



FEDERATION OF BRITISH POLICE MOTOR CLUBS

NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE TREK SERIES 2014

SECRETARY'S REVIEW

Introduction

48 members of FBPMC affiliated clubs and 18 guests took part in the 2014 championship, which for the first time in many years did not cover any territory in Wales. 3 member riders and 1 guest showed their dedication by competing in all four events and many more missed out on competing in all four by reason that they were involved in organising an event for us.

Nitrek – 12th April – Belfast

Based at La Mon Hotel and Country Club and organised on behalf of the Northern Ireland club by your author, Stevie Dougan and Evan Moore.

A total of 56 riders set off from La Mon on a dry morning and headed west to Hillsborough in County Down. With its splendid Georgian architecture, pretty floral displays and the official royal residence, Hillsborough is one of the many delightful villages in Northern Ireland. From there the navigation involved a lengthy jaunt across country via Gilford and Tandragee to the tranquil Clare Glen in County Armagh, before crossing into Co Tyrone and a visit to the estate of the Earl of Caledon on the outskirts of the village of the same name. A former mill now converted into a community activity workshop at Aughnacloy beckoned next, before the route returned north-east towards Benburb. The final clue before lunch was to be found at Dan Winter's Cottage at 'The Diamond' between Loughgall and Portadown, a spot of historic significance as the sectarian 'Battle of The Diamond' in 1795 was fought here, hostilities which served to further heighten sectarian tensions across Ulster and which led directly to the formation of the Orange Order.

After an excellent lunch at the nearby Stonebridge Brasserie the route took our riders to Newtownhamilton in the south of County Armagh before heading east to the model village of Bessbrook, founded by the Quaker linen baron John Richardson. Once the site of the busiest military heliport in Europe, the former garrison at the disused Bessbrook Mill has now been dismantled and vacated. The pretty village of Scarva on the Newry Canal in County Down was next on the list followed by a teaser at Corbet Lough outside Banbridge which brought our riders on to the A50 Bann Road to Castlewellan – a favourite biking road of many local riders. The Railway Museum at Downpatrick provided the last brain-stretcher before returning to La Mon for a decent meal and a good evening's craic. We reflected that not so long ago, some of the places we visited would have been definitely 'out of bounds'.

Clevetrek – 22nd June – New Coundon, Bishop Auckland

Based at the Park Head Country Hotel and organised on behalf of Cleveland Police Motor Club by Phil Taylor and Keith Penrice

The Park Head has now become a favourite Trek venue in the North East and despite being located in County Durham, both the Northumbria and now Cleveland clubs have used it as a base hotel, and with good reason. Keith and Phil had kindly volunteered to fill the annual calendar and run a Clevetrek two years in a row and for that we were all grateful. The event would take us from the high Pennines to the North-East coast and started off (for most) by calling at the nearby Auckland Castle, before climbing Weardale, stopping at Wolsingham and the Killhope Lead Mining Museum and then the chance of a cup of tea and an opportunity to reminisce amongst the smoke and steam at the South Tyneside Railway at Alston in Cumbria – the highest town in England with its renowned steep cobbled main street. From there it was a pleasant and ‘technical’ run down Teesdale past High Force waterfall for a clue at Middleton-in-Teesdale, a familiar stop for many thanks to its nice coffee shops and bakery. The roads opened up after Middleton and we were puzzled at Staindrop before returning to the Park Head for lunch. A few riders opted to perform this circuit in the opposite direction, but no matter which way you did it, it was a cracking ride.

Eastward bound in the afternoon to Fishburn Airfield, tucked away just off the A177 and onto the B1280 to take us to Hartlepool and the historic Heugh (pronounced “uff”) Gun Battery on The Headland, erected in 1860 to protect the growing port of Hartlepool. Unfortunately our host’s next plans to use the historic Tees Transporter Bridge at Middlesbrough were scuppered as in the lead up to the event the bridge was closed for maintenance. So instead we skirted around Middlesbrough to the pretty hamlet of Upleatham to scratch our heads once again. The windswept North York Moors teased us away from the coast and onto more challenging roads. The clue at the railway station at Kildale side-tracked many of us, so baffled we continued south-west and descended Raisdale and Carlton Bank to less of a challenge at Carlton-in-Cleveland. The lengthy run back to Park Head had many permutations with riders arriving back at the hotel from all directions. An excellent evening meal and good conversation rounded off a great weekend.

Scot Trek – 16th August – Perth

Based at the Mercure Hotel and organised on behalf of Police Scotland by John Armstrong, Ronnie Buchanan and Phil Testor

The ancient City of Perth was the backdrop for the third event of the year and allowed the visitors a choice of dining on the Friday evening from the plethora of both traditional and exotic restaurants within walking distance. The next morning was dry to start with as we took to the ridge of hills above Strathearn to Muthill for a ‘Fawtless’ clue, if you had got you plotting correct. The remains of a Roman garrison at Braco threw a few off course until the signs were correctly interpreted and from there we headed north to Comrie and west along the banks of Loch Earn to Lochearnhead. Glen Ogle and Glen Dochart took us to the A82 at Crianlarich, where we turned south towards the famous ‘Drover’s Inn’ at Inverarnan and into heavy drizzle. The next clue at the Rest and Be Thankful was unfortunately shrouded in mist, but depending on what time you got there, some lovely old automobiles were on show, including one early 20th century model which resembled the vehicles in the film Genevieve. The lunch venue at Cairndow was welcome relief from the rain.

After lunch the weather thankfully eased and we headed around the head of Loch Fyne and climbed Glen Aray to drop down onto the banks of Loch Awe and onto the A85 to the quaint old railway station at Dalmally. Next stop was at Tyndrum and the famous Green Welly – now heavily developed compared to what some may remember as a basic roadside watering hole and petrol

station. Down to Crianlarich next and a little back-tracking along part of the morning leg before breaking off the A85 for the lovely village of Killin which was in the midst of its summer festival. The bridge spans Scotland's longest river, the spectacular River Tay, just before it enters Loch Tay and the village is well worth a visit. The Gate Lodge at Taymouth Castle in Kenmore beckoned us next with a straightforward clue before we turned south-east for the last clue at Dunkeld and the fantastic museum dedicated to the works of Beatrix Potter, a native of the town. To say that this clue was cryptic is in fact quite accurate, as it was based on Miss Potter's childhood writings in which she employed a code of her own design in order to keep the entries in her diaries a secret.

Wye Trek – 27th September – Hereford

Based at the Three Counties Hotel and organised by Nigel Boothby and Bob Hendrie, assisted by Wayne Browning

The Three Counties staff are well used to seeing us and as usual looked after us very well indeed. I mentioned earlier that this year, unusually, not a wheel was turned in Wales. I say unusual because between the organisers from South Wales and Cheshire and our Wye Trek host, a certain Mr Nigel Boothby, we seem to visit Wales quite a lot – and why not? Some of the best roads and scenery in these islands. However it was to the Cotswolds and the Heart of England we would go this time, and very enjoyable it was too.

We started off heading south-east, crossing the River Wye south of Mordiford, to our first clue (and the relief that it was straightforward) at Much Marcle. This took us to the lovely old town of Ledbury, where the long wait at a red light in the centre of the town gave us time to ponder how the upper floor of a Tudor building at the crossroads has yet to fall into the street, as it leans out so far off the vertical it defies gravity. Hanley Swan teased us next with an anagram before we crossed the Severn and the M5 to Pershore and the site of a WW2 Home Guard gun emplacement on the banks of the River Avon. Elmley Castle was one of those clues where everyone went word blind and nobody scored any points, scouring an OS map excerpt and information board, alas without success. Spectacular views of the Vale of Evesham and the Cotswolds were on the menu next at Broadway Tower on Broadway Hill in Worcestershire, a folly tower built for Lady Coventry in 1799. The views were almost as breath-taking as the tightly swerving bends on the approach to the site on the A44 as it climbs the hill – certainly a stretch of road to scrub in the edges of the tyres. Warwickshire was next and the village of Long Compton at the Church of St Peter & St Paul which dates from the 13th century. An intriguing old thatched red-brick building at the entrance to the church, which stands on only two lower floor walls and is therefore open underneath provided the entertainment here. The Stag at Redhill near Stratford-Upon-Avon provided the refreshments for our lunch break.

The return leg began southwards to Northwick in Gloucestershire and what is now a business park which had an obvious wartime appearance to it, as it resembled a POW camp. Now home to businesses such as sidecar manufacturer Watsonian Squire, the park was once an American field hospital which became home to around a thousand displaced Poles, many of whom had fought for the allies in WW2. It was in use up until the 1960's until these residents either integrated into British society or returned to their homeland. Nigel tried to fox us at Broadwell next and I was surprised to learn he knew anything about Page 3 'models' whatsoever! The quaint village of Upper Slaughter was a killer clue which some failed to interpret correctly and it centred on an old water pump next to a church. The traditional 'railway' clue was an illuminating challenge at Greet Station on the restored Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway and it afforded the chance of welcome mid-afternoon refreshments. An old milestone marker at Bredon was cleverly interpreted for a teaser by our host and finally we visited Odda's Chapel, an Anglo-Saxon church at Deerhurst which dates back to the 11th century.

Conclusion

On behalf of all of the competitors and pillion riders I would like to express our gratitude to all of the organisers of this year's events. Organising a Trek involves a lot of work and it is much appreciated.

The 2014 AGM will be kindly hosted by our South Yorkshire colleagues on 22nd November at the Mercure Sheffield Parkway Hotel, Catcliffe, near Sheffield. Details are in the 'files' section of the Yahoo! Group pages. I hope to see you there!

Next year, we will be visiting South Yorkshire on 20th June, The Scottish Borders in August (date TBC) and Northumbria on 18th September. At this stage, I have a vacant slot at the start of the season up to 16th May. I hope I can fill this slot by the date of the AGM.

Finally, I would like to make special mention and pay a special 'Thank You' to the indomitable Nigel Boothby. After many years of organising a Wye Trek for us, Nigel has finally intimated that he intends to take things a little easier from now on and so it seems we have enjoyed our last Wye Trek. They certainly all have been memorable and most enjoyable!

Bill Bradford

Trek Secretary

5th October 2014

A full table of the year's results follows:

Results by Event: **Blue font = Guest Rider**

Nltrek – Individual Results

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Representing</u>
1 st	Dave Hogg	Pan's People	South Yorkshire
2 nd	Mark McCluskie	Brothers Grim	Northern Ireland
3 rd	Stevie Sherry	Brothers Grim	Northern Ireland

Nltrek – Team Results

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Riders</u>
1 st	Pan's People	South Yorkshire	Ian Coates Dave Hogg Paul Edwards
2 nd	Brothers Grim	Northern Ireland	Raymond Clarke Mark McCluskie Stevie Sherry
3 rd	The Peelers	Greater Manchester	Phil Cross Dave Priestley Martin Slater

Clevetrek - Individual Results

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Representing</u>
1 st	Dave Priestley	The Peelers	Greater Manchester
2 nd	Phil Cross	The Peelers	Greater Manchester
3 rd	Jason Pal	The Peelers	Greater Manchester

Clevetrek Trek - Team Results

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Riders</u>
1 st	The Peelers	Greater Manchester	Phil Cross Jason Pal Dave Priestley
2 nd	Non PC's	Cheshire	John Scanlon Myles Tatton Peter Edwards
3 rd	V23's	Northumbria	Fraser Doherty Richard Fanning George Spuhler

Scot Trek - Individual Results

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Representing</u>
1 st	Stevie Dougan	Boxer Jockeys	Northern Ireland
2 nd	Bill Bradford	Boxer Jockeys	Northern Ireland
3 rd	Stephen Mairs	Boxer Jockeys	Northern Ireland

Scot Trek - Team Results

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Riders</u>
1 st	Boxer Jockeys	Northern Ireland	Bill Bradford Stevie Dougan Stephen Mairs
2 nd	Pan's People	South Yorkshire	Ian Coates Martin Cohen Dave Hogg
3 rd	V23's	Northumbria & Cheshire	Fraser Doherty Brian Gladston Keith Shannon

Wye Trek - Individual Results

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Representing</u>
1 st	Paul Smith		South Wales
2 nd	Huw Phillips		South Wales
3 rd	Jon Bowdler		South Wales

Wye Trek - Team Results

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Riders</u>
1 st	Amigos	South Wales	Jon Bowdler Huw Phillips Paul Smith
2 nd	Boxer Jockeys	Northern Ireland	Bill Bradford Stevie Dougan Stephen Mairs
3 rd	Jockstraps	Scotland & N Ireland	John Armstrong Ronnie Buchanan Philip Mairs

2014 Trek Series – Championship Results

Individual Championship

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Representing</u>
1 st	Dave Priestley	Greater Manchester
2 nd	Bill Bradford	Northern Ireland
3 rd	Stevie Dougan	Northern Ireland

Team Championship

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Riders</u>
1 st	Boxer Jockeys	Northern Ireland	Bill Bradford Stevie Dougan Stephen Mairs
2 nd	Pan's People	South Yorkshire	Ian Coates Martin Cohen Paul Edwards Dave Hogg Danny Kaye
3 rd	The Peelers	Greater Manchester	Phil Cross Jason Pal Dave Priestley Martin Slater

Guest Championship

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Guest of (Club)</u>
1 st	Ian Flockhart	Scotland
2 nd	Wullie Davis	Scotland
3 rd	Marc Green	Greater Manchester