

# W.M.C.C. Gazette



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**Editor's Note:** My daughter is a lecturer at Portsmouth University, and always goes the extra mile to help her students. One of them, a young London guy, recently said "you're calm, Miss". This apparently means "cool". In my dad's day a guy was something that kids made from old clothes and a face mask and put on a street bonfire on 5th November, and "cool" meant that you'd put another jumper on! By the '60s, Steve McQueen was "cool", and now even women can be guys. I'm sure you guys know what I mean. Groups of people have always had a language adapted to their communities, from Cockney rhyming slang to the weird terms used by today's youth. Motorcyclists are no exception, and Colin Jenkins of this parish, used to call a fast ride a "MER". Short for "hammer". After market is not a coffee post jumble sale, but O.E.M. parts. People overhearing a conversation between motorcyclists might be more confused than a current T.V. commercial. Doughnuts, but not edible. Bottom out? Ooh err missus! Kit, pegs, jam pots, baffles and feather beds.....and don't let your other half overhear you drooling over "Connie" or "Bonnie". There is an acronym for just about everything nowadays, and CALM is the abbreviation for the campaign against living miserably. "Men's Sheds" is another initiative to get people out and engaging with others. This all sounds like new age mumbo jumbo, but a friend of mine, a "no nonsense-swimming with sharks-diver" and N.H.S. paramedic, tells of sitting alone in his single crewed Volvo out on the road in the early hours after being unable to save someone. In earlier times, ambulance staff would return to the station for a cuppa with others before the next job. We obviously benefit from getting out, and what better "escape" than a motorcycle club? And what better bike club than ours? Lots of stuff in this issue....Moto X...Bert's Cafe nostalgia....exciting HIOWAA invitation.....Brooklands.....Fossils. All this for a tenner a year....OH! And have you paid your subs? Oh dear that turned a bit HMRC at the end. To rescue the upbeat mood David King (weather without technology),who is almost always right with predictions (he predicted the wet and stormy stuff we've endured this year),sees the period from June 28th to July 20th as "bright and sunny". Let's hope it lasts another day! The run up to the Fossils, in addition to the bright and sunny aspect, promises to be pleasantly hot but not a heat wave as in previous years. Just right for advance sign ups!

***Happy trails! Editor.***

### Set up

Putting on a motocross event is just like putting on a mini festival. The infrastructure required involves fences to make a secure site. Flags, banners and advertising require erection. Toilets, showers and offices all need to be provided. A motorcycle wash down point and internet facility as well as Tee Shirts, programmes and other merch

### European Quads

In a double-header with the sidecars, the European Quad Championship provided exiting support races. Overall:

- Patrick Turrini ITA
- Harry Walker GB
- Christopher Tveraen NOR

### Thanks

Thanks go to the small



Brett Wilkinson & Joe Millard

In action at Cusses Gorse



Bax/Cermak



Vanluchene/Musset

## WMCC turn on the style.

Following months of careful planning, the club staged an ambitious double header in the Wiltshire countryside close to Stonehenge. This was the club's first Grand Prix 25 years ago in 1998 The event unfolded under the close management of Brad Skeates who was the driving force. Everyone agreed it was a world class event which took place over a cool and damp weekend in July.

### World class racing

In a 14 Grand Prix Series arranged by WSC, Cusses Gorse was the UK stop and was every bit the professional promotion with 30 teams entering from as far as Latvia and from all over Europe.

### Results

- Etienne Bax & Ondrej Cermak NL / CZ
- Marvin Vanluchene / Nicolas Musset BEL/FRA
- Daniels Lielbardis / Bruno Lielbardis LAT/LAT

Top British Crew was Jake Brown/Josh Chamberlain in fourth with British Champions and club members Brett Wilkinson/Joe Millard having a bad day in 12<sup>th</sup> overall after a promising start. Lee "Rat" Foyle and Dan Phelps finished a respectable 14<sup>th</sup>.



## ***W.M.C.C Turn On The Style***

Following Months of careful planning, the Club staged an ambitious double header in the Wiltshire countryside close to Stonehenge. This was the club's first grand prix, for 25 years. The event unfolded under the close management of Brad Skeates, who was the driving force. Everyone agreed it was a world class event which took place over a cool and damp weekend in July. World Class Racing. In a 14 Grand Prix series, arranged by WSC, Cusses Gorse was the UK stop and was every bit the professional promotion with 30 teams entering from as far away as Latvia and all over Europe. Results. 1. Etienne Bax & Andrej Cermak NL/Cz. 2. Marvin Vanluchene and Nicolas Musset Bel/Fra. 3. Daniels Lielbardis & Bruno Lieibardis Lat/Lat. 4. Top British crew was Jake Brown/Josh Chamberlain. World Sidecar cross and European Quadcross Championship.

***A message from Steve Cox:*** "This the last call for showing your bike at Amberley Bike Show on the 6th May. We will be having a club stand there, so if you want to support us let me or John Jenkins know as we have to pre-book the stand with names of attendees. Last year, I spoke to Andover Norton club about a W.M.C.C. visit there. I was asked to test the support from club members to gauge the support for the idea. They could accommodate about ten people. This would probably be around May. Please let me know if you are interested. Cheers, Steve".

Mike Gaskin writes that a friend is selling an *Asguard* secure motorbike garage with secure fittings. For £1000. He may accept offers. Reply to [mikegaskin59@hotmail.com](mailto:mikegaskin59@hotmail.com) or any committee member.



As someone who, apparently suffers from the same problem, I Smiled at the picture sent in by Cliff Rees. The meme (as we young'uns say), illustrates the tongue-in-cheek conflicts between husband and wife that keep the cartoon business going. Later in this issue, Cliff has written a piece about *Bert's Cafe* at Portchester, and how the well-heeled purchaser of the derelict premises had plans for a love nest for weekends spent there with his secretary. Perhaps not all that uncommon, as a house we were planning to buy along the main road at Fareham, had a business premises in a small industrial site at the rear with a path passing by the rear garden door of the house. This was a second home used by the owner and his secretary. Swiftly moving on, before revealing my string of homes occupied by a dozen or so of my secretaries, I have to reveal that I have only one motorcycle, unlike lots of our club members. Alan Straughan has owned a few beauties- a B31, ex police *BMW*, *Moto Guzzi* Etc. Andy Thayer has an eclectic collection- *c15s*, a *BSA M20* (or *21*), a *T110* in the nice Meriden blue and off-white livery. Bernie Moss -stuff ranging from *Black Shadows* to *Royal Enfields*, and I expect that the chap on the desert Island on the front page has a copy of "*Old Bike Mart*" tucked away behind his chair. As if we hadn't pushed our partners beyond the level of endurance, *Beaulieu's* photo exhibition features feats of engineering endurance and achievement. The exhibition features Mike Hailwood's crash helmet. On to four wheel news, Martin Stoker of the *Morris Minor Owners Club* is planning to open a museum dedicated to just *Minors*. I've had a soft spot for the cars ever since my mum had one called *Boris*.(my T.bird is called *Betsy*) We are a strange breed in Britain .Wadham Stringer were building *Mercedes*-engined ambulances, and had a prolonged visit from a team of *Mercedes* engineers. They struggled with the concept of a little coach builders in the Hampshire countryside. They especially struggled with our sense of humour! Oops! I forgot to head this as Tea Break(now). Those Germans will be laughing!

*Tea Break(then)*. There's nothing new under the sun! Shakespeare alluded to this in one of his sonnets, but as there's nothing new under the sun, some other geezer mentioned it earlier in Ecclesiastes 1:9.

"A matter of WHO" was a film from 1961 with the story line of a mysterious and deadly virus sweeping across the globe. By 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis was on everyone's minds, with a threat of a nuclear W.W.3. Sounds familiar! In *The Motorcycle* magazine of 1960, the Indian minister for Industry, was entering into an agreement with Japan to produce Japanese scooters in India. Today, Japanese motorcycles are everywhere and India is still producing two wheelers. *The Motorcycle* of November 1960 had Phil Irving imagining that the petrol we now (1960, of course) use, could become unavailable (unleaded?), and that electric motorcycles would be pioneered. The 1960 Golden Jubilee Motorcycle Show at *Earl's Court* featured Triumph police models. The police now use *B.M.W.s* and *Hondas*, but perfectly suitable new *Triumphs* are available. Wouldn't that be nice? (oops I've slipped back to the '60s with the *Beach Boys*!) Lots of sidecars on show and Reliant celebrating 25 years of three-wheel car production? On the accessory stands were innovations such as plastic replacing the metal innards on speedo drives, and on stand 98, a switch actuated by a float in the fuel tank which turns on a warning light. The same principle was used for years on car petrol tanks. British helmets were trumpeted as "the best in the world", and motorcycling clothing trends were aimed at female bike and scooter riders with "light and bright replacing the dull garb from the past". The relatively new fibreglass material was seen on fairings and panniers to good effect. (At *Wadhams* coach builders, we were getting rather good at utilising the stuff, with ambulance alloy panels being replaced by complete ambulance bodies in fibreglass). Panic on the *Blacknells* stand! British Railways had lost their entire collection of show models! The sidecars were eventually found at St. Pancras with the "imperia" model's door staved in. In 1960 paying customers let down by "the railways" In 2024? Well, I rest my case! 1960. W.M.C.C. put on world-class scrambles. 2023 W.M.C.C. put on world-class scram(terr)moto x

## ***Letter to the Editor, Cliff Rees on Bert's Café.***

Reading your Column in the May edition of the WMCC Gazette about the motorcycling activities connected to Bert's Café at Paulsgrove/Portchester, reminds me of my experiences with the premises although unfortunately after the last roar of a motorcycle was heard there. I am glad to say however that I had the good fortune of never having eaten there.

Having been involved in the Building Services industry since leaving school, mainly on the Contracting side dealing with the design of heating and ventilation projects, I decided that I would like to try something a little different and a little easier-going and after having a chance chat with an MD of a London based Heating and Plumbing Merchants who wanted to open a Portsmouth branch convenient for visits to his Catamaran moored on the Hamble, I agreed to obtain a suitable premises and kick off the new branch. I found out later there was an ulterior motive for this by Mr. Hatrick referred to by his other employees as Gerry Hatrick

Scouting through the *Portsmouth Evening News* a premises became available, with a large car park on a main route with room for expansion at the modest price of just below 20K. On visiting, the chairs and tables were still in place together with cooking equipment all included in the price. This of course was the famous *Bert's Café*, exact reason for sale not known.

With a home found for all the furniture, it was rather disturbing to find all the mouse droppings and maggot remains upon removal of the cooking equipment, but the rest of the premises were rather interesting with a large dormitory upstairs where the lorry drivers slept over night with showers and toilet facilities, an additional small kitchen and a rather nice south facing lounge with balcony overlooking the harbour and *Vosper's* ship yard. Whilst I converted most of the premises to sales and storage areas, Gerry was keen to keep the lounge as it was and sent along a television and a double daybed.

Having installed the storage racking, security bars on the rear windows and filled the place with stock, the business took off at a rapid rate and a large single storey extension for 20K was planned with great curiosity as it was generally rumoured that Bert had a few goodies buried below the car park. Soon to be revealed when the footings were dug. Great disappointment however when only a few dozen buried leather boots were found and stone beer bottles. In the meantime, the reason for keeping the nice lounge in place was apparent when Gerry appeared with his secretary at weekends to stay the night. I found the new extension most useful with the high roller shutter doors, just right to allow access for my caravan for me to give it a respray.

The premises is opposite the Crisp factory and the drivers with their potato delivery Lorries were allowed to park out the back overnight. For this we received a big bag of potatoes. Unfortunately these must have been a special variety for crisp making and just disintegrated when boiled or treated in any other way than fried in a disk shape.

As well as trade customers, we had many DIY customers who we could help with the design and selection of systems with working drawings and complete kits of components. Among these were Nurses from Q.A. Hospital doing their own plumbing and heating and several local police officers moonlighting carrying out heating and plumbing installations for private customers. One having received a new state of the art Volvo patrol car was keen to take me for a ride to demonstrate the comfort and inbuilt gadgets, we got to the outskirts of Fareham when an emergency call came through, meaning that I had to get out and find my own way back. Good job I had some money on me for the bus fare.

Gerry enjoyed going to auctions and bought about 1,200 room thermostats with built in thermometers which worked out at about 30p each. The only trouble was the UK had changed to Centigrade and they were all in Fahrenheit. I never managed to shift many even at 50p each. Another buy secured a shed load of Dexion enough to make a mezzanine floor in the new extension complete with staircase. A real big boys *Meccano* set.

In the meantime, Bert and his daughter had moved to Hayling Island and one day she brought him on a visit. It was a little sad for him to see how the old place had changed.

Unfortunately, Gerry passed away suddenly and his widow offered to sell me the premises and stock but at a price many times more than the original cost, so having satisfied my urge to try something different, I declined hence, it is now a fish and chip restaurant, bought for 69K, now with the original cafe demolished, but the rear extension reused, hopefully without the mouse droppings. All it needs is a Juke Box and a few motorbikes in the car park ready to ride to the J&J roundabout and back before the record had finished and Old Bert would be smiling from wherever he is now.



*37th Classic Motorcycle*



*Run and Concours*

***Bank holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024***

Key Car Park at Elvetham Heath on the A323 Fleet to Hartley Wintney Road.

Postcode GU51 1HA