



CLUB NEWSFLASH

March 2011

WITLEY CLASSIC ENDURO



The Classic Enduro ran successfully on February 6th, but we regret that no report or pictures are available at the time of going to press.

We hope to have more information in the next issue. Apologies for the delay in posting the results online after the event. Full results are available on *witleymcc.org* – but here are the main class results:

Championship

Richard Ely (Sidcup) 2849 *Premier*
Daniel Beaven (Kingston) 2889 *Gold*
Guy Chandler (Kingston) 2933 *Silver*
Freddie Broadway (Normandy) 2986
Bronze

Expert

Phil Maltby (Colchester) 2501 *Premier*
Max Varney (Witley) 2514 *Gold*
Matt Brown (Kingston) 2593 *Silver*
Tony Cotty (BAMA) 2628 *Bronze*

Veteran A

David Stokes (Normandy) 2552
Premier

Neil Challice (Kingston) 2746 *Gold*
Paul Hearn (RAFMSA) 2771 *Silver*
Ian Mitchell (Croydon) 2797 *Bronze*

Clubman A

Andrew Gorse (Witley) 1977 *Premier*
Joe Gordon (Kingston) 2074 *Gold*
Damien O'Farrell (Kingston) 2091
Gold
Gareth Hughes (Kingston) 2104 *Gold*
Alex Taylor (North Berks) 2136 *Gold*

Veteran B

Chris Stanger (Croydon) 2053
Premier
Colin Cowley (Kingston) 2158 *Gold*

Brian Collins (Croydon) 2178 *Silver*
Michael Stradwick (Croydon) 2267
Bronze

Clubman B

Marc Morley-Freer (Carshalton)
2350 *Premier*
Ray Jones (Normandy) 2355 *Gold*
Ian Hill (Kingston) 2391 *Gold*
Andrew Gilden (Normandy) 2455
Gold

Sportsman

Simon Thomas (Witley) 1136 *Premier*
Sam Keeyes (Sidcup) 1194 *Gold*
Paul Cosgrove (Kingston) 1215 *Gold*

THIS WEEKEND!

NEXT EVENT:

The Weston Trophy Trial

SUNDAY 6th March: at Sether, Dunsfold

OBSERVERS REQUIRED! See inside for details



ANNUAL SOCIAL/AWARDS EVENING!

SATURDAY 12th March: at the Clubroom. Buffet, Music, Awards...

Tickets: Adults £10.00; under 16s £5.00! We need you to buy them!

Contact Jo 01483 429523 or Rebecca 01483 420059 for your tickets today!

CUTTING A LONG STORY SHORT... A LAST MINUTE ESCAPE

Some years ago a simple scribe who herded sheep by day moved south; to fresh pastures for his grazing sheep.

Noddy we will call him. Noddy was naïve and helpful and feeling a little lost in this new land. He herded sheep by day, hardly speaking to another soul, and at night, after putting his sheep safely in their pen, he sheltered in meagre lodgings with an old witch, where he created songs and poems, alone.

Finally he was able to start settling in his new pasture. No longer needing the shelter the old witch had provided, he set up house with his pretty young wife and his noisy kids who brought life to this new home.

At this time Noddy was also introduced to the tribe of Witley and District Motorcycle Club. His life changed irreversibly. Noddy rode in events – he fell off sometimes, but he was having adventures and fun with his family with his new Club.

He and his family grew up with the Club. Noddy had friends like brothers in the Club and was helping the Club in the ways that were natural to him. Skills from shepherding were useful – counting sheep and staying awake, and scribing – keeping records of where the sheep went and what they did made him an obvious candidate for keeping record of when the Wise Men of the Club congregated at the allotted time every Moon.

His skills at herding sheep led him into herding and taking care of other creatures, not only from Witley but other secret tribes who had

taken advantage of his simple nature. Soon, his life was full of performing these enjoyable and valuable daily duties for diverse tribes – he no longer had time to take his eyes away from his charges; no more watching the elegant gazelles crossing the plains, no more verse describing the majestic eagles crossing the cloud above mountain ranges at dusk. No more adventures with his tribal brothers, just the pow-wow every Moon that he recorded in cold prose...

Then one day Noddy wanted to compose something to remind him of a past adventure; he knew it would give him pleasure to do this and share it. He tried but could not – he had business matters to attend to and could not crystallise his creative thoughts. He was reminded of his lonely time before he had encountered the Witley tribe and realised that an inner part of him had travelled full circle and reached the true state of enlightenment that he had been travelling to achieve these past long years.

He had taken this journey to enlightenment with Witley and it was time to offer this unique opportunity to another lost soul. He could only pass on this blessing at the Great Conference of 13 Moons that was approaching. He told the Wise Men they must bestow this Indenture of Cutting a Long Story Short at every 13 Moon's Congregation as he made his last minute escape.

He now felt free once again to share adventure with his tribal brotherhood and compose his scripts once more.

Noddy is eager to congratulate the new holder of the rank of Tribal Scribe and witness their journey of enlightenment with Witley...

G.Grimm

No such thing as a free paper... or is there?

Not often you find anything for nothing these days, but should you wander into a motorcycle shop to eye up all the machinery and kit you can't afford, you may find a pile of *Motor Cycle Monthly* on the counter. Published, like most of the magazines on the shelf, by Mortons Media Group, this tabloid *is* actually free – or, as I do, you can have it mailed to you for about £6 a year. While it is far from heavyweight, it's not a bad read and in fact reminds me of how *Motor Cycle News* used to be before it turned into a

comic. Private sellers can also advertise free for 2 months. So all in all it's not a bad deal.

Alternatively, you could reach for your wallet and pick up a classic mag – of which there are plenty about. An severe attack of nostalgia gripped me recently when I saw a red GT550 Suzuki on the front cover of February's *Classic Motorcycle Mechanics*, a mag which I hadn't really looked at before. Since it specialises in Japanese metal, and the majority of my past bikes have been Oriental, I suspect that I may be returning to WH Smith for more trips into the past in the coming months...

L.G.R.

BEST BIKE / WORST BIKE?



Which was your best bike? Is it your current one, was it your first – or a long-lost love affair (viewed through rose tinted spectacles)?

Which was your worst? Why did you ever possess this nightmare? Did it seem like a good idea at the time?

My worst bike was probably the Maico-engined 250 2-stroke grass track bike I raced in the Midland Centre – but it was possibly the best in terms of reward versus challenge to ride, and was the most fun to ride of any of the few bikes that I had experienced at the time – a difficult concept to balance when I look back. It was so fast off the line – a handful, either the front wheel was airborne or the back wheel was spinning out; but when just the right amount of traction was there it took off like a rocket – then at the end of the straight came its weakness, going round a corner (or not!) Russian roulette – often it would decide to direct itself towards the infield, with the front end tucking inside the track markers as I fought to avoid a low-side and overcame the panic that one wrong move and it would high-side!

On more than a few occasions we pirouetted not so gracefully through a 180. A change of frames from the short Ansel frame to an Antig frame designed for a 350 KTM helped, but I never mastered this challenge. At the end of the second season of wrestling this beast, it put us both out of our misery when it went bang on the final straight of the last race at Hawkstone Park – an honourable place to breathe your last.

Another candidate for the Best/Worst Challenge was a 1970 BSA Starfire, my second bike –



bought in a love at-first-sight moment, its flirting turned into a love/hate relationship – it seemed so beautiful to ride in comparison with its predecessor, a D7 Bantam, but it had a self-destructive tendency – the conrod came out through the back of the engine a few weeks after I took over ownership, and downhill from then on with a regular cycle of rebuilds.

Truly the best bike to date has got to be the 1200 Bandit I currently ride – but then again, the KMX 200 I rode in the Long Distance brought the biggest smile to my face for a long time...

Gordon Ayshford

Any more contributions on this thread would be most welcome – I've got a whole catalogue in mind myself – Ed.

Bert Brett Shield

Some time ago I was asked how the points were worked out for the Bert Brett Shield awarded to the "Worker of the Year".

I was Recorder for this award since first suggesting it many years ago. During that time, I handed it over for one year but was soon given the job back...

Here is how I worked things out:

Clerk of the Course (all events) 12 points
Secretary of the Meeting 12 points

Club worker per day	6 points
Observer (Trials)	7 points
Marshal (MX or Enduro)	6 points
Social event organiser	6 points
Club Delegate (per meeting)*	3 points
Per page in Club News	1 point
Boxing Day and Christmas Eve count double points.	

*If a club member represented Witley at a Championship round the same points were awarded as per attending a Combine meeting on behalf of the Club.

Bernard

2010 AGM Minutes

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Clubroom on Thursday 18th March at 8.30pm.

24 members attended in addition to the 5 officers on the top table:

Mr Bernard Jay (Chairman); Mrs Michelle Cutler (Hon Sec); Mrs Tracey Mair (Treasurer); Mr William Glover (President); Mr Gordon Ayshford (Minutes).

The meeting was called to order at 20:35

1: Apologies for Absence :

Jane Richards, Derek Cranfield.

2: Chairman's Opening:

Mr Bernard Jay opened the meeting, welcomed everybody and handed over to the President, Mr. William Glover.

3: President's Welcome:

Mr William Glover took the floor and in a concise speech he welcomed all present to the 2010 AGM, and reminded the membership present that if anyone had any moans and groans this was the time and place to have their say.

4: Minutes of the 2009 AGM

The minutes of the 2009 AGM had been published in the club news and copies distributed at the 2010 AGM. The minutes of the 2009 AGM were taken as read. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2009 AGM.

Proposed: John Martin; *Seconded:* Derek Prior

5: Honorary Secretary's Report

Hon Sec Mrs Michelle Cutler gave her annual report which is transcribed below:

"Well, I must say, another busy year in the Witley calendar has passed very quickly! Witley trials continue to be popular events. This year, we had good turnouts at both the Charlie Wake and the Weston Trophy Trial. The Reg Bowker trial was exceptionally well attended with nearly 90 riders enjoying the new trials venue of Chawton Park Woods. Thanks go to all the Clerks of Courses, Secretaries of the Meetings and helpers who have done considerable work over the last year. The Long Distance Trial continues to be a success. I must thank everybody for their help in completing the Secretary's job for that meeting, I would have been lost otherwise! Riders had a good day, with fine weather and a huge special test at the end, thanks to Colin and his team of merry men. The Boxing Day and February Enduros still continue to grow and are hugely successful events, once again with large teams of committed and hard working Club members. Despite the theft of our Eze-Ups at Boxing Day, signing on and start went off without a hitch. Our thanks must go to all concerned in these events that help to keep the Witley name high profile. I must thank all the delegates to the various committees that meet, some of whom travel a fair

distance to attend. Our delegates represent us at all these meetings and ensure that Witley remains a leading club in the area. The camping weekend was successful, if slightly wet! The water slide proved to be a big hit, not just with the kids either! We had our annual bonfire and BBQ, Christmas party and were also able to have rounders on the green, thanks to the location of our new club room. This year, Dinner Dance is happening after the AGM but the difficulty of selling tickets early enough has continued to provide challenges. We hope a good time is had by all those who are coming and we will welcome any ideas for next year."

6: Chairman's Report

Club Chairman Mr Bernard Jay made his report in which he thanked everyone for attending and Tracey and Michelle for coping well with a difficult first year in the positions of Treasurer and Hon Secretary. Bernard then explained he had tried to implement the voting system as per the rule book, where candidates can be proposed and seconded by members filling in a form before the AGM, avoiding elections for uncontested positions. Some confusion amongst the membership over the details of this system meant that of the 7 voting slips received 3 candidates had not been asked if they were prepared to stand and one who had agreed, later withdrew, so only 3 positions were filled by this system. Bernard went on to say that this had been his 7th year as Chairman and that recently some members had told him they didn't know what was going on. He hoped that the minutes would be published on the website or in the club news this year. Bernard remarked on the current shortage of helpers for events with an increasing administrative overhead, then remarked on poor ticket sales for the Dinner and Dance, being held 9 days after the AGM and he thought this may be the last in this format.

7: Treasurer's Report

Hon Treasurer Mrs Tracey Mair said that she had found the role challenging but was now looking forward to her second year in the position. Financially 2009 had been a good year for the Club with a surplus similar to last year despite the expenditure of buying the trailer. Tracey gave her financial report; copies of the audited accounts were available. The accounts were accepted by the membership present.

Proposed: Barry Brockman;

Seconded: Neil Bowker.

8: Election of Officers

President: Mr William Glover. *Proposed:* Barry Brockman; *Seconded:* Neil Bowker.

Life Vice President: It was pointed out that this was not an elected post that needed to be filled. The position was left vacant.

Vice Presidents (8max): (to 2009): **Mr Derek Cranfield; Mr Gerald Storr; Mr Peter Crummett; Mrs Kath Boniface; Mr John Bramall; Mr Derek Prior; Mr Laurence Richards; Mr Peter Stabb.** 8 VPs from last year were nominated en-bloc.

Proposed: Gordon Ayshford;

Seconded: Neil Bowker.

Honorary Life Members: **Mrs Kath Boniface, Mr William Glover, Mr Derek Cranfield, Mr Derek Prior and Mrs Betty Prior.**

At 2009 AGM the rule had been changed to state that members with 50 years' service (and only those members) should be added to the existing holders. There were no eligible members proposed.

The meeting was handed over to President Mr William Glover for the election of the Club Chairman.

Chairman (to 2011): **Mr Colin Boniface.**

Proposed: Shaun Smith;

Seconded: Dave Kavanagh.

With Mr Boniface's agreement the meeting was handed back to Mr Bernard Jay.

Vice Chairmen (to 2011) (2):

Mr Gordon Ayshford, Mr Neil Bowker.

Mr. Gordon Ayshford was nominated using the official form in advance of the meeting.

Proposed: John Martin; *Seconded:* Alec Jay

Mr Neil Bowker was nominated at the meeting.

Proposed: Colin Boniface;

Seconded: Laurence Richards.

Club Captain (to 2011): **Mrs Jo Ayshford.**

(nominated using the official form in advance of the meeting). *Proposed:* Bernard Jay; *Seconded:* Diana Delahoy.

Hon Treasurer (to 2011): **Mrs Tracey Mair.**

(2 year post from 2009 AGM)

Membership Secretary (to 2011): **Mr Bernard Jay.**

(nominated using the official form in advance of the meeting). *Proposed:* John Martin;

Seconded: Gordon Ayshford.

Honorary Secretary (to 2011): **Mrs Michelle**

Cutler. *Proposed:* Barry Brockman;

Seconded: Jo Ayshford.

Committee to 2011 (from 2009) (4):

Mr John Martin, Mr Paul Jay, Mr Ian George, Mr Bernard Jay.

Replacements required for Neil Bowker and Gordon Ayshford due to their election to the position of Vice Chairman.

Proposed: Dave Mair; *Seconded:*

Derek Prior. **Bernard Jay:** *Proposed:* Colin Boniface; *Seconded:* Rebecca Brockman.

Committee to 2012 from 2010 (4): **Mr David Kavanagh, Mr Terry Tidbury, Mr Dave Mair, Mr Shaun Smith.** Committee members from last year were nominated for re-election en-bloc.

Proposed: Bernard Jay; *Seconded:* Neil Bowker.

Vice Captain (to 2011): **Mrs Rebecca Brockman.**

Proposed: Jo Ayshford; *Seconded:* Diana Delahoy.

Under 25 Representative (to 2011): **Aaron Smith.**

Proposed: Barry Brockman; *Seconded:*

John Martin. It was agreed that Aaron would report to committee through Shaun Smith.

Minutes Secretary (to 2011):

Mr Gordon Ayshford *Proposed:* Dave Kavanagh;

Seconded: Rebecca Brockman.

Website Co-ordinator (to 2011):

Mr Manuel Bernardez. *Proposed:* Neil Bowker;

Seconded: Jo Ayshford.

Club News Editor and Publicity Officer

(to 2011): **Mr Laurie Richards**

Proposed: Graham Ford; *Seconded:* Dave Mair.

Laurie Richards was duly elected to continue with the current Newsflash format, and the linked role of Publicity Officer.

Auditor (to 2011): **Mr Roger Pearce**

(independent of Club). *Proposed:* Tracey Mair;

Seconded: Bernard Jay.

Company Secretary (from 2010 to 2012 – a two

year post): **Mr Bernard Jay.** *Proposed:* Bill Glover;

Seconded: Gordon Ayshford.

It was agreed that Bernard would train someone else in the responsibilities of this role during this term of office.

Company Directors (2 to 2011):

Mr William Glover, Mr Gordon Ayshford.

Mr Glover and Mr Ayshford, the holders of these roles in 2009, were nominated to be re-elected en bloc. *Proposed:* Barry Brockman;

Seconded: Neil Bowker.

Company Treasurer (to 2011): **Mrs Tracey Mair**

(This role is tied to the Club Treasurer and is not elected individually).

(In each of the above cases, there being no other candidates or objections from the floor, the above candidates were elected without a vote).

9: Administrative Business: Nothing to report.

10: AOB:

Jo Ayshford: Dinner and Dance. Jo reported that she was embarrassed by the lack of numbers for this event, 32 tickets had been sold, including 10 guests who were not Witley members.

Derek Cranfield: Event Results. Derek had sent a note saying it would be appreciated if Marshals and Observers were sent results from events. Mr. Peter Crummett seconded this motion. Agreed to add this to the Secretary of the Meeting guidelines – Enduros as well as Trials.

11: Date of Next Committee Meeting 20:00 on Tuesday 6th April 2010 at Normandy Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:09.

The Witley MCC Limited Company: Secretarial duties

As this post will become vacant at the AGM, it best be made clear how important and yet, how easy the job is.

1: The Company Secretary (together with the two directors) is responsible for the affairs of the Club and acts as the liaison between the Committee, Companies House and the Inland Revenue for end of year returns and tax returns. That means checking through the accounts and verifying them as correct prior to signing them and sending to Companies House. Our Club Treasurer finalises the accounts for the club then passes them to the Auditor. The Auditor (appointed at the AGM) will calculate tax payable and will finalise the accounts for Companies House. You fit somewhere in between and it's your signature on the final copy. You don't have to be good at maths (that's the auditor's job) but you do need to know that the figures are in the right columns and that income and expenditures are correct.

2: The registered office of the Company is normally that of the Company Secretary, but it can be the address of a Company director, treasurer or the Club Chairman. This is the address to which all company documents will be sent from Companies House and the Inland Revenue.

3: Again, it is normally the job of the Auditor to update us on any Limited Company changes, but it is advisable to check the Companies House website every 3 or 4 months, just to be aware of any forthcoming changes. Changes don't happen that often, but October 2009 saw many that involved us.

4: The Company Secretary does not need to be a Committee member but does need to have copies of meeting minutes.

5: I will gladly pass on any knowledge that I have in order to make the job an easy one for the new Company Secretary.

Bernard Jay: Outgoing Company Secretary

THE WESTON TROPHY TRIAL 2011



Date: Sunday 6th March Time: 10.00 am

**Location: Sethern, Rams Lane,
Dunsfold, Surrey**

Clerk of the Course: Neil Bowker

**Contact: Amanda Bowker –
Mobile 07713 505339**

S.E Championship Round for Elite, Expert, Intermediate, Novice, Over 40, Over 50, Youth Elite, Youth Expert, Youth Inter, Youth Novice, Youth D, Twinshock, Monoshock, Pre 67, Ladies, Girls.

**You can find an entry form in the
download section on witleymcc.org**

And – please help your Club to run another successful S.E. Centre Championship round in Surrey by volunteering to observe!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

**Thursday 24th March: 8.00 for 8.30pm at
the Clubroom.**

This is your opportunity to have your say on issues relating to your Club and the events we run. **Please support your Committee by attending this important meeting.**

Apart from the Company Secretary position (see Bernard's note above), there are a considerable number of other posts which will need to be filled. These include Company Director, Vice Chairman, Club Secretary, Minutes Secretary and Club Captain, and there are also going to be vacancies for Committee members. Please consider whether you could take on one of these vital roles.

Minutes of the 2010 Meeting are reprinted for your convenience in this newsletter.

We are looking for people willing to act as Secretary of the Meeting for some of our future events. We also need Clerks of the Course, for which official training is required. Please let any Committee member know if you are interested.

Notes from the Committee Meeting held on 1st February 2011

13 members were present, with apologies from a further 4.

Minutes of the January 2011 meeting: Accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Forthcoming Events:

'The Witley Classic' Enduro 6th Feb: 140 Entries to date. Michelle received postal entries and entered detail on-line. Colin reported: Medical cover arranged, Calvert's 'Hollywood Diner' is booked. Warning notices are in place at the venue and ACU day-licenses arranged. A manual card system will be available as a back-up in case there are problems with the swipe system.

Games Evening Feb 24th: Jo and Rebecca have this in hand.

Weston Trophy Trial 6th March: Neil reported he had all the organisational issues in hand. 4 laps of 10 sections. It was agreed that if there was no-one to run the catering it was not an issue. Gordon will print some "observers eye view" feedback cards to get material for an event report. Volunteers for observers required.

Annual Social Mar 12th: Jo sent a written report – The Hall, Buffet and Duo are booked. Tickets are printed. Doors open 7.30 for an 8:00 start. The committee agreed the following: The format would be as usual – Food, followed by awards presentation, followed by dancing. There was no need for a seating plan or for any "orders of service" to be printed. There will be a raffle.

AGM Mar 24th: Start time 8:30 agreed. Jo is not standing for the role of Club Captain but is still willing to organise social events. Michelle will not be standing as Secretary but is willing to undertake occasional secretarial duties. Bernard is not standing as Company Secretary. Gordon said he would welcome someone else taking over as Minutes Secretary.

3 Stage Trial May 1st: Gordon to speak to Paul Jay re: secretary duties. Paul has offered to help in course planning and John Martin has also offered to help. An official CoC is needed.

Barn Dance June 2011: Jo sent a written report – Compton Village Hall is booked, the band is booked, catering will be a Ploughman's style buffet, Jo is happy to run the Bar. Tickets will be available after the awards evening

June TVTC: Neil reported that he has found some land that may be suitable and is going to take a look.

Camping Weekend: July 1st -3rd : "Wacky Races" is the theme with any kind of motive power.

Wings and Wheels Aug: Dave Mair reported that he has this in hand; but cannot be present on the day. Surrey Schoolboys are keen to put on a show. Volunteer helpers needed.

LDT 16th Oct: Dave Mair agreed to be C of C and Michelle Cutler to be Secretary of Meeting.

Reports from Delegates:

TVTC: Neil Bowker reported from the meeting held on the previous day. The steward's report from the Reg Bowker trial had been submitted and was very complimentary. The

Leatherhead club has folded. A new club – the Hook Woods Trials Club as joined the combine. February TVTC event is a practice day at Hook Woods.



S.E.C Enduro Combine: The AGM had taken place – Arthur Adams and John Adams had been replaced as Chairman and Secretary by Paul Hearne and Alan Wood respectively.

Colin Fox is Vice Chairman, Peter Stabb continues as Treasurer and Colin Boniface as ACU rep. A new simplified version of the Combine rules has been adopted.

S.E. Trials Combine: Neil Bowker reported that no meeting had taken place but the Combine is in good health with the first 2 events being over-subscribed.

Sport Guildford: Gordon reported that the current chairman Mike Clark would not be standing for election at the AGM being held on Wed 9th February, which Gordon plans to attend.

ISDE: Rob and Arnaud have now decided to ride in a French Club team following Team GB demands for non-returnable deposits for accommodation and confusing Club team selection criteria.

Administration:

New Members: 7 new members since last meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The report was submitted and accepted by the committee.

Website: It was agreed that a good standard was being maintained, vote of thanks to Manny for his hard work – the new snippets section was appreciated.

Club News: Agreed to ask photographers at enduros to provide some general event photos.

Awards: (including discussion of new classes) Dave Mair to e-mail the committee.

Witley merchandise: Bernard reported sticker sheets had been sent out – surplus on sale at £3.00

First Aid Course: Jo has agreed to organise one if enough interest is shown.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st March 2011 at 8.00 pm. There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.25pm.

Dates for your Diary:

Weston Trophy Trial

Sunday 6th March 2011

Annual Social/Awards Evening

Saturday 12th March 2011

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 24th March 2011

Witley Three Stage Trial

Sunday 1st May 2011

Barn Dance

Saturday 7th May 2011

JOIN US FOR GREAT EVENTS!



Editor's bit... A club dating back almost as far as Witley (to 1926), the Leatherhead and District Motor Cycle Club had been under pressure for some time, and it is very sad to hear of its demise.

Unfortunately there is no right in law for motorcycle clubs to survive the normal business pressures of finance, shortage of staff and fickle consumers. But the failure of Leatherhead does perhaps serve as a reminder that decades of history is no protection against such problems. It is only with a huge amount of hard work on the part of Committee members past and present that the Witley Club has survived 87 years. And the trouble is that, for many Club officials, the increasing time and effort involved do take their toll, and the result is a feeling that much of the enjoyment has gone out of organising and running events – for others to enjoy.

On a practical note, there was a time when members took seriously the difficulties of staffing trials by bringing an observer with them if they wished to ride in a Club event. If this pattern were to become normal practice again, it would make a start on reducing the pressure on organisers. But it's not just the organisation. It's even difficult to get people out to enjoy themselves! I was intrigued recently, while browsing through a 1954 issue of *Motor Cycling*, to see a whole double page spread devoted to the Social Season – Kingston, Streatham and North Hants clubs being among the 20 or so whose Dinner Dances were reported. The idea of seeing 150 to 200 plus members at a social (which was common for Witley Dinners up to the 1970s) seems unreal at a time when we are struggling to sell tickets for our forthcoming Annual Social on March 12th. Which reminds me – get your tickets now – they're only a tenner!

The 2011 AGM is nearly upon us and your Club needs you! Inside you will see that there are a wide range of positions vacant, not to mention the need for officials for our sporting events. I for one am sorry to see the retirements of some long standing committee members. But with so many calls on their time from family and work, not to mention the wish to get on with their own motorcycling occasionally, it is entirely understandable. What is needed if any club is to prosper – rather than staggering wearily from event to event – is for more of its members to come forward and take part in the running of the club, so reducing the individual workloads that a few have to carry. Your opportunity to help Witley MCC to thrive and survive for future generations may be just around the corner. Please come along on March 24th and take part. **L.G.R.**
PS: Many thanks to Gordon and Bernard.

Welcome to New Members...

in the past few weeks we have been joined by:

- Ben Greetham** from Odiham
- Eby Lucas** from Guildford
- Graham Smith** from Godalming
- Sebastian Shaw** from Haslemere
- Derek Vansittart** from Guildford
- Simon Purcell** from Bracknell
- Mark Bennett** from Bracknell
- Mick Wright** from Daventry

We wish you an enjoyable time with Witley MCC along with safe and successful riding.

News or pictures please to lg_richards@yahoo.co.uk

Witley MCC Contact Details:

Chairman:	Colin Boniface	07812 924510	colin_boniface@btinternet.com
Secretary:	Michelle Cutler	01252 331495	michelle_cutler@hotmail.co.uk
Newsletter:	Laurie Richards	07789 506457	lg_richards@yahoo.co.uk
Clubroom:	Compton Village Club (affiliated to The Royal British Legion), The Street, Compton, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1EQ (off A3 on B3000, by village green) Club night: Thursdays, 8.30pm.		

Visit our website: www.witleymcc.org