

TT Riders



Association

PRESIDENT STEVE PLATER 2023-2024

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Chairman Neil Tuxworth
Mick Chatterton David Madsen-Mygdal
Charlie Williams Nick Jefferies

TTRA NEWSLETTER NUMBER 90 SPRING 2024

Welcome to all our members. I am Dave Moffitt your new Secretary who has taken over the position from Frances Thorp who has done a wonderful job in many roles over her 36 years involvement with the TTRA. I am delighted to inform you she will be guiding me in my new role offering advice and wisdom as we progress. Frances will remain integral to the Association and has been elected to the role of Patron.

I first raced the TT Course as a newcomer in 1986 at the Manx Grand Prix progressing to the TT in 1989&90 and following a break competed in the 'Manx from 2008-2011 before progressing to the TT in 2012. I competed every year (with the exception of covid) until I had a big accident at Laurel Bank in 2022 receiving life changing injuries. I am still recuperating and was privileged to be asked to join the committee last year before being nominated for the role of Secretary. I will work tirelessly to continue the excellent work of Frances, the committee and for you, the members of the TTRA.

We also welcome nine times TT winner, Charlie Williams onto the Committee, Charlie has a wealth of knowledge and experience on everything TT related. I was tempted to say, 'Everything but Bikes!' - who remembers the shop in Chester? He really did stock everything to do with bikes and even offered substantial racer discounts.

A further addition to the Committee has been made and we are pleased to announce Nick Jefferies as the newest member of the Committee. Nick is a TT winner and multiple podium finisher with a vast amount of TT knowledge and along with his wisdom and charisma he will be an asset to the running of the TTRA.

AGM and Luncheon November 2023

The AGM held at the National Conference Centre was well attended at which previous Secretary Mrs Frances Thorp stood down as did serving Committee member Andrew Jessop. The Committee and members thank them both for their valued input into the TTRA. Dave Moffitt was welcomed onto the Committee as Secretary.

The Luncheon was well attended and the new President, Mr Steve Plater made an exciting entrance. It was a fantastic moment for everyone present to hear the bike fire up and watch Steve make his entrance. He rode in on the iconic Norton RC588 which took Steve Hislop to victory in the epic Senior TT of 1992. It was incredible to have such an iconic machine there. Steve had arranged the bike with the National Motorcycle Museum, and we are extremely thankful to them for the loan of the bike.

After the smoke and smells abated, Kenny Arthur who had a fantastic year in the role of President, handed over the Presidential Chain of Office to Steve who is looking forward to carrying out the role, championing the TTRA at many of the events he attends throughout the year.

The Staff at the National Conference Centre prepared and served a range of delicious meals to the usual high standard which everyone enjoyed, thank you to all involved.

Our MC for the afternoon, Mr Nick Jefferies was fantastic and provided us with hilarious anecdotes, interesting facts and banter. Thank you for the entertainment, Nick!

Our friends from Bonhams Auctions in London did a tremendous job in helping to sell the items on display and we thank them for their professional approach, time and expertise in boosting funds. Thankyou to everyone who donated items and also to the winning bidders

Frances Thorp

The 2023 Annual Luncheon was a very memorable day for Frances. She had retired as Secretary at the AGM that morning after 36 years of dedication to the TTRA and FoTTRA. I have asked her to write about her thoughts and feelings as she saw it.

Hello Members and Friends who were at my final organising of the Annual Luncheon. It was an amazing day for me. The usual last minute rushing around to make sure everyone was sitting with their friends. I always remember how it used to be when I took over. It was a bun fight and people moving name tickets so you could find yourself sitting with anyone or even on another table, although the current table plan makes a tremendous difference and a lot more work, it certainly is very much appreciated. Nick Jefferies was the Compere and as usual did a very good job. Unknowing to me I was invited up to the stage where he started to give an outstanding review of my history which was so accurate and extremely emotional going back to the beginnings of the now known and Government Registered "38th Milestone". Many memories going back to 1987 when Frances and her late and much missed husband were mentioned as he was the mentor and made the 38th what it has developed into. 2007 was the 100 years celebration of the TT and we were asked if we would like to move our then 20 year old cabin to a more suitable location with a concrete base. We were delighted with the idea and this gave Tom the chance to enlarge the 38th to twice the original size. The TT Riders Association and The Manx Grand Prix Riders Association purchased the cabin which is joint owned by them to this day and all expenses and the upkeep is paid by them.

It was a day in my life that I will never forget. The compliments and reminders of just how much everyone sincerely appreciated and genuinely showed gratitude for how much of my

life I have committed to the TTRA and Friends, this was shown by the ovation I was given. Sadly I was just so overwhelmed I was unable to speak, I am sure all who knew me understood how much I was holding back my emotions. The presentation of a beautiful Cut Bohemian Chrystal Large fruit bowl on a wooden stand engraved " Presented to Mrs Frances Thorp by the TTRA in recognition of 36 years service including the role of Hon Secretary June 1987 to November 2023."

Following this I was presented with a further gold rimmed Silver plate engraved " Presented to Frances Thorp with thanks and in recognition of many years of wonderful service to the Friends of the TT Riders Association " which of course played a large part in my role as Hon Secretary.

Over the many long years the wonderful names and members I have enjoyed working with and assisted on behalf of the TTRA are too many to mention and were all special. I have always considered you all as my extended family and will continue to do so. Outside that circle have been some wonderful names when I have been invited to functions representing you all, the two which stand out are when I was included to be representing the TTRA to the then Prince William. He made a visit on one of the racing days which was really a treat for everyone. The second occasion when I was invited by Maria Costello to a celebration of her achievement to the motorcycle sport which was held at the RAC Club, Pall Mall, London during the year when she was President of the TTRA.

The 38th has always been respected and a special place for the past and present riders initially to come and relax and enjoy the company of their like minded friends. Members of the TTRA and the MGPR have over the years enjoyed meeting so many famous names and not so famous but with the usual racing people everyone is welcomed the same way.

Yes for me a big part of my life, perhaps a story in that. I am assisting the new Secretary when asked. He is full of enthusiasm and ideas and is very keen to keep the TTRA moving forward to new horizons. It gives me confidence in the fact that the appointment of two new committee members are ex riders and are putting back something into the sport that they all so much love.

As I have retired as Secretary I was very honoured to be invited to be a Patron of the TTRA which I accepted, A post which allows me to remain involved, albeit it to a lesser degree. I look forward to meeting up with you all at the 2024 AGM and the Annual Luncheon.

Yours Sincerely

Frances

AGM and Luncheon Friday 22nd November 2024

The date for your diary is Friday 22nd November for our 72nd AGM and Luncheon at the National Motorcycle Museum/National Conference Centre, Solihull.

We look forward to meeting you all at this extremely popular event, please make a note of the change to **Friday** which the committee hope will be better for everyone who attends the function. Last year's event was well attended, and we would like to increase the attendance figures with some of our younger members, their families and friends alongside our regular attendees who always have a fantastic time.

Legacies and Wills

The TTRA would appreciate you giving a thought to the possibility of leaving a donation in your Will to assist those members who require much needed help following an accident or illness. Our **Standing Order** plan has been well supported and thank you to those of you who have set it up. A small sum per month is very much appreciated and all assists with our

cause. You can make a standing order for anytime of the month and any amount. It can also be changed by yourself anytime. As we are all aware the TTRA supports members who are in need of assistance, even up to senior ages. Appeals to us are always considered and in most cases fulfilled.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support and thank all Benefactors for their donations throughout the year.

Under the Chequered Flag

Les Hurst

Les sadly passed away in April 2023 aged 76 yrs, due to long term health issues. Probably the most infamous name in Wigan for sidecar racing. Les competed at the IOM TT from 1978 to 1986 predominantly with passenger and good friend Eric Ammann. His yellow Rogerson's Suzuki was well known at the North-West of England tracks in the 1980's. Les inspired family members to compete at the IOM, with great pride he supported his nephew Lindsey (1990) daughter Sadie along with her husband John (1995-1996). Les was a keen self-taught engineer, building the majority of his and later on, his daughters' sidecar machines at the home workshop in Wigan. A well-regarded solo chassis manufacturer, classic racer and many plaudits for how professionally his machines were prepared and presented. His last outing on the IOM was on the parade lap in 1996 on his much - loved green solo GP-Maici. A very deserving last adrenaline fuelled lap due to his deteriorating health, his smile could be seen over the mountain mile from the grandstand.

Robert (Bobby) Rowe

Bobby passed away on July 29th aged 92. He began racing in 1952 and was a regular competitor at Crystal Palace, Brands Hatch and Snetterton. He competed in the MGP in 1960, TT in 61762 and returned to the Manx in 63 before 'retiring' from racing due to a growing family of a wife and three children. He was friends with John Surtees and Colin

Seeley and returned in his 50's as a regular Classic competitor in the IHRO series at Spa, Mettet, Schleiz and Chimay. His Wife, Beryl (who passed in 2011) always accompanied him on his racing adventures. We pass on our Condolences to his children Tina, Michael and Debbie.

Cecil Sandford

Cecil Sandford sadly passed away on November 28th aged 95.

Cecil had an illustrious racing career including winning the Ultra-Lightweight TT on the way to securing MV Agusta's first World Championship in the 1952 125 class. He was also the Lightweight TT winner on his way to become 250 World Champion in 1957.

We pass on our Condolences to Cecil's family and friends.

Geoff Hughes

Geoff Hughes sadly passed away at the age of 85 on 30th November as the result of a tragic road accident in Peel six days earlier.

Geoff partnered TT winner Heinz Luthringshauser as his passenger in the heyday of the European sidecar scene, with the pair securing a third place podium finish in 1968. Geoff settled down on the Island and lived in Crosby where he took up marshalling for many years to put back into the sport he loved.

We pass on our condolences to Geoff's family and friends at this sad time.

Sue Kingston

FoTTRA member Sue Kingston passed away suddenly at Christmas time and leaves Husband Dick and family. Sue and Dick were the duo who ensured the tickets, name labels and lanyards were perfect for the Luncheon and were keen fundraisers. Our thoughts are with Dick and family at this time.

Jack(Jackie)Wood

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of former TTRA President Jackie Wood on the 28th December, aged 94. He raced successfully on the TT course, the Southern and in Ireland.

John (Jackie) Wood was a very capable motorcycle road racer in the 1950s who went on to undertake the Senior official position of Clerk of the TT Course for many years. As well as Clerk of the Course, Jackie has been a travelling marshal, start-line marshal, scrutineer, official driver, assistant controller, deputy clerk of the course, Vice President and President of TTRA.

A wheelchair bound Jackie paid a visit to the 38th Milestone this summer & everyone was delighted, as always, to see him and enjoy his company. He will be sorely missed by his family and many friends. We pass on our condolences to his family and friends.

John Hudson

John had raced in 14 TT's from 1965 to 1971 with a best finish of 11th in the 1968 Lightweight TT. He also rode in 1957, 59 & 62 in the MGP Junior races. He passed away in January and we pass on our condolences to his family and friends.

International Classic Motorcycle Show April 20&21

Phillip McCallen and Guy Martin will be attending the show, are any of our members going? A point of interest to all Manx Norton enthusiasts! Bobby Rowes 350 Manx has been recommissioned by Godden Engineering and is race ready. It will be for sale at Staffordshire Showground by our friends Bonhams Auctions.

TT 2024

The 38th Milestone is currently being prepared for your enjoyment for when you visit us during this years TT. You will be made most welcome and we look forward to catching up and discussing times gone by as well as the current day races. Mick and I will be on hand for a brew, biscuits, TT talk and banter!

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members a safe and successful TT, I look forward to welcoming you all into The 38th Milestone before, during and after your session on the Course.

We are there for you and your guests please come in and sign 'The Book' during your visit.

Database

If you notice any anomalies in your address, or if you would like to update your email address or even let me know when you joined the TTRA, please contact me with details of any changes required.

I will be continuously updating the database with the information you supply which will keep you and I in touch and give me something to do during my next stage of recuperation.

Also if you know of any fellow riders who have passed 'under the chequered flag' please contact me so they can be included in the notice and the system will be updated.

Future Newsletters

How would you prefer to receive future TTRA Newsletters?

I am looking into giving our members a choice of either a paper version or a digital version which will be emailed to you. If you would prefer a digital version please email me at **ttrasec24@gmail.com** I will use this email for responses and will update the database with your preference.