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T120 OC15 by Brian Prior OC18

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CE Spring 1977 and our 1st Birthday

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Awards for the February 1977 Trial were donated anonymously, entry fees went up from 75p to £1 and Peter Coulter took over as Newsletter Editor. These were all items in the February 1977 Newsletter. It was to be my last Newsletter and I was happy to pass on yet another job.

I have always thought that one of the reasons for the continuing success of KYTC is that we don't just have a Committee - we go further than that by having a working committee and with everyone having a specific job.

There was a Committee Meeting in February at which it was decided to change the date of the November Practice from 13th to 6th November (because of Remembrance Sunday ?). I wonder if this is a factor still understood by the membership ?.

The Committee was also making arrangements for our first National - an A & B event to be held on 4th September 1977 at Peter's Pit Woudham by courtesy of the Gravesend Eagles. There would be a maximum of 150 riders and the entrance fee would be £1.50. That meeting also fixed the date and venue of the 1977 Christmas Party as 17th December at the British Legion Village Hall. At the same venue on 29th January 1978 would be the AGM.

Peter Coulter produced his first Newsletter - issue No 9 in March 1977 - on the newly printed Black and Orange headed paper which had been adopted as the Club's colours. This issue announced the winner of the previous months' competition as Stephen Simcock who won an autographed copy of Don Smith's "Ride It". Ivor Simmonds wrote a whole page about his experiences at Don Smith's Trials School in Essex.

THE KYTC STORY

Chapter 5 - Spring 1977 and our 1st Birthday

(continued)

The Committee meeting in March accepted Kevin Gardner, Gary and Matt Parbutt, John Walker and Curt Nichols as new members. Curt lived in Essex and his acceptance provoked a stormy debate with the Membership Secretary opposing membership of those living outside Kent. When tempers cooled it was agreed that Peter Coulter would monitor the proportion of members from outside the county.

The Club Riding Rules were revised and approved at the Committee Meeting held on 25th March 1977.

The April 1977 Newsletter Editorial spoke of 65 families comprising 87 registered riding members - not bad for a Club effectively only a year old. However, our 1st Birthday in March has passed without celebration as we had all been too busy with keeping up the momentum of running monthly Trials and Practices and planning for the future.

In the centre pages of the April Newsletter Alan published a letter from Ralph Venables.

Peter also reported the Committee decision to discontinue presentation of the awards at the end of each trial as it was placing Sandra and Maureen under an intolerable strain to produce the results so rapidly.

The April Trial was split so that the Class "A" riders rode with the Invicta Club while the younger Classes rode at Lodge Lees. This was to avoid over-crowding at Lodge Lees where numbers had to be limited.

Out of County Riders was a "hot" subject during April and had arisen mainly because of our liaison with the Essex Club. In the end our Committee reached the wise decision to limit the number of 'out of County' members to ten per cent of the total. This was wise because in practice the limit was never likely to be reached and therefore the decision pleased both 'camps'.

It was also a fortunate decision because soon the Club was to enrol the Thompson family - but more of that in another instalment.