

TT Riders



Association

PRESIDENT ALEX GEORGE 2016-2017

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Patrons

EARL OF MARCH - GOODWOOD
MR MURRAY WALKER. OBE
MR KEL PRINCE
MR JOHN SUTTON

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Committee members

Andrew Jessopp John Hammond
Neil Tuxworth Mick Chatterton

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TTRA 1952 - 2017 65 years

Hello Members and Friends (FoTTRA)

What an achievement and during that number of years only had 3 Secretaries. Norman Scott JP. Ireland. Allan Robinson MBE & his dear wife Win Robinson. Gloucs, and yours truly. Frances, Isle of Man since 2003. I am often asked how long have I actually been involved with the TTRA and the 38th milestone, well believe it or not I am in my 30th year.

The story began when Tom and I came to live in the Isle of Man in 1983. I will add "The Races" never came into the reason for moving to the IOM. or was I being naïve? After we had completed building our bungalow we ventured down to the Grandstand with Cromie & Phoebe McCandless to see what was going on, a Grey Portacabin had been purchased by the TTRA and MGPR and it was being opened that morning. I remember it was MGP week and seeing an old photograph recently in one of my books Richard Swallow, Sid Lawton, Ivan Rhodes, John Hammond and many others were there. Robin and Joan Sherry instigated the purchase of the cabin and Robin turned the key to an applaud from all attending, that is my memory of the morning. Of course I did not know any of these special people and was just there in the small crowd and really did not take it seriously, so please forgive me if you were there and have not been mentioned but I did not know you then.

I remember we went to the next TT and it was just a cabin with a table and a visitors book and Allan standing around, he wanted to go to the loo and asked if I would just get the visitors book signed if anyone came in. boom ! boom ! This was the start.

At a later date after the races were over he asked Tom if he would take care of the Cabin as we lived in the Island and try and make something of it. Remember the 1st cabin was by the wooden hut where admission to the paddock was, if you were lucky. I am sure many of you experienced that difficulty sometimes on your visits.

Tom got down to revamping the cabin to make it more comfortable and inviting, opening up the kitchen area and counter, organising the leather seats to be made and carpets and curtains to be fitted. Many of you have enjoyed your refreshments and chats over the years meeting up with many visiting members worldwide. Of course this applies to the MGPRAs and Manx weeks.

2007 the 100 years centenary of the TT Races.

That of course brought in the tremendous change to the 38th venue. We had the opportunity to move the cabin after 20 yrs which led us to a bit of worrying. Anyway all went well, we acquired the cabin which was already on site on the concrete ramp. Tom worked out that if he could cut the 2 walls out of each he could join them together which of course doubled the size. It was a tremendous job he did and gained many compliments for this great effort. Needless to say, those of you who knew him, he calmly accepted as something he had done and was pleased with the result. I think of it as his legacy to the TTRA and the MGPRAs.

I will close now on that subject, just a taster of how I became involved, and so much more I could add to my story.

The 2016 Annual General Meeting was held for the second time at the National Motorcycle Museum – pre the Annual Luncheon. As all documents are enclosed with the newsletter prior to the event it makes the meeting very much quicker so does not interfere with the exciting day we are all there to enjoy. Thank you to the members TTRA and FoTTRA it was very well attended. It gives many who have been unable to come in the past when it was in the Isle of Man and realise how much goes on with the committee work throughout the year and behind the scene.

The Luncheon commenced with its reputable and thrilling sounds of the new President Alex George riding into the Banqueting suite to the sounds of the legendary Triumph Slippery Sam motorcycle which he won the 1975 TT Production race and the roar from the excited crowds. Alex made an acceptance speech which was very colourful with interesting stories. Any newcomer to this great event must be absolutely blown away with this unique and unexpected entrance. Our compere for the 2016 Luncheon was conducted by Nick Jefferies, again a well done job reminding many members of special moments in their racing career. Thank you very much Nick for the interviews with members which highlights the event and makes for a very interesting insight to their stories. Barry McQueen the Town Crier from Blackpool is always a treat when he performs his various duties in musical style. Thank you Barry.

This special day on any calendar is becoming very popular to newcomers to the scene thereby widening the knowledge of what the true purpose of the TTRA is really about and opening the doors to many generous guests who have enjoyed the sport over many years and are keen to be able to repay their gratefulness back through the TTRA Benevolent Fund Charity. Donations however small are exceptionally valuable to the fund as our enquiries for assistance is continually called upon right through the year and varies in amounts needed in many very sad and serious situations. Not always racing related. For some reason an awful lot of maturing members are not really fully aware of the real meaning of being a Life member. Every enquiry for assistance is treated in the strictest confidence and diplomacy, it is always mentioned in the newsletters, should you have any information that we need to be aware of PLEASE contact myself or a committee member. We do not disclose the name of any informant. We need you to assist us.

THE TTRA WAS STARTED BY RIDERS FOR RIDERS

It is with great sadness that we have lost one of the worlds most famous sportsman and a Past President of the TT Riders Association Mr John Surtees. OBE. MBE and CBE which we were celebrating this time last year.

I asked our Patron Murray Walker OBE if he would be kind enough to write in his own words as he knew John.

JOHN SURTEES. GREAT MAN AND MOTOR SPORT COLOSSUS.

The death of John Surtees hit me very hard indeed as, I am sure, it did for countless enthusiasts all over the world, especially members of the TTRA who were uniquely placed to appreciate his greatness. For John's success in the fiercely competitive world of the Motor Sport was unique and despite the fact that records are made to be broken I cannot see his towering achievements ever being surpassed.

Virtually unbeatable on his privately owned and self-prepared Nortons at British short circuits in his pre-works years. Seven times a World Champion for MV. Six times a winner of the greatest race of them all, the Isle of Man TT, multiple Grands Prix winner and then a stellar career which climaxed with his victory for Ferrari in the 1964 Formular One Drivers' World Championship. Plus successes in Sports Car racing which included winning the Canam Championship. So much, very briefly, for what he did but how did he do it ?

I was privileged to observe John's career from his earliest days as sidecar passenger to his father Jack, until his untimely death and admired and respected him enormously both as a racer and a friend .Warm-hearted, cheerful and eloquent he was a brilliant engineer as well as a gigantically talented competitor. But he was also sometimes his own enemy because of his refusal to back down when he felt he was right – which he usually was. He would certainly have won more motor cycle World Championships had he not fallen out with Count Agusta and, as a result, switched to cars, and he would almost certainly have won more F1 Championships had he not similarly fallen out with Enzo Farrari after a disagreement. So then he became a Constructor and, with another of our greats Mike Hailwood, at the wheel, won the Formula 2 Championship whilst John took his last victory in a Surtees car in the Formula One race at Oulton Park in 1971.

But that was by no means the end of John Surtees in Motor Sport for his support of his son Henry's car racing career was, as you would expect, total until Henry's tragic death in a freak racing accident at the Brands Hatch circuit which his dad had ruled in his Motor cycle days. That, plus his ownership of the Kart racing circuit ar Buckmore Park and his enthusiastic support of racing youth kept him very much in touch and it was a bitter blow for us all when he left us so unexpectedly.

I deeply mourn his passing for Il Grande John, as he was affectionately known in Italy was like of which I had never known before and do not expect to know again. On behalf of us all I offer our deepest respect and sympathy to his wife, Jane, and his beloved daughters Leonora and Edwina.

May he rest in peace.

Murray Walker OBE
Patron of the TT Riders Association and
Member of the Friends of the TTRA

“ Under the chequered flag.” each and everyone were important and have in their time given the best to the sport one way or another. They will always be remembered.

Derek Yorke passed away 2017. He was a formidable, competitive competitor, a true gentleman with a great sense of humour. And his other fond talent was his music, he was an accordionist in a group for very many years.

Don Chapman passed away October 2016 aged 90 yrs. He began his career in the 1951 Junior Clubman on a Douglas and competed for the next 10yrs on 350 and 500cc on Nortons gaining 6th place in the 1959 500cc Formula 1 race.

Colin Jacobs sadly passed away, an accomplished sidecar racer and excellent sidecar chassis builder. Quite a character.

Graham Hilditch was a lifelong competitor and spent many years as a Parader up to a couple of years ago.

Derek H Allen passed away August 2016. He competed in the 125cc races from 1956 – 1959.

Charlie Durno, no further information only he raced pre-war.

Jack Ahearn –10th April 2017 Sydney.Australia. aged 94 yrs.TTRA member actually raced pre-war before serving in the RAAF during the war. He restarted racing 1947 moving up the ranks with great success in his own country before being chosen as part of the Australian team for the 1954 TT Races incredibly come home 9th in the Senior. Jack became a professional rider and joined the Continental Circus for the next 12 years where he gained the title of King of the Privateers as he was usually the first man home behind the works riders. He achieved his ambition of a GP win in Finland in 1964 followed by gaining runner up position in that years 500cc World Championship behind the great Mike Hailwood. He continued to ride in the TT until 1966 when he scored his best result 4th in the junior. He announced his retirement from racing at the end of that year. He ran a motorcycle shop in Sydney but could not resist another crack at the TT gaining a couple of replicas 1974 and 75.

Des Collins passed away in January this year. He was a man for all seasons with a huge interest in many facets of island sport and life in general.

A successful businessman, it is 52 years since he and Percy Wilson established Wilson and Collins steel construction company.

Having served in the Merchant Navy in the mid-1950's, he had a close association with offshore sailing that began with a GP14 dingy in the early 1970's and progressed rapidly to a former Admirals Cup yacht.

This was followed by a succession of vessels under the name of Billy Whizz that he raced in numerous round – island and other major sailing events throughout the British Isles crewed by friends and serious yachtsman.

Des's motorcycle racing interest started with 1970 Senior Manx Grand Prix winner Roger Sutcliffe on a Suzuki 500cc twin and a 350cc between 1972-1977.

Des provided machinery to many riders of TT and MGP since 1970 when he established a team with the late Percy Wilson.

Among those paying tribute is Connor Cummins who says he will always be grateful to Des for helping him to start his career. Many other riders added their tributes Roger Sutcliffe, Alan Jackson , Gary Carswell, Shaun Harris - New Zealand, Nigel Beattie, Mark Parrett, Dan Sayle and many more.

Thank you to John Watterson in Motorsport.
Isle of Man.

Tributes and generosity from many families who arrange for the TTRA to benefit from a sad loss of a loved one requesting donations in lieu of flowers. All families receive condolences from the TTRA and we try to make sure there is a representative who lives close in the area who can attend funerals on our behalf which is always appreciated.

New Members joining the TTRA

It is with great delight that we welcome you into the TT Riders Association. This is always a satisfactory feeling that we know you have taken time to think of your nearest and dearest and joined, thank you. Who knows, when you have decided time enough has arrived doing the racing, you could be the future of the TT Riders Association, Committee members and Presidents of the future who will carry on this most prestigious and gratifying Association.

STARTED BY RIDERS FOR RIDERS IN 1952

Fundraisers.

We are so very grateful to all who participate in fundraising one way or another, however small or large we always appreciate your contributions. The cash drums in the shops and stores, dress down days in offices, members who carry out tremendous achievements like sky diving, chat evenings, book sales, donations from bereaved families, pub crawls TT week, collections outside M&S Douglas, collection drums in garden parties TT race weeks, wait for it.....Head shaving at the Grandstand on Mad Sunday. (I don't think that will be me).

Charlie Williams - Past President & friend Zach Burns from Cheshire Fire and Rescue. are planning a sponsored ride on two Rudge Ulster Motorcycles from Lands End to John O'Groats starting June 12th to June 18th 2017, They have set a target of £5000 with Proceeds being split between both Charities. If you would like to donate either at the Grandstand 38th Milestone, directly to the TTRA Secretary Frances Thorp. Mountain View, Glen Maye. Isle of Man IM5 3BJ cheques made payable to TTRA. Or alternatively

www.justgiving/crowdfunding/rudgeride.

We wish you both safe riding and good luck all the way.

The Rose Bowl for achievements 2016-2017 went to Shoprite, Isle of Man Stores. The Committee select from the past years efforts in recognition of their support to us in the past years. There is a photograph on www.ttra.com and the Trophy is in a glass cabinet in their office reception with pride.

If you want to be a fundraiser you don't have to be on the Isle of Man, we can supply drums, buckets etc, just make a contact if you have an idea. However small, it is the thought and you can have some fun.

Congratulations to our TTRA Member JOHN McGUINNESS.

John has received The British Racing Drivers Club Award the 2nd Motorcycle racer only, purely on achievement on 2 wheels, the first one was Valentino Rossi in 2015.

The award has only ever been given to 3 racers on 4 wheels.

Sir Stirling Moss, Damon Hill OBE and Nigel Mansell CBE

DIARY DATE...2017**TT RIDERS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON OCTOBER 25TH 2017**

11am prompt – 11.30am

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING .TTRA/FoTTRA

12-15pm for 12-30pm

PROCEEDINGS COMMENCE 12-30PM

OUR SUPPORTERS.

At this point of the newsletter I would like to remind you all that we have great supporters who assist financially with many aspects of the TTRA silently in the background. Also offer great items for the Annual Fundraising Auction, many thanks to all the following and also many of you who drop items in on the day which are not listed but are fantastic items, thanks.

TTRA PATRONS.....

Kel Prince who has provided the lapel badges for each member of the TTRA/FoTTRA for many years assisted by Bob Milliken, Kel has recently also donated the cost of the printing of the Newsletter which we are very grateful.

John Sutton, son of the late Michael Sutton and the grandson of the late Alf Sutton. who have always been extremely generous to the TTRA. And continue to be by donating the cost of the postage for the Newsletters.

Lord March - Goodwood. Very kindly continues every year to offer Tickets for the Auction for Festival of Speed and the Revival meetings which are much sought after items.

Murray Walker OBE continues to be very generous in the background. I will say a big thank you Murray for your very kind contribution to this Newsletter. It was so much appreciated.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Neil Tuxworth Honda UK. For supplying the BSB Tickets again, these are always attractive to the bidders.

Mike Trimby. IRTA for the generosity for the Moto GP Tickets which also includes some extras on the day if possible.

Isle of Man Department of Motorsport. 2 VIP Hospitality Guest Tickets for a race day at the TT races. These are a tremendous item and offers a full day of hospitality in the VIP guest area in Nobles Park. Glencrutchery Road .Douglas.

Paul and Janet Quayle representing the IOM Post and Maxine Cannon with a large 50p Replica on a special board signed by many of the top riders in TT week. Very unusual indeed.

Blackhorse Finance for their continued support supplying the attractive Menu/Autograph cards.

Richard and Sue Kingston Fotra members, supplying the tickets for the Luncheon every year which is very much appreciated.

National Motorcycle Museum generously giving a contribution to the Auction of an overnight stay for 2 at their luxury Windmill Village Country Hotel and Golf Club, including Dinner and Full English Breakfast. This hotel is 15mins from the Museum on the Coventry Road. You don't need to be a Golfer.

The Isle of Man 3 Wheel Trike Company. Round the TT circuit with special stops for good views. Ticket for 2. (NOT RACE WEEKS – Safety reasons)

Adrian Fegan – N.Ireland – Arai Helmet many famous signatures on that.

Paul Black offered a large photo signed by Jonathon Rea – signed in the late Joey Dunlop's bar in N.I and also a Black Leather Jacket.

Thank you for generous auction items and I apologise if I have missed anyone out. A big thank you to Bonhams excellent auctioneers for their generosity in carrying out the event as a donation to the TTRA funds.

The National Motorcycle Museum and the team as usual serve us well and it really makes the whole event, thank you for allowing us to enjoy every minute with their hospitality and assurance of a great day and good food to remember, also allowing us to make the very special unique entrance into the Luncheon.

Thinking of racing friends, members and families who have been contributors to our wonderful sport over the years and also sponsors. How much you were all admired and appreciated. maybe you, are not in the best of health but we think of you.

PHOTOGRAPHS - www.ttra.co.uk Please have a look, you maybe in there.

As you will have noticed we now provide a professional photographer moving around the tables and if you care to look at the website there are some very good shots, if you require to purchase copies please contact the Prestige Photographers who will take your order. Email. info@prestigephotography.co.uk or have a look at them all. The reference number is ttra14435. give me a call if you are not sure how to look in. their telephone number is 0121 733 6303. There really are some super shots taken on the day which will bring back many happy memories and also for those of you who do not meet up with old rider friends you will see them as they are now.

VMMC – Isle of Man.

I had the pleasure of a great evenings entertainment at one of the school venues in Douglas listening to John Cooper and Colin Seeley. It was very well attended and interesting, if you should have the chance to see them it is interesting to know more about why and what motivates men to go into this sport.

Rex Butcher and friends are attempting to ride 6 laps on pedal bikes around the Isle of Man TT course over 2/3 days in August. I did meet up with them in February when they came to do a trial, the weather was dreadful, they did managed to do a lap.

Good luck and safe riding with wonderful weather in August.

LATE NEWS IN

RUBY WHEELER *DEAR WIFE OF THE LATE ARTHUR WHEELER HAS PASSED AWAY VERY RECENTLY AGED 99 YEARS. OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY GOES TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS.*

Where are you now - Newsletters returned.

Dennis Ireland. New Zealand
Dennis Rodgers
Raymond Flack
Luis Carreira
Gerald Dormer. New Zealand

Browne Craine & Co Chartered Accountants.

We would like to offer our thanks and gratitude for your continued support to both the TTRA and FoTTRA.

FCX Worldwide Carriers and Distributors, Ronaldsway, IOM. thank you for your support and collections.

Steam Packet Shipping Company, Thank you for getting everyone here safely.

May 1st 2017

www.ttra.co.uk

**TT RIDERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL LUNCHEON
NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM – SOLIHULL
WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2017**

Isle of Man Registered Charity 546

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TT RIDERS ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity 856 (I.O.M.)

Patrons

Hon. DAVID CRETNEY M.L.C.
TONY EAST
PETER DUKE

President 2016-2017
ALEX GEORGE

Committee
ANDY JESSOPP
GEOFF KELLY

Hello Friends of the TTRA,

How nice to be thinking of a new year of racing and “get togethers” with like minded people all with a common interest of racing and following riders progress through the ranks, many of you having been and some of you still are sponsors hoping you are in with a chance in the 2017 TT racing season. We look forward to seeing you and hope you call in for your welcome cuppa at the 38th Milestone we are open every evening from 4pm practice week and every day Race week. If the ramp is out we are always open and the kettle is on.

Just a note for your diary...

The 5th Annual Luncheon for “The Friends” will be Thursday 24th August 2017.

arrival 12-30pm for 1pm. Guests will be made very welcome.

The Venue is Mount Murray Golf Club, Santon. A glass of wine or fruit juice on arrival followed by a three course meal, Tickets must be purchased in advance. by post from Frances at Mountain View, Glen Maye, IM5 3BJ or alternatively at the 38th Milestone, Grandstand Douglas. Hope to see you there.

New Fotra members joining the Association is pleasing and there are many who are holding fundraising events, chat shows, birthday bashes with donations to Fotra instead of presents which is really generous.

Quite a good number of members attend the TTRA Luncheon at the National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham and really enjoy the event and are amongst the great bidders at the Auction, of course it is the highlight of anyone’s calendar. Remember we do a hotel accommodation if required, make it a couple of days break.

Being a part of the TTRA and involved with our commitment to riders is such a worthwhile charity and you know that for whatever reason, there are many who do need our help sometimes along the way, especially in latter years.

Friends are very much a big part of the Association and if you have any friends or family who are interested enough in our purpose they are always welcome to join 1st payment £40 and 4 years x £40 then you become a Full Life member. Or 1 payment of £200 and become a Full Life member immediately.

AGM. Wednesday October 25th 2017. National Motorcycle Museum 11am – 11-30am Birmingham.

On behalf of the President and Committee members thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Frances Thorp - Hon Secretary
Friends of the TT Riders Association.
1st May 2017

