

Manx Rally Report:- Record crowds swamp Jurby.

Visitors estimated to number between 8 – 10,000 (reckoned to be a record for a one day event in 2009) flocked to the inaugural Jurby Festival organised by the Isle of Man Section. In spite of a dreadful weather forecast, it seemed as though every motorcyclist on the Island made the effort to get to Jurby and all were thoroughly entertained by 250 or so riders circulating the circuit. Interesting machinery included a brand new MV 500 triple identical to the machine being raced in the Classic MGP by Alan Oversby – another superb creation by Dave and Mark Kay which complemented their earlier creation of the fabulous four cylinder Gilera ridden on the day by our Guest of Honour Sammy Miller. There was plenty of family entertainment which included steam traction engines and lorries as well as a strong supporting cast of motorcycle and classic car clubs together with a super display of vintage buses. Unfortunately, the Manx monsoons brought proceedings to a premature end. But, mark my words, this event is going to be BIG. The potential is huge and we are already attracting major media interest.

The more traditional Manx Rally events such as the timed run ala Banbury Run, also benefited from a major makeover as, for the first time (pardon the pun), each rider was electronically timed and to avoid any trickery a midway checkpoint was also incorporated. Octogenarian Eddie Corkill judged it all with absolute perfection riding his Norton Navigator to victory ably assisted by his team mates Pete Addison and Ken Blackburn who finished second and seventh overall thereby snapping up the Team prize.

Other winners included:

Best Lady rider – Linda Allen 1955 Norton Dominator  
Veteran machine – Duncan Fish 1912 Triumph TT Roadster  
Sidecar - Michael and Lorna Cottey  
Vintage Machine – Cliff Earl 1927 Sunbeam TT 90  
Belt Drive – John Whitehead 1922 Triumph Model H  
Mathew Hebb – Youngest rider  
Mauro Garino – Overseas rider  
Alex Fish – Pre war OHC  
Mike Dunn – Best Manx resident not winning a major award  
Mick Hunter – Team Cooper award for the nearest average speed for a post war OHC machine

Even the Concours was affected by the weather, with everyone beating a disorderly retreat as the rain arrived in anger. However, Class winners were:

Veteran – Duncan Fish 1912 TT Triumph  
Pre War – John Whitehead riding the ex Roger Field 1922 Triumph Model H  
Early Post War – Anthony Head 1953 Horex Regina  
Late Post War – Alan and Cathy Payne 1964 BMW R69S

Thursday Road Safety Run – Geof Hanson 1931 Sunbeam Model 9

A number of riders made their feelings known regarding the demise of the Sunday afternoon Castletown gathering. However, the Management Committee had to take into account a number of factors. First and foremost was safety. It was felt that after last year's mishap, when several bikes were damaged in one unfortunate incident, the Rally had outgrown the Castle Square. Too many people /bikes, not enough room, and nearby parking becoming more and more of a problem. Believe it or not we as organisers have to be seen to comply with the dreaded Health and Safety issues. Could a fire engine get into the square to attend a fire? Well, the simple answer is no! However, we are mindful of riders' wishes to meet at Castletown and we intend to discuss the various issues with the town commissioners in due course.

The Closed Roads Parades were also blighted by the weather and it was only possible to run on Wednesday afternoon from Ramsey back to the Grandstand, once again in appalling wet conditions. Riders are seemingly forever questioning why they can't do a full lap or why they have to ride behind a pace car or why they can't go off neatly in pairs etc etc. The fact is, we can only do what the Manx MotorCycle Club will allow us to do. WE ARE ENTIRELY IN THEIR HANDS. All riders had to attend a briefing presented by the Clerk of the Course Phil Taubman on all the do's and don'ts of parading. Riders failing to attend the briefing were not permitted to enter the parades. WE made this so clear in all correspondence and REPEATEDLY on the day of the briefing. But, you've guessed it, people still turn up having failed to attend the briefing expecting to ride. The Manx Motor Cycle Club made it crystal clear to us that this is unacceptable. The Club's tough stance is largely as a result of the lap by the Vincent Owners Club a few years back which saw a trail of broken bikes and bodies scattered round the TT Course! It's as though the MMCC is paranoid about a repeat of this unfortunate behaviour to the extent that "signing on" was taken out of our hands and closely scrutinised by them. Therefore, it can be appreciated what a superb fall back position the Jurby race circuit represents for the VMCC in the event the closed roads parades fall out of favour.

Nevertheless, apart from the weather, riders had plenty to smile about. Good runs around the beautiful Manx lanes and plenty of scoff at the end of the day including a magnificent Bar B Q by kind permission of Pat and Tony East at Kirk Michael and rounded off by a fabulous Gala Dinner and Prize Presentation at the prestigious Villa Marina.

Over 190 riders expressed their views in a survey conducted by Chairman Richard Birch at the dinner and this will be used as a basis for future amendments and improvements. The Isle of Man Section organisers have learned a great deal from our first crack at the Manx Rally and feel sure 2010 will be bigger and even better. Why don't you come on over and see what it's all about!!!

A comprehensive film record of the event on a 3 disc DVD is now available from Martin Warr at a cost of £7.50 incl. UK P&P. email Martin on [warrjm@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:warrjm@hotmail.co.uk) or write to 56, The Park, Yeovil, Somerset. BA 20 1DF

Isle of Man photographers Keigs, have photos from Jurby Festival available to view on their website:- [www.keigs.co.uk](http://www.keigs.co.uk) [click on photo gallery, then sport, then VMCC events 2009, then Jurby track day].