

The National Road Rally 2007 (June 23rd/24th)

The **National Road Rally** is simply an event to encourage motorcycle riders to ride their machines around England calling at a variety of Controls to get their card stamped. It is not about being competitive. It is organised by the British Motorcyclists Federation (BMF) and the Auto-Cycle Union (ACU) and is assisted by MENCAP which is the Rally's chosen charity. Many participants take up sponsorship for MENCAP and if you know that last year's event made £25,000 for them, you can see that we take that part of the event seriously.

The Rally this year has its Final Control at Scarborough and because of the change from last year it means that we do not use some of the Controls from 2006 but we do require extra Controls for this year. We are therefore asking if anybody is willing to organise and run a Control for 2007 at one (or even more if you can do it) of the places which follow.

Alston	Keswick	Skipton
Barnard Castle	Lancaster	South Shields
Bridlington	Leyburn	Stoke on Trent
Carlisle	Middlesbrough	Thirsk
Consett	Morpeth	Ulverston
Driffield	Ormskirk	Watford
Harrogate	Oswestry	Welshpool
Hawes	Penrith	Whitby
Hexham	Pickering	Whitehaven
Hyde	Queensferry	Windermere
Ingleton	Scotch Corner	

However, you will want to know what running a Control is all about. The following gives some guidance.

1. DUTIES OF A CONTROL & ORGANISER

The duties of a Control Team and its organiser are not difficult and consist of:

- Finding a suitable site for a control, (see 2) or using a previously used site if it is still available.
- Getting together a team to run the Control, organise shifts if considered necessary.
- Keeping the control open for the hours specified. (See 5)
- Completing the card of a visiting rider during the Rally.
- Ensuring that the riders sign a form to prove their visit to the control.

2 SITE

Ideally, a Rally Control point should be sited off the public highway in order to conform to traffic regulations. Good sites would be garage forecourts (as long as it does not interfere with vehicles using the garage); café car parks; club rooms with off road parking areas or any privately owned area where a number of motor cycles can be parked and where Control officials can deal with the riders' control cards. Large lay-bys could also be used, if absolutely necessary, but other road users must not be inconvenienced or be given any cause for complaint. The Control must be sited **at or close to the place named as the Control.**

The control must not be near residential areas if noise in the night is a factor.

NOTE: You must have permission of the owner of the land before you confirm your control site to the organisers.

3. FUEL, REFRESHMENTS, REST AREAS

The availability of fuel, refreshments and rest areas can be an advantage **but there is no obligation at all for a Control to provide them.** The onus for finding these facilities lies with the riders. Some Controls have full services available whilst others are simply a car, tent, or even a caravan situated in a lay-by: this adds to the variety of the event. If you wish to provide any of these services feel free to do so, however, how you finance them is a matter for you alone. If you wish to provide a **rest area** then the following criteria applies: **it must be away from the general public in a covered area and have accommodation for at least 10 people who wish to rest or sleep.**

4.

BEST CONTROL AWARD

There is an award for the best control as voted for by the riders. This is done on a percentage basis of riders visiting that control so that it does not tell against a control which has few visitors.

5.

OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

Control organisers will be sent a pack about two weeks before the Rally which will include the exact opening and closing times of that Control. All Controls will close progressively from the outside perimeter inwards so that they are not kept open unnecessarily. The Rally Controls will open at 2pm on Saturday 23rd June and will close at various times progressively from the outside towards Scarborough. This means that the outer Controls close first and then progressively later as you get closer to the final Control which means that some Controls will be open all night. However, do not forget, that when you finish a night Control it is Sunday and for most people this means not going to work.

You do not have to be a motorcyclist, or even have any interest in riding motorcycles, to run a Control: we have Controls run by church groups, publicans, radio hams as well as motorcycle clubs, but what you do have to do is enjoy yourselves. So what can you get out of it?

- You will meet a great bunch of riders from all walks of life who really enjoy riding their bikes.
- You will spend the time with a group of your friends on a really unique event.
- It gets you out of a normal routine away from the pressures of life for a few hours.
- The knowledge that you are keeping alive the long running tradition of The National Road Rally; formerly The National Rally.
- There is no pay, but, even better, some Controls have to stay open all night, so somebody has to keep their eyes open.

If you feel you would like more information or perhaps you would like to have a go, then in the first instance please contact:

The Chief Marshal
Wally Bradshaw
on: 01162 896942
or email on: wallybee@btopenworld.com

You can also check the website:
www.nationalroadrally.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.
