

TONY PARKIN – AN ACTIVE LIFE MEMBER WHO SERVED BOTH CLUB AND CENTRE WITH DISTINCTION FOR 50 YEARS

196 people attended Tony's funeral at Great Bardfield Parish Church on 2 December 2011, a measure of the affection and respect he drew from a wide circle of friends and colleagues to whom he had given so much support over the years. Tony joined the Club in the early sixties and rode a Greeves in a few trials before deciding that his strengths were more on the organising side. From that moment, he immersed himself in helping build the Club's reputation for promoting quality events, including national grasstracks. He was Secretary of the Meeting for various events, Club Sec., Treasurer, Tail Light Editor, auditor and Trustee. He was a regular road rider and competed in the ACU National Rally over many years. He was also a hard-working Centre official, holding the positions of Steward, Centre Treasurer and Vice President. But most of all, to those of us privileged to have been close colleagues and friends, Tony was one of the best to be with – an inspiration to get involved with club work, a unique and principled character with an infectious sense of humour, and a thoroughly reliable and dependable person. His untimely passing has left an unbridgeable gap in the lives of many of us who relied on him for a large part of Eastern Centre ACU and Club-related activities.

Richard Sillett

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2012 8.00PM

Without volunteer members to fill all the positions necessary to run the Club, all our trials and MX events would cease to happen. We are in grave danger of having enough of such members to keep the show on the road, particularly in handling the paperwork side of event organisation. The fewer we have left to shoulder what is becoming an increasing burden on those individuals – many being long-serving and way past their obligations to keep serving - the greater the chance that they will lose interest and walk away. So, if you value your membership and the continuity of the Braintree Club, come along to the Onley Arms at Stisted and have a go at sharing the work – always great fun when there's a decent number to split the load, and good for developing new skills (not plumbing) as well as for your CV!

AWARDS PRESENTATION EVENING SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2012 8.00PM

Also at the Onley Arms Stisted, make it a date for this pleasant informal evening and enjoy a FREE buffet – guaranteed tastiness by the pub's own staff. Strawberry Chops himself (Tim Rooney) will be at the front of the queue as usual, so don't let him loose on the food and make himself sick. If you've won a trophy, then the only way you'll get your hands on it is to COME and receive it in person. **Please start returning your last year's CLEANED trophies to John Yearley or a committee member NOW– a good final opportunity is to bring them to the AGM.**

WARNER'S WINTER SALE

MYFORD ML10 lathes; 3 & 4 jaw chucks; set imperial change wheels: £200

AJS 7R gearbox (Burman 7R50): £1000

AMAL carburettor 1 3/8" T.T: £300

AMAL carburettor 1 1/8" T.T: £250

LUCAS racing magneto; anticlockwise rotation; platform fitting: £300

HUSQVARNA Mod. 61 chainsaw 18": £300.

Enquiries to: Jack Warner, 18 Colne Road, Sible Hedingham CO9 3JP

No offers.

TURKEY TROT TRIAL 18 December –

WELCOME BACK.....Eddie and Kevin. Great to see the return of former chairman (but still big in the EC ACU) Eddie Wass to do a day's observing. But that was as far as it went, for even the most senior of Tail Light correspondents failed to get a comment on whether the Wass trials Cub is still under EW ownership. *Here is the great man forcing a smile for the camera, even ever-cheerful Club Steward Roy Rush's greeting couldn't quite do the business!* And just as we were getting on top

of coping with the two Palmer brothers up pops brother Kevin to renew his Club membership from past years. Not only that but he entered the trial and walked off with the Best Novice turkey – watch out Kevin, Roy's mouth was watering at the sight of that bird in your hand at the presentation!



Grandad Steve Butcher on the extremely wet and loggy section one. C of C Phil Read and his team of section designers had worked hard with landowner Peter Clark to incorporate some new, albeit far-flung, woodland areas for the first time. The first riders round seemed frozen stiff in the snow shower that descended over the first hour.



A rare sight these days – a sidecar! Braintree was the top club at one time in this class, with names like Roy and Les Vince, ace passengers Keith Rayner and Dick Clapson, Bob Young/Ken Yearley, the Green Bros, Steve Finch, Mark Wilson, Alan Kidd, Paul Towns, the Hornsby bros – the list goes on, with several EC Championship titles among them. Here our man Bob Chapman shows the determination with driver Mark Kemp that won them their turkeys.

MORE PICTURES ANOTHER TIME. DON'T FORGET THAT THESE TINY BLACK & WHITE IMAGES CAN BE ZOOMED UP IN FULL COLOUR ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE (go to Tail Light link), COURTESY OF OUR WEBMASTER DANIEL WILSON. A HAPPY AND EVENTFUL MOTOR CYCLING NEW YEAR TO ALL!