher and Maria Costello. During the evening there will be the opportunity to ask the panel questions and take part in a charity auction. Accommodation at the hotel is available at a special discounted rate and food will be available through out the night (although not included in the ticket price). It has already been decided that all proceeds from the evening will go to charities set up in the name of Richard Britton – a worthy cause indeed, I am sure you would agree. It’s also worth noting that the last Moto Nostalgia function in November of this year resulted in a £600 donation to the MGP helicopter fund! So, if you don’t have anything on Saturday 18th February we will hopefully see you there! *Please see separate advertisement on next page for full details of how to buy tickets etc.*

Marshals’ Association

The Marshals’ Association had a good week at this years Manx, managing to recruit 200 new marshals. It was great to see Pat Wynne doing his bit up at the Bungalow during Friday’s races – especially after hearing about him falling off at the same spot on Wednesday. Should have stuck to the Ducati Pat!

A special thank you to all the people who have made donations to the Association recently and of course a really warm welcome to our 15 new members. Don’t forget to put in your nomination for next year’s “Spirit of the Manx” award using the attached form. Have a great Christmas and hopefully see you all in Shrewsbury!

Secretary’s Report

Keith Trubshaw

Well our Chairman, Jim Hunter, really went to town with his advance organisation for this years Manx. I am sure he will let you know the details elsewhere in this Newsletter but the event in the Beer Tent was tremendous. Jim even organised Local Newspaper coverage. As usual the afternoon was backed up by the tremendous enthusiasm of Tom and Frances Thorp assisted on the day by our ever loyal supporter, Wyn Evans and other wives of Committee Members.

The AGM went well with plenty of comments about the Races and some were quite constructive !! Although we have always said that we can’t influence the Manx Motor Cycle Club they do listen to our comments. This year, at the request of the Members present, I posted a copy of the Minutes of the AGM to the Club for their information. They have had quite a few problems to deal with this year but I hope they manage to give some consideration to the thoughts of our Association. During the Meeting we discussed the usual problem of Association Funds. As has been said so many times before, the cost of the Newsletters alone far outweighs our income. We discussed the idea of a Friend of the Association status for people who have not competed in the Manx but would like to feel more involved. This would be similar to the TT Rider’s Association and it would be a useful way to raise more funds. I could see from the comments from the floor that some Members (including myself to be honest) didn’t like the idea as it could dilute the

Donations Association Regalia

Please send any donations or orders for Regalia to:

**The Secretary,
M.G.P.R.A.,
2 Majestic Drive,
Onchan,
Isle of Man,
IM3 2JQ**

Donations can be to the Manx Motor Cycle Club – Replica Fund, General MGPRF Funds, Cost of Newsletter, or Costs of Portakabin.

Regalia consists of the following:

Blue, Maroon or Green Ties @ £7.50, Windscreen / Fairing Badges @ 25p, Cloth Badges @ £6.50.
MGPRF Acrylic Pullovers @ £19.50 sizes S/M/L/XL
Pure Wool versions @ £27.50 in M/L/XL
MGPRF Polo Shirts @ £14.99 sizes M/L/XL/XXL.
MGPRF “T” Shirts @ £7.99 in Blue, White, Black, Cream or Grey sizes M/L/XL.

Please add £1.50 towards the P&P costs for each order if it includes clothing, thanks.

Make all cheques payable to MGPRF
Don’t forget to include your own Name and Address

idea of being a member of a very exclusive Association. It was decided not to implement the idea this year to see how Dick Standing's idea progressed. This was to ask all members via the Newsletter (well here is the request) if they would consider a one off annual donation of say £5 or £10 to help our Bank Account. We still have a good number of Members who do send very generous donations and I thank them again, but this is aimed at our Members who enjoy the Newsletter and being part of such an Association and would like to help. I have had some cheques already just from people who attended the AGM.

We have had a good crop of New Members since the last Newsletter, this is always the case at this time of the year. We welcome, Ian Brainbridge from County Durham, Paul Martin from Stockport, Stephen Platts and Martin Hewlett from Worcestershire, Peter Lovatt from Cheshire, Jim Stewart from the USA (wow), Kirk Farrow from Leicestershire, Hugh Mitchell from Newmilns, Kay Street from Lincoln, Marie Hogson from Essex (I took this particular Essex Girl for an exploratory lap of the Course only to find out she is really Manx !!!), James Buckett from Kent, Jeremy Doughty from Worcester, William Hancock from the Wirral, Andy Wilson from Northampton and last but not least one of the stars of the Beer Tent on Sunday, Phil Guillou from Guernsey.

Joe Thornton phoned me recently with an interesting comment. He had read in some publication that he would take Ballaugh Bridge in third gear. Joe was quite concerned that readers of the magazine would attempt a similar feat. He asked me to point out that he could only achieve this using a six speed gearbox as third with a five speed gearbox would be too fast. For those of you who know Joe, you will know that he is genuine with his concerns so I have published as promised !! I also had an interesting letter from Chris Thomson in New South Wales (Australia !!). He is offering advice to riders from that part of the world which may make their journey to the Island easier. And I thought that booking the boat in time was tricky !!!!!!! Any Rider or potential Rider can seek his advice by email at chrisfriend30@hotmail.com.

Well I will pass on my usual Season's Greetings to all our Members and hope you all enjoy Christmas. I have been taking sneaky peeps in the wardrobe and other well known hiding places to see where Pat has managed to hide my well wrapped surprise Fireblade. Or will I have to wait to see if Honda will lend me one again closer to the TT !!!!!!! I think I will be disappointed on Christmas Day don't you ??

See You all Next Year

Keith

Views or News

If you would like to contribute to the next issue
then please send your article or letter to:

Jim Hunter,
5 King Orry Place,
Glen Vine,
Marown
Isle of Man
IM4 4EP
e-mail
j.d.hunter@snhs.sch.im



Frank Whiteway
1968 Lightweight winner, 1970 Production TT winner and first person to buy tickets for our night out in Shrewsbury!

It shouldn't happen to a Travelling Marshal

Ned Bowers

It was one o'clock on the Friday 2nd September and, quite unplanned, I was lying on my back at the top of Bray Hill surrounded by the remains of my Honda Fireblade. And worst of all, my right leg was broken. This was to be a new experience to me as in nearly forty years of riding motorbikes I have never been in an ambulance. I've had my share of knocks, but nothing serious, and never been admitted to a hospital ward full of motorcyclists.

As a travelling marshal I have attended a fair number of incidents. Usually the last a travelling marshal sees of an injured rider is when he is loaded into the helicopter ambulance. Occasionally we may visit a rider in hospital, but that is exceptional.

Jim Lee had been lying 12th in the Newcomers race, when on the last lap he lost the front end at the Mountain Box. He fractured his right tibia and was handled very carefully as he was loaded into the helicopter. The Doctor said he feared he might lose his leg, and I didn't disagree.

It was two o'clock when I was admitted to the Orthopaedic Ward. Opposite me, sat up in bed listening to the Senior Race report, was a smiling Jim Lee. And best of all, five healthy pink toes were wiggling out of the end of his plaster cast. That gave me a lot of confidence as I was later wheeled off to surgery to get my right femur pinned.

On my return to the ward, Jim had been replaced by John Bradstock who had crashed spectacularly in Kirk Michael village. John was kept in overnight and suffered only a broken toe. I discovered that he was also one of my old customers, having previously met in the river at the Black Dub (Senior MGP 2000). On the next ward was Mick Charnock, again one of my customers, but from practice this year at Glen Helen. Mick had broken both femurs, and was being wheeled around the hospital in a wheelchair by his pretty girlfriend Jo.

Whilst we all tried not to moan and groan, the prize for bravery and humour must go to Simon Briggs. Simon came off at Glentrammon on the last lap of the Senior. He received a broken femur, arm, ribs and, worst of all damaged his six lower vertebrae. Although no lasting damage was predicted, he had to lie on his back for six weeks. Imagine that without going to the toilet! Chemical intervention was called for, and John Jacques in the bed opposite, was in the direct line of fire. Perrrrrrphah! Staring at the ceiling, Simon and I imagined where we might otherwise be that Saturday evening. We could be in Colours in



our hospital beds. Great idea. And we could drink as much lager as we liked without going for a wee, so long as our catheter bags didn't burst. And when we had had enough we'd call an ambulance to take us back to the hospital.

If you must end up in hospital, the experience won't be that bad so long as you are in a motorcyclists ward. Nobody moans about their bad luck, they just accept what has happened and plan their future. All of my fellow patients would be back next year, racing or not. Simon had even got his bikes lined up. In all, it was a positive experience, and I look forward to seeing Jim, John, Mick and Simon again. It has certainly put a new perspective on the travelling marshal job to me.

Two weeks later I went back to pick up the watch which I had left behind. As one of the nurses who had looked after us said, "We don't have any fun here anymore, now that you riders have all gone home".

Ned Bowers

FOR SALE

Honda FireBlade

2005 model, low mileage, TT and MGP history. Fully serviced.

Slight cosmetic damage

Contact: www.bentblades.com

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

TT hero's story may get Hollywood treatment

The tale of 26-times TT winner Joey Dunlop could be turned into a big screen winner. Superstar Liam Neeson could play the publican from Ballymoney, in a film penned by Ben Younger.

DOUG BROWN

Dear Jim,

When the August edition of Out Of The Mist 2005 came through the letter box I knew that I would have to write this letter to you.

It is with sadness I have to tell you that my husband, Arthur Douglas Brown, known as Buster or Doug died on 1st August 2005.

Doug loved Motor cycles all his life and had his first Motor cycle, a B. S.A. at 13 years of age which he rode off road and could strip and rebuild himself. Over the years he owned, rebuilt and rode many second hand Motor Cycles.

In 1948 he bought a 350 O.H.C Velocette KN 1929 model second hand and completely restored and converted it to a racing machine. He rode in his first race with little success but had enjoyed the racing so much he rode in several races before the end of the year.

Doug, with a group of like minded friends visited the Isle of Man in 1948 for the first time to watch the racing. He was hooked!! He loved the motor cycle racing, and the Isle of Man and could not wait to return to take part.

In 1949 after joining a syndicate and after winning the lottery for "who should ride" took the syndicates brand new 350 International Norton to the Isle of Man to ride in the Clubmans T. T. and after many adventures finished 20th gaining a finishers plaque. Alas the syndicate could not sell the Norton as planned to recover their outlay. The Norton was stored in Doug's Mothers front room behind the piano.

In 1950 out comes the Norton and money was raised by Doug to pay off the syndicate. Doug entered and rode the Norton in the Clubmans T.T. making the fastest practice lap in the 350cc class and finishing in 3rd place in the race and winning a free entry into the Manx Grand Prix

Doug finished 13th in the 1950 Manx Grand Prix and received a much coveted Replica. Doug rode in the 1951 and 1952 Manx Grand Prix races and received finishers plaques.

Doug's love of the Isle of Man, the Motor cycle racing and the people never faded. He visited every year at Manx Grand Prix time. And for the T.T. and Southern 100 whenever he could afford to. His last visit was 2004.. Doug made many friends in and on the Island and was always ready with his good friend the late Doug Rose of Castletown to help out with mechanical skills and advice in the true tradition and spirit of the Manx Grand Prix.

We (wife Grace and children Ray and Sue, and their families) will always love and be proud of him and have, lovely, happy memories of our "Manx" holidays.

I know this letter is rather long and I thank you in anticipation of you taking time to read it. I just thought you would like to know about the passing of a "Out of the Mist" member.

Good wishes

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Grace Brown

Dear Sir,

Happy to have next newsletter sent by email instead of post, Enjoy out of the mist very much - keep up the good work, Best regards

Doug Stewart

Dear Jim .

I heard a lovely story recalled to me by Tom Jackson at the Southern 100 this year, concerning the late Norrie Whyte. Evidently many years ago Norrie was making some notes from a conversation with brother Bob Jackson after one of his many successful TT rides.

Never one to refuse a drop of the hard stuff (purely for medicinal purposes of course!)

Tom had dutifully brought Norrie a large scotch from the beer tent at the rear of the grandstand. On handing it over, Norrie spotted a large fly had dropped into his drink . Handing his notebook to Tom he picked out the fly between thumb and forefinger held it over the glass, squeezing the poor fly ,yelling at it "Spit it out you little bugger,...spit it out ! "

Won't be over for the MGP I've a deal to race at Mosport Park, Ontario same week

Hope the weather is kind. good luck to all competitors, best wishes for a trouble and incident free week.

Regards

Les Trotter

Jim,

I would only be too pleased to have the Newsletter e-mailed to me in future, keep up the good work. Seeing Mick Withers comment in the last issue reminds me of the afternoon on the Mountain when I almost ran into the back of him, you see he had inadvertently applied the "Airbrakes" when the zip on his leathers had burst. Half a roll of duct tape at the pits soon solved the problem!

Best Regards,

John R Baker

Hello Jim,

I'm quite happy to receive my newsletter by E mail in future. I'm still trying to decide whether or not to go across for the Manx. I had a very enjoyable trip over by folding bike last year avoiding all the hassle of taking a motor bike or car. A bus/ train/tram pass got me round the Island and wherever I wanted to go all I had to do was get a tram to the Bungalow and as they say "its all downhill from there" including a memorable freewheel down to Sulby one evening. I expect the weather forecast will decide.

Regards

Philippa Wheeler

Dear Jim

Please find enclose a cheque for £20.00 to help with postage costs for the newsletter. After all these years I still get a thrill from seeing an envelope with the Isle of Man stamp on it. Can't really go with receiving the newsletter via e-mail – I don't have a computer, this is Cornwall and even telephones are rare!

I can remember so well the letter arriving that accepted my entry for the Manx Grand Prix. To this day the whole event is truly wonderful. I had many years of great fun and met a lot of very nice people.

I enjoy the newsletter – keep up the good work!

Kind regards

Mike Skidmore

Murray's Motorcycle Museum closes

Murray's Motorcycle Museum at the Bungalow has now unfortunately closed for good. Peter Murray, who has run the museum for the last 37 years, said there are a number of reasons why he decided to close the museum which housed 140 bikes and memorabilia.

Steam packet sold

The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company has a new owner, Macquarie, an Australian Bank.

Celebrating its 175th year of operation the previous owners Montague Private Equity has sold the company for £225 million.

Earlier this year Macquarie purchased Whitelink, the Isle of Wight Shipping Company.

Managing Director Hamish Ross says that he is delighted that the Steam Packet has been acquired under existing management. Macquarie, he said, brought commitment, global resources and specialist expertise. And they fully understood the importance of the provision of year round reliable services to the Isle of Man.

FROM TT PUB TO AMBULANCE HQ?

THE Quarterbridge Hotel site in Douglas could provide a new home for the ambulance service. The government has made an offer for the TT course landmark, owned by Heron and Brearley. The brewery is awaiting confirmation from government that it has been given approval by the Treasury. The government wants to add the site to its 'strategic land

bank' and road widening at the busy roundabout is one possibility for it.

The Manx as it was. **Cyril Julian.**

In 1950 I entered the Senior and Junior races on my MK VIII KTT Velocette. I practised on Junior plates until I qualified, then the rest of the practise on Senior plates. Nothing sinister - just being economical with labour (idleness).

On race day the instruction to my pit attendant was to quite simply 'Keep me in replica time'. During the course of the race I kept getting 'go faster' signals, until the last lap, flat out. Ah well, keep trying. On finishing I said 'Idid my best to get a rep' to which the reply was that I finished **THIRD**. Don't go looking for the photograph of the first three in the winner's enclosure- there isn't one. The photographers were on strike! Velocette offered to strip the engine for measuring. Yes please. Later on it dawned they meant what they said. Nothing for it, put it back together, back to the digs for tea, and get ready for the Senior, (change the No plates). The Senior race was uneventful, no need for signals, just keep going. I finished in seventeenth place. That concluded a most enjoyable two weeks motor cycling. It could not be done anywhere else in the world but the Isle of Man. And the icing on the cake? Two silver reps. Just for curiosity: Practised mileage estimated (226.5), racing mileage (453), return journey home from Liverpool (226).

Total: 905 miles. Junior average speed: 77.120 mph. Senior average speed 77.166mph. Yes I did ride the bike there and back home!

Happy racing to you all!

Dear Jim,

I would be only too pleased to recieve 'Out of the Mist' by email if it saves on the postage and printing, I went to the TT this year with some friends. It's the first time I've ridden a bike over there since the '76 Manx. I was suprisied how much of the course I remembered. I had been to the '95 & '97 Manx, but only by car.

I was on a 2 year old 600 Bandit which I had only picked up on the Sat. before going on the Thursday, I can't tell you how much fun I had. I felt in my 20's again and to cap it all, I did a lap on a Fireblade belonging to one of my friends (when there's other people out there going for it, WELL you can't just let them get away can you?).

I can't praise the Rugby Club at Quarter Bridge enough for putting together and running the camp site. Very friendly and

Did you know?

The biggest annual expense faced by the **MGPRA** is costs associated with printing and posting the newsletter. You can help by agreeing to have the newsletter e-mailed direct to your PC. Simply cut out and fill in the form below or notify j.d.hunter@snhs.sch.im. **Thanks!**

Please send me copies of "Out of the Mist" by e-mail as opposed to snail.

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Send to:

Jim Hunter,
5 King Orry Place,
Glen Vine,
Marown
Isle of Man
IM4 4EP

we had a great time.

The one blot was a couple of "tw**s" at about 3-4am one day decided to do burnouts in the car park then disappeared first thing in the morning - well you wouldn't argue with rugby players would you? The cheeky buggers even asked if they could stay for another couple of hours as they were tired!

All the best

Ian Gittins

Hi Jim,

Please by all means email the MGPRAs newsletter to me if this helps reduce costs. It will be 20 years this September since my last MGP, and i still enjoy reading the newsletter.Keep up the good work.

John Mould

Dear Jim

Here on the continent we are not so straight forward with racing parts as you. But we do have e-mail. For my brother Dr. Jochen Trockel and me you can send the newsletter by e-mail. You will meet Jochen soon at the MGP Senior Classic with his new Seeley Weslake and for the first time on Alan Harlings Junior Manx Norton. I hope we shall meet next year when my bikes are ready again. Enclosed you find a little cash donation for our Club, as there is no other way than cash. Use it as you like.

Sincerely yours,

Reiner Trockel



Richard Britton

LORD HILL HOTEL

ABBEY FOREGATE
SHREWSBURY
SHROPSHIRE
SY2 6AX

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FAX:- 01743 369734

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Accommodation available:

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Bed and Breakfast - Single Room:

£55 *(normal price £90)*

Double Room £70 *(normal price £106).*

Book direct with Hotel
quoting MGPRAs night.

MGPRAs

in conjunction with

MOTO NOSTALGIA

present an Evening with

Robert Dunlop

Ian Lougher

Guy Martin

Maria Costello

Chat show and Auction of memorabilia

all proceeds to the

Richard Britton fund

Lord Hill Hotel

Shrewsbury

Saturday 18th February, 2006

Tickets @£10 available from

Jim Hunter,
5 King Orry Place, Glen Vine, Isle of Man. IM4 4EP
Cheques payable to: MGPRAs
please enclose stamped self-addressed envelope

Food available @ the hotel

(anything from a light snack to full à la carte)

IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

The MOTO NOSTALGIA people are absolute ENTHUSIASTS and would like to be able to identify all riders present on the night. If you provide the following information about yourself (and any other riders you might be booking tickets for) I will return a lapel badge with your ticket(s) that you can wear on the evening:

Name / Years ridden in MGP or TT / claim to fame

That way, everybody will know who each other is!