

January 2007

North Birmingham News

NEWSLETTER

A Review of 2006 Showing some of the places where we have been to.



Paul Harris on the New Year's Day Run



At Norbury Junction Coffee Stop



Peter, Bill, Maurice and Ian at the Start of Josie's Jaunt



Ian Harris Presenting a cheque to the Motor Neurone Disease Association



The Gathering at Ride a Bike Night



Contenders at the Start of the Welsh Weekend



The Winners of the Picnic Concours



A Superb Collection of Machines ready for the Long Mynd Run



From the Archives

Charlie Collier

In September 1954, *Motor Cycling* printed an appreciation of that great man of the motorcycle world Charlie Collier, who had died on 23rd August of that year, he was 69 years of age and at that time he was joint managing director of A.M.C. He worked right up to the end.

Born in 1885, in Plumstead, Charles Richard Collier was one of a family of three boys: Harry his eldest brother and Bert, the youngest of the trio. Charlie's education became more technical and practical than academic and before he was 14 he was helping his father and elder brother to build the first experimental Matchless motorcycle in Plumstead. Thereafter, prototypes flowed almost ceaselessly until in 1902 there came the production 2½ h.p. "single". The first of the famous big twins appeared three years later but it was another two years before the company of H. Collier and Sons, Ltd., was formed.

Much happened in that year of 1907. The Collier brothers, with International race records behind them already, took up the new sport of road racing with characteristic gusto and when in May, the I.O.M. T.T. was run, it was Charlie and his Matchless 3½ h.p. which won the single cylinder class. As if motorcycle making and racing were not enough, the brother built an aeroplane and somewhere during 1907 and 1909 they actually flew it! Then in 1908 Charlie was second in the "single" T.T. but won again in 1910. That was his last T.T. victory. In the first "senior" in 1911 he was runner up, but disqualified on a technical point. In 1912 he was 4th in the senior and in his final T.T. the 1914 senior, he retired.

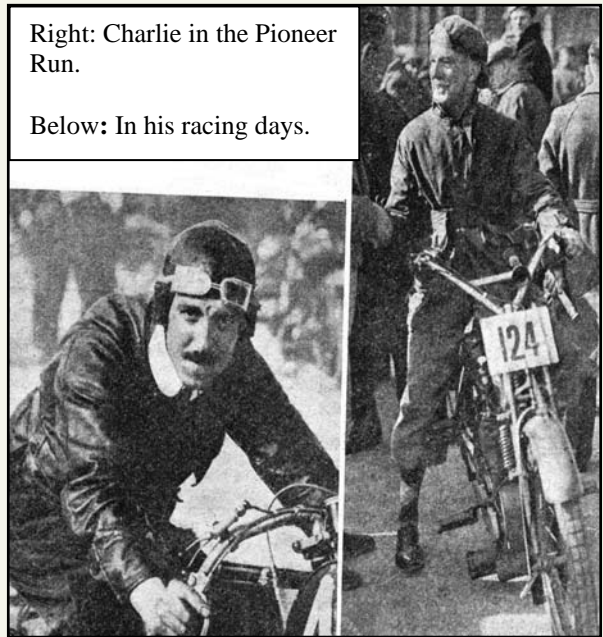
But it was in the great duels with the American Jake de Rosier, who brought his big Indians over to do battle with Charlie's "1,000"s during the 1909—1911 era, that Charlie's racing fame reached it's height and those Homeric contests are said to have never since been equaled. The manufacture of munitions occupied the Plumstead factory during the Kaiser War and in the years that

followed Charlie's hand appeared in most of the technical developments, which took place. In 1926 Harry Collier senior died and in 1928 a public company, Matchless Motorcycles (Colliers) Ltd. was formed with Harry junior and Charlie as joint managing directors. The change over to Associated Motor Cycles Ltd., took place in 1937, the A.J.S. marque having been acquired six years previous. A fatal road accident befell the youngest brother Bert in 1941 and in 1944 Harry died leaving Charlie the sole survivor of the founders of the concern.

His long experience as a rider gave Charlie a great sympathy for the average motorcyclist and right up to the time of his unexpected death his principle interest was to improve the service available to A.M.C. Ltd.'s customers.

Right: Charlie in the Pioneer Run.

Below: In his racing days.



John

Bring & Buy Night

There was a lot of last minute panicking on my behalf on the day of the Bring & Buy; our Chairman and Auctioneer Trevor Bull, and his stand in Andy Briggs, were unable to attend, and I couldn't find any volunteers to take on the task. Ian Harris appealed for a volunteer, and up stepped Adrian 'Skippy' Lockrey. He was assisted by Ian, and Maurice Trupp volunteered for the job of Runner.



Humber
CHAIN-DRIVEN
MOTOR CYCLES.
"By Test, The Best."
"HUMBER"
Prices - £50 to £65.

As usual we had a varied selection of lots that had been donated ranging from the usual magazines and books, to a drill press and a bag of garden bulbs. We had quite a good turnout; everyone was keen to look for a bargain, but were perhaps not so keen on spending their money. One item that I liked was an enamel badge which was apparently the Birmingham Coat of Arms. I was outbid by our Treasurer Rob Pell, who also bought some nice little model cars. Skippy, Ian and Maurice worked hard all evening to get through all the items on offer, and there was plenty of friendly banter to make it an entertaining evening. Thanks gentlemen for your efforts in helping us raise a healthy total of just under £200, and thanks also to those that brought and bought!

Small Ads Section

If anyone has any **motorcycle** items to sell or wanted please telephone 01384-294666 eves to place your request

Two 40 spoke Chrome Rims WM2 x 19 and WM3 x 18 , complete with spokes. Fair condition + 1 pair of Hagon Road Shocks 12 1/2" centres. Tel:01384-29466 for more details
Classic leather-look throwover panniers. £15.00 Tel:01902-607293

Recommendations of local suppliers



MOTOPAINT
Custom motorcycle paintwork and detailing
Re-sprays standard or custom. Plastic welding & accident repair
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All your motorcycle and scooter care needs
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Unit 10, Gutteridge Road, The Oldfield, Cradley Heath, West
Bucks, HP4 6BS. 01384 411799
lee@motopaint.co.uk

If anyone has any recommendations which members might find useful in the area please obtain a small business card that can be included in the newsletter and then be posted on the notice board

Please Ring to make an appointment **before** taking your goods to be painted.

F O R T H C O M I N G A T T R A C T I O N S F O R 2 0 0 7

CLUB NIGHTS	
JANUARY 31st	AGM and Presentation of annual awards
FEBRUARY 28th	A talk by Archie Graham on his "Speedway Exploits"
MARCH 28th	Noggin and Natter Night
APRIL 25th	A talk by Frank Dolman on Douglas Motorcycles
MAY 30th	Slide show by Richard Thomas on the "President" Steam Narrowboat
JUNE 27th	Ride a Bike Night
JULY 25th	Fish and Chip Supper
AUGUST 29th	Arrive on Your Bike Night
SEPTEMBER 26th	TBA
OCTOBER 31st	Slide show by Stephen Mills on the History and development of Morgan, AJS, Austin 7, and the pocket watch.
NOVEMBER 28th	Bring and Buy evening
DECEMBER 26th	No Meeting

CLUB RUNS

DATE	RUN	ORGANISER	Tel No
April 22nd	Spring Run	Paul Harris	01902-842732
May 6th	Trent Valley Run	Brian Empsall	01543-264968
May 20th	Girder Fork Run	Martyn Round	0121-550-1547
June 1/2/3rd	The Welsh Weekend	Josie Stanley	01902-607293
June 10th	Josie's Jaunt	Josie Stanley	01902-607293
June 17th	Banbury Run		
June 27th	Ride A Bike Night	Frank Ashton	01902-372719
July 8th	Roger's Run	Roger Greening	01562-730464
July 29th	Long Mynd Run	Ian Harris	01952-299118
August 5th	Breakfast Run	Rob Pell	0121-624-7674
August 19th	Picnic / Concours Run	Peter Ashen	01562-882854
September 9th	Flight of Fantasy Run	Trevor Bull	01905-778917
September 16th	Levis Cup Road Trial	John Hickinbotham	01543-500866
September 30th	Clun Run	Paul Harris	01952-299118
October 14th	Autumn Run	Andy Briggs	0121-544-5938