

MGPR Newsletter. December 2008

Chairman's Report: Jim Hunter

Members of the Riders' Association Committee suggested to me that we might get a more positive response to our fund raising efforts, if it is clear to members what our Association money is spent on. In a nutshell, our Association funds are used to keep the 38th Milestone open during practice and race weeks, to cover the costs of the newsletter, to pay for awards like the "Spirit of the Manx" award and to put on events like our "Get together in the beer tent". At our AGM this year our treasurer and President, Ned Bowers reported, that as an Association we are JUST about making ends meet. As such we've pretty much 'got our hands tied behind our backs' when it comes to trying to do anything different. OK, in the last two years only four people (including myself!) have signed up, but is it time to give the standing order idea one last go? A small donation multiplied by the number of our members would result in a worthwhile sum of cash. Lets say for example that 10% of you signed up for £1 a month - that would give us just over a £1,000 a year. If half of you signed up for £1 a month that would give us over £5,000 per year for less than the cost of half a pint of Doctor Okell's finest elixir a month!!

So how about this for an idea of what we might spend the money on? At a meeting with the Manx Grand Prix Ambassadors back in August one point came through loud and clear; Newcomers are the FUTURE of our event (and ultimately our Association). We (riders past and present) should try and do more to get people thinking about riding in the Manx and then when our Newcomers are on the Island, do more to make them feel valued and hopefully want to come back in future years. Perhaps our Association could contribute to towards the cost of a visit to the Island for prospective newcomers in a similar way to the Mike Hailwood Foundation? Perhaps we could specifically invite all Newcomers to our "Get together in the Beer tent" and divvy up some of the proceeds of any money raised. If half of you DID put £1 a month in and half the Newcomers turned up at the Beer Tent (based on this years figure of 42 Newcomers) that would mean we could give them all £200 towards their expenses - nice! What do you think? Of course it's not up to me to decide what our money is spent on, it's just a thought to how our Association might make a contribution towards making our event that little bit different and extra bit special. If you agree with any of these sentiments you'll find the standing order form later in this edition!

This years Manx Grand Prix was the usual mix of full on highs and lows. The highs for me were the emergence of exciting new talents like Dan Kneen, seeing and hearing the MV Augusta and nail bitingly close finishes. The low of course was the loss of a John Goodall. For me, it all became quite difficult to comprehend, after having presented John with the "Spirit" award on the Sunday only for him to have his accident the following day. The last time I saw John was when driving out of the paddock on that Sunday after our 'Get Together'. He was walking hand in hand with his wife Rose. I wound down my window to wish him all the best. I have to say he genuinely looked as happy as Larry. I'd got to hear on the grapevine that John was extremely proud and delighted to have been awarded the "Spirit of the Manx". Three days after the accident I went to see Rose Goodall, Angela (John and Rose's daughter), Alan (their son) and Jack Hobbs at their Guest House. I offered Rose the trophy awarded to John to keep which she gratefully accepted. She also agreed that the award could be re-named the "John Goodall, Spirit of the Manx" as a fitting tribute to his memory. Our friends at Celtic Gold, Peel are currently creating a new trophy which will be awarded for the first time in 2009. Don't forget to vote for who you think should receive it using the attached form or via the web site (manxgrandprix.org). I felt quite apprehensive about meeting the Goodall family so soon after the accident but felt re-assured by Rose's parting comment - if John were here now, he would say "Right, come on then. Dust yourself down and let's get on with it".

Talking earlier about Newcomers. Do you know any riders who have never raced on the Island, have the necessary license and might be contemplating entering the Manx in 2009? If the answer is yes, then get them to go Manxgrandprix.org and register their intent with one of the Manx Grand Prix Ambassadors - there is the possibility of supported visit (thanks to the Mike Hailwood Foundation) to the Island during February and March for those seriously thinking making their debut in 2009.

At our AGM in August members decided to drop the number of newsletters a year to two, so don't expect the next issue of 'Out of the Mist' until after the 2009 TT. Don't forget however that you can keep up to date with all the very latest Manx Grand Prix news at:

www.manxgrandprix.org

Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year

Regards

Jim'

achines. So why put on another Junior race for 600 machines? What is the point anyway? Left up to me I would put a Classic TT race on to replace the parade lap and have a similar rule to the newly introduced

eligibility for the Lightweight Manx, preventing recent TT replica winners competing in the Classic Manx. This would also address the concerns of a lot of Classic Manx riders I spoke to who were unhappy about the amount of money some TT 'stars' were being paid to ride in the classic races and how this was affecting the replica winning time. As for Lightweight TT races on the Billown Circuit?? As much as I enjoy going down South to watch the races, there is no denying you get some pretty big accidents down there, which go relatively unreported in stark contrast to the public outcry that follows any incident on the Mountain Circuit. So why jeopardise road racing on the Island for the sake of re labeling the Steam Packet races as a TT race? What do you think?

Spirit of the Manx

Who will follow in the footsteps of Spooner, Cudworth and Hickey? As you know, the 'Spirit of the Manx' award is all about recognising sportsmanship, endeavour and commitment. It's up to you as a member of the Association to make your nomination (just fill in the attached slip) - you can nominate any rider who intends to ride in the 2008 MGP.

To try and raise a bit of cash for the Association last year we launched a 'Standing order' scheme to allow members to make a small contribution to the Association funds on a regular basis. The response was pretty awful with only myself and one other member subscribing. We discussed the idea at the AGM and decided to give it another go. Any money raised will be ploughed straight back into trying to raise the profile of the Association, support the costs associated with the newsletter, subsidising the cost of injured riders attending any of our social functions etc. If you would like to contribute in some way the standing order form is attached to the reverse of the last page. It will only take you a second to fill in, then just hand it in at your bank or building society. It was also suggested that a small percentage of any money raised would go into a draw to be made at our annual 'get together in the beer tent' held during Manx week, so will give that a go this year.

I had a very enjoyable conversation with Scottish member, Roy Mitchell during this year's Manx while I was on duty down at Douglas Road corner. I asked him where he had been watching on previous days and he said he had been to Gorseleigh after reading Jim Hunter's article in the TT edition of 'Out of the Mist'. "Jim Hunter", I said, "that's me". Even more bizarrely Roy went on to explain how earlier in the day when he was at the start line he had been talking to a gentleman who goes around with his wife and a long haired Jack Russell on the back of his Ariel Huntmaster. "Oh" I said, "that'll be my Dad, Jim Hunter senior!".

Have a great Christmas and wishing you a safe, successful and prosperous new year.

Hopefully see you out and about at some point,

Jim

Secretarys report:

Keith Trubshaw

We have had eight new members since the last Newsletter. Peter Maddocks from Derbyshire, Bob Light from Hampshire, John Barnard from Shropshire, Wattie Brown from Stirling, Neil Mason from Co. Durham, Rob Bardwell from Denbigshire, Keith Webb from Cornwall and Stephen Handby from Chesterfield. Five of those joined at the 38th Milestone which shows that many people are being invited to enjoy Tom and Frances' hospitality. They are finding that the new extension they constructed is being put to good use. We (the Travelling Marshals) have always had our lunch (only sandwiches and a biscuit) up in the Grandstand. This year there were some changes to the top floor of the Grandstand which meant that the room we usually use was occupied and so we nipped into the 38th. In the past, nine extra guests would have filled the place but we were hardly noticed as we munched on that exciting food !!!! Well done again to Tom and Frances for all their hard work. Remember you will always be made welcome there where you can have a chat and (surprise surprise) everybody is really interested in Bikes !!!!

If you were around in the seventies you will probably have heard of Roger Nott. He used to work for British Telecom, like me, in Liverpool and so we used to meet up at Lunch times for a natter. We teamed up together in 1975 for the Production TT when we rode a 500cc Honda for Tom Hall Motorcycles in Wigan. How many remember those 10 lap races when two riders "shared" one bike. In the race I set off to do the first three laps. Unfortunately I tangled with Bill Smith on my third lap and crashed at Sarah's Cottage so poor Roger didn't even get on the bike but he still spoke to me after that !!!! Sadly Roger passed away at the beginning of November, he was only 62, but had a surprise problem with his heart.

It was announced last week that Norton will be back at the TT next year with Michael Dunlop on board, that will be interesting, I remembered the excitement when Steve Hislop won at their last return, wow that was incredible to beat Carl Fogarty.

Well I usually try to crack a joke about Christmas and what you may be dreaming of for a present. I am being practical this year and so have asked Santa (and my Wife, Pat) for a pair of nice warm gloves. I enjoy cruising around the Isle of Man on my aging BMW but it does get cool in the Winter Anyway I hope that you all have a happy Christmas and do receive some nice presents from Santa.

All the Best

Keith Trubshaw

If you would like to contribute to furthering the aims of the Riders' Association complete the form below and take it to your bank or building society.

Manx Grand Prix Riders Association: Standing Order Form				
<i>To: (insert your bank's name)</i>				
Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/ our account accordingly				
<i>Account Details: (insert your account details)</i>				
Account Name				
Branch holding account				
Sort Code:				
Account Number:				
<i>Payee details:</i>				
Name of Account:	Manx Grand Prix Riders Association			
Payment Reference:	Donation			
Sort Code:	55-91-00			
Account Number:	10819827			
About the payment:	Weekly	Monthly	Half yearly	Annually
How often the payments are to be made: <i>(tick box)</i>				
Date and amount of first payment				£
Date and amount of ongoing payment <i>(if different from first payment)</i>				£
Choose one of the following options:				
1. Date and amount of final payment, or				£
2. Until further notice <i>(tick box)</i>				
Confirmation				Date
Customer's Signature				