

# TT Riders



# Association

## PRESIDENT BEN BIRCHALL 2020-2021-2022

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### Committee members

Andrew Jessopp Neil Tuxworth  
Mick Chatterton David Madsen-Mygdal

## Bulletin 87 SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Hello to you all,

I would like to apologise to you for the delayed newsletter, where do I begin. Hope we have all come through the winter months, Christmas and the New Year without any complications or Covid related issues, we all know it has been tough for so many of you not being able to see your family and friends at least now we are hopefully over that.

Starting with the Annual Luncheon last November it was certainly a great success and everyone really enjoyed the event. I would like to again thank all who attended for co-operating with the entrance procedure and there was not one who caused any fuss, it all went very smoothly. Thank you to my team of ladies led by Christine Arthur and friends who carried out a sterling job, you were great and efficient.

The AGM was well attended and with our incoming president Ben Birchall in attendance this was his first introduction to how the TTRA works. It is always a comment made by any new President during their term of office what an eye opener to actually be involved and see just how much work is carried out and to the extent we go to assisting members who are suffering difficult times.

Having missed our luncheon in 2020 made it all the more exciting for everyone who met up with friends. A new type of name badge was introduced, a lanyard and name in plastic wallet very clearly marked with the riders name.

Thank you to our faithful and generous long term Patron and ex rider Mr Kel Prince, Thank you Kel. This job was very kindly assisted by Sue Kingston one of our lady FoTTRA members who did all the typing and assembled into alphabetical order which made it easier for members to collect on the door from Sue. Thank you again.

Due to the shorter than normal notice of the Luncheon date, it was unfortunate our regular Auctioneers from Bonhams of London who very generously carry out the TTRA Lunch Auction which is always recognised as a treat, but sadly they were unavailable and very much missed. Two of our capable members Nick Jefferies and Charlie Williams stepped up to the helm and carried out an excellent job between them and raised a large amount of money for the TTRA. Thank you both again for being so active on this day and carrying everything off so well. To the members and friends who donated some extra ordinary items, these were all high value articles and we were very very grateful for them. I would like to add that we did have rather a lot of good items which we decided to carry forward to the 2022 Luncheon. So please do not wonder what happened to them. If you have any unusual items of interest please let me know in advance so that we can have it put on the Auction item list before the event.

**The date is Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

2.

All the funds which are raised on our main fundraising day are a tremendous boost to our Benevolent Fund account, and are very much required to assist the many anxious calls we receive. Thank you to everyone who bid for the items and hope you are enjoying them in the appropriate place in your home or workshop.

Our newly introduced Table Top Sale in the bar prior to the luncheon was extremely busy and lots of good bargains, there were many unusual memorabilia items and this was run by our Fottra members Janet and Paul Quayle from the Isle of Man. They are one of our main fundraisers who raise a lot of money throughout the year, a big thank you to them, our appreciation was shown by them being selected for the Wyn and Allan Robinson Rosebowl, their generous support is a tremendous help. They have become our recognised fundraiser at the TT Race weeks and attract many excited families and enthusiasts to the FREE Table, yes, FREE outside the 38<sup>th</sup> where all goods are for donations only.

If you have any unwanted **clean** memorabilia please make contact and we will turn it into money for the benevolent funds. Ring or text Paul 07624 457507

Example:

Paddock passes, posters, sports caps, metal badges let us be the judge. Anything you no longer require and it is cluttering up a workshop, garage or spare room (we all have those) you would be surprised what we can sell and it all assists the much needed funds. Anything not sold at the luncheon Tabletop, we take back to the Isle of Man for our table outside the 38<sup>th</sup> Milestone when in the Isle of Man only, everything is free for a donation. That collection always raises in the region of £1000, amazing.

Remembering Mary Brett Morton

Mary was always around the paddock at many of the race circuits and very well thought of. I would like to make it known that her husband Mick Morton made a tremendous effort TT week in the race paddock to have a collection bucket in her memory and raised £500 which he wished to be split between the TT Riders Association and the IOM Hospice. We would like to thank Mick for his bravery and courage and hope he will continue to remain in the racing family.

Remembering George Ridgeon.a brief account by Neil Cudworth who attended.

The funeral took place at Gloucester Crem on 26<sup>th</sup> May.He had requested everyone to wear Red White and Blue.he arrived by motorcycle and sidecar combination escorted by the Fire Brigade. We entered to the music of Wichita Lineman and Glen Campbell, the service was taken by the Rev Jacqui Prentice. The first hymn was the Lord is my Shepherd followed by personal tributes from Frank Prentice and Andy Hoare. The next hymn All things Bright and Beautiful was followed by a video George had made of himself to be played at his funeral which was very interesting and unusual I thought to say the least, the final hymn was Onward Christian Soldiers and we left to the music We'll Meet Again by Vera Lynn.

I had never been to a funeral where the deceased had laid out their own funeral arrangements but it is all absolutely typical of George. Over the years you could not help but admire him for what he did despite his disabilities, at the end of the day he was a real genuine enthusiast with a big heart of gold.

Membership Regalia.

Any orders for the TTRA and Friends of the TTRA ( Fottra)

Contact or text Paul 07624 457507

Fleeces

Polo neck Shirts

“V” neck Pure wool Jumpers

Caps, Various colours

TTRA Ties and FoTTRA Ties.

### **PRESIDENT ELECT November 2022 – 2023.**

At the Annual General Meeting held November 2021 the proposal was made and seconded by the members in attendance for Jim Redman MBE to be our next President for 2022-2023. Jim did accept.

Since that time and we have moved through the traumas of Covid etc., reluctantly Jim has declined from the post due to concerns about health issues. From our point of view we are very sorry. As he had returned to reside in the UK and it was voted as a great time to invite him.

The second proposal and accepted by members at the AGM, a vote was unanimous to be the ever popular sidecar racer Kenny Arthur who has accepted and looking forward to the honourable role of being the new President at the Annual Luncheon on November 26th 2022 and we are sure he will be a great representative and ambassador for our purpose and cause.

### **Renovation and update of the TT Riders Association/Friends of TTRA and MGPR, known as the 38<sup>th</sup> Milestone. Rear of the Grandstand.**

This came alive in appearance. And of course is recognised as the meeting place for all the members of the TTRA/FoTTRA members and the MGPR. I would like to openly say a thanks to all involved, Ian Chambers exterior and interior decorator, Paul and Janet Quayle for all the man hours on the interior cleaning and making everywhere sparkle. Also for organising Galla's Foundry who replaced all the metal framework to go on the top of the 38<sup>th</sup> for the large signs and flag poles, also the new TTRA flag supplied by Bridson & Horrox. The Copy Shop and Printers carried out all their modern exterior permanent artwork,

Just to add that it was so much admired and appreciated by all who visited, this of course was a proud feeling for me as we all will remember the work that Tom put into making the 38<sup>th</sup> what it is today. It is my hope that it will continue for many years to come and give a warm welcome to all who visit and give them happy memories.

### **Donations and Legacies in Wills.**

I would like to say a big thank you to the many legacies and donations we are receiving throughout the year and through the sad times families are generous and remembering the TTRA for many reasons, not always racing related but heard about the good work we have done and continue to try to do to assist many who need our support.

I also feel it inappropriate to name the families who have organised the TTRA to be the recipient of donations in lieu of flowers, there are so many donation cheques being received it is overwhelming and many thanks hardly suffices my feelings when the cheques come through the post. Thank you letters are always sent out to the nearest family member.

### **Donation box collections.**

A big thank you to all the collectors who give their time to raise funds with the collection boxes both in the race weeks and also in the shops and stores and many other outlets throughout the year. In particular Vin Duckett has been our main distributor and collector for some years now. Thank you so much Vin.

If any members off Island wish to collect at any local meetings or functions motorcycle related please let us know and we can arrange for a money box to be posted. Even one in your kitchen for loose change, it is amazing how it mounts up.

Martin Bullock - Signpost corner.

I would like to personally say a big thank you to Martin for his tremendous effort to fundraise for the TT Riders Association TT Race week, this was organised in his private garden raising a considerable amount of donation for us in excess of £2000. Thank you so much Martin for your support and kindness.

Helen Smith again one of our great and regular supporters over the years with her late husband Robin and helped by John Brown and friends collected in excess of £1500. Thank you Helen. Fotra member.

Bentley TT100 weekend Isle of Man. This was a great weekend marking the 100 yrs of Bentley a large donation collected in recognition of our cause was in excess of £1800. The special speaker at the Gala dinner was our ex President Richard (Milky) Quayle, Thank you to Mr V Bush for organising the event and congratulations to the success of the weekend. I had the pleasure of being amongst and enjoying all the lovely old cars which had travelled over to the IOM from all over the world. A superb weekend.

**UNDER THE CHEQUERED FLAG.**

I do genuinely always feel so sad when I keep receiving the news of our special friends who go back so many years and spent times with lots of you in the pits at many race circuits.

Obituaries

Adrian Earnshaw late Minister for Tourism and a Member of the House of Keys passed away January 2022. Adrian was a true gent and involved with many charities. He was a very keen member of the Friends of the TTRA and a great collector of anything to do with the racing scene. Sadly missed.

Tony Jefferies 73 yrs passed away in December 2021, not only a talented motorcycle racer, but also a shrewd businessman. Coming from the Jefferies dynasty of bike racers Tony a 3 times TT winner, brother Nick a TT winner and father of David Jefferies who won 9 TT's before losing his life during a practice crash in 2003, sadly, just 5 yrs later Tony's wife Pauline passed away also. In recent years Tony wasn't in the best of health but always had his sense of humour. Weeks before his own passing he attended the funeral of friends Paul Smart and Peggy Appleyards, despite being warned against it by his doctors, indomitable to the last. Rest in peace Tony.

Peggy Appleyard 82 yrs wife of the late Colin Appleyard, she was a much loved character and was a big part of the Appley Yard Macadam team in the paddock and helped Colin build up a car and motorcycle dealership.

Peter Hillaby 78yrs a man long associated with the Auto66 club and racing at Scarborough's Olivers Mount circuit, he was also instrumental in planning events at Cadwell Park, Elvington and Carnaby.

Brian Green passed away aged 90. Brian began his racing with grass track solo racing in 1947 until being called up to the army. After returning from the army he returned to motorcycle racing, this time grass track sidecar, 1955 he moved to road race sidecars between 1957 and 1965. he rode in the Isle of Man TT. His first race was on the Clype Course, during his racing he had 3 passengers, Willie Rushmere, Ruben Eden and Dave Fynn, 1963 he had to miss out due to work commitments. He eventually changed his sporting activities to Hydroplane racing until 1974 when he then started to support his son and family members with their sporting activities up to sadly passing away 2021. thank you to his daughter Sue for the story.

Neville Watts sadly passed away December 2021. A true gentleman and always very keen to visit the 38<sup>th</sup> and have his usual chat. When he moved to the IOM he was so thrilled and achieved his dream.

Richard John Fletcher Competed sidecars 84-85-86 known as Dick Fletcher sadly passed away 2022.

Lynda Cannell – wife of the late Geoff Cannell voice of the TT Races.

George Walter Kinvig well known for his great support in the racing fraternity. In particular, I would like to thank all his friends and family for their very generous collection and donation to the TTRA.

**Peter Ogden. Awaiting information.**

Gordon Hunt. Passed away November 2021. Raced sidecars for years with a man named Trevor Ireson , they competed in the IOM. Any further information would be appreciated for the family.

Roni (Veronica) Everett passed away unexpectedly 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 wife of the late Reg Everett, they were a great couple and always full of enthusiasm of life.

Geraldine, latterly Coleman sadly passed away 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, aged 89 yrs. Beloved daughter of the late Eunice and Rev.Bertie Reid. Geraldine was a very keen supporter of the Friends of the TTRA and attended all TT meetings.

Paul Smart. A short tribute from Bob Heath.

A great friend and very much missed. He had just come back from a motorcycle holiday in Spain, taking his bike in his van, just like the old racing days ! He and his mates stayed in a hotel going off for a ride each day.

Having returned home Paul went out into the lovely Kent countryside on his motorbike, for what was to be his last ride. He had finally beaten cancer, the hospital were so pleased as he was such good patient, always positive and cheerful.

Paul was knowledgeable and has always been an excellent ambassador for motorcycle racing, another piece of our lifes jig-saw missing but not forgotten.

Bob and Jeanette Heath.

#### **KEN SPRAYSON. TRIBUTES.**

Neil Tuxworth

This is certainly very sad news indeed as Ken was a very important person in the history of the TT and he was such a lovely man too.

I first met Ken during my first TT in 1971 when I was sleeping in a small 2 berth tent in the paddock with my friend and helper and with my 125cc Yamaha racing machine between us ! During practice my petrol tank split and I was told by another rider to go and see Ken Sprayson in the paddock who could weld it up for me. I was a young newcomer at the TT that year and very much just another ordinary rider in the paddock. When I went to see Ken with my petrol tank there was a couple of top TT riders there having welding jobs done by Ken. Ken stopped what he was doing and asked how he could help me and showed just as much interest in me as the other top TT riders. From that day on over the years I got to know Ken very well and we became very good friends and he was always the same polite, helpful and respectful person that I first met in 1971. A true gentleman. Ken had many very interesting stories of riders and teams at the TT going back many years and was always very interesting to listen to. Ken simply was a good man who did lots to help so many riders at the TT, all levels and will be sadly missed by us. Rest in peace my friend.

Malcolm Wheeler

Like hundreds, perhaps thousands of TT riders, I first got to meet Ken thanks to his welding service at the TT. I clearly remember the first time he saved the day for me and the telling off I got for offering to pay him ! Without Ken and his magic torch I wouldn't have made the start in at least four TT's.

Over the years, after we had both retired from the Isle of Man we became good friends. We got to meet up at several events during the year, and it was one of those, the classic show at Stafford, he told me he planned to write a book. Obviously, having heard so many great stories from him, I encouraged him and offered to help in anyway I could. Imagine my surprise when he asked me to write the forward for it. What an honour.

Rest in peace old friend,

I'm going to miss our history lessons.

Mick Chatterton

With the recent sad passing of Ken Sprayson the TT has lost one of the greatest characters and the TTRA a great friend and supporter. For more than 50 years Ken was known to all competitors as the man to go to for any welding job, no matter how big or small. You took your place in the queue whether a works team or a newcomer and received expert attention from Ken and his amazing skills with a welding torch, all for no charge.

After his retirement Ken still attended the TT and Manx every year until quite recently and spent a lot of time in the TTRA 38<sup>th</sup> milestone telling stories of his lifetime in racing to the many visitors.

Ken did work on machines for the most successful riders over many years at the TT but put just the same effort and care into helping the also rans. We will all miss him.

Peter Murray – Museum. Santon. Isle of Man

Ken first went to the Old Murray's Museum at the Bungalow with Mick Boddice. He had just bought a V twin Ariel bike and wanted a Carb for it, so when he spoke to the late Charlie Murray it was his lucky day, there was one in the workshop at the Grandstand, all day and every day of the TT fortnight its yours.

Ken went off delighted that he managed to find one and that good turn became the start of the great friendship between Charlie and now son Peter Murray. That kindness he never forgot. As soon as he arrived on the Island it was a regular visit to Murray's now at Santon.

Happy memories and RIP dear friend.

Charlie Williams.

I am of an age that remember Ken quite well, especially at the TT where, throughout the seventies, his welding service was a key feature of the event. I can well remember standing in the queue to the entrance of his workshop with others, probably clutching a fuel tank or some other part of the bike waiting to have Ken work his magic on whatever it might have been. However, it was a very long time before those days that Ken had been a key figure at the TT and within motorcycle competition in general. He was very much admired and respected by all who knew him. I consider it a privilege to have been one of those people.

I remember Ken as a polite, gentle sort of chap, always ready to listen to riders problems and to help out whenever he could, that's not to say he didn't have his own opinions and could be quite forceful in voicing them when necessary.

Ken was a top engineer of the " Old School " and I'm sure he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. RIP - Ken Sprayson

John Kidson.

What a great guy Ken was and a legend at the TT in the old days. He was an absolute ace with the welding torch and all for free at anytime day or night when we were in trouble. In my first TT(1961) I dropped it at Glentramman on my 2<sup>nd</sup> lap of practice when you think you know it all. Ken did a magnificent job straightening the many bent frame tubes plus realigning the steering head with the swinging arm pivot.

Over many years I competed at the TT he was always there to weld or braze the broken bits. It has been an absolute privilege to have Ken as a friend for 60 yrs and to enjoy his many racing related stories. I think we shall not see his like again and his departure is a sad loss for us all. RIP Ken.

**Tom Dickie.** By Bob Heath.

Tom was a true friend, successful racer and talented mechanic, full of patience and understanding. We first met back in 1966 at Cadwell Park when he came to my rescue with the loan of a body belt. He and his wife, Brigid, took me under their wings and we remained lifelong friends, with them welcoming me into their home and family. After a successful racing career Tom continued his passion for bikes by utilising his skills as a mechanic for many fellow racers, he loved helping others.

As my " team manager " at the Manx he would always ensure I was first away for practice. I'd thank him, adding that others would think that he was on a bonus, on which he would light-heartedly reply with a twinkle in his eye " I thought I was " !

Tom was an integral part of my successful Manx Grand Prix career with his professionalism, diligence, humour and above all his true and unwavering friendship.

He will be sadly missed. RIP my dear friend.

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. Forgive me for repeating the reason for the suggestion.

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.

If you think back to when some of you joined you paid a life membership of £1. then in my time it did increase very slowly and at today's cost it is only £45. Life membership. Yes £45 .....

To avoid increasing the membership fee for the new members who are newcomers and self funding for the love of the sport we all enjoy, also the great pleasure you are given for free, would it not be a more fair way to have some regular funds coming in to assist with applications for help from the TTRA funds rather than putting the full life membership up.

An Annual Subscription is not an idea. Costly and time consuming having to remind everyone yearly.

**A lot of you have had the enjoyment, please give the idea a thought.  
Bank details are available on request.**

*Thank you for reading this paragraph. Frances Thorp.*

Congratulations to Alex George to become new Patron of Classic Racing Motorcycle Club. In his acceptance speech Alex paid a tribute to his predecessor and spoke of his great pride in taking over the roll from the late Peter Williams.

From Frances.

I would like to thank so many of you who kindly sent me flowers and get well wishes and lots of phone calls. I unfortunately had a fall in my home and broke my hip which of course I was rushed into Nobles and very lucky for me it was on a Saturday and the main hip surgeon was on duty so I had a replacement hip operation that afternoon. ugh!

Well a lot of you will have had such pain and operations and that was all I could think about, the only thing I did not do was think about getting back on a motorbike. Ha Ha. I have been home now and getting on with the exercise regime. Upwards and onwards, still have 3 weeks to go but pushing on as they say. So again forgive me for late arrival of this newsletter been one of those years, MGP is on its way and lots of changes I believe.

## **ANNUAL LUNCHEON.**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2022 IS OUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR. Application form enclosed.**

**PRE-BOOKED ONLY. CHECK YOUR GUESTS**

**Vegetarians or special dietary requirements must be requested on the application form. There will be a coloured ticket issued and they will be the only guests to receive their special requirements.**

## **THE FRIENDS OF THE TT RIDERS ASSOCIATION.**

Hello to you all and the family of the Friends (Fottra) is certainly gaining new members and It is nice to know that our membership spreads far and wide.

I have been asked to include this story to add interest and memories. The following is a true story as a reminder of the past.

From Helen Smith - Member and a great Fundraiser for FoTTRA.

My Grandfather, Thomas Mylcreest Sheard, known as “ the Modest Manxman “, became the first Manxman to win a TT when he won the Junior TT in 1922. He followed this by winning the Senior in 1923 – in torrential rain to the tune of “ See the conquering hero comes’ !!

The racing gene continued in the family with my father, Tim Sheard, competing in the Manx Grand Prix in 1946 and 1950.

Much of my childhood and youth was spent at our boarding house “Elsinore” in Victoria Road. At TT and MGP time especially there were up to 100 visitors staying, most being racers and their families who were always made welcome.

In those days there were morning practices so the place emptied in the early hours, only to be re-occupied a few hours later by dozens of hungry mouths to feed. All were provided with a healthy cooked breakfast – fried egg, bacon, mushrooms beans and fried bread – and sent out again with a packed lunch to fill the gap before the evening practices.

The dining room tables saw many an engine rebuild as my grandfather had owned a garage so my father had a garage full of tools and a head of mechanical knowledge !

Many of the racers had young families so the friendships formed were enduring. I would be taken on the boat to Liverpool (with silver service breakfast in those days) and left to spend holidays with the friends made, many of whom resided on the Wirral or in the North West.

There were the “Irish Wakes” and the “Scottish Wakes” to ensure that the place was full in between race times so there was no respite !

Running the boarding house was a 24x7 job so family holidays taken in the “off season” were hard earned. They were usually to Southport or somewhere in the North West of England, although eventually we ventured as far as Holland and Sweden.

Sadly, by the mid 70s, Health and Safety had reared its head. The rules changed, eventually becoming so expensive to abide by that we, like many others, were forced to close down and sell up.

As a family we still have racing in the blood so who knows what the future may hold !!

Thank you Helen.

I wonder if we have any more stories in our TT family of Friends. As the changes of the up to date world of TT racers accommodation changes, the sizes of the Motor Homes just get bigger and bigger. It would be nice to hear more about the “ Good Old Days” and how maybe your families played a very big part in the lives of the racers and families. Please do let me hear from you.



David Mylchreest has decided to retire from being the Official Driver of the opening roads car after 42 years. David followed in his father's footsteps and always been a reliable driver who has in fact given hundreds of passengers the thrill and excitement of such a challenging drive around the circuit on closed roads. This was usually special guests.

**FRIENDS OF THE TTRA (FoTTRA) AUGUST LUNCHEON 2022.**

I really am sorry that we had to postpone the Annual Luncheon for the " Friends" which is usually held in August. This was due to the fact of my accident at home. I had everything set up but that was just bad luck.

Maybe we will see a lot of you again at the November Luncheon, a well worthy visit.

Best wishes to you all and try and think of some interesting stories we would all like to know and also have a look for any of the unwanted memorabilia which is sitting around, only a phone call away or an email.

Kind wishes

Frances.