



THE HISTORY OF THE MIDDLESBROUGH & DISTRICT MOTOR  
CLUB

PART 2

BETWEEN THE WARS 1919 - 1939

## FOREWARD

This history of Middlesbrough & District Motor Club was compiled by Alf Buttress, the long standing secretary of Middlesbrough & District Motor Club.

His original document, now out of print, has been re-compiled for publication on the Motor Club's website. It is also available in print format.

The reason for this re-compilation was to provide the history to new readers and interested parties also to coincide with the celebration of the Centenary of the club in 2005.

Re-compiled by:-

DAVID RAYMOND RANSOME  
Elected President December  
2001

# THE HISTORY OF THE MIDDLESBROUGH & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB

Researched by:-

ALFRED VICTOR BUTTRESS  
Elected Hon. Secretary  
January 25th. 1923.

## PREFACE.

The Armistice ending the War with Germany was signed on 11th November 1918 and immediately consultations took place towards recommencing the activities of the Club. The President, Lawrence F. Gjers, had died on 4th Feb.1913 and his son, Vice/President Lawrence Gjers, had been killed at Arras on 4th Oct.1917. A Committee meeting was convened on 13th Feb.1919 with W. H. Rudland in the Chair. G.W.Liddle, J.Gilchrist, C.C.Close, .F.W.Trotter, W.Ryan and W.Pepper attended. This was the commencement of an era in which the Club progressed from local prominence to a nationwide reputation. The great advances made in the design and performance of the Internal Combustion Engine as a result of the War and the interest engendered in same, resulted in the commencement of an era in which the motorcycle and motorcar attracted a new and enthusiastic public.

Another son of the former President, John Gjers, was elected President and he proved to be a most enthusiastic and generous benefactor, encouraging the Club in numerous ways and providing several valuable trophies. He was instrumental in obtaining permission from Lord Zetland for Speed Trials and Races to be run on Saltburn Sands, then controlled by the Zetland Estates and presented the first Gold Cup to be competed for in respect of a 50-mile race for solo motorcycles. He replaced the Gjers Cup won outright by C.W.Smith and provided the "John Gjers Cup" for a Sporting Trial. (This Cup was won outright by F.C.Barker in 1929 who gave it back for perpetual competition.) The Gjers family always had magnificent cars - Rolls-Royce, Straker-Squires. John drove a Bentley.

Fred W. Dixon became an outstanding word, competing in the T.T.Races, Continental Grand Prix's, 500-mile Races at Brooklands, and startled the car-racing fraternity when he transferred from two wheels to four. Ronny Parkinson ("The White Devil of Pendine") also enhanced the name of the Club, both at Saltburn, Pendine and at Southport. Undoubtedly one of the king-pins in the organisation was W (Bill) Ryan whose enthusiasm and drive was responsible for several innovations such as a Hospital Insurance Scheme, Motorcycle Football originated to revive interest in the Richmond Meet and which was subsequently adopted by other Clubs, culminating in an A.C.U. Knockout Competition. With a view to increasing membership he inaugurated a "Motor Club 400" slogan and was prominent in the renting and subsequent acquisition of the present premises in Clarendon Road. It was his idea to have non-stop Dancing, two Bands being engaged at the Annual Ball held in the Town Hall. In its day the premier social function in the Town. Tickets always at a premium. He was President in 1938/45 and died in office.

George Butt Craig.

No History of the Club would be complete without reference and tribute to George Butt Craig, a principal of Craig Taylors, Shipbuilders, Thornaby. He worked like a trojan on the course of the early Saltburn Speed Trials before the roping off was let to a contractor and subsequently the local Council. He did attend subsequent Speed Trials, traveling by sea, by aeroplane, by motorcycle, by car and by shanks's pony. In 1920 a new revolutionary motorcycle was brought out - the A.E.C., a flat horizontally opposed twin with an integral gearbox. George acquired one of these and was seen to be running it in on the stand at the foot of Ormesby Bank prior to one of the Hill Climbs. On the occasion of a visit to Runswick Bay in a red Itala with a full complement of passengers he took the car down on to the beach and re-ascended the hill, which in those days was in a very rough condition. It was reputed that he almost shot some of the passengers out as it hit one of the bumps. He was an irrepressible joker. We have a photo of him playing in the first motorcycle football match in a mutilated hat. He could be relied upon to create a considerable panic in any hotel where the Club was staying.

Another character in those far-off-days was Jimmy Jobborn who hailed from the Midlands. In addition to competing in Speed events he, in his later years, assisted other members to tune their engines and it was a byword that "Jimmy Jobborn had breathed on it". He died in 1953 and there is a clock in the Bar to his memory.

I have gone into some detail of Competition winners in the immediate post-War years as these riders were undoubtedly the "pioneers",

As I have researched through the Minutes, Annual Reports, copies of the Journal produced during the 20 years covered in Part 2, I have been conscious of the difficulty I have found in writing a continuous and interesting story. I am sure that the reader will find on occasions passages are out of their context and my only excuse is that often days have elapsed between the dictation of part of one year and the remainder, which inevitably resulted in the disjointment which I am conscious must be found.

I hope that those who may peruse this Record in the future will at least consider that my efforts have been worth while.

May 1973

A.V.B

## 1919

At a committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February it was decided to ask for the return of all cups. Circulars issued by the London Guarantee Accident Co. in respect of insurance were enclosed with the notice to members calling a General Meeting. This was held on the 13th March at Hintons Cafe, 50 members being present. M. Jefferson was in the Chair, Stanley Sadler resigned his membership due to pressure of business. The Balance Sheet and Committee's Report was adopted. It was agreed to place on record the Club's deep regret at the death of the late President, Lawrence F,Gjers, and members who had been killed or died during the War.

The following were elected:-

President, John Gjers. All Vice-Presidents were re-elected,  
Committee - G.H.Blackburn, A.W.Foster, T,A,Gjertsen, M.Jefferson, G.W,Liddle,  
R.Sorrel, W.Ryan, V.Taylor and A,Young  
Joint Hon. Secretaries:- C.C.Close and W,Randall.  
Captain - J.Gilchrist, Vice-Captain F.W.Dixon,

A vote of thanks was passed to J,Gilchrist and F.W,Trotter for their past services as Secretaries,

The Annual Subscription was raised to 7/6d for Gents and 2/6d for Ladies.

Government Control of Roads.

It was agreed to write to the three M.P's for the district and Town protesting in the name of the Club against the "Ministry of Ways and Communications Bill", The said Bill was deemed unsuitable and against the interests of motorists so long as roads were included and subsequently Penny Williams M.P, and Trevelyan Thompson M.P. replied.

The Committee was instructed to consider:

1. Petrol supplies in bulk. (Later found to be impracticable),
- 2, Meeting place in the Town.
3. Social Runs.
- 4, Social Club,

C,W.Smith offered a prize of 3/5 guineas. R.H,L,Pickering offered a Gold Medal and Cups by Mr Craddy and Mr Crombie.

March. A.C.U.

100 copies of the A.C,U, Illustrated leaflets were received and receipt of the affiliation fee of one guinea was acknowledged. Members complained at the attitude of the A,C,U, that no notification of facilities or benefits under Division C, especially the "Get-you-Home" scheme, no mention of badges or numbers and membership cards, had been received. Subsequently it is recorded that a reply made everything satisfactory.

## Meeting Room

An offer of a room by Tates Cafe for Committee meetings at 2/0d a time was considered unsatisfactory. It was subsequently reported that a room at the Primitive Methodist Church, Borough Road could be had, but only for Friday evenings, which was not acceptable, A room at the Victoria Club, Clarence Terrace was to be investigated. G.W.Liddle agreed that meetings could continue to be held at his premises and he was paid the sum of 2/0d per meeting.

## Bank

Ordered that Lloyds Bank Ltd, be the bankers of the Club and that all cheques drawn should be signed by the Chairman and either of the Secretaries.

G.W,Liddle and W.H. Rudland were elected Trustees of trophies belonging to the Club.

A Competitions & Entertainments Committee were elected and a Smoking Concert was suggested for the 16th April and that £5 be allowed for same, to be held at the Borough Hotel, Corporation Road at a cost of 10/0d. Artists were paid 10/0d and 7/6d respectively. Comedians were Will Penketh and W.Hall, Instrumentalist Braithwaite, plus a pianist. Trophies belonging to the Club to be collected and put on view.

The Richmond Meet, Good Friday, to start from the Sadler Memorial near the Town Hall at 10 a.m. M.Jefferson to arrange a Secret Competition, Club H.Q. at the Black Lion Hotel, Richmond. Machines to be set off at ½ minute intervals. H,V,Taylor gave a guinea prize for same. Press Secretaries – G.W,Liddle and V,Taylor were elected.

Presentation to Jim Gilchrist for his services to the Club on the occasion of his marriage was decided upon and agreed that all members be circularised asking them to support same.

## June

W.Ryan appealed for more enthusiasm in competitions and complained of officials' non-attendance at the Yearby Hill Climb on 31<sup>st</sup> May. It was reported that members appeared not to want competitions but more social runs.

Mr T.A. Gjertsen, having left the district, Mr Pepper was elected to his position on the Committee.

Invitation extended to Mr Gill, (Editor of the Sports Gazette), to attend the Giers Cup Trial.

At the recommendation of the President, John Gjers, Mr J.Mills was elected a Vice President and he was written to advising him of this and asking him if he would provide a car to go round the 200-miles Trial course.

## COMPETITIONS AND SOCIAL RUNS.

A.C.U, was asked for a formula on Sidecar Hill Climbing competitions. The following competitions were arranged:

May 3rd: Old Crock & Sidecar Competition. Sidecar Formula CT <sup>2/10</sup>,  
May 17th: 100-Mile Reliability Trial for Scott Cup. Refreshments arranged at the Black Swan Hotel, Pickering, Entrance Fee 2/0d. Awards subject to 10 entries. Scott Cup & Gold Medal. 2nd: Silver Medal or prize 7/6d, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bronze Medal or prize 5/0d. Best Novice: New Hudson Cup and Bronze Medal. No 4 wheeled vehicle to be allowed to compete.

May 21st; Club Run to Ingleby.

May 25th: Club Run to Whitley Bay.

May 28th: Speed Judging Competition.

May 31st; Hill Climb.

June 4th: Club Run to Durham.

June 15th: Ladies Day - Picnic on Whitby Moors above Runswick Bay, leaving Marton Bungalow at 10-30 a.m.

June 18th: 40-Mile Reliability Trial for the Craddy Cup, start Marton Bungalow 6-.30 p.m.

June 21st; Speed Judging Competition, start Marton Bungalow 3 p.m.

The Motor Tradars Union to be approached for prizes.

July 2nd: 200-Miles Reliability Trial for the Gjers Cup. Hold on the same course as in 1914 starting from Marton Bungalow at 8 a.m. Lunch at Bowness-on-Windermere, Tea at Brough, John Gjers appointed Judge and asked to provide a car.

Winners: 1st J.Gilchrist and Ladies Prize.

2nd W.Ryan, 3rd Frank Dixon, 4th Fred Dixon.

A special Committee meeting to be convened to overhaul and renew the whole of the rules re. Reliability Competitions.

July 9th: Team Trial, teams to consist of 2 solo and 1 sidecar machine.

July 13th: Club Run to Whitby, leaving Marton Bungalow at 11 a.m.

July 16th: Club Run to Seaton Carew by the New Road (built during the War by German Prisoners-of-War labour under the Tees Conservancy Engineering Staff) with a speed test on route. Meet at Transporter Bridge at 6-30 p.m.

July 23rd; Ormesby Hill Climb for Novices only. Meet at Ormesby Bank at 6-30 pm. Messrs F.Rist and E.Hall offered prizes for the Novice Hill Climb.

August.

No Competitions to be held during the month and social runs to be left with A.E.Young to organise.

Sept. 6th: Run to Sutton Bank in conjunction with the York & District M.C.C, Open Hill Climb Competition.

Sept.13th: Sidecar Competition for the McAdams Cup. Non-stop sections would be from Leyburn barring railway crossings. One or two hills on the return would be observed. Penalty for a stop excepting for tyres - 5 marks. Failure to climb a hill - 5 marks.

Assisted Climb - 3 marks. Time penalty for every ½-minute or part of same - 1 mark, Checks to be taken at any point at the discretion of the timekeeper. Entry fee 2/6d, late entry 3/6d leaving Marton Bungalow at 2-15 p.m.

Sept.20th: Fuel Consumption for the Sadler Bowl. J.Gilchrist to provide the formula for this event - course Brotton via Guisborough, Saltburn, Guisborough and back. Starting from Dorman Museum at 2-30 p.m.

Weigh-in at Ormesby Station.

Sept.27th: Novice Bill Climb.

#### NEW MEMBERS ELECTED:

60 new members were elected during the year including - J.F.Dixon, F.Shepherd, Miss Thew (Mrs F.W.Dixon), G.H.Blackburn, R.H.L.Pickering, A.Blackburn, J.Mills, Tom Hatfield, Mrs Gilchrist, J.H.Ogilvie.

## 1920

The A.G.M. was held in Hintons Cafe on Thursday, 26th February, the Chair being taken by M.Jefferson. The Balance Sheet and Committee's Report was submitted by the Hon. Secretaries and was accepted. This recorded a membership of 151, an increase of 36 over the previous year, The Income was £62,19.4d and Expenditure £36,18.8d, leaving a balance in hand of £26,0.8d. The Assets were valued at £35,16.2d and Liabilities at £8.

M.Jefferson gave a report on a meeting of representatives of 20 Clubs at York to consider the Richmond Meet on Good Friday. It was resolved that the yearly subscription be increased to 10/6d and the Secretaries be paid 3/0d per head on the male members with a minimum of £10/10/0d.

### Club Premises

Suggested that the Committee seek out suitable quarters for a Club Room. G.W.Liddle thought that the funds of the Club would not be able to stand the expense of a Social Club Room and that the matter should be put to the whole of the members.

### Officers Elected:

President J.Gjers, Vice-Presidents - S.Sadler, F.Scott, W.Asmstrong, H.E.Kitching, C.McAdams. F.Rist, T.J.Crombie, W.Sanderson, W.Rudland and R.S.Scoon. Captain J.Gilchrist.

In accepting the appointment Mr Gilchrist also thanked the members for the handsome present made to him on the occasion of his marriage.

Vice-Captain F.Dixon.

Hon-Secretaries, H.S.Williams and J.Ogilvie who were also to take on the Treasurership.

Committee - W.Ryan, A.W.Foster, M.Jefferson, A.Young, G.H.Blackburn, W.Randall, H.V.Taylor, R.Freernan, F.Garvey.

It is noted that G W Liddle failed to gain election by 1 vote. He later resigned his position as guarantor of all cups and his membership of the club, which was accepted with regret.

### The Annual Dinner

This was revived and was held at the Wellington Hotel on 14<sup>th</sup> December and for the first time lady members were present. It is reported that the ladies added "charm and glamour to the proceedings" holding there own in an excellent manner, resulting in a most successful and enthusiastic function. Following the success of this function the Committee, following an urgent request, promoted a Whist Drive & Dance in the Town Hall, Middlesbrough on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 1921, the tickets for same being 10/6d each.

During the early part of the year J Ogilvie resigned his position as one of the secretaries and H Vernon Taylor resigned his position on the Committee. A Blackburn was appointed in his place. The Committee found difficulty in

obtaining suitable premises for the Club's HQ. Taking into consideration the high rentals they had done nothing further in this matter.

### Yorkshire Centre ACU

A Yorkshire Centre of the ACU having being formed, the Club was affiliated to same, the fee being 1/6d per member.

### Saltburn Speed Trials

A keen desire was expressed to hold Open Speed Trials and the President, John Gjers, was consulted with a view to securing permission to hold such an event on Saltburn Sands. Permission for same was granted by Lord Zetland and an application was made to the Yorkshire Centre for the event to be held during 1921.

### Competitions and Social Runs

The opening run took place to Richmond on Good Friday. 27 members turned out. A novel machine starting competition was held, competition being blindfolded in the Market Place. F Shephers secured the first prize.

During the year 7 Hill Climbs, 2 Surprise Runs, 3 Speed-Judging Competitions, 2 Team Trials, 1 Blindfold Competition and a 45 mile Reliability Trial was held, all of which received very good entries.

They were:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| May 8 <sup>th</sup>    | Trial for the Scott Bowl – 1 <sup>st</sup> C W Smith  |
| June 23 <sup>rd</sup>  | 200 mile Trial for the Gjers Cup – 1 <sup>st</sup> F W Dixon, Lady passenger Miss Thew. Other prizes given by W Armstrong and W Tap Smith. Lunch at Bowness-on-Windermere and Tea at Brough.  |
| July 18 <sup>th</sup>  | Sidecar Trial for McAdams Cup – 1 <sup>st</sup> J Elcote.   |
| July 28 <sup>th</sup>  | Fuel Consumption Trial for the Sadler Bowl (Benzol for same given by Norman Sadler) – 1 <sup>st</sup> J T Jobborn.  |
| Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Scoon Trial, Silver Bowl given by Rankin S Scoon and Gold Medal presented by J Ogilvie.   |
| Sept 8 <sup>th</sup>   | Trial for Silver Cup to be won outright, to be presented by the President, John Gjers, in the Cleveland & Hambleton Hills, which included the famous Rosedale Bank. 30 competitors took part. 1 <sup>st</sup> – F W Dixon. Presentation of trophies and prizes took place at a Smoking Concert in the Wellington Hotel on 17 <sup>th</sup> November, the Crests Party of Stockton supplied the harmony. |
| Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> | Trial on course selected by C W Smith – 1 <sup>st</sup> R S Scoon.  |

The Club was represented in the TT Races by F W Dixon on an Indian in the Senior Race. He suffered a puncture on the 4<sup>th</sup> lap which spoilt his chance of success. He also competed in the St. Andrews Speed Trials, being successful in 2 events and competed at Chatsworth and Sutton Bank. Stan Jones competed in the 6 Days Trial and obtained a Gold Medal. T Wright competed in the Cambridge Trials and was successful in 3 classes. Obtaining a Gold Medal in each.

#### New Members Elected

50 new members were elected including J P Bell, T W Denny, Phil Bach, G Wallace, E B Young, H V Barker, H Blincoe, N Thompson, DR S Belas & A V Buttress.

## 1921

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1921.

The name was changed from the "MIDDLESBROUGH & DISTRICT MOTORCYCLING CLUB" to "MIDDLESBROUGH & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB".

Matt Jefferson, who had served the Club for many years as Chairman was, on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1921 elected permanent Chairman of the Committee. At the same meeting it was reported that he was indisposed and W Ryan was elected Deputy Chairman.

At a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February Mr Jefferson resigned his post as Chairman which was accepted with regret.

It was eventually decided to collect subscriptions for a testimonial to Mr Jefferson.

On April 21<sup>st</sup> 1921 Phil Bach offered a room for a meeting at the Empire Hotel, Middlesbrough, free of charge. Advantage of this was taken until the Club acquired its own premises.

### Elections:

President: John Gjers

Vice Presidents: S Sadler JP, C McAdams, T D Stewart, E Hall, J T Crombie, W H Rudland, H E Kitching, D Cooper, A W Foster, Dr S Belas, Dr B Kennedy, W Armstrong, J Mills, G Butt Craig, Phil Bach, G Sanderson, F Scott, C N Sadler, H Taylor, C W Smith.

Captain: J Gilchrist

Vice Captain: F W Dixon

The 2 Hon-Secretaries were re-elected but it was decided to appoint a third and T L Calvert was elected.

Auditors: W Weaver and W Munnoch

Committee: M Jefferson, W Ryan, G H Blackburn, A Young, S Jones, J T Jobborn, R L Freeman, F Shepherd and A Blackburn

A special meeting of the Committee was convened to consider the organisation of the forthcoming Saltburn Speed Trials. This was attended by many of the Vice Presidents and in order to provide money for the various trophies which were to be offered, G B Craig and J Mills contributed £20.00 each, President John Gjers £10.00 for a Cup for the fastest time of the day. (This cup is now in the Club having been given in the Will of the late F W Dixon). A number of other Vice Presidents contributed 5 guineas each. And so were purchased the 3 Challenge Cups for a 20 mile Yorkshire Championship which are still being competed for today and there was a special 3 lap race for amateurs i.e. Experts barred. Financially the Saltburn Event showed a credit balance of £80.

The first Annual Ball & Whist Drive was held in the Town Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Music was provided by G Hart's Orchestra and supper at a cost of 4/3d. The Hall was decorated by Messers Dickson & Benson. The Whist Drive and Supper was held in the Crypt, A Young obtaining the necessary permission for the Dance to continue until 2 a.m. and the decision not to have a bar was rescinded at the next Committee Meeting. The Committee applied that keenness which had often been shown in competitions and literally compelled success. The function was attended by 299 which laid the foundation for future efforts in that direction.

The Opening Run took place on Good Friday to Richmond, 70 members making the journey. The event was organised by the York and Middlesbrough Clubs and officially attended by 36 Clubs from all parts of the country, over 800 taking part in the count. These, and the attached motorists, were estimated to number some 2000. Mrs Gilchrist was successful in winning the prize for the best kept machine.

The Presentation of Trophies and Prizes won during the year was made at a Smoking Concert held in the Star & Garter Hotel on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Chair was occupied by George Butt Craig who also made the presentations. Harmony was provided by George Mackie and H R Clark.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ball held in the Town Hall on December 16<sup>th</sup>. It was undertaken at a time when many similar functions had to be cancelled owing to lack of support but due to the energy put into same by the Committee and friends, it proved to be the greatest success of any social event of the Club, being attended by 409 guests.

Early in the year M Jefferson resigned his position as Chairman due to ill-health. This was accepted with great regret considering the yeoman service which he had rendered to the Club in the past. Mr Calvert resigned his position as Assistant Secretary and E B Young was appointed in his place. The Club also with great regret lost, by a fatal accident, one of its most enthusiastic members, George Wallis. A large number of members paid homage and respect at his funeral.

#### Club HQ

It was reported that certain steps had been taken to secure same and details were to be discussed at the AGM. The membership at the end of the year had increased by 45. The Income was £900.7.6d, the Expenditure £810.0.9d leaving a balance of £84.6.9d. The assets of the Club were valued at £84.6.9d and the liabilities of £341.0d.

## Competitions & Social Runs

During the year the following events took place:-

6 Hill Climbs on of which, on Yearby Bank, was abandoned owing to a regrettable accident to W Haidens. Later it was reported that Messers Sadler & Co. were paying the whole of the expenses incurred through his accidents.

Speed Judging Competition, Fuel Consumption Trial, 6 Reliability Trials, Consistency Competition. 4 Club Runs to Sutton Bank, Farndale, Buttertubs and Shepherds Gorge.

The trial for the Scott Bowl was won by F Shepherd. Rankin S Scoon again offered a Silver Bowl to be won outright and Gold Medals were offered by G A Mackie and J.Ogilvie. The winner was A.V Buttress. The McAdam Trial was won by A.V.Buttress.

The first Saltburn Speed Trials were held on 9<sup>th</sup> July. This was one of the 3 events allocated by the Yorkshire Centre, being open to members of any club associated with the Centre. It proved to be the best supported and most successful Centre event of the season attracting 228 entries including some of the best riders in the country.

The trophies won were subsequently presented at the Yorkshire Centrets Dinner, the Club being represented by John Gjers, G.B,Craig, A V Foster, F.W..Dixon, J.T,Jobborn, W.Ryan and H,Williams.

The 3 official Clqmpionship Challenge Trophies were won:

350 cc, class - Hugh Mason, speed - 45,07 m.p.h.

600 cc, class -. J.Whalley, speed - 50,46 m.p.h.

(he pushed home to win the T.T.Race)

1000cc, class - F.W.Dixon, speed - 55,53 m.p.h.

The solid Silver Cup presented by John Gjers for the fastest time of the day was won by F,W, Dixon with a speed of 89.48 m.p.h. over the flying kilometre on a Harley Davison.

55 specially struck medallions were given to successful competitors amongst whom were Miss Elsie Armstrong, Stan Jones, G Wallis, J.T,Jobborn, A.Deuchars, E.B,Young, C,N,Sadler, W,Robinson and T.W.Denney, all members.

The Gjers Cup Trial was held on 20<sup>th</sup> July over the usual 200 mile course in the Lake District - an entry of 21. The winner was C.W.Smith who won the Cup outright having won it 3 times. Sidecar prize J,R, and Mrs Jenney. 350cc class L.Dickinson, New Hudson Cup for the Best Novice by F.Shepherd. The President, with his proverbial generosity provided another Cup in its place in order that the Club could still have the Premier event of the season, the Gjers Reliability Trial and it was hoped to make it a 2 day event in 1922.

On July 27<sup>th</sup> the 45 miles trial took place with 16 competitors, winner A.V.Buttress.

The Fuel Consumption Trial over a 30 mile course was won by J.Gilchrist.

The Presidents Trial was held on 11th Sept. the course an entirely new one including the Buttertubs and the Stake & Stoop Top, 21 competitors took part, winner A.V. Buttress, Special Prize H. (Cap) Armstrong.

C.W. Smith offered a Silver Cup to be won outright with a view to finding the most consistent rider of the year. Marks were allocated for entry and prize-winners during the whole of the year. Winner F. Shepherd.

The Club was represented by F.W. Dixon in the T.T. Races, the 500 mile Race at Brooklands, the French and Belgium Grand Prix. He finished 2nd in the Senior T.T. Race and 2nd in the 500-mile Race.

Other members who participated in the events outside the Club and were successful, were John Giers, C.N. Sadler, J.T. Jobborn and F. Shepherd,

#### NEW MEMBERS

Elected during 1921 were 40 including Alec Thomson, R. Smiles, C. Moody, Mr & Mrs Tom Ainsley and W. Maidens.

## 1922

A.G.M held on January 31<sup>st</sup>,

Election of Officers:

President - John Gjers.

V/Presidents - S.Sadler, E.Hall, A.W.Foster, J.Mills, Phil Bach, C.N.Sadler, C.W.Smith, Dr.S.Belas, Dr.B.Kennedy, Dr.D.J.F.O'Flanagan, A. Robertson, C.McAdams, D.Cooper, W,Armstrong, G.B.Craig, F.Scott, V.Taylor, A.J.Young, G,H, Blackburn, Ben Wright, J.Wye and G,Mitchell.

Committee - A.Blackburn, R.H.L,Pickering, W.Ryan, G.A.Mackie, W,T.Smith, E,B.Young, E.Lund, A,V,Buttress, J,T.Jobborn, Hon,Sec. – H.S.Williams. Sports Sec - F.Shepherd.

Treasurer T.Ainsley.

Captain - J,Gilchrist, V-Captain -- F.W,Dixon,

Auditors - W.A,Munnoch, W,Weaver,

The Committee were recommended to consider a donation to the Hospitals and that an effort be made to hold a number of the Trials on a Saturday.

E,Blackburn was elected an Honorary Life member and the proposal was carried with acclamation.

Note: E.Blackburn was 86 and was reputed to be the oldest motorcyclist in the country, father of George and Alf.Blackburn:

President John Gjers was elected a Vice/President of the Yorkshire Centre.

March 26th. The Winter Reliability Trial for the H.V,Taylor Trophy. There were 20 competitors, winner D,Brigham of Malton.

April 6th. Trial for the New Hudson Cup, won by A.V.Buttress.

Good Friday

Club Run to the Richmond Meet attended by 50 members including lady riders. During the season 9 Reliability Trials, 5 Hill Climbs and 2 Speed-Judging and 1 Surprise Run and Fuel Consumption Trial, plus the well-known Speed Trials on Saltburn Sands, were held. No less than 11 Club Runs took place which were well supported.

The Trial for the Scott Bowl took place on April 23<sup>rd</sup> Won by W,Tattersall during the course of which there was a break which allowed members to witness the freak Hill Climb on Rosedale Abbey Bank organised by the Bradford Club.

June 11th. C.W,Smith Trial. Entry of 23 – E Lund won the Silver Cup outright.

July 1st. Saltburn Speed Trials. The Event proved to be more successful than the 1921 event, attracting a record entry including the majority of the best riders of the day.

The Yorkshire Championship Challenge Trophies were won by G.S.Boston, 350 class, speed 50.84 m.p.h. C.P.Wood, 600 class, speed 51.13 m.p.h., F.W.Dixon, 1000 class, speed (He rode for two laps without a saddle.)

The Silver Cup presented by the President for the fastest time of the day was won by that popular Brooklands man, Lt.Col.R.N.Stewart with a speed of 81.05 m.p.h. on a Trump Anzani.

The early part of the programme was marred by an accident to the only woman rider, Mrs M.C.Jennison, the lady-friend of Col,Stewart.

In the remaining events 68 Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals were awarded. Local members receiving same were J.F.Dixon, F.Shepherd, J.T.Jobborn, C.N.Sadler, J.H.Pickering and T.H. Blackburn.

The 200-miles Trial for the Gjers Cup was made into a 2-day Event over the usual course to the Lake District and was marred by atrocious weather - winner E.Lund.

August 27th. - McAdams Trial - winner E.Lund.

A new Trial was run for the G.L,Wye Cup, Here again the weather proved very bad and only 7 competed. Winner was H. (Cap) Armstrong.

September 17th. - John Gjers Reliability Trial. The President on being told of the course said it was not stiff enough but it was reported that not one competitor managed to complete the course. Results - 1st C.W.Smith, 2nd A.V.Buttress.

Oct,14th. - Fuel Consumption Trial - winner G.Dawson.

Oct.17th. - Hill Climb at Yearby Bank to which prominent riders of Yorkshire were invited. There were 91 entries.

The Annual Dinner was held on January19th at the Wellington Hotel (limited to male members only), attended by 60 members, Tickets 7/6d.

A Smoking Concert & Prize Presentation held at the Corporation Hotel in November. Chair was occupied by G.Butt Craig. Harmony was provided, by the Astral Concert Party and was voted a huge success.

The 3rd Annual Ball held in the Town Hall on December 15th. Recorded that this event was now established as the premier Ball of the District. Tickets had to be limited to 400, all of whom voted it better than ever.

The Club was again represented at all important events by Fred W.Dixon, C.N.Sadler, J,T.Jobborn and F.Shepherd,

F.W,Dixon competed in the Senior T,T.Race but retired.

A motorcycle Film was exhibited at the Grand Electric Theatre on Feb.17th and neighboring Clubs were invited to attend,

HEADQUARTERS. A special Committee was formed to go thoroughly into the matter and report. Agreed that in respect of the honorarium the Secretary should receive 2/3d and the Assis. Sec. 1/3d per head respectively. Also agreed that the subscription of new members be tendered by the proposer or seconder at the meeting when elected and that the sub, for visiting members be 7/6d. Subsequently a special meeting was held on Feb.22nd to discuss a proposed scheme.

NEW MEMBERS - 68 including Geoff.Liddle (re-elected), George M.Liddle, W.Weaver, .A.W.Armstrong, Colin Salmon, V.C,Denton, Mrs J.R,Jenney, Dr.W.Wyn Williams, J,D,Fell (Scarborough), R,F,Parkinson. 3 lady members - Mrs Graham, Mrs E,Bellaby and Miss Proctor.

## 1923

The Annual Dinner was held at the Corporation Hotel on January 19th, tickets being 5/- and was limited to 80 persons.

The Annual Meeting was held at Hintons Cafe on 25th January, the Chair being taken by G,Butt Craig and it was reported in respect of 1922 that the membership amounted to 152 which showed a decrease of 6. The Income to £701 and the Expenditure to £605 leaving a balance in hand of £96, A letter was read from L.B.Dickinson suggesting that the Club nominate a rider for the Amateur Road Race to be held in the Isle of Man on Sept.27th.

The Pres. John Gjers was re-elected and the following V/Presidents G.B.Craig, L,Hall, .A.V,Foster, J.Mills, Phil Bach, C,N,Sadler, Dr.S.Belas, Dr.B.Kennedy, Dr,D,J.F.O'Flanagan, A.,Robertson, C,McAdam, W.Arsmstrong, A.J,Young, H.Scott, G,H.Blackburn, G.L,Wye, L,Mitchell. W,T,Smith General Sec. after the re-election of H.S.Williams who thanked the members for the honour conferred and said he was reluctantly compelled to decline owing to pressure of business. A,V,Buttress was then elected to the position. Sports Sec.- A.W,Smith, Financial Sec.- T,A,insley. Capt. J,Gilchrist, V/Cant – F.W.Dixon. Hon\_,Solicitor - T,Belk. Auditors –A.W.Munnoch, W.Weaver. Committee - A,Blackburn, F,Shepherd, H,S.Williams, E.Lund, W,Ryan, A,Thomson, G.A.Mackie, J,R.Jenney and J.T,Jobborn.

Committee were asked to arrange for social runs on the Wednesdays during the year,

Richmond Meet, 1923. Reported that the Yorkshire Centre had decided to abandon the Richmond Meet on account of the expense entailed and the large amount of work necessary to make the event a success. The Yorkshire Centre was asked to reconsider the matter and that it should be held also as a Social Run. It was subsequently decided to advise the Yorkshire Centre and the Press that the Club would organise the Richmond Meet and invite all clubs to meet them there on Good Friday. The event to be of a purely social nature and thus abandoning the competition part, and included as an added attractor, the first MotorCycle Football Match, Darlington versus Middlesbrough.

Another match was played at Ripon on Whit. Monday.

A Gymkhana event was run and the winners received a prize value 5/0d. A collection of £3.7.0d sent to the Mayor of Richmond for distribution amongst local charities.

Motor Taxation. - Agreed to write the A.C.U, that the members of the Club met in their A.G,M, consider that the only fair method of taxation is a tax on petrol.

At the first Committee Meeting A,Blackburn was elected Chairman and C.N.Sadler Vice/ Chairman.

The Annual. Ball was fixed for December 14th at the Town Hall.

At a meeting of the Committee on March 1st C.J, (Charlie) Halliman was elected Hon. Ambulanceman to the Club and it is only fair to say that he served in that capacity faithfully for many years and is still an honorary member of the Club today (1972).

T.H.Blackburn. - Subscription list was opened for the benefit of Tommy Blackburn who had met with an accident whilst returning from a Hill Climb at Scarborough.

50-Miles Trial. - A Cup presented by W,Ryan and still being competed for today, plus the New Hudson Cup to be won outright.

Gymkhana and Football Match. - Arranged to be held at Darlington.

Decided to ask the Yorkshire Centre to start their meetings earlier so that delegates could get home the same night.

Decided that the sum of £25 be given towards the riders' expenses in the Amateur Road Race and that a Gymkhana be organised to assist in the defraying of this expense and it was subsequently agreed that C,N,Sadler be the Club's nominee.

Saltburn Speed Trials. - The offer of J, Hudson & Sons of Saltburn of £21 to rope the course was accepted. Also decided to have an official dinner after the event and that chief officials be given complimentary tickets.

Dr. D,J,F,O'Flanagan presented a Cup, same size and proportions as the other 3, for a 20-mile Championship Race. The winners of the Championships were:  
250cc. G.Rennard, 350cc. G.Rennard, 600cc. W,Wilkinson. 1000cc  
George Grinton. Fastest time of the day was made by George Grinton,  
Harley-Davison, on the Flying Kilo at 92.7 m.p.h.

Annual Ball. - At the request of the Y.M.C.A. and other organisations the Committee decided to change the date of the Ball as it clashed with the Carnival Week, being organised by the Y.M.C,A, Tickets 10/6d, J,Hurst's Band. Catering by Mrs.E.Smith, decorations by Dickson & Benson. Lighting Harrison Bros. At the request of one Committee man (F,Shepherd), no limelights be incorporated. Winterschladens to apply for a Bar licence.

Smoking Concert & Presentation of Prizes fixed for Wednesday December 12th at the Corporation Hotel. The winners of trophies were:

Scott Trial - W,Tattersall. Wye Trial - H. (Cap)Armstrong.

50-miles Trial - A.V.Buttress. Gjers Cup Trial - J.Gilchrist.

Ladies Prize - Miss Barker.

C.W.Smith Trial - H, (Cap)Armstrong. Sadler (Bowl) Fuel Consumption Trial - G,Coverdale. John Gjers Trial - H.(Cap) Armstrong.

Also 2 Hill Climbs were held, fastest time of the day being made by T.W.Denney and J,F.Dixon respectively.

NEW MEMBERS. 62 were elected and it was decided to issue a circular pointing out the advantages of being a member, to be distributed to non-members.

1000 were printed. New members included TA, Hanson (President 1957/59 and Assit. Hon. Secretary & Editor of the Motor Club Journal). J. Blakison (see later re. Roseberry Topping)~, Fred, Walter and Tommy Creasor, Harry Whitfield, Ronnie Richardson, J. Parsons, Norman Tattersall and Walter Upton

C.W. Srnith offered a Cup to be won outright.

W.T. Smith resigned as Sports Secretary which was accepted with regret, A.V. Buttress, Hon. Secretary and T. Ainsley, Hon. Treasurer, represented the Club at the Centre Dinner & Prize Presentation together with A.W. Foster.

The sum of five guineas was voted to a Centre Presentation Fund for W.A. Dovener, Yorkshire Centre Secretary.

Christmas Party. - It was agreed that instead of the usual Dinner the Club organise a Christmas Party and a Sub-committee was appointed to arrange same.

Secretaries' Honoraria. - Announced that a sum of £12 had been voted to this and it was to be equally divided between the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. This in respect of the organisation of the Saltburn Speed Trials. Further agreed that the sum of 3/0d per member be also equally divided.

Report on the Centre Dinner & Prize Distribution was made by the Hon. Secretary and a letter thanking Dr. D.J.F. O'Flanagan for his practical interest in the matter.

The Treasurer in dealing with the Clubs finances reported that a profit of .£22 resulted from the Annual Ball.

Presentation to John Gjers. - Decided to open a subscription list to suitably present a testimonial to Mr Gjers on the occasion of his marriage and H.S. Williams was appointed to take charge of this matter.

Hon. Secretary, having been in correspondence with the Secretary of the Bombay Motor Club, letters passing between them were read. (Badge in Club).

Decided to nominate John Gjers as a Vice-President of the Yorkshire Centre A.C.U,

Agreed to present Mr J. Blakison with the Club's Bronze Medal being the first member to climb Roseberry Topping on a motorcycle.

Alex Thompson drew attention to the danger of large clots of mud and earth left by farmers on the roads near the entrance to their fields and decided to write to the A.C.U. asking for guidance in the matter,

At the subsequent A.G.M. it was reported that the membership was 160 gentlemen and 22 ladies, an increase of 30. The Income was £657 and Expenditure £538

leaving a balance of £119. After Liabilities had been assessed the credit balance of £101 showed an increase of £21 over 1922.

Mention was made of the showing of the Motorcycle film at the Grand Electric Theatre and a first Motorcycle Football match at the Richmond Meet, the opposition being Darlington who were beaten by 2 goals to nil, Apparently the game had caught on, numerous enquiries having been received from motor clubs, not only in this country but as far distant as Bombay.

Many meetings between Darlington and Middlesbrough at Motorcycle Football, Cricket, Football and Billiards took place and it is reported that Middlesbrough remained undefeated. The Middlesbrough motorcycle Football Team were first defeated in a match at York following which a considerable discussion took place as to whether it was lawful for a man to dribble a ball between his foot and the machine.

The final event of the year was a Hill Climb at Yearby Bank where some very fine riding was witnessed. H.L. Young of Sunderland riding 2¾ A.J.S, swept up the hill at 72.15 m.p.h. winning all but the 1000 cc. class. Fastest time of the day was again made by Frank Dixon with a speed of 79.32 m.p.h.

The Club was represented at almost every important event in the British Isles and on the Continent by F.W. Dixon who was successful in winning the first Sidecar T.T. Race on a Douglas, T.W. Denney being the passenger. He was also 3rd in the Senior T.T. Race, 1st in the Belgian Grand Prix and 3rd in the 350 French Grand Prix. He also had numerous successes at Brooklands including the 1000cc. B.M.C.R.C. Championship and broke the British Flying Kilo record in France with a speed of 107.71 m.p.h.

Whilst C.N. Sadler, J.T. Jobborn, R.H. Fox, W. Marriott, C. Zealand and A.V. Buttress were successful in Open Centre and other Club events.

The 4th Annual Ball was held in the Town Hall on Friday, November 21st, about 300 being present. The universal opinion was - "Better than ever".

1924

The Club, in pursuing their policy of "Middlesbrough Leads" organised a New Year Party at St.Barnabas Hall on January 17th. A most successful event which was reported in the Evening Gazette with a heading "The Racing Wreck Disturbs the Boro Motorists". "Merry M'Brough Motorists" is a term which aptly describes the company at the Middlesbrough & District Motor Club's Now Year Party held in St.Barnabas Hall. Everyone was full of beans and joined in the various games and races with a zest good to witness. Excellent entertainment was provided by George Hepper, Humorist, and Miss Gladys Armstrong (Mrs H,Whitfield) Dancing. But the hit of the evening was the entry of the Brothers Dixon on their 500 h.p. Racing Wreck, who were hotly pursued by the Police (Mr G,B,Craig) who, after anchoring the 'bus to the floor, took full particulars. There was also a wireless display by a Marconi Loudspeaker and dancing to Smiths Orchestra.

The death of James Mitchell, T,Hatfield and R.Creasor was reported.

By a vote of 21 to 11 at the Yorkshire Centre Meeting, the Open Speed Trials of the Centre was allocated to Doncaster, Middlesbrough being awarded a Centre Event and it was decided to protest in a friendly but firm manner about the method in which the application from Doncaster had been received. It was subsequently decided to ask the Centre to apply for two Open Speed Trials in the future and that Centre Meetings be held in different towns so that Clubs should have the same expense, The request having been granted it was decided to write to Quintin A.Nicholl of Sunderland, a member of the A.C,U. Council seeking for support for this application.

The Rules governing Trials was amended.

The A.G.M, was held on Jan-30th. Extracts from a report of same have already been recorded.

Election of Officers:

Pres.John Gjers, Vice/Presidents - Counc.S.A.Sadler, J.P., Coun.G.B. Craig, G.McAdam, A.Robertson, C.N.Sadler, C.W.Smith, Dr,B.G.S.Belas, Dr.D.J.F,O'Flanagan, W.Armstrong, A.J.Young, G.H.Blackburn, G.L.Wye, A.W.Foster, E.Hall, Phil Bach, F.W.Dixon, F.Scott, GJ.Ryan,

Hon.Secs. - A.V.Buttress, Assis. G.J.Coverdale, Financial, T.Ainsley.

Capt. - J.Gilchrist, Vice/Capt. - A.Blackburn, Auditors - A.W.Munnoch, W.J.Weaver. Hon.Solicitors - Messrs Belk & Smith.

Committee - R.H,L.Pickering, W.Tattersall, A.Thomson, H.Armstrong, F.Shepherd, J.F,Dixon, R.Smiles, J.T.Jobborn, R,H.Richardson.

At the first meeting of the Committee A.Blackburn was elected Chairman, V/Chairman W.Ryan.

Club Room. - Committee approved of a site suggested by W.Ryan and F.W.Dixon and they were asked to go further into the matter.

Decided to convey Good Wishes to C.Norman Sadler on the occasion of his marriage and to press the A.C.U. for an award to passengers in the sidecar T.T.Race.

Presentation to John Gjers, - Sum amounted to £25,

L.B.Dickinson asked the committee to nominate a rider for the Amateur T.T. Race

A Bronze Medal was presented to J.Blakison in recognition of his climbing Roseberry Topping on a motorcycle. The presentation was made, by A.J.Young who graphically described the feat.

The Rules governing Trials were revised.

Motorcycle Football. - J.F.Dixon was appointed Team Manager. It was decided to purchase six jerseys for the team. Invitations to play matches were received from Scarborough to play on the sands, Hartlepool Primrose Motor Club and for the Ripon Challenge Cup which was won and J.F.Dixon was appointed to hold same. The team were also invited to play a match at Camberley on August Bank Holiday Monday where they won outright a Silver Challenge Cup (this Cup is now in the Teesside Better Driving Competition).

Apart from this success this August Bank Holiday proved to be a very black one for the Club and the Evening Gazette headlined it - "BORO CLUB'S SAD WEEK OF TRAGEDY". George Martin Liddle, eldest son of Geoff Liddle, met with a fatal accident on the Monday on what was then known as "Fancy Bank" whilst riding a P.& M. Panther. From personal knowledge, having the same make of machine, it must be concluded that the front wheel being sprung but not the front mudguard, the two came together and he was thrown. I also escaped with a lasting scar on my nose from a similar occurrence. On the Tuesday when the team was returning from Camberley the Harley Davison which Bill Ryan was driving with George Blackburn in the sidecar skidded near Bawtry and George Blackburn was killed and Bill Ryan spent a number of weeks in hospital at Doncaster. I remember that at that period there was considerable controversy respecting the slippery state of many roads which had recently been re-surfaced, particularly in wet weather.

As a result of Bill Ryan's stay in hospital the Hospital Insurance Scheme came into being but more of this later.

The Club suffered another serious loss by the sudden death of R.H.L.Pickering at Christmas time. Mr Pickering was the agent for the Norton motorcycle and contributed to much of the Club's success as a member of the Committee. Following the death of George Blackburn who was V/Chairman, Frank Shepherd was elected in his place.

The Richmond Meet, Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. - A Motorcycle Football Match was staged, together with a Gymkhana and a collection on the sands plus entry fees amounted to £11.7.4d and the expenses to £4.12-3d and the balance was subsequently paid to the Mayor of Richmond for local charities.

A Cricket Team was formed and W.Tattersall was appointed Captain.

An effort was made to run a Speed event on the new road between Redcar and Marske but the Police objected to this.

One Hill Climb was held on Yearby Bank but subsequently due to Police objection and a report of the organisers of the difficulty they had due to the increase in volume of traffic using the Hill, further competitions of this sort were abandoned and it might be said that this came into being nationally.

Saltburn Speed Trials. - There was no change in the programme of the events. A Results Board was constructed in order that spectators could get information of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd, with their times and speeds. There was a profit on the event of £130 and subsequently £200 was invested. This was financial foundation of our subsequent progress.

Winners of Events were:

Scott Trial - W.Tattersall.

Yearby Hill Climb - W.Wilkinson made the fastest time.

Ryan Trial - W.Tattersall.

Wye Cup - C.Moody.

Gjers Cup - G.M.Liddle. This was a 2-day event but there were only 10 competitors.

Sadler Fuel Consumption Trial - 5 entries, won by A.V.Buttress who registered 137.56 m.p.g. or 37.85 ton m.p.g.

John Gjers Cup - A.(Arty) Young. This event included the Water Splashes at Westerdale, Lealholm and Johnson's Beck.

The Evening Gazette wrote of Johnson.'s Beck:

"Those who are not familiar with this ugly obstacle it may be explained that the grass-grown track descends deeply to a boulder-strewn beck which it follows for 50yds. emerging on to a steep hairpin-afflicted gradient with an incredibly bad surface."

Saltburn Speed Trials commenced at 4 p.m.

255 cc, championship was won by J.Hall on a Cotton.

350 " " " " " J.Guthrie on a New Imperial.

500 " " " " " W.Wilkinson, Sunbeam, speed 63.70 m.p.h.

1000 "" " " " F.W.Dixon, Harley-Davison, speed 60.35 m.p.h.

The Flying Kilo was won by F.W.Dixon on a Harley-Davison at 101,68 m.p.h.

The attendance was estimated at 10,000.

Certainly the banks above the sands were covered with spectators.

Presentation of Prizes took place at a Smoking Concert on November 25th.

The Annual Ball was held in the Town Hall, tickets were 10/6d and a menu at 3/6d was chosen. On this occasion the Motor Club led the way again. There was a very good orchestra playing in the Elite Cinema and after negotiations arrangements were made for them to play from midnight to 2 a.m. For this purpose a special platform was erected in the middle of the Ballroom and tickets were at a premium. I believe the Band who played up to their arrival was Trumpet-Major Parkins and with due respect to this Band, the advent of the Orchestra from the Elite was electrical. This must be considered as one of the outstanding social events organised by the Club.

The Motorcycle Film was booked and the Now Year Party was held in the Linthorpe Assembly Rooms for which there was a profit of £48.

NEW MEMBERS were 32 including Harold Darcy, Solicitor, R. F. Parkinson, the Misses L. & M. Jefferson, L. Collinson, H. I. Pybus, Dr. J. E. M. Pedlow, Bill Poulton and Charlie Hall of the Evening Gazette who wrote "Matters Motoring" in the Gazette for a number of years. The Club has seldom had similar covering in the local newspaper. One or other would often break into rhyme and a couplet which I remember well as follows referring of course to the thief:

"He took the pick unhindered whilst the owners weren't about,  
He was used to throttles opening in but this one opened out,  
Confronted in his hurry with a traffic jam ahead,  
For feeding coals to fiery pits a pick is worse than nowt."

I digress here for a moment to report that Dr. Pedlow related to me how, after Dr. O'Flanagan had removed the cabby's shelter which used to stand in Queens Square on the North Side of Albert Bridge, a porter had rushed on to the Station platform explaining - "The O'Flanagan 's at it again!".

Fred W. Dixon competed in the T.T., finished 3rd in the Senior Race on a Douglas but retired in the Sidecar Race.

Secretaries' Honorariums - Agreed Gen. Sec. - £17, Financial Sec. - £11, Assis. Sec - £4. Secretary was to draw up a new leaflet to put before prospective members and to thank Phil Bach for the use of the room at the Empire Hotel for Committee meetings.

## 1925

The A.G.M, was held on 29th January, Chair being taken by A.Blackburn. A letter from the Bombay Motorcycle & Car Club, conveyed greetings. In moving the adoption of the Committee's Report W.Ryan stressed the importance of getting new members.

The following officers were elected:

President - John Gjers, who offered a Gold Cup to be won outright for a 50-nrile Handicap Race on Saltburn Sands.

Vice/Presidents - T,Ainsley, Phil.Bach, G,B,Craig, F.W,Dixon, A.W.Taylor, G.McAdam, J.Gilchrist, A,Blackburn, Dr.D.J,F.O'Flanagan, A.Robertson, S,A,Sadler, C.W.Suith, G,L.Wye, A,J.Young, W,Ryan.

Hon.Sec - A.V,Buttress. Hon.Assist.Sec - W,Tattersall.

Financial Sec - T.Ainsley.

Captain - F,Shepherd. Vice/Capt - J,F,Dixon.

Hon.Auditors -W.Weaver and A,W.Munnoch. Hon,Solicitor H.Darcy.

Committee - W.Black A.Thomson, R.H.Richardson, A.Smith, G,W,Liddle, H.S.Williams, J.T.Jobborn, J,A.Jellicoe, H,Armstrong, A.Young.

Geoff.W.Liddle. In thanking the members for their sympathy following the death of his son in a motorcycle accident, offered a Cup to be known as the G.M,Liddle Memorial Cup for a Novice Reliability Trial.

Subsequently a magnificent Cup was offered in memory of G.H.Blackburn, by his wife, for a 10-mile Handicap confined to Club members on Saltburn Sands.

Several requests were made for mid-week Trials. It was reported that John Gjers was anxious to have the Trial for the Gjers Cup run on a mid-week date.

H.Darcy enquired as to what had been done respecting the Clubhouse and it was agreed to recommend the Committee to consider a scheme and finance for same and convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.

At the first meeting of the new Committee A.J.Young was elected Chairman, Alex Thomson Vice/Chairman. J,F.Dixon was re-elected Captain of the Football Team.

Richmond Meet. The Yorkshire Centre having indicated that they were no longer interested in supporting same, the Centre Secretary was written to stating their delegates who had been instructed how to deal with the matter when brought up at the next Board Meeting and to point out that Good Friday had never been looked upon as a day for competitions. W,Ryan,, A,W,Foster and A,V,Buttress were appointed to represent the Club at the next Centre Meeting. The Meet was held without the Centre's blessing. A collection of £2.5.10d made at this Event was considered satisfactory and the offer of Messrs Schroder of Darlington to pay half the expenses was accepted.

Requests received from the Worcester Motor Club and the Wakefield Motor Club for Motorcycle Football Matches. Agreed that it was impossible to accede to the

request from Worcester but that an effort would be made to send a team to Wakefield. Requests for matches were also received from Derby Motor Club, Darlington Motor Club, British Legion, Staindrop in the grounds of Raby Castle.

It was decided to obtain Club Banner and Club Flags.

A cheque for 9 guineas was sent to the North Ormesby Hospital to buy a cot in a new ward,

A sub-committee appointed to further consider the matter of a Clubhouse,

The Mayor of Middlesbrough, Ald.Ed.Turner was promoting a Carnival in Middlesbrough and W.Ryan and A.Blackburn were appointed to represent the Club at the meeting to consider same.

March 11th. Whist Drive & Dance was organised, tickets being 4/6d, Supper 2/6d, band £3/5/0d the booking of the Town Hall for the Annual Ball was approved of.

Trustee in respect of investments were appointed – John Gjers, A.W.Foster, J.Gilchrist.

Agreed to get a list of names and addresses of motorists in Middlesbrough from the Town Clerk at a cost of 10/6d.

Harold Darcy, having offered to advise the Club free of charge and to give service to members at a reduced fee, was invited to attend future committee meetings.

We now get the first mention of Muir Bedall, Insurance Brokers, who were asked for a quotation in respect of the Saltburn Speed Trials.

A Gymkhana on Saturday, May 23rd. The Sub-Committee appointed to organise same was given power to spend 10% of the Club funds as at 31st Dec.1924 in connection with this.

Purchase of a Typewriter for the sum of £9.15,0d was agreed.

Speed Events on Public Roads. It was reported that the Yorkshire Centre Board had agreed to abide by the A.C.U's ruling in this matter.

Saltburn Speed Trials. Decided to engage the services of A.V.Hebblewhite as Timekeeper and Handicapper and to accept the tender of G,Hudson & Sons for work in connection with laying out the course. A.V.Hebblewhite wrote that he was unable to accept. Harold Darcy was appointed Chief Lap Scorer and C.W,Smith Chief Marshal in place of G.B. Craig who was unable to attend.

It was decided to ask the Police to be present at 10 a.m. and to allow the St.John Ambulance Brigade to take a collection. To purchase 6 garden tents for use of timekeepers and lap-scorers and to arrange for chairs to be obtained from the Saltburn U.D.C. Messrs Winterschladen to obtain a licence. Decided to print 2,500 programmes to be sold at 1/0d each and to have the usual dinner at the conclusion of the event. Agreed that all adjustments during the race must be made by the

competitor. No outside assistance to be allowed. Penalty disqualification, and should a competitor enter the enclosure for any purpose during the Race he would be deemed to have retired.

Correspondence respecting the disqualification of the winner of the 50-mile handicap at Saltburn was considered. (See later).

Amateur Road Race. - Secretary to interview R,F.Parkinson respecting same.

Membership. - Reported that on 30th April the membership totalled 233.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Borough Engineer complaining of the state of Acklam Road and Orchard Road.

Gjers Trial. - At the request of the President, John Gjers, an effort was made to organise this as a 2-day event but only one entry was received and it was decided to cancel same, This was later run as a one-day event.

Pointed out that the Club would have been in existence 21 years in 1926 and, it was decided to obtain a list of vacant dates for the Town Hall in order to celebrate the occasion.

Annual Ball. The offer of Joe Hurst of the sum of £37.16,0d was accepted and it was decided to apply for an extension 'til 3 a.m. The tender of Cecil Ridley for special lighting at the cost of £15 was accepted. Menu 3/6d per head, tickets 10/6d, Times 8-30 to 2-30 and to hire two pianos for the Dance and to ask the Musical Director to play music during Supper.

Linthorpe Assembly Rooms were booked for a New Year Party.

Reported that the matter of the Centre Secretary's suspension had not been settled.

Congratulations to the Chairman, A.J.Young, and Good Wishes on the occasion of his marriage.

A discussion took place on the attitude of the N.E.C.C. to Reliability Trials and decided to take no action at that time.

Hon.Sec. was asked to approach the Press with reference to a note re. the speed and noise of machines on Ltnthorpe Road and within the approaches of the Town.

Resignation of the President. A letter from John Gjers resigning the presidency of the Club. (He had been cited in a divorce case). H.S.Williams, F.W.Dixon and A.J.Young were appointed to interview him and ask him to reconsider the matter. They reported that they had been successful in persuading him to stand as President next year, it being the Majority Year, but he wished to be relieved of the position at the end of that term.

Yorkshire Centre A.C.U. Reference is made to the suspension of the Centre Secretary, Alec Dovenor in respect of a £200 Yorkshire Post Trial which Mr Dovenor had announced as an Open (National) event without apparent A.C.U. permit and delegates were instructed to use their discretion respecting the position created but not to support any attempt to break with the A.C.U. The formation of a Northern

Section of the A.C.U. or a separate controlling body was being canvassed. This was eventually resolved when T.W.Loughborough, A.C U Secretary came to a Centre Board Meeting at Leeds.

A Smoking Concert was held in the Corporation Hotel.

Secretaries' Honorarium. A total of £45 was approved.

Reported that the stopping place of tramcars at the junction of the Crescent and Roman Road had been altered as per the Club's suggestion in Feb.1923 and it was agreed to thank the Town Clerk in the Press in respect of this.

Agreed to open a subscription list to provide a wedding present for Mr F.W.Dixon on the occasion of his marriage, bride being Miss M.A.G. (Dolly) Thew. Many prominent racing motorcyclists were present.

Yorkshire Centre Meeting and Annual Dinner. W.Ryan, C..W.Smith and Hon.Sec. to represent the Club at the Annual Dinner and the following were nominated for officials in 1926;-

President - F.Roper. V/Presidents - W.Ryan, H.Robinson, F.Cleveland, T.W.Monkhouse. Hon.Sec. - W.A.Dovenor. Hon.Solicitor - J.Conchar.  
Hon.Treasurer - S.M.Hay.  
A.C.U. Delegates - F.B.Boper and F.Cleveland.

A presentation of a Silver Cigarette Case suitably inscribed was made to Harry Langman in recognition of his great act of sportsmanship, he being a professional rider, that would have done credit in the highest realms of amateur sport. In the last race of the day he went back to the start to give his only other competitor who had failed to start at the fall of the flag, another chance. This after a very bad day for Mr Langman.

Decided to apply for an Open (Nat) date for Saltburn Speed trials on July 17th 1926.

A reported loss on the year's workings of £15 was discussed and it was decided to value the typewriter and the 6 tents at 25% less Cost which would more than wipe out the deficit and to recommend that Rule 3 be altered to allow the Hon.Solicitor to have a seat on the Committee and to reserve the Town Hall for Friday, Nov.26th 1926 for the Annual Ball.

New Members. 88 were elected including Miss K.Liddle and C.Kirton both of whom are still members. Also including Miss P.Lomas, Mr F.C.Barker, E.B.Young, W.McMaster, Miss Berry, Mr G.E.Parkinson and C.H.Allan.

Winners of Events were:-

Novice Trial - G.M.Liddle Memorial Cup - J.F.Dixon. 34 entries.

Ryan Trial - Tie between R.S.Richardson and A.V.Buttress, and J.F.Dixon. After a run-off the Cup was awarded to K.S.Richardson.

Sadler Fuel Consumption Trial - J.Gilchrist who won the Cup outright. (This was subsequently given back to the Club by his daughter.)

Wye Cup Trial - H.(Cap) Armstrong.

Gjers Cup Trial - A.V.Buttress. John Gjers Trial - A.V.Buttress.

Saltburn Speed trials - 20-mile championship,           250 cc. - G.Eeynard.  
  550 cc. - F.W.Dixon.  
  500 cc. - J.H.Smith.  
  1000 cc. - W.Wilknsn.

50-mile Handicap Race - J.H.Smith, speed 56.42 m.p.h. winning the Presidents Gold Cup. The first man past the post was Percy Bell but he was excluded for concealing certain details of his engine, this being a handicap race.

During the year Mr Fred W.Dixon has represented the Club in international competitions riding in the Isle of Man, France, Belgium, Italy. He made the record lap in the Sidecar T.T. and the record standing start lap in the Junior Race, won the Welsh Sidecar T.T.Race, Accomplished 100 m.p.h. on the road with a 750 c.c. machine, made fastest time of the day solo and sidecar at Kop and took nine firsts, also broke 24 World's records in the space of three weeks including the hour record.

Mr E.F.Parkinson represented the Club in the Amateur T.T.Race. He retired through ignition trouble in the last lap when lying sixth, he also competed and won awards at Seaton Carew and Duridge Bay.

Other members who have completed in Open, Centre and other Club events and won awards are J.T.Jobborn, J.A.Jellicoe, T.H.Blackburn, A.V.Buttress and T.W.Denney who won six firsts at Donoaster and the Motor Cycle Cup.

## 1926 – 21 Years Old

### MAJORITY YEAR.

It does not appear from the records, or in fact my recollections, that the Majority Year was celebrated with anything outstanding. W.Ryan appealed for an increase of membership and suggested the slogan - "MOTOR CLUB 400, ENTER FOR EVERYTHING". Messrs Upton & Sons, through Walter Upton, offered a Cup which was accepted but objection was taken to the title of same - "UPTON MAJORITY CUP". W.Ryan pointed out that it was not Upton's Majority but the Motor Club's and the Cup was rejected on that account. As it had already been engraved with the approval of the Hon. Sec. (myself) I tendered my resignation as a pro-test. However, after some consultation with Walter Upton on the subject the matter was amicably settled and I continued in office. The Cup, however, was given for competition to a club in South Bank which is now defunct and Walter Upton many years later presented the magnificent statue of Mercury for the Rder of the Year.

The A.G.M. was held at Hintons Cafe on 5th February, chair taken by A.J.Young. Total members 186 - 31 Ladies and 155 Gentlemen. Income was £986 and Expenditure £943 the largest turnover yet. Assets amounted to £258 and the Liabilities £59 leaving a balance of £199. During the year £200 was invested in War Stock.

The question of the Clubhouse was again discussed and G.W.Liddle offered to become a guarantor to the extent of £5 if 49 others would join him. F.W.Dixon suggested that all members should be circularised asking for their opinions. W.Weaver said that a Clubhouse had not been found necessary during the past 20 years but should anything be done in the matter he thought that a limited liability company should be formed and A.V.Buttress thought that a Clubhouse could not be supported on the present subscription. W.Ryan made it clear that the subscription would not be raised.

A letter from the Yorkshire Centre A.C.U. asking motorists to be more considerate on the road and appealing to them to close gates on country roads, was read.

The inclusion of the Hon.Solicitor as a member of the Committee and a Motorcycle Football Team Captain was approved.

Election of Officers. President - John Gjers, and he was to be written to expressing the pleasure it had afforded the Club to still have him as President.

Vice Presidents - Agreed that all last year's V/Presidents be re-elected.(for names see 1925)

Hon.Gen.Sec. - A.V.Buttress. Hon.Assis.Sec - W.Tattersall. Hon.Financial Sec - T.Ainsley,

Capt. - Alex. Thomson. V/Capt - Hal (Cap) Armstrong. Hon.Solicitor – H. Darcy.

Hon.Auditors - W.Weaver, A.W.Munnoch. Motorcycle Football Team Captain - J.F.Dixon.

Committee - A.Smith, A.Blackburn, G.W.Liddle, R.H.Richardson, R.F.Parkinson, J.A.Jellicoe, A.Young, J.Parsons.

W.Ryan was elected V/President of the Yorkshire Centre A.C.U.Board.

Motorcycle Football. This was the year when Motorcycle Football boomed. Requests were received from Darlington, Tadcaster, Camberley, Barnard Castle Unionist Association, the Y.M.C.A. The team competed at the Ripon Whitsun Meet and were successful in winning the Cup for the third time in succession. Other requests were for a match at Raby Castle, from the Thirsk British Legion and from the Cumberland County M.C.

The A.C.U. having been urged to take control of the sport W.Ryan was appointed a delegate to London to confer in making new rules for same. He reported that the meeting lasted about 5 hrs. and he had been able to secure practically all our suggested alterations. The Union had agreed to organise a competition on the lines of the Association Cup and, being unable to grant any expenses to the delegates, the Club agreed to pay same.

The team was entered in the National Competition. In the first round they met the Cumberland County Club at Stockton and won 15 to nil. In the 2nd round they met the Grimsby M.C. & G.C. at Samuelsons Athletic Ground, Middlesbrough, which they won, result unknown. The semi-final was played at Bristol and the team were again successful. The Final took place at the Crystal Palace. The opposition were Coventry. The match was started but was not finished due to heavy rain. The replayed Final took place at Headingley on Saturday, 20th March 1927 The Middlesbrough team were J.F..Dixon, Capt.P.N. Blake, A.G.Smith, J.W.Collinson, W.Creasor, F.Creasor. The Coventry team were - J.Montgomery, S.Jackson, D.Brandish, B.G.Elliott, L.Crisp and L.Parsons. Middlesbrough were defeated by 11 goals to 1 and throughout the game they suffered from machine trouble which included one burnt piston, one nearly square wheel, 2 burnt-out clutches and an inlet valve which would persist in hammering the sparking plug points. Freddy Dixon spent nearly the whole time tuning up the machines. The events of the day concluded with a dinner given by the Leeds Club to the two teams and the A.C.U. Officials.

I digress here for a moment and refer to a letter dated May 12th 1924 from Bert C. Alien, San Jose, California, U.S.A. accompanying which he sent a photograph of the Middlesbrough team playing football at Richmond. Shortly before this match the Prince of Wales, later Edward Eighth had taken a toss from his pony whilst playing polo and the picture is captioned - "Cyclist shows example set by Prince". The habit of falling doesnot seem to be confined only to turfmen but it appears to have also extended to other sports as well. One of the players in this novel motorcycle football match held in England shows excellent form in his spill taken in a recent game between the Middlesbrough and Yorkshire teams, the rider in question being Bill Collinson. The picture also shows Phil Blake, Albert Smith, Frank Dixon and Walter Creasor and was exhibited in the window of a drugstore.

General Strike. This was also the year of the General Strike. It was agreed that all events be postponed and that all members be earnestly requested to assist in maintaining the essential services.

The Opening Run took place to Richmond on Good Friday. A Motorcycle Football Match, Yorkshire versus Durham was organised together with a Gymkhana. The sum of £22,15,0d was received from a collection & entry fees and after 5 guineas had been retained to cover expenses the balance of £17.10.0d was sent to the Mayor of Richmond for his charity.

The following Trials were run:-

Novice Trial for the G.M.Liddle Memorial Cup on April 19th - winner D.Whitehouse. 60 entries.

Ryan Cup - winner W.Tattersall - (This was. a non-stop event).

Gjers Cup - winner H.I.Pybus.

John Gjers Cup - F.C.Barker. The performance of C.J.Morrish in piloting a 3½h.p. combination around the course was noted and a special bronze medal was awarded.

Fuel Consumption Trial - The Sadler Bowl having been won outright by Jim Gilchrist, he presented a Rose Bowl to the Club to ensure the continuation of this event. An all-car entry was received, the winner being Egerton Price.

Saltburn Speed Trials were held on Saturday, July 18th. The day was marred by a fatal accident which befell Norman Collin.

The Flying Kilo record was broken by A.Greenwood on a 980 Brough Superior, speed being 105.52 m.p.h. which increased the existing record by 4 m.p.h.

The 250 c.c. 20-mile Yorkshire Championship Race - winner G.L.Reynard, speed 50.99mph.

350 c.c. - winner H.Whitfield, speed 60.60 m.p.h.

500 c.c. - winner W.Wilkinson, speed 61.64 m.p.h.

1000 c.c. - winner T.Simister, speed 60.20 m.p.h.

R.F.Parkinson in the Flying Kilo recorded 82.85 m.p.h. and Harry Whitfield 78.77 m.p.h. A feature of the meeting was the appearance of Bert (H) Le Vack who had transferred from the Jap Engine Co. to New Hudsons. His speed on the Flying Kilo was 93.99 m.p.h,

The 10-mile handicap race for the G.H. Blackburn Memorial Cup confined to Club members was won by H.Whitfield, speed of 60.20 m.p.h., 2nd A.W.Armstrong, 59.02 m.p.h., and 3rd J.T.Jobbom, 57.95 m.p.h.

The 50-mile handicap race was won by G.L.Reynard with a time of 59mins.40.8 secs. It was estimated that nearly 20,000 witnessed the event.

Social Events. New Year Party on January 7th. Pie Supper & Dance in the Linthorpe Assembly Rooms on 11th March. For this G.D.Freeman's Band was booked at a fee of 4 guineas and it was decided to include a set of Lancers in the programme. Catering was by Merediths.

The sixth Annual Ball was held in the Town Hall on Dec.18th. Two Bands were engaged. Space reserved in the centre of the floor for the Charleston, marked by a white line and it was decided to instruct the M/C's not to worry if it was found impossible to keep the Charleston players in the space marked off. Decorations and lighting were by George Buck, the Town Hall Manager, for £40. Tickets remained at 10/6d, two grand pianos to be obtained.

A souvenir programme and ladies' fans to be obtained. It was decided to apply for an extension until 5 a.m. (refused).

A Smoking Concert and Prize Presentation took place on 10th December at the Corporation Hotel. Artists were paid 10/0d each,

R.F.Parkinson was entered in the Amateur Road Racing in the Isle of Man. He retired due to ignition trouble.

F.W.Dixon again represented the Club in all major road races in England and on the Continent.

NEW MEMBEBS - including T.Hatton, N.Tattersall, A.C.Allen, T.W.Robinson and Percy Mushens.

## 1927

The A.G.M. was held on 27th Jan.1927. Alex Thomson occupied the Chair and upwards of 50 members were present.

Committee's Report gave a full coverage of the year's activities. Adoption was moved by W.Ryan who said it reminded him of many happy days and a lot of work successfully carried out.

Financial Statement reported a slight loss but the Treasurer, T.Ainsley, said this was accounted for by the writing off of various assets.

Considered that the Club had gained prestige by the entry of a rider in the Amateur T.T.Race and by the successes of the Motorcycle Football Team.

Subscriptions were fixed as follows:- Gents - 10/6d, entrance fee 2/6d.

Ladies - 5/0d, no entrance fee.

Visiting members - 7/6d.

Junior members (persons not having attained their 19th birthday) - 5/0d, no entrance fee.

Lady and Junior members to have a half vote at General Meetings.

A discussion took place on the question of Equality of the Sexes (Women's Lib;) and the proposals to give Lady and Junior members half a vote was defeated.

Election of Officers; President - John Gjers.

V/Presidents - W.Armstrong, Phil Bach, A.Blackburn, G.B.Craig, F.W.Dixon, A.W.Foster, J.Gilchrist, Dr. D.J.F.O'Flanagan, W.Ryan, C.W.Smith, G.L.Wye, A.J.Young, A.Thomson and H.S.Williams.

Gen.Sec - A.V.Buttress. Assis.Sec. - W.Tattersall. Financial Sec. - T.Ainsley, Captain - A.Thomson. V/Captain - H.(Cap)Armstrong.

Auditors - A.W.Munnoch and W.Weaver. Hon.Solicitor - Harold Darcy.

Motorcycle Football Team Captain - J.F.Dixon.

Committee:- A.Smith, K.H.Richardson, J.Parsons, B.F.Parkins on, A.Hind, G.W.Liddle, H.I.Pybus, D.Black, W.McMaster.

At the first meeting of the Committee Alex Thomson was re-elected Chairman.

A sub-committee was appointed to seek a site for a Freak Hill Climb and a prize was offered for the best slogan.

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman (Alex Thomson) was carried with musical honours. All joined in the song - "Why was he born so beautiful, Why was he born at all".

The slogan - "Silence(r) is Golden" submitted by T.W.Robinson was considered the best effort and his subscription was paid by way of a prize.

A Cup offered by Hepworth & Grandage (Hepolite) was accepted with thanks.

A deputation was appointed to wait on the Licensing Justices with a view to obtaining an extension for dancing at the next Annual Ball, until 3 a.m.

158 members were affiliated to the A.C.U. £11.17.0d., Cost.

Motorcycle Football. Invitations to play at Scarborough and Coventry were accepted and the question of a Yorkshire Centre League was discussed. It was felt that a knockout competition would be better. As reported in 1926 the Middlesbrough Team.reached the Final versus the Coventry Ace Motor Club.

Following this it was agreed to put the team on a footing worthy of their reputation and it was considered necessary to purchase two new machines and overhaul others at an estimated cost of £100. As the Club were not able to finance this it was agreed that they hand over the entire management of the Motorcycle Football team to the existing sub-committee giving them any balance in the Football Team funds together with a motorcycle, the property of the Club and to open a subscription list for the purpose of raising the necessary money to run the team. £88 had already been promised. Anyone subscribing must be prepared to consider their subscription as a gift. During the discussion it was suggested that the Club become a limited company.

Richmond Meet. Was held on Good Friday, including Motorcycle Football Match. Subsequently a claim for damage to the ground was received from the Richmond Cricket Club. A sum of two guineas was subsequently paid to them.

Pillion Riding. The General Purposes Committee of the Town Council had agreed to support a decision banning pillion riding and it was decided that a pillion-riding demonstration should be given and the Councillors invited to attend. In connection with this a letter of thanks was sent to Coun. Alexander for his spirited defence of the right of the motorcyclist to carry a pillion passenger.

Chairman's Badge. It was decided to present the Chairman with a suitable token of his year of office in recognition of the service rendered. This, however, was never implemented but a Chairman's Jewel was subsequently provided and is still in use today.

Egerton Price. Offered a Cup for a trial to be known as the "Border Trial" and to be run on a Wednesday. It was decided to accept the offer, the event to be run on a Sunday if there were not 12 entries 48 hrs. before the Wednesday event.

A letter of condolence was sent to the relatives of G.T.PARRY THOMAS who had met his death whilst attempting to break the World's Kilo Record on Pendine Sands on Thursday,3rd March.

Linthorpe Road. The Corporation's attention was drawn to the state of the road on wet days (it was composed of wooden blocks) and they were asked if it could be swept.

Saltburn Speed Trials. Following an interview with Lord Zetland's Agent, the Club were asked to rope off the sands between the pier and Hazel Grove and also to provide a course for vehicles using this part of the sands. It was felt that Lord Zetland was making matters difficult but that at the moment nothing could be done. Consideration was given to a 2-day meeting. This was finally abandoned when the Superintendent of Police asked for 30 constables for Friday and 40 for Saturday. Decided not to do anything in the matter of a Public Address System but to engage a Band to play in the Enclosure at a reasonable charge. A.G.Reynolds was appointed Hondicapper.

The offer of contractors to do the roping and supply certain items for £20 was accepted.

3,000 programmes were printed to sell at 1/0d each.

Three leading petrol companies having refused to advertise in the programme it was agreed to charge them a fee of 2 guineas for the right to sell petrol in the Enclosure.

The offer of a Comrades Band from Saltburn to play during the racing for £5 was accepted.

The sands were in a poor condition with a heavy deposit of seaweed and the course had to be moved/between Marske and Redcar. Frantic efforts were made on the Friday evening to contact the Mayor of Redcar to obtain permission to run on that part of the beach within their jurisdiction. He was eventually run to earth and permission granted. Meanwhile the Saltburn traders who had laid in extra supplies in anticipation of the large crowd attending on Saturday were, due to the moving of the course, left with huge stocks on hand. Later, as a result of this, a meeting between the tradesmen and the Club was convened which resulted in the Saltburn Tradesmen contributing to the cost of the organisation of the event.

The four 20-mile Championships were won as follows:-

250 c.c.	C.W.Holliday	-	speed	50.28	m.p.h.
350 "	Hugh Mason	-	"	56.43	"
500 "	C.P.Wood	-.	"	62.61	"
1000 "	C.P.Wood	-.	"	62.00	"

50-mile Handicap - F.W.Dixon - speed 57.32 m.p.g.

10 " " for Club members - F.W.Dixon - speed 59.01 m.p.h,

Shepherds Hill. Consideration was given to a Hill (Shepherds Hill) in private grounds at Swainby and it was agreed to make a formal application for the use of same on suitable terms. Mr Emmerson, the owner, having put the Hill right to the satisfaction of the Club, the terms were agreed and a programme was approved. Class prizes were - 1st; £2, 2nd: £1, 3rd: 10/6d. The gate amounted to £50/4/0d, of which £11/17/0d was forwarded to Mr Emmerson and to the Lodgekeeper two guineas.

Amateur T.T. Agreed to offer two riders interested £10 each towards their expenses. After some correspondence it was decided to withdraw the entry of R.F.Parkinson in this Race and that Harry Whitfield had decided to accept a better offer from another Club.

T.T.Races. A Club team consisting of F.W.Dixon, R.F.Parkinson, James Guthrie was entered and they won the Club team prize in the Senior Race, Guthrie being 2nd, Dixon 6th and Parkinson 15th. (A framed record of this including photos of the riders hangs in the Club's Headquarters.) Subsequently W.Ryan referred to the honour of winning this and moved that the replica when received should have a permanent place on the table at all Committee Meetings and public functions as an inspiration to go forward to greater triumphs. W.Ryan continued that he did not think the Club could win anything to be more desired than a Replica of the T.T.Trophy and the Club were indebted to the Secretary for this.

Agreed to make arrangements for 4 Pie Suppers (Oct.20, Jan.4, Feb.15, Mch.21, 1928).

Annual Ball. Joe Hurst's Orchestra was engaged plus a small Supper Orchestra for 3 guineas and the offer of George Buck to decorate the Hall for £40 was accepted, Mrs Smith to cater at 5/6d per head, tickets to be 10/6d. Two grand pianos were hired at a cost of 7 guineas. An extension until 3 a.m. had been obtained by the Hon.Solicitor, Harold Darcy. 25% of the profits to be handed to Charity. M/C's were A.W.Foster, H.Darcy, A.J.D.Black and E.F.Parkinson.

The Hon,Sec. reported that the question of drink at the Dances was becoming a matter of grave concern. Certain people attended only because there were facilities for drinking after hours and two Stewards were appointed to control matters and given plenary powers, the caterers being advised that their instructions must be obeyed without question.

Profit on the Annual Ball was reported to be £40 and as 25% was to go to Charity in respect of the extension until 3 a.m. it was agreed to divide £20 as follows:- £8 each to the N.E.Infirmery and N.O.Hospital and £4 to the Nurses' Home.

Hon.Sec. was appointed on a sub-committee to revise the rules of the Yorkshire Centre.

The Chairman, Alec Thomson, having returned following his accident, several members of the subsequent committee meeting spoke of their delight in seeing him back.

A guest at the Pie Supper having had his hat stolen, he was subsequently paid the sum of 5/0d.

New Year Party. This took the form of a Pie Supper, Whist Drive & Dance. The offer of Messrs Merediths to supply the meal at a cost of 2/5d per head was accepted. Tickets 5/0d.

Decided to have a Committee Dinner. This subsequently took place at the Coatham Hotel, Redcar on January 11th 1928. Entertainment consisted of a small Orchestra and Will Penketh - tickets 6/6d.

Football Club paid a dividend of 15%.

Honorarias of £50 was voted to the General Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Assistant Secretary,

The Hon.Sec. said that the time was fast approaching when, if the Club was to progress and not stand still, part-time help would be required and instanced how the work had grown in the past few years. Opportunities for further activities were being presented on every hand and he looked forward to the day when the Club would have an office in the town and a paid Assistant.

The A.G.M. was fixed for Jan.26th.

The following Trials were run;-

Liddle Memorial Gup	-	winner T.A.Jackson.
Ryan Gup	-	" T.H.Blackburn.
Gjers Cup	-	" J.A.Harris.
Gilchrist Bowl	-	" H.I.Pybus.
Price Cup	-	" J.E.Rreat.
John Gjers Cup	—	" F.C.Barker.

A Trial confined to Ladies was run on June 22nd, winner being Miss Olive Marsh.

Shepherds Hill - Fastest time of the Day was made by R.F.Parkinson.

The Hepworth & Grandage Cup for the Best Aggregate Performance - A.W.Armstrong.

NEW MEMBERS. 50, including D.S.Raynor, E.Shuker, T.Creasor, J.Guthrie, Hugh Mason, C.H.Little, Miss E.Asquith, Bart Snowdon, E.Williamson and W.Curry.

## 1928

1928 was a vintage year. The Club hit the headlines with;-

The Hospital Insurance Scheme.

The sensational speeds attained at the Saltburn meeting.

The tragic fatal accident to Albert Smith on Redcar Sands.

Redcar Sand Races.

The introduction of Dirt-Track Racing at Cleveland Park Stadium.

The Opening of the Clubhouse in Clarendon Road.

**HOSPITAL INSURANCE SCHEME.** Details of which appeared in most of the National and all the local papers, the Scheme was the outcome of W.Ryan's stay in hospital after the accident which befell him and George H.Blackburn (fatal) near Bawtry on the way home from Camberley.

On his release from hospital Bill offered to make a payment for his treatment, which was politely refused, it being pointed out that all hospitals were supported by voluntary contributions. After some negotiation arrangements were made with a Midland Insurance Broker to pay a premium of 2/6d per head on the membership and the following fees were to be paid to any hospital treating a member following an accident on the road, as follows:-

Single dressing - 10/6d. Detention one day - 1 guinea, one week - £,5.

Up to 5/6 weeks - approx.£15.

Mr Ryan said we are doing this because we feel strongly the slur cast on motorists and the complaints of voluntary hospitals that 75% of their accident cases are motorists. For the honour of our Club we have decided to insure hospitals so that they will be reimbursed for treating our members. A letter from the British Medical Association pointed out that this did not cover payment of doctors who gave their services to hospitals free. The Club replied that this was a matter for adjustment between hospitals and themselves.

This was the forerunner of the compulsory 3rd party insurance for all motorists which includes payment of doctors' and hospitals' fees.

**SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS - FANTASTIC SPEEDS,** This event was held on Saturday, 22nd July. The "MOTORCYCLE" reported:- "No finer sand-racing event has ever been staged at Saltburn by the Middlesbrough & D.M.C. or for that matter by any other Club on any other beach than the Open Event last Saturday. Organisation has become almost automatic and although a late start was necessitated by the tide the event was ahead of its schedule by lunchtime and finished only some 10 mins. later than the programme indicated. The sands were table-like so much so that George Brough announced his intention of applying to the

A.C.U. for permission to attempt World Records on them. The speeds returned were considered remarkable. The Fling Kilo events were responsible for achievements of speeds that had never before been attained on sand in this country.. Searle on his 490c.c .Norton began the process of making 100 m.p.h. cheap by clocking 21.8secs. 102.61 m.p.h., 500cc. speed not attained anywhere outside pukka track before. With his 588cc model Searle knocked up the speed

To 103.56 m.p.h. When the Superiors got busy even these times paled somewhat for R.W.Storrey put up 122.01 m.p.h. and George Brough did 116.52 m.p.h. and J.H.Carr did 106.52 m.p.h., whilst F.W.Dosser on a 348 Velocette did 98.11 m.p.h. These extraordinary speeds can only be explained by the fact that the surface was absolutely devoid of bumps and dead hard with a very slight following breeze. The distance was marked out by a Surveyor from Saltburn and H.M.Ellis was the timekeeper, a double guarantee that the kilometre was a kilometre and the hand that stopped the watch was not an amateur's." A.W.Armstrong, H.Whitfield, R.F.Parkinson tied with 86.04 m.p.h.

The four 20-mile championship races were won as follows:-

T.W.Robinson - 52.52 m.p.h.      G.P.Wood - 64.28 m.p.h.

R.F.Earkinson - 63.60 m.p.h.      1000 c.c. J.H.Carr - 64.04 m.p.h.

The final event of the day was the 50-mile handicap for the Gold Gup. The winner was O.Langton, Scott, riding from scratch, overhauling all the limit men who had up to 15mins.start- His speed was 64.76 m.p.h.. (A photograph of this event taken by Donald H.Smith of the "MOTORCYCLE" is at the time of writing hung in the Committee Room).

Attempt on Record on Saltburn Sands, Proposed by George Brough. Reported that the cost of hiring the electrical timing apparatus would be £150. The attempt was never made.

REDCAR SPEED TRIALS. Following a visit to the Chamber of Trade at Redcar, Sept.2nd was fixed for the date of the Event. A strong invitation had also been issued to run a Gymkhana on the Sands (suggested date being Wed.July 11th). The Redcar tradesmen gave a Gold Watch for the rider making fastest time of the day. (On the Hon.Sec. going to collect same after the event he was treated to a lecture by the Chairman, or Secretary, of the Association on courtesy because no letter of thanks had been sent. He pointed out that it was not usual to write a letter of thanks until the article had been received.). The Redcar tradesmen subsequently expressed dissatisfaction at the manner in which their award had been advertised. A good entry was received but the day was cold and the spectators few, the financial loss heavy. A.W.Armstrong won the Sidecar Handicap. R.W.Storey made Fastest Time of the Day with a speed of 101.68 m.p.h. and T.W.Robinson won the Club Members Handicap for the G.H.Blackburn Memorial Cup.

GYMKHANA ON REDCAR SANDS. was marred by an unfortunate fatal accident. A motorcycle football match was followed by an attempt to break the record for a long jump on a motorcycle by Albert Smith. He also planned to jump through a hoop. He

finally decided to do this in one run (He had previously in the morning made a trial effort without the hoop when he leaped a distance of 51ft. and the shock of landing buckled the back wheel of his powerful Harley-Davison which he rebuilt during the day). The record was understood to be 45ft In the attempt it was estimated that he must have been doing 50 m.p.h. tearing up the inclined ramp. bursting through the paper-covered hoop.. His machine attained a height of 20ft. and to the horror of a large crowd suddenly nose-dived to the ground. He was picked up unconscious and taken to the N.O.Hospital, Middlesbrough In a grave condition where he died.

He was a prominent and enthusiastic member of the Committee. It is recorded in the Minutes of the Committee meeting following this tragic accident that tributes were made by the Chairman, W.Ryan, and A.V.Buttress who said that Mr Smith was one of the finest and most enthusiastic workers in the Club. Nothing was too much trouble for him. In one way Mr Smith had died for the Club and surely no man had greater love than that. He felt that the name of so great a worker should not be lost sight of and some outstanding memorial should be found for him. His photograph still hangs in the Committee Room.

This fatality was tragically repeated when his eldest son was killed in a road crash in Borough Road, Middlesbrough in November and sincere expressions of heartfelt sympathy and regret were conveyed to Mrs Smith, not only by Club members but by motoring fraternity throughout the district generally in respect of her sad and tragic bereavements.

DIRT TRACK RACING. (Now known as Speedway Racing,) was promoted at Cleveland Park Stadium by Albion Auto Racers Ltd. Some of our members and other local boys seized the opportunity with both hands and feet and this new sport virtually saw the end of motorcycle football.

Initially the machines owned by the Club were hired out to dirt-track riders and were eventually sold to them so that all the subscribers to the motorcycle football section received their money back. The following are a few well-known names who took part in the first meeting which was held on Thursday, August 23rd 1928:- H.Whitfield, F.Creaser, W.Creaser, A.Smith, F.Thompson, Alec Peel,, J.W.Collinson and Phil Blake.

Under an agreement made with the promoters it was necessary for any rider resident within 20 miles of, Middlesbrough was bound to join either the Middlesbrough or Darlington Clubs.

A Dirt-Track Meeting was run by the Club and showed a profit of £26.14.6d, following which it was decided to open negotiations with a view to the Club acquiring an interest in dirt-track racing. Subsequently it was found that the position was so involved that it was impossible to recommend an interest with the present company being acquired.

THE OPENING OF THE CLUBHOUSE IN CLARENDON ROAD. The premises, formerly the Gjers Mills Workmens Club had, due to the depression in the Iron Trade been closed for several years, were offered to the Club by the President, John Gjers for a year's trial on a rental of £100 plus rates. At an extraordinary General Meeting after a lively discussion it was decided unanimously to go forward with the scheme. After hurried re-decoration the Club was opened on Saturday, Dec.15th 1928. The

President said that if the venture was successful he was prepared to lease at the present rental or give an option to purchase. After a vote of appreciation for his offer he said that he felt the Club would make a big success of this as they had done with other ventures.

The first Steward was W.S.Knowles and his daughter at a combined wage of £3 per week, A total of 62 applications had been received for the position.

A sub-committee was appointed to attend to details and Aubrey Hind was appointed Secretary to this committee.

THE A.G.M. was held in Hintons Cafe on 3rd Feb. Chair was taken by Alec Thomson and over 60 members were present.

Financial Report (for 1927) stated that the turnover for the year was nearly £1,300 – a record, and there was a credit balance of £282.11.0d. It was decided to delete the requirements of an entrance fee of 2/6d for new members.

John Gjers was re-elected President.

V/Presidents elected were W.Armstrong, Phil Bach, A.Blackburn, F.W.Dixon, A.W.Foster, J.Gilchrist, Dr.D.J.F.O'Flanagan, W.Ryan, A.Thomson, H.S.Williams and A.J.Young.

A.V.Buttriss was re-elected Hon.Sec., W.Tattersall Assis.Sec. and T.Ainsley, Financial Sec.

Captain - J.Gilchrist. V/Captain - W.McMaster. Hon.Solicitor - Harold Darcy.

Hon.Auditors - W.Weaver and A.W.Munnoch.

Committee - A.G.Smith, J.Parsons, E.Richardson, H.I.Pybus, R.F.Parkinson, G.W.Liddle, A.Hind, F.Creaser and A.W.Armstrong. (A.C.Allen was elected in place of A.G.Smith, deceased).

At the first meeting of the Committee James Gilchrist was elected Chairman.

Reported that the Chief Constable had expressed his appreciation of the Club's donation in respect of the amount forwarded to local charities following the Annual Ball of 1927.

W.Ryan was re-elected V/President of the Centre and on the Motorcycle Football Committee.

A.V.Buttriss had been re-elected on the Speed Trial sub-committee.

A Pie Supper was held in March.

Harold Darcy reported that he had settled satisfactorily the claim in respect of a dress damaged at the Annual Ball.

RELIABILITY TRIAL RULES. The Trial Sub-Committee submitted a set of revised rules. The basis was one point per second early or late.

A meeting of the Centre was called to deal with a proposition that no Permits should be granted for any event where a gate was taken on a Sunday and another where 2½% should be deducted from all gate money and forwarded to a central fund for

hospitals. It was decided to oppose the first proposal if no special circumstances were involved and to refer the proposers of the other to our Hospital Insurance Scheme.

THE OPENING RUN WAS TO RICHMOND. Agreed that this should follow the usual lines. Stops to be made for Buns & Coffee at Stapleton. Collection and Entry Fees amounted to £34 and after the Mayor had received the amount agreed for his charity (£15) the remainder was credited to the Football Section.

An Appeal was received from Mr T.Brody for assistance in an effort to raise £6,000 for the N.E.Infirmery Extension Fund.

The Town Council refused to allow Stewart Park to be used for motorcycle racing.

Noted that the Annual Report of the Nurses Home contained a reference to donations received from the Club.

MINISTRY OF TEANSPOST proposal to make it compulsory for motorcyclists to carry car-size number plates, front & rear. Estimated cost of this was £350,000 and it was decided to use every effort to fight this foolish legislation.

CAR PARKING SCHEME .Harold Darcy drew attention to the hardship visitors and businessmen were put to by there not being any parking place in the Town and said that Middlesbrough was about the only large town without such facilities and it was decided to make representation to the Town Council and if necessary to draw up a scheme.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME, arranged, included a Weekend Tour, Theatre Party and several Social Runs were organised. In the matter of SHEPHEEDS HILL. the Gamekeeper, Mr Whitwell, wrote that owing to complaints, no further Sunday meetings could be held. It was agreed to ask for May 19th, the success of this event to govern the future policy. An event held there lost £3.

GRASS TRACK MEETING. Held on the Middlesbrough Cricket Ground, North Ormesby, the Cricket Club to receive third of the gate and R.P.Hayhurst was engaged to give a trick riding display at the event. Profit reported to be £17.8.8d.

THE CLUBS AND DIRT-TRACK RACING. Concern was expressed particularly by the N.W.Centre, of the effect that Dirt-track Racing was having on Club events and in particular to the A.C.U's decision to grant to promoters Open Permits which formerly had only been given to Clubs with excellent organising ability. At a meeting of the Yorkshire Centre at which Major Potter, Chairman of the N.W.Centre, was present it was reported that the speeches indicated that there was no support for secession it being revealed that the A.C.U. was being subsidised to approx. £2,500 p.a. by the S.A.C. whilst all the Clubs contributed less than £400.

A letter from the A.C.U. asked for a declaration of loyalty from Club Officials and Centre Delegates and it was agreed that this Club did not wish to secede and the delegates were urged to try and keep the Centre loyal. A small sub-committee was appointed to interview the A.C.U. with a view to settling the dispute and as a result of

the visit of this sub-committee to London it was stated that matters were on a more friendly basis and the hope was expressed that the legitimate work of the Centre will now go on unhindered.

WINTER PROGRAMME. In addition to the Annual Ball, dates for three Pie Suppers & Dances to be booked - tickets 5/0d. (Jan.9th, Feb.15th, Nov.1st (incl. the Prize Presentation). J.Hurst's offer to provide two Bands for the Annual Ball for 51 guineas was accepted. Menu, cost 5/6d, provided by R.Spark & Sons. Complimentary tickets were offered to the Dirt-Track officials.

TWO TEAMS were entered in the Centre Team Trial and G.C.Parkinson and H.Whitfield were entered in the Amateur T.T.Race and granted £20 expenses.

SECRETARIES' HONORARIA - was fixed at - Gen.Sec.£30, Financial Sec. £15, Assis.Sec. £5.

NEW MEMBERS. 151, including W.Creasor, N.Tattersall, Mrs John Gjers, Mrs F.Stokeld, Miss G.Armstrong, Alec Peel, Miss Violet Worsley, L.Brand, T.Hatton, Dr.Jurie, R.C.Pick, F.Thompson, E.Zealand, W.Balmer, Mrs F.Creasor, C.E.Sanderson, A.C.L.Barratt, Norman Evans, E.G.Pipe, R.Wake, L.Pinkney.

During the year members of the Club have competed in other Open and Closed Competitions,

R.F.Parkinson obtaining successes at Southport, Pendine and St.Andrews; J.T.Jobborn at Doncaster; A.V.Buttress in the York-Edinburgh-York Trial; and the Middlesbrough No.1 Team were third in the Centre Team Trial. The Club were represented in the T.T.Races by F.W.Dixon, R.F.Parkinson and James Guthrie.

WINNERS OF TROPHIES. . Winter Trial - H.Whitfield. Novice Liddle - E.W.Tash.

Ryan Trial - A.W.Armstrong. Speed Hill - A.W.Armstrong.

Ladies - Miss Lomas. Gjers Trial - T.A.Hanson.

Gilchrist Bowl (Fuel Consumption Trial ) - H.I.Pybus.

Price Trial - T.A.Jackson. John Gjers Trial - H.I.Pybus.

Winter Trial - A.V.Buttress.

250 c.c.	20-mile championship	- T.W.Eobinson	, 52.32 m.p.h.
350 "	" "	- E.F.Parkinson	, 63.60 "
500 "	" "	- C.P.Wood	64.28 "
1000 "	" "	- J.H.Carr.	64.04 "
Flying	Kilometre	- E.W.Storey	- 127.01 m.p.h.

## 1929

In contrast to 1928 nothing outstanding was achieved which hit the headlines. At the A.G.M. held in February it was announced that there had been a large increase in the membership:- 283 men, 58 ladies and 16 juniors, totalling 357, an increase of 101, which was considered to be traced to the Club having taken over the Clarendon Road premises and also the influx as a result of the Agreement with Albion Auto Racers respecting riders competing on the dirt-track, but it was also reported that many of these had lapsed and only a mere handful of riders attached to the local track continued membership of this Club. It was commented that in view of the fact that it had been stated in many quarters that dirt-track racing would directly benefit the Clubs, this did not appear to be so in the case of Middlesbrough.

The Income amounted to £2,434 and the Expenditure to £2,192. The loss on the Clubhouse Account amounted to £24.6.0d.

Election of Officers. John Gjers was again elected President and Arthur Foster, in seconding the motion said that it would be a disaster for the Club if the name of Gjers ceased to be connected with it. All the Vice Presidents were re-elected, also the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Financial Secretary and Aubrey Hind was elected to Clubhouse Secretary.

Captain - J.Gilchrist, Vice/Capt - W.McMaster,  
Auditors - A.W.Munnoch and W.Weaver. Hon.Solicitor - Harold Darcy.

An alteration of rules took place with a view to making it impossible for the whole of the Management Committee to be changed in one year. The President and V/Presidents were elected to sit for 5 years and the 10 elected members of the Committee for 2 years, five to come up for election each year, the remainder to be elected annually.

Committee - The following were elected to sit for 2 years;

F.Creasor, J.F.Dixon, E.H.Kichardson, J.Parsons and A.W.Armstrong.

To sit for 1 year:-

H.I.Pybus, G.W.Liddle, A.C.Alien, T.A.Hanson, F.C.Barker.

Reported that W.Ryan had been voted President Elect of the Yorkshire Centre.

A proposal that the name be altered to the Middlesbrough Motor Club, was not confirmed,

A letter expressing sympathy and hopes for a speedy recovery was ordered to be sent to Mrs John Gjers.

During the counting of votes the prizes won by the Middlesbrough No.1 Team in the Centre Team Trial were presented and an opportunity taken to wish godspeed to T.W.(Tommy) Robinson who was leaving for Canada.

At the first meeting of the Committee R.H.Richardson was elected Chairman.

RICHMOND MEET. A letter from the Mayor of Richmond stated that the citizens of the Town did not look with favour upon the event being held on a Good Friday and it was agreed to accede to the request and the event was abandoned. Subsequently reported that the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of Richmond had written stating that there was a definite desire that the Meet be continued and offering the use of two fields for the Gymkhana and it was decided to cancel the Minute abandoning the Meet.

The Billingham (Synthonia) M.G. supported the Meet.

At the Meet a collection amounted to £31.5.0d, Entry Fees to £2.18.0d. Of this 15 guineas were given to the Mayor of Richmond who was asked to send 2½ guineas each to the Darlington General Hospital and the St.John Ambulance Brigade.

CAR PARKING. Our request reported in 1928 for Car Parking facilities in the Town. A letter from the Town Clerk stated that the request would come before the appropriate Committee. Reported that two schemes had been submitted to the Council for parking places. A letter from the Town Clerk stating that the matter had been referred to a special committee .

In September - A sub-committee was appointed to wait on the Council committee dealing with the matter:- A.W.Foster, W.Ryan, R.W.Richardson and A.V.Buttriss.

In December - A letter was read from the Town Clerk stating that the question of parking spaces was to be considered by a special meeting of the Licensing Committee who were to meet at an early date.

HOSPITAL INSURANCE SCHEME. Number of members covered reported to be 380 and the Brokers enquired if the scheme induced riders to join the Club. Replied that the Scheme was certainly an attraction to members but it was doubtful whether it brought members into the Club.

W.A.Porter having met with an accident before his subscription had been paid, the Brokers agreed to make an ex-gratia payment of 5 guineas to the Hospital concerned. This Scheme was attracting interest in headquarters and the A.C.U. were to make a national scheme on the same lines. Total number of members covered under scheme was 553 and an additional premium of £6.10.0d was due.

NATIONAL SAFETY FIRST COUNCIL. Requested the Committee to give serious consideration to the formation of a local branch. In a letter the Town Clerk announced that should the local Council be formed nothing would be forthcoming from the Town Council.

A.G.SMITH MEMORIAL. Agreed that a large framed photograph be procured and hung in the Clubhouse as his memorial and that a similar photograph of the late G.H.Blackburn be so dealt with.

SALTBTURN SPEED TRIALS. Decided to shorten the course to get one mile per lap for lap races. This decision was severely criticised after the meeting. As a result of the shortening of the course the number of police required was reduced from 40 to 30. Change of the course was criticised by T.W.Denney and J.T.Jobborn who gave their reasons for same.

A letter from R.C.PICK in York Hospital requested that he might have cash in lieu of a Gold Cup seeing that he would be unable to work for some time. This was acceded to.

DIRT-TRACK RACING AT CLEVELAND PARK was opened on 16th May. Club officials assisting had been asked to accept a reduction in their remuneration. At a subsequent meeting attended by Mr Roberts and Mr Lavery respecting remuneration of officials it was agreed that no reduction could be accepted.

Further discussion took place following meeting of the Executive Officers with the representative of Albion Auto Racers Ltd. The Club be asked to supply officials for the sum of £6.10.0d per meeting and there were to be no season passes for the officials and a strong desire was expressed for the severance of the connection of the Club with the promoters.

An application was made to run another meeting on Sept.5th. Albion Auto Racers refused to give permission stating that it would spoil their gate on the Tuesday night. Decided to approach the A.C.U. to ascertain, asking if the Club was entitled to use the track for one day per year and if so to press for this privilege to be granted before the end of September.

SMOKING CONCERT & PRIZE PRESENTATION, was held in the Clubhouse on Thursday, 14th November when the pictures of the late G.H.Blackburn and A.G.Smith were unveiled. (A photograph of this, suitably improved(?) by one of our comical members, is in existence). The President presided and unveiled the pictures. Frank Wright, President of the Yorkshire Centre, presented the prizes.

The Rev.S. P.S Purrier announced a MOTORCYCLE GYMKHANA at Raby Castle on June 15th. It was agreed to make a Club Run of this.

A GHURCH PARADE was held at Carlton-in-Cleveland at the invitation of the Rev.W.G.Paddy and the Club participated in the Carnival organised by the N.Ormesby Hospital Committee.

PARTY ATTENDED FORT DUNLOP at the invitation of Messrs Dunlop & Co. on Wed. 24th July.

AMATEUR ROAD RACE. Decided not to make an entry this year.

CLUBHOUSE. Half-yearly accounts showed no Loss and no Profit. In September the Balance Sheet showed a serious shortage of stock. A sum of £13 had been received from the late Steward, the Club were holding his bond of £20. Following

an investigation into this, opinion was expressed that honorary labour could no longer deal with the work of the Club and that it be centralised under the Gen.Secretary who be given power to engage a Shorthand Typist to help him.

The first typed Minutes of the Committee reported a Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

REORGANISATION OF SECRETARIAL WOBK. W.Ryan spoke on the advisability of placing the whole of the secretarial work of the Club on one person and that person to have paid assistance. He regretted that the present system of a General Secretary and a Clubhouse Secretary had not proved to be the best for the Club and he urged that the Gen.Secretary should have complete control. A. Thomson said that having knowledge of the work done by A.V.Buttress he thought the time for paid help to be secured was now and it was agreed to advertise for a whole or part-time shorthand typist and to report on the cost and service to be rendered at the next meeting. There were 78 applicants and Miss C.Stoddart was appointed.

A suggestion that the Committee members should purchase drinks at a figure below that usually charged was turned down, it being stated that it would be fatal if in the interests of the Club such a privilege was granted.

TEESSIDE BILLIARD ASSN. Decided to enter a team in the Charity Cup Competition.

DANCES. Pie Suppers & Dances were held in the Linthorpe Assembly Rooms on March 20th, Oct.24th, Jan.28th, Feb. 15th (1930). Tickets 5/Od.

The Annual Ball was held in the Town Hall on 22nd November, tickets 10/6d. The Tow Hall Manager decorated the Hall for the sum of £40. Reported that a large number of complaints had been made in respect of the catering. At the first sitting a dirty salad was served at one table. The second sitting was entirely unsatisfactory. The service was very poor and a large number of guests were unable to obtain either turkey or roast pork and even bread buns could not be obtained. The caterers were asked for an explanation. The orchestras were also criticised and a complaint that when the ladies asked for their handbags at the cloakroom the attendants were not prepared to take them back. (Not a very happy function)..

TELEPHONE. Decided to install a telephone in the Club, with a coin-box.

COMPETITIONS. Winners of trophies -

Novice Trial for the Liddle Memorial Cup	- T.Creosor in an Austin Car.
Ryan Cup	- A.V.Buttress
Gilchrist Bowl (Fuel Consumption)	- H.Outhwaite
Price Cup	- C.H.Alien
John Gjers Cup	- F.G.Barker for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> time, won outright.
Winter Trial,	- A.W.Armstrong.
Gjers Cup	- J.F.Dixon.

A protest was received stating that G.T.Buttress had stopped in a non-stop section

which he had refuted and that T.Creosor who finished 6th had also stopped in a non-stop section and the necessary marks were deducted which displaced him from the 6<sup>th</sup> position. G.T.Buttriss was interviewed at the next meeting and after a long discussion in which the desire to avoid creating a precedent was a predominant feature, the results were confirmed.

SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS. Held on Sat, 13<sup>th</sup> July. The weather was perfect and the sands in excellent condition. The Committee decided as an experiment to shorten the course from 2 miles to 1 mile per lap in an effort to make it more interesting for spectators. Fastest time of the day was made by R.W.Storey on a Brough Superior with a speed of 100.76 m.p.h. The championships, 20 miles, 250 c.c. no finishers, 550 c.c. A.W.Armstrong, who completed more than one half of the course with one half of his handlebar hanging loose, 500 c.c. Charlie Barrett, 1000 c.c. C.R.Sanderson. 10 mile passenger machine handicap, A.W.Armstrong, 10 mile club members handicap for Blackburn Memorial Cup, Charlie Barrett. In the 50 mile handicap race for the Gold Cup there were 33 entries, Charlie Barrett on his Douglas put up a wonderful performance but after overhauling rider after rider his throttle jammed open and he was compelled to let the machine run into the sea. The winner was R.C.Pick on a Velocette with a speed of 46.15 m.p.h.

RIDERS IN OTHER CLUBS' EVENTS. G.H.Allen obtained a Gold Medal in the Leeds ;£200 Trial and made the Best Amateur Sidecar Performance in the Travers Open Trial.

MEMBERSHIP. Approaching the 400 mark and new members elected were:- 179 including

J. Seaman, G.B.Hickson, G.E.Hudson, Dr.S.Belas, Cecil Ridley, W.J.Whittingham, Tom Wilson, Jack Yellow, S.O'Dare, J.Gharlton, J.Hartas, W.Polton (Evening Gazette) – A.Bunting, C.N.Sadler, Colin Salmon, Reg.Harkness, Jack Ormston, Miss M.Harbottle (Mrs A.V.Buttriss), Ted Blakeway, Ralph Bradley, Percy Mushens, Alan Clark, E.F.Hodgson, Mrs McMaster and David Williams.

MARRIAGE OF F.C.BARKER, took place on 28th August. (He had won the Gjerns Cup 3 times).

CAR PARKING IN THE TOWN. Two schemes were submitted to the Town Council in February. These were considered by the Watch Committee but nothing was done in the matter. With the approach of Winter the Watch Committee were again approached and a deputation from the Club attended a Watch Committee meeting in respect of this, following which it was reported that there was little hope of any official places being established. The Chief Constable however said that no action would be taken in respect of cars parked in certain side streets for short periods!!!

## 1930

The A.G.M. was held on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. in the Clubhouse. R.H.Richardson was in the Chair. The Financial Statement showed a turnover of £2,434. War Loans to the value of £30 had been purchased making the total £300 and the Bank Balance amounted to £241 which was considered satisfactory.

Alteration, to Rules. Rule 5 was altered to read - "Hon.Secretaries" in place of Hon.General Secretary, Hon.Assis.Secretary and Hon.Clubhouse Secretary. A motion to abolish the office of Hon.Solicitor was defeated. The following officials were elected:-

Hor.Sec. - A.V.Buttress. Hon.Financial Sec. - T.Ainsley. Press Sec. - F.C.Barker.  
Captain - W.McMaster. V/Capt - A.C.Alien.

Messrs A.W.Munnoch and W.Weaver said that they had considered the matter and were of the opinion that there was far too much work for Honorary Auditors and that a professional should be engaged. Their services to the Club were acknowledged and they were presented with cheques to enable them to purchase some suitable article in appreciation of their service for many years. Subsequently J.H.Simmonds was appointed Auditor and he was accorded the privilege of honorary membership.

Committee - Elected - G.W.Liddle, H.I.Pybus, T.Creasor, W.Tattersall, W.Tap.Smith, W.H.Cussen, T.A.Hanson, A.B.Hind.

Hon.Solicitor - Harold Darcy.

Congratulations were accorded to W.Ryan as President of the Yorkshire Centre. In reply Mr Ryan said that the Insurance Scheme formulated by the Club was now being adopted by the R.A.C. and the A.C.U.

At the first meeting of the Committee following the A.G.M., W.Ryan was elected Chairman and A.W.Foster V/Chairman (Mr Foster had undergone a serious operation in hospital but was reported to be well on the way to recovery.)

The matter of the complaints respecting catering at the Annual Ball was discussed. It was noted that the caterer had been very discourteous and had refused to do any further catering for the Club. He said that the complaints were a result of the 2nd sitting being rushed due to the lack of supervision by the Committee. This was refuted. The catering for the remainder of the two Pie Supper Dances was let to another caterer.

At the March Pie Supper & Dance a disturbance took place in which a member of the Club struck a guest in the face. The persons concerned were written to and asked for an explanation. At the next meeting letters were read from the three individuals concerned. All expressed regret at the occurrence and tendered their resignations. After a long discussion it was agreed to ask them to reconsider and at the same time to warn them that any future conduct of a similar nature would result in their expulsion from the Club.

A Dispute between Mrs Smith (widow of Albert Smith) and Phil Blake respecting an account for repairs to a motor-cycle football machine, was taken to the County Court and was subsequently settled by the Club.

Secretaries' Honorarias. Hon.Sec. was granted £35, Hon.Treasurer £25, Assis.Sec.£2.10.0d and the Clubhouse Secretary £7.10.0d. Committee is reported as having said that the amounts were inadequate in comparison to the amount of work which had been done.

Affiliation Fees. A sum of £27.1.6d was paid in respect of this.

Hospital Insurance Scheme. The necessity of continuing the Hospital Insurance Scheme was discussed seeing that this was being covered by the 3rd party insurance in the Road Regulations. It was pointed out however that the payment for hospital treatment under the Road Regulations 3rd party insurance was for people injured and not for the man driving the car or motorcycle. 322 members were covered at a cost of £12.1.6d and £16.5.6d was paid by way of claims. Reported that the Yorkshire Centre were to take up this Scheme at a rate of 9d per head and it was decided to carry on with our present scheme until 31st March when it was expected the position would be clarified. Following its adoption by the Centre it was decided to apply for 200 vouchers at 6d per head.

Club Magazine. The offer of Frank Barker to produce a Club Magazine was accepted and he reported that he hoped to bring out the first issue for April. Advertising space had been let for 6 months on contract and the income would be £7.12.6d whilst the cost of printing would be £6 per issue. T.A.Hanson was appointed Sub-Editor. An appeal was made for members to submit contributions. Walter Upton offered congratulations to the Editor on the first Issue and the President, John Gjers, expressed his delight with same. It ran into trouble when member complained that an article contributed by "Tom McSennet" in the June issue was a slight on his character the Editor said he was sorry that the member had taken what was intended to be a lighthearted comment in that way. The Journal had a very small circulation and recipients would know that it was ridiculous in the extreme. He was prepared to publish an apology. "Tom McSennet" contributed a series of articles which were written with the object of debunking certain members, but he was debunked himself when 'Trixie', an anonymous, glamorous female contributor, was introduced with a photograph and he made frantic attempts to date her. In the October issue she wrote - "McSennet, it is no earthly use pestering me with your attentions and if this persists I will have no alternative but to display your absurd letters on the Club notice-board".

The cost of printing the Journal for 8 months was £85.5.10d, receipts from adverts £71.18.6d. The cost of printing the monthly programme was approx.£8 and it was thought that when the cost of printing the former monthly programme was taken into consideration the Journal would show a slight profit.

Frank Barker was congratulated on his efforts, which met with universal approval.

Billiards - Decided to obtain a copy of up-to-date rules for display in the Clubhouse.

Charitable Efforts. A guinea was voted to support the Middlesbrough & District Cot in the Treloa Crippled Childrens Hospital.

Middlesbrough Amateur Boating Club Relief Fund in respect of a fatality at the Tees Regatta. Decided to place a box in the Club for members to put in donations and 5/0d was donated by the Club to start this.

W.McMaster was appointed to represent the Club on the Organising Committee of a Charity Ball for the Institute of the Blind. Subsequently reported that nothing further had been heard.

Tenancy Agreement for Clarendon Road to exist for 3/5 years at the present rent was signed, commencement of same to be 1st Jan.1931. The Clubhouse was refurnished and redecorated.

Chairman's Badge. A silver gilt badge to cost £7.12.6d was approved. Replicas were to cost £2,12..6 each. The Chairman's Badge was subsequently received but no replicas have ever been minted. Also decided to obtain chromium-plated enamel badges for cars and motorcycles.

Dirt-Track Matters. Reported that the Company had lost £1.000 on the previous year's working and that J.F.Dixon, T.Ainsley and W.Ryan had, been asked to take over the management, of the track. Mr Ryan stated that in order to considerably curtail expenditure they would only be able to offer members of the Committee half fees for their services. A resolution expressing confidence in the new management was carried.

T.T. Races - A letter was sent to the B.B.C. and the A.C.U. expressing approval of the broadcast of the Senior T.T.Race.

Car Parking. In August a letter from the Town Clerk enclosed a copy of the Minutes relating to the proposals made by the Watch Committee. It was estimated that 120 cars could be parked and these suggestions were approved,

Summer Programme - Agreed to continue the Run to Richmond .but purely as a social fixture, there being some difficulty in obtaining a suitable field.

Trophies – A.W.Foster offered a trophy for the Winter trial and J.H.Graves of the Castrol Company also offered a Cup to the Club, as did the Northern Echo.

Freak Hill Climb. At Low Brown Hill, Stonedale, was promoted, the entrance fee being 6d, the-first-prize a Silver-Spoon and the second prize a Bronze Medal.

Grass-Track Racing. Approach was made to the local Rugby Club with a view to using their ground on Green Lane for meetings, which it was hoped to do in 1931.

Reliability Trials. On Easter Monday the Club broke new ground in running the Middlesbrough Sporting Trial in which there were 53 competitors and the Best Performance of the Day was made by Jack Gash and A.W.Armstrong won the Rough Riders Cup.

Winners of other Trials were:

Winter trial, A.W.Foster Trophy - C.T.Barker. -Ryan Trial - Jack Hodgson.  
Price trial and John .-Gjers Trial - A.W.Armstrong.  
G.M.Liddle Memorial Cup ,T- E.W.Kendrew. .  
Blackburn Cup Handicap Trial- - W.Creazor.

Announced that there would be at least 6 riders from the Club competing in the Leeds £200 trials and it was decided to enter 2 teams for this at a cost of 7/6d per team. .

The Inter-Club Scramble between Darlington and Middlesbrough, the first leg of which had been won By Darlington, was held in November and was won by Middlesbrough who were to hold the trophy for 6 months. ...

Saltburn Speed Trials: Were held on Saturday, July 5th. The programme consisted of three 20-mile championship races, one 20-mile club members championship race, a 50-mile handicap race. The manufacturers having decided not to support this class of event it was agreed to shorten the number of races and offer increased cash award to the winners. A total entry of 46 machines, was received.

The 350 c.c. 20-mile Yorkshire Championship was won by R.F.Parkinson, speed 58.15 m.p.h. up to 600 c.c. - C.R:Sanderson, speed 63.6 m.p.h who also won the 20-mile championship up to 1000 c.c. and his speed was 62.66. m.p.h. The 20-mile Club Members Handicap .race for the G.H.Blackburn Cup was won by Reg.Harkness at a speed of 58.34 m.p.h. and the 50-mile open handicap race was won by. J.H.Carr, Brough Superior, speed 66.8 m.p.h. which was the fastest speed for a lap race recorded at Saltburn at that date The offer of J.Hudson & Sons to undertake roping etc. of the course .for £24.10.0d was accepted. Messrs Binns offer to instal a Marconi Public Address system for the sun of £7.10.0d was accepted after a demonstration had been made but it was found to be entirely unsatisfactory on the day and the Club refused to pay for same.

A lorry with two men was hired for transport work for the sum of £3. Programmes were sold on a commission basis which did not realise the results anticipated. A profit of £35 was announced.

During the year members competed in other open and closed competitions. C.T.Barker, Jack Gash and Basil Udall won prizes in the Darlington Club events and E.W.Kendrew won the Charlie Bell award in a Hull Club event. R.F.Parkinson won several sand events at Southport.

Reported that after a period in which it seemed that Reliability Trial Riding had ceased to occupy its place in the sporting activities of the Club, there appeared to be a return to popularity of this type of event and it was considered necessary to adjust our ideas and the rules for the coming year.

The typist applied for an increase of wages and she was granted 1/0d per week extra.

Social Functions. Thursday, Oct.23rd. Thursday, Jan.17th and Feb.11th (1951) were booked at the Linthorpe Assembly Rooms and J.Hurst's Band was engaged for these Dances.

Annual Ball. Joe Hurst's No.1 Band and the Mason De Danse Band with ten performers each at the cost of 31 guineas was booked for this function.

New Members. 89 were elected including Miles Brand, Fred Hannah, Charlie Barker, A.W.Brocklebank (Evening Gazette), G.H.O'Dare, A.E.Buttross, E.W. and G.F.Kendrew, G.R.Codling, A.Nelson, W.Barker, H.F.Houghton, Leo Tilley, A.L.Easton.

Conclusion.

It was reported at the subsequent A.G.M. that 1930 was not one of the Club's best years and members were urged to make a little extra effort during 1931.

## 1931

A.G.M. was held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. Committee reported that the Membership was 332, a decrease of 23.

Congratulations accorded to W.Ryan on his election as President (1930) of the Yorkshire Centre .A.C.U.

A.W.Foster was thanked for the trophy he had presented for the Winter Trial.

The Saltburn Speed Trials and the Annual Ball had not been a success financially.

The Turnover for the year was £2,445 - Cash in Hand £232 - Liabilities amounted to £280,

Assets £506, a loss on the year's working of £41, and in view of the General Depression and lack of money in the district it was decided to cancel the booking of the Town Hall for this year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. V/Presidents having been elected for a term of 5 years. The resignations of H.S.Williams and Dr. D.J.F.O'Flanagan were received. G.W.Liddle was elected to fill one of these vacancies.

Committee: A.W.Armstrong, A.C.Allen, B.Richardson, W.McMaster, F.Creasor.

A.W.Foster was elected Chairman, A.C.Allen V/Chairman.

DURING THE YEAR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF INTEREST HAVE BEEN NOTED;

YORKSHIRE CENTRE. A.V.Buttress and A.W.Foster were elected V/Presidents and A.V.Buttress was elected a member of the Emergency Committee.

The applications for a Centre Trial on Easter Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and Open Speed Trials at Saltburn on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> had been agreed and T.Ellis was appointed as Timekeeper.

AFFILIATION FEES TO THE A.C.U. paid amounted to £26.17.0d.

NATIONAL SAFETY FIRST COUNCIL. The inaugural meeting of the Middlesbrough branch was held on March 19<sup>th</sup> and the Hon.Sec. and Chairman were organising this on behalf of the Club.

CHAIRMAN'S BADGE. having been received was presented to the Chairman at a meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May and the members present drank his health and success to the Club.

CLUB BADGES. 24 were ordered at a cost of 12/6d each.

MOTOR CLUB JOURNAL. E.Upton & Sons claimed that they were paying quarter of the amount received from advertising and they had decided to withdraw from the front page. No payment having been received in respect of F.Burr's advert it was decided to withdraw same.

THE LEEDS CLUB having failed to pay the awards in the Team Trial 1930 had said that they were in the process of reorganisation and if same was successful payments would be made. Subsequently 40 watch cases were received from the Leeds Club as part payment of the amount due.

A CLUBHOUSE & TRIALS SUB-COMMITTEE were appointed.

DONATIONS TO CHARITY. One guinea to the Treola Cripples Hospital. Agreed to appeal for flag-sellers on behalf of the National Lifeboat Institution.

Permission was granted to the S.BANK & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB. who were selling a motorcycle, proceeds of which would be given to the local hospitals, to bring a motorcycle and ticket sellers to any event being organised by the Club.

CONSTANTINE COLLEGE STUDENTS RAG. Agreed to support a Motorcycle Gymkhana being organised by them and permission was given to them to take a collection at the Saltburn Speed Trials which were to be advertised on a car they were sending round the week previous.

SOCIAL EVENTS & DANCES.

W.McMaster reported he had attended 4 Committee Meetings in respect of the Dance being organised for the benefit of the Cleveland & S.Durham Institute for the Blind. Subsequently a sum of £46.10.0d had been realised as a result of same.

J.Marwood's Band and Linthorpe Assembly Rooms were booked for New Year Party (billed as the New Year Revel) took the form of a Dinner Dance. A Cabaret Show was arranged by Mrs Glendennen Robinson. Tickets 6/0d, limited to 225. M.C's were T.A.Hanson and W.McMaster.

SMOKING CONCERT & PRIZE PRESENTATION. NOV.12th. Herbert Payne, President of the Yorkshire Centre, presented the prizes. The Orpheus Concert Party had been engaged and it was hoped that the Club Concert Party would be sufficiently organised to give one item during the evening.

ANNUAL DINNER, 10th DEC. Agreed to invite guests, Chairman and Surveyor of the Saltburn U.D.C., Chairman of the Marske Parish Council, representatives from the Darlington Motor Club, Supt. Thornton, (N.R.Police) and Press representatives.

A SMOKING CONCERT to mark the completion of the Clubhouse after redecoration was held on Tuesday, Oct.6th. Members' efforts in connection with this raised £150. The Elite Concert Party was engaged to entertain. A.W.Foster was in the Chair.

DORMANS HALL was booked for a popular Dance at 2/6d per head.

A MEET WITH YORK MOTOR CLUB took place at Rosedale on July 19th.

TRIALS

Dr. D.J.F.O'Flanagan agreed to the 250 Saltburn Championship Cup being used for the Centre Reliability Trial but wished it to be known as the "O'FLANAGHAN CUP" and should the Golf Match between the Club and the Conservative Club fall through at any time the Cup was to become the sole property of the Middlesbrough Club.

J.Gilchrist agreed to the Gilchrist Bowl being put up for competition in the Centre Trial for Middlesbrough Club members only.

Reported that A.W.Armstrong was the winner of the prize given for the Best Performance by a Middlesbrough Club member in the York Colonial Trial and had given an award for the Best Performance by a member who had never won an award in the Winter Trial.

Decided to offer the GJERS CUP, the 250 c.c. CHAMPIONSHIP CUP and the GILCHRIST BOWL for awards in the Centre Trial on Easter Monday. The N.E.Daily

Gazette offered a prize of 3 guineas also for this event. There was a loss of £18.6.0d on this event. Riders from the Sheffield & Hallamshire Motor Club expressed appreciation and satisfaction of the event.

GRASS TRACK RACING ON THE MIDDLESBROUGH RUGBY GROUND. GREEN LANE. Objection by a resident in the area was received stating that in the event of this being run, an action for an injunction would be taken. Decided to carry on with the arrangements. Subsequently the Rugby Club wrote that they were not prepared to allow races on their Field again this year. The Event showed a loss of £14.6.0d after the agreed amount had been paid to the Rugby Club.

GRASS TRACK RACES AT SICKLINGS FARM showed a profit of £14.9.0d.

PALMER TYRE CO. presented two tyres for a prize in a Reliability Trial.

An undertaking given to Messrs Jackson & Monk in respect of the use of a Bridle Path on the Hutton Gate Estate was considered satisfactory.

Chief Constable of the North Riding asked that the Reeth/Muker Road should be left out of any Reliability Trial organised by the Club.

On April 12th and Nov.8th inter-club competition with the Darlington Club took place on what became known as "Williamsons Nightmare", the first leg of which was won by the Darlington Club and Middlesbrough won the second by a substantial margin of points.

An Invitation was received from the CITY OF BRADFORD SPECIAL CONSTABULARY ASSN. inviting the Club to join in a restricted permit for miniature T.T.Races to be held at Esholt Park on Easter Thursday. This was accepted.

SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS. Decided to run the following events:-

1-mile race for 350 and 600 and unlimited capacity. Record attempt on Flying Kilo.  
3 x 30-mile championship races for 350, 600 and unlimited and a 50-mile handicap race.

Programmes to be sold at 1/0d each. Messrs Winterschladen and Sparks to undertake catering and the contractors to carry out the usual work for the sum of £26.10.0d was agreed and the same number of police as last year i.e. 40, was agreed.

SETTING OUT COURSE. J.Gilchrist reported he would be unable to undertake same on this occasion and A.V. Buttress said he would do the work if sufficient help was forthcoming.

A sub-committee met representatives of the local Council and Tradesmen's Assn. and suggestions made by them were well received and would be looked into. In any case help would be forthcoming in marking the course and a percentage of parking fees given.

Agreed to send a donation of half guinea to the N.O.Hospital and the Dewsbury Infirmary in respect of injuries received by M.Crosland. Following correspondence with the Hospitals in which it was pointed out that Mr Crosland was not covered

under our Hospital Insurance scheme and that for a nominal sum he could have covered himself against these charges. As he had failed to do so the Club were meeting the Hospital costs in this district and suggesting to him that he should meet those in Dewsbury.

A loss on the event of £16 was reported.

WINNERS OF EVENTS:

Saltburn Speed Trials. 20-mile Yorkshire Championship, 350 cc. J.Beck, speed 63.10 m.p.h.

600 c.c.C.P.Wood, - 65.9 m.p.h.

Unlimited, W.Pitching - 60.37 m.p.h.

50-mile Handicap Race - R.N.Harkness, speed 60.37 m.p.h.

Ryan Cup - L.Hodgson. Price Cup - A.W.Armstrong, John G.jers Cup - A.W.Armstrong. Liddle Memorial Cup - Novice Trial - E.W.Kendrew.

Blackburn Memorial Cup. Handicap Trial - E.Williamson.

G.iers Cup, Middlesbrough Sporting Trial - 1st: J.Gash. 2nd: E.Williamson, (O'Elanaghan Cup) 3rd: C.T.Barker (Graves Cup).

Northern Echo Cup - D.Pyeman (Novice)

Winter Trial - A.W.Foster Trophy - C.T.Barker.

Inter-Club Scramble - the Inter-Club Cup - Middlesbrough Team.

NEW MEMBERS elected were 76 including J.T.W.Drust, W.E.Nelson, J.McBean, E.G.Pipe J.E.Russell.

SUMMARISING. If 1931 was outstanding for anything it was - loss sustained on the Saltburn Speed Trials and the decision not to organise the Annual Ball due to the Depression and shortage of money in the district. The illness of J.Gilchrist and A.W.Foster was noted. Considerable correspondence took place with the Leeds Motor Club respecting non-payment of Team Trial awards, the club being subsequently asked to apologise for an item in the Journal respecting same.

Grass "Crack Races on the Rugby Club Field and Sicklings Farm. The first mention of Golf Competitions leading to the formation of the Golf Section and the Weekly Whist Drive still being held in 1972. Assistance given to local Charities by donations and attending on Committees. Total membership was 352. There was a loss on the year's working of £36.4.10d.

## 1932

The A.G.M. was held on 17th Feb. Elections - John Gjers was elected President and so were all the V/Presidents with the addition of R.H.Richardson, T.Ainsley and A.V.Buttress. Committee - J.F.Dixon, W.Tattersall, P.Mushens, L.Hodgson, W.Cusson to sit for 2 years. J.Parsons and C.T.Barker to sit for 1 year.

Gen.Sec - A.V.Buttress; Financial Sec - W.McMaster, T.Ainsley having been compelled to relinquish. this office due to pressure of business: Press Secs- F. C. Barker and T.A.Hanson. Capt - C.H.Allen, V/Capt - J.Gash.

Auditor - J.H.Simmonds.

Paid-up Membership (1931) was 331, a decrease of 1. The Balance of Assets over Liabilities had increased by £70.9.0d and the Turnover amounted to £3,085, an increase of £544

At the first meeting of the Committee A.C.Allen was elected Chairman and J.Parsons, Vice-Chairman and a Trials and Clubhouse Sub-Committees were appointed.

Affiliation fees amounted to £24.4.6d,

HOSPITAL INSURANCE SCHEME. 325 members had been covered at a cost of £12.3.9d. and a claim in respect of one member had been made and the Institution concerned received a sum of three guineas.

INSURANCE. The recent increase in premiums by tariff companies for motorcycle insurance was considered. Registered members of the "MOTORCYCLE" were being offered a special insurance policy and the Yorkshire Centre's attention was directed to the desirability of formulating an insurance scheme whereby members could be covered under preferential rates.

YORKSHIRE CENTRE A.C.U. A.V.Buttress was elected as a V/President and he and W.Ryan as members of the Emergency Committee.

A.V.BUTTRESS was appointed to the list of Dirt-Track Stewards.

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF PREMISES. Messrs Gjers Mills & Co. were requested to extend the date of their offer, the price being £2,000.

Decided that no Commission Agents should transact business on the Club Premises without the permission of the Committee.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

The year was remarkable for the number of Social events held. The weekly Whist Drive & Dance on Tuesday evenings continued to be very popular.

THE NEW YEAR REVEL held in the Linthorpe Assembly Rooms on January 12th took the form of a Dinner Dance, tickets being 5/0d. Complaints were received about the catering.

A.BILLIARD & SNOOKER HANDICAP was organised, P.Mushens being the winner of the Billiard Handicap.

A number of SUNDAY EVENING CONCERTS AND FILM SHOWS were arranged.

POPULAR DANCES, were held in February, March, October and November in the Dorman-Hall with Joe Hurst's Orchestra. Tickets 3/0d and the Scottish Tearooms catered at 1/3d per head. The first of these held in Dorman Hall proved an overwhelming success, over 500 people being present. The second was attended by over 400.

DONALD SMITH of the "MOTORCYCLE" provided a Film Show in January.

SEVERAL VISITS FROM LOCAL CLUBS were arranged for Games and Social Evenings.

PRIZE PRESENTATION & SMOKING CONCERT was held on Nov.10th.

THE ANNUAL DINNER was held on Thursday, Dec.5th and the Emerald Concert Party entertained. The guests included the Chairman and Surveyor of the Saltburn U.D.C., the Mayor of Middlesbrough, Spt. Thornton of the N.R.Police, to Frank Wright of the York Motor Club and the President and Secretary of the Darlington and Stockton Clubs. J.Parsons and T.A.Hanson represented the Club at the DARLINGTON DINNER DANCE.

GOLF SECTION. A Golf Section was formed, J.W.Curry was appointed Secretary and it had a most successful start in life including an opening free game, match with the Loftus Golf Club, a Stroke Competition and a Knockout Competition which was won by W.Tattersall. The match between the Middlesbrough Rugby Club and the Motor Club for the O'Flanagan Cup ended with the Rugby Club again being successful. The section had 26 members.

NEWS OF MEMBERS. T.A.Hanson married Miss Millicent Godley and a subscribed present was made from the Club to the happy couple.

A.V.Buttress having been taken ill on a visit to the Motor Show was reported to be in hospital undergoing an operation.

SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS - Prior to the Event T.W.Loughborough, Secretary of the A.C.U. inspected the course and expressed himself satisfied with the conditions of the sand and general layout and recommended that a rope be placed along the enclosure to prevent spectators encroaching on the course. H.M.Ellis was booked as Timekeeper and arrangements were concluded with the Saltburn U.D.C. to undertake work to prepare the beach for the races, thus relieving the Club of the contractors' charges and recommended that a proportion of the parking fees be allocated to the Club towards the cost of policing the course,

Programme of Events :Attempt at the flying Kilo Record.

3 x 1 mile races, 3 x 4-mile races; 3 x 20-mile championship races. 1 x 10-mile Handicap race.

List of Officials included Dr. J.B.Sandys Belas as Hon.Med.Officer.

Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> The day of the Meeting, owing to the poor condition of the Sands it was found impossible to make the usual 2 miles to the lap circuit and for the first time in the history of the event the course was actually situated at Saltburn, competitors having to travel between the Pier supports to finish. J.H.Carr recorded a speed of 95.60 m.p.h. on the Flying Kilo; it being impossible for the Record to be broken an ex-gratia award of £1.10 was made.

The 350 c.c. championship was won by T.L.Edmondson, speed 53.79 m.p.h.

600 c.c and Unlimited was won by R.F.Parkinson, speed 67.14 m.p.h.

The 10-mile Handicap was won by W.Roberts.

#### WINNERS OF EVENTS,

Middlesbrough Sporting Trial - Gjers Cup and Gilchrist Bowl for the Best Performance by a Middlesbrough Club member - C.T.Barker.

O'Flanagan Cup - Charles Helm.

Group Trials - The first was organised by the Darlington Club. The Middlesbrough Club were winners of the Inter-Club Trophy by a large margin. Charles Helm made the Best Performance by a Middlesbrough Club member for the Price Cup.

The 2nd organised by the Middlesbrough Club in the Castleton area, winner was Alan Jefferies who took the Ryan Cup.

The 3rd organised by the Stockton Club, 1st place was taken by E.W.Kendrew and A.W.Armstrong - Liddle Memorial Cup (to be held for 6 months each).

The 4th organised by the Darlington Club won by A.W.Armstrong for the Northern Echo Cup.

The 5th organised by the Middlesbrough Club won by A.W.Armstrong for the John Gjers Cup.

The 6th organised by the Stockton Club won by Jack Gash taking the Blackburn Memorial Cup.

5 Grass Track Race Meetings took place at Lane End Farm, Acklam. The riding was always good, the charge for admission nominal, but they failed to attract sufficient public support to make them a paying proposition. E.W.Kendrew was the most outstanding Middlesbrough rider, winning awards in all of these events.

RIDERS IN OTHER EVENTS, The performance of Fred W. Dixon in the International T.T Race on the Ards Circuit in N. Ireland was reported whereby he had drawn attention to Middlesbrough and the Middlesbrough Motor Club. He competed in the 500 mile race at Brooklyn and broke several records in a Riley 9 car which he had rebuilt and tuned himself. Wilt Roberts competed in the Manx Amateur Grand Prix, finishing the course. C.T.Barker secured awards in the Scottish 6-Days and the Scott Reliability Trial and the Darlington, Hull and York Clubs' Centre Events. E.W.Kendrew was probably the most active and successful of our members. A recital of his successes would take too long to relate here. As a result of this he was invited to become a member of the Yorkshire Centre team which won the Centre Team Trial organised by the A.C.U. in the Peak District. B.Udall competed in the Scott Trial obtaining an award. J.Gash competed in the York and Hull Clubs' Centre Events, getting first-class awards. F.Hodgson competed in the Hull Club's Centre Events, won a Silver Spoon. He and Charlie Barker formed a Stunt-riding exhibition which was enthusiastically received at many race meetings, gymkhanas and shows, both in Yorkshire and Durham

Stockton and Darlington Club members were invited to participate in the Winter Reliability Trial for the A.W.Foster trophy and the Inter-Club trophy was up for competition. The winner was E.W.Kendrew, Middlesbrough Club easily retaining the Inter-Club trophy. E.G.Pipe was successful in winning the trophy offered for a local rider on the Wall of Death.

NEW MEMBERS.: 83 including P.C.Richardson, Mr & Mrs E.Watson, D.Taylor, H.Barker, J.Robertson George Walton, A.Jefferies, R.V. and F.W.Russell, T.W.Robinson, John Brand and E.H.Davies. "

CONCLUSION.

THE CHAIRMAN (A.C.ALLEN COMMENTED: "I attribute our success largely to two or three reasons which I believe are almost unique in respect of Club interests and membership such as its many and varied interests, consequently the accession of various types of members; also our Club places no restrictions on sex, age or type. We cater for all provided they are good fellows and our chief reason for success which we must guard very carefully is our prevailing spirit of sporty good fellowship, the Club has had a comparatively successful year but if we are to achieve that success of which many of us believe we are capable we must realise that we have to travel a lane as long as "Catkin Lane" and a trial to negotiate as difficult as the "Ryan Semi-Sporting Trial". We must increase our membership and our reserve fund and we hope to welcome many new members during 1933".

## 1933

A.G.M. was held on 20th Feb. The Chair taken by J.Parsons, about 80 members were present. A.C.Allen, Chairman, apologising for his absence, congratulated the Club on their amazingly successful year considering the depressed state of affairs on Teesside.

Membership at the end of the year was 331, being a decrease of 1. The Balance Sheet showed a Turnover of £3,085 against £2,540, an increase of £544 and an increase in the Assets of £70

A debate took place as to whether questions respecting the Balance Sheet should be received at the meeting, there having been a request that they be submitted 48 hrs before same. Finally the Balance Sheet was accepted and the Treasurer said that he would endeavour to answer any questions put to him.

Election of Officers: V/Presidents - no election.

Hon.Sec - A.V.Buttress; Assis.Sec - T.A.Hanson: Press Sec - F.C.Barker.

Financial Sec – W.McMaster had to resign from this position for business reasons and J.F.Dixon was elected.

Captain - J.Gash; V/Captain - Herbert Alien: Auditor - J.H.Simmonds.

Committee - W.McMaster, A.C.Alien, G.T.Barker, J.Parsons, A.W.Armstrong to sit for 2 years. R.N.Grey to sit for 1 year, who was subsequently to provide a pictorial record of the Club's activities.

Committee were requested to consider forming the Club into a Limited Liability Co. and purchasing the premises. A sub-committee was appointed whose terms of reference were to obtain a long lease of the present premises together with a scheme for alterations to same. Subsequently Messrs Gjers Mills were unable to carry out alterations and it was decided to apply for a renewal of the lease for a further 3 years.

At the first meeting of the Committee J.Parsons was elected Chairman, T.Ainsley V/Chairman.

Sub-committee for the Clubhouse and Trials was elected.

HONORARIUMS: Hon.Sec. awarded £40, Hon. Financial Sec - £15.

Due to business reasons the Hon.Sec. - A. V.Buttress and IHon. Financial Sec.- W.McMaster tendered their resignations, both being employed in the same office. Hon.Sec. subsequently withdrew his resignation.

HOSPITAL INSURANCE SCHEME: 345 members were covered at a cost of £17.5.0d and the sum of 5 guineas was paid for one member who received treatment.

A new typewriter was purchased for the sum of £21.10.0d. A VICKMAN PIN MACHINE was purchased.

NEWS OF MEMBERS: Reported A.W.Foster was making progress after an operation and A.C.ALLEN was undergoing a serious operation in hospital. P.Mushens was in hospital following a serious operation. Frank Barker Hon. Press Sec. having secured an important appointment in Manchester would be leaving Middlesbrough and the Best Wishes of the Meeting were accorded to him.

DONATIONS TO CHARITY; One guinea to the Guarantee Fund of the Great Yorkshire Show.

Longman Memorial Fund - Committee each subscribed 1/0d towards this.

In response to an appeal from J.H.Holmes (Sec. of the Yorkshire Centre) for the Washburn

Valley Farmers Assn. Show, agreed to donate 10/0d providing he could get a further 11 clubs to subscribe a similar amount.

MEMBERSHIP: The application for membership from a member of a RELIGIOUS FRATERNITY was refused and it was decided that no further applications from members of this sect be accepted.

A request signed by 45 members for an extraordinary general meeting to discuss this was received. It was held on Monday, Dec.18th. The Committee agreed a statement of the position to be read at this meeting. J.Parsons was in the Chair and over 150 members were present. It was proposed and seconded that the action of the Committee be approved. An amendment was proposed and seconded that a vote of censure be passed on the Committee for their action.

After a long discussion it was finally agreed that the members should by ballot say Yes or No as to whether any more members of that sect should be accepted for membership. The Club

Auditor J.H.Simmonds, together with a representative of the Sect concerned and T.A.Hanson representing the Club, were appointed as Scrutineers. The result of the ballot was declared as follows;- NO - 106; YES - 49.

The Chairman congratulated all the Speakers on the way they had avoided personalities.

This matter having received unprecedented publicity it was decided to issue a statement on behalf of the Club for publication. Subsequently the President, John Gjers, resigned over the issue.

#### SOCIAL.

DANCES: New Year Revel on Jan 4th and Popular Dances in Feb., March, Oct., and Nov. were organised, the price of admission including Supper was 3/0d. In the March event a Burlesque on the Irish Sweep Draw proved to be a considerable attraction and over 500 people attended. The Police made enquiries respecting this, lotteries being illegal, and the Committee had to attend at the Central Police Station, Middlesbrough on March 16th. The Police were anxious that only these members of the Committee responsible for the Dance should be interviewed but the majority of the Committee subsequently attended. After an interview with a solicitor, he made representations - no proceedings were taken.

Weekly Whist Drives were organised by the Ladies Committee.

Dances. 1933/34 - Decided to reserve the same dates as last year for Dormans Hall and the Town Hall for Boxing Day. Subsequently found the Town Hall was not available on Boxing Day.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM was booked for the New Year Revel and an application for an occasional licence was refused and the event was cancelled.

In order to encourage patrons to turn up early a scheme to refund the admission fee to six couples dancing between the hours of 8 and 9 pm. was agreed upon.

SMOKING CONCERT & PRIZE DISTRIBUTION. Fixed for Thursday, Nov.10th.

FRED W.DIXON. A Complimentary Dinner was held on 15th December in honour of Fred W. Dixon who was the Guest of the evening in recognition of his outstanding performances in competitive motoring and motorcycling and in particular his winning of the MANNIN BEG Race in the Isle of Man on the 12th July.

Guests included His Worship the Mayor of Middlesbrough, Councillor A.Cooper, G.A.Reed, resident of the Yorkshire Centre and Frank Wright, V/President, together with two representatives from the Darlington and Stockton Motor Clubs and from the Saltburn U.D.G. Tickets were 4/0d and all attended in evening dress.

The Toast List was:-

"THE KING" proposed by the President, John Gjers.

"FRED W.DIXON" proposed by W.Ryan supported by His Worship the Mayor of Middlesbrough for the Townspeople.

"G.A.REED" for the controlling bodies of Motor Sport

"MR VICTOR RILEY" for the Motor Manufacturers.

"THE VISITORS" proposed by A.V.Buttress responded to by Cyril Paul.

W. McMaster was again appointed to represent the Club at the Cleveland & S. Durham Institute of the Blind Dance.

A CLUB RUN to the British Gliding Assn's Open Meeting at the top of Sutton Bank was made.

#### TRIALS.

It was decided to apply for a Centre Event for 1933 and Group Trials were continued. SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS. N.H.Ellis was appointed Timekeeper. Consideration was given to running Car events. A Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the programme, prize money and entry fees, which proposed that Cars should be allowed to attempt the Flying Kilo record and that Car and Motorcycle lap events should alternate with one another.

B.A.C. requested that additional safety precautions be incorporated for Car events.

18 Motorcycle and 7 Car entries only were received and the Meeting was cancelled.

The DEATH OF T.L.EDMONDSON. winner of the 350 c.c. Saltburn Championship as a result of a motor accident, was reported.

YORKSHIRE TEAM TRIALS. Two teams entered.

STOCKTON CLUB. Suggested that a special meeting of the Group i.e. Stockton, Middlesbrough and Darlington, be called to consider the possibility of forming a Teesside Branch of the A.C.U.

WINNERS OF EVENTS;

- 1st Group Trial - Liddle Memorial Cup - Jack Gash.
- 2nd " " Price Cup - C.T.Barker.
- 3rd " - Ryan Gup - A.W.Armstrong.
- 4th " - Graves Cup - Jack Gash.
- 5th " - Northern Echo Cup - George V/alton,
- 6th " - John Gjers Cup - Tie between E.W.Kendrew & C.T.Barker.
- Gjers Cup Trial for Cars & Motorcycles - J.F.Dixon, Riley Car.
- Gilchrist Bowl - C.T.Barker, Motorcycle
- Winter Reliability Trial - A.W.Foster trophy - E.F.Hodgson.

Members' Successes in Other Events;

- Fred W.Dixon - Competed in and won, the MANNIN BEG RACE at the Isle of Man, also competed in the International Tourist Trophy Races on the Ards Circuit, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> only to be disqualified on technical grounds. He also competed with success at Brooklands Donnington Park and Shelsey Walsh.
- Charlie Barker - Finished 2nd in the "North Liverpool" Club's Sporting Trial.
- " " " " Darlington Club's Pillion Trial.
- " " " " Hull Auto Club's Centre Sporting Trial.
- " 5rd " " Darlington Club's Trial (Motorcycle Glass).

E.W.Kendrew - Finished 2nd in the Scott Trial and was also a member of the winning County Team.

Won the HOOD CUP in the Lancashire Grand National.

Semi-Finalist in 550 Se 500 Classes in the Listerdale Hill Climb.

Made Best Performance of Day in the York Colonial Trial.

Finished 5rd in the Hull Auto Club's "Charlie Bell" Trial.

At Greenside, Newcastle, was awarded the Golden Helmet and also secured several places.

Rode for the Yorkshire Centre Team in the Inter-Centre Team Trials.

Frank Hodgson - Won the Ilkley Grand National.

Secured an award in the Scott Trial and also was successful in a Trial organised by the Darlington Club.

In the series of Group Trials, the Middlesbrough Club retained the Stockton Motor Club Shield for the Best Club Performance during the series.

NEW MEMBERS; 62 including Dr. J.Sullivan, Mrs J.Gash, Mrs Frank Dixon and G.G.Bensley.

**1934**

A.G.M. was held on the 12th Feb. The President John Giers occupied the Chair and about 60 members attended, An alteration to rules excluding the Hon.Solicitor from a seat on the Committee and limiting the number of V/Presidents to 12 was carried.

Secretaries were re-elected, A.V. Buttress Hon.Gen.Sec: J.F.Dixon, Hon.Financial Sec., T.A.Hanson, Hon.Assis.Sec., F.G.Barker, Hon.Press Sec. Capt - J.Gash, V/Capt - C.T.Barker. Auditor - J.H. Simmonds. Committee - Elected W.Tattersall, K.N.Gray, C.L.Hodgson, H.F.Houghton, C.E.Hodgso for 2 years. G.H.Allen to sit for one year.

At a subsequent Committee meeting T.Ainsley was elected Chairman and W.Tattersall V/Chairman.

The Chairman was instructed to initial each sheet in the loose-leaf Minute Book now in use.

Decided not to elect a Clubhouse Committee but the Trials Subcommittee was continued and it was agreed in future that the Committee would elect new members by ballot and that an applicant be declared elected if two-thirds of those present voted in favour.

HOSPITAL INSURANCE SCHEME. Reported that since the inception of same 6 years ago the Club had paid in premiums £99.10.5d and £55.4.6d had been received in claims, the balance of premiums over claims being £46.5.9d and a suggestion that the Club should finance the scheme themselves was not proceeded with. Subsequently this was agreed.

SAFETY FIRST COUNCIL. Decided to forward a sun of one guinea to support an intensive national campaign in an endeavour to prevent road accidents, it being common knowledge that if this method of reducing road accidents failed, legislation having far-reaching effects would be brought into being.

Attention was drawn to the SEVERE PENALTIES now being inflicted upon anyone now driving a car under the influence of drink and it was agreed that any photographs taken should not show any bottles or glasses of liquid refreshment.

FRUIT MACHINES. The Chief of Police, having made representations respecting these which were illegal, they were removed. Loss of revenue was noted with regret. A Pin Machine was installed in the place of the Fruit Machine and this showed a profit of £48.5.3d for the year.

A Sub-Committee was appointed to consider Registering the Club under the Industrial & Provident Society Act. No action was taken.

EXTENSION OF PERMITTED HOURS. The Cleveland branch of the Workmens Club & Union Ltd. announced that they were taking steps to apply to the Licensing Justices for extension of the permitted hours on weekdays from 10 pm. to 10-50 pm. There were 22 clubs at the meeting and it had been unanimously agreed to go forward with the application.

A meeting of members was convened to form a Committee to promote BILLIARD & SNOOKER competitions and an effort to be made to double the membership in 1935.

DONATIONS TO CHARITY. Collection Box placed in the Club on behalf of the Y.M.C.A. The Mayor's Appeal for the Unemployed Holiday Fund, 10/6d. Treloa Hospital 10/6d and an Appeal from the Mayor for assistance for the Royal Wedding Gift National Fund, was made.

PURCHASE OF PREMISES. An offer was made to Messrs Gjers Mills & Co. of £1,450 for the premises and contents. The owners agreed to sell for £1,550. An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on 14th June when it was agreed that the premises in Clarendon Road including the fixtures, furnishings and utensils therein be purchased for the sum of £1,500.

The Club not being a corporate body the following Trustees were appointed:- A.Blackburn, J.Gilchrist, E.H.Richardson and A.J.Young, with instructions to charge same for the sum of £1,200 and to sell the £300 worth of War Stock.

It was reported that the transaction had been completed on 14th November.

The question of limiting members' liability was again discussed.

THE EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF A RELIGIOUS FRATERNITY. Was not allowed to die down. The President John Gjers tendered his resignation due to the difference of opinion between himself and the Committee with respect to same and he was asked to reconsider this. He replied that he would continue until the A.G.M. Numerous other letters were received on the subject and the Hon.Sect. had a long conversation with the Minister of the Fraternity concerned.

In March the President John Gjers in a letter which was signed by 55 members called for an Extraordinary General Meeting for this matter to be reconsidered. It was decided to write to all those signing the letter pointing out that the subject had been decisively settled in the December Extraordinary Meeting. The matter of an Extraordinary General Meeting was again raised in May and refused.

The resignations of A. Thompson, V/Chairman and all the members of the Fraternity concerned were tendered and accepted with regret.

MISS C.STODDART, the TYPIST, resigned on her marriage and a Wedding Present of a Workbox was given to her. The vacant position was advertised and a total of 38 applications was received. Miss Stott was engaged as the new Typist. She resigned after 2 months and Miss V.Dearlove was then appointed.

GOLF SECTION. Went from strength to strength. At the second Annual Meeting 31 members were reported. W.J.Curry was elected Secretary, D.Snowden Captain, W.H.Balmer V/Captain.

NEWS OF MEMBERS: The Gen.Secy's notes in the July Motor Club Journal commenced as follows:-

"Will members please note that my address is now 72 Harrow Road and Tel.No.Linthorpe 8231.

In this manner the marriage of A.V.Buttress to Miss Maude Harbottle at the Congregational Church, Redcar on Saturday, 3rd June was announced and a presentation of Dining-room furniture was made on Tuesday July 4<sup>th</sup>.

A.W.Foster returned home after his hospitalisation. Mrs Ainsley, wife of the Chairman, was seriously ill. G.W.Liddle was reported to be ill and would be unable to attend meetings for some time. Fred W.Dixon had met with an accident and was confined to hospital for a short period.

Deaths:

Fred Dodds. W.Tattersall, founder member and father of the V/Chairman.

Alfred. (Tich) O'Dare following a road accident.

Basil Udall following injuries received in an explosion at I.C.I.

A.J. (Arthur) Young, a V/President who had been a member since the Club's inception. He had a sunny, cheerful personality and he passed that quality on to all with whom he came into contact. Many would start by laughing at him which he did not mind but it would, not be long before they were laughing with him. As his lasting memory we will never forget his inimitable tales, well told. To mention just two of the many:

That gem of the first water - how he described Blakiston's first climb up Roseberry Topping on a motorbike and how he pulled the Nation's leg over the Loch Ness Monster.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED - 49 including S.H.Shuker, Alec Peel, Mrs J.Pugh, Harry Wilson, S.Forbes, W.Cooper, Miss E.Salmon.

As a result of the Car Race at Saltburn 10 members were elected including Sir Ronald Gunter Bart., E.J.Moor, R.Steavenson, A.H.Hutchinson, J.Cleasby, G.Ross, S.Tate, F.H.Ambling, J.K.Howard Hall.

On Monday, 29th May a PRESENTATION TO MR T.A.HANSON. Assistant Secy. and Editor of the Club Journal to mark the occasion of his marriage in 1955, was made by W.Ryan.

## S O C I A L

DANCES. Two Dances were organised, one in the Dorman Hall on Feb.7th and the other in the Linthorpe Assembly Booms on Nov.7th. In the February event a competition for the Best-Dressed Head of Hair in conjunction with the Hairdressing Assn. was organised and in addition the first 50 ladies attending had their photographs taken and were presented with a copy of same. It was reported that there was a loss of £7 on this.

The Town Hall was booked for the 7th Nov. and the Assembly Rooms for 3rd Jan.(1935) for the New Year Revel. Jack Marwood's Orchestra played at both these functions.

ANNUAL BALL: It is apparent that these dates were reversed, the Annual Ball being held in the Town Hall on 3rd Jan.1935 which was attended by 362 guests and the one in the Linthorpe Assembly Rooms on Wednesday, Nov.7th.

A falling-off in the attendance at the Tuesday Night Whist Drives was reported and it was decided to arrange a Dance on the same night from 9 pm to 11 pm. This was subsequently cancelled and a Ladies Night was organised in which lady members

were encouraged to use the Club and the Lounge. The afternoon Whist Drives were continued and tribute was paid to the lady members for their organisation of same.

A MOTORCYCLE FILM was exhibited at the Palladium on 28th Feb. A Talking Picture Film Show was offered by W.D.& H.O.Wills and fixed for a Wednesday evening in June.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION. The Prize Distribution.& Smoking Concert was held on Friday, 26th Oct. Mr & Mrs Fred W.Dixon presented the prizes.

A number of CRICKET MATCHES with neighbouring Clubs was played and SWIMMING SESSIONS took place in the Middlesbrough and Redcar Baths, arrangements having been made for the Club to have a reserved period in the Middlesbrough Baths for members.

SOCIAL RUNS were made to Redcar Baths, The Alum Pot, York Club's Hill Climb and a Grass Track Meeting organised by the Scarborough Club. To Keswick for the purpose of climbing Scawfell Pike. To the Goydon Pot, Whitby, Ruswarp and Runswick Bay, to the Wainstones for Rock Climbing and a Church Parade was held at Kirby-in-Cleveland.

MOTOR CLUB JOURNAL. Throughout the year the Motor Club Journal appeared every month and perusing a copy of same it is noted that a passage each month was devoted to Golf topics. That Trixie, the former lady contributor, had been succeeded by Lucille. In this connection thanks were expressed to the advertisers whose assistance towards the cost of the publication was gratefully acknowledged.

THE ANNUAL FOOTBALL MATCH WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS was played on the Acklam Parish Church Club's ground on Boxing morning, the Old Boys winning by 6 goals to 3. Unfortunately Laurie Hodgson met with an accident which resulted in his leg being fractured.

#### TRIALS

The Group system of Trials was continued and 6 events were organised.

Decided that machines be equipped with standard tyres only for all Group Trials.

WINNERS OF EVENTS; Winners of the Middlesbrough Club awards were:-

Little Memorial Cup - G.Bensley. Gilchrist Bowl - G.Bensley

Graves Cup - C.T.Barker. Northern Echo Cup - F.Hodgson.

Price Cup - Tie between R.V.Russell and E.F.Hodgson.

A Ballot Team Trial with the Darlington and Stockton Clubs was held on 22nd April. The result was a tie between No.16 Team - A.W.Lowther, E.F.Hodgson, E.G.Barker and No.17 Team - C.H.Allen, T.W.Peters, L.G.Bond for the Blackburn Memorial Cup.

Ryan Gap winner - E.W.Kendrew. A.W.Foster Trophy - E.A.Morris.

In the series of Group Trials the Middlesbrough Club failed to retain the Stockton Motor Club's Shield, Stockton and Darlington Clubs holding same jointly.

Two teams were entered in the Centre Team Trial, the No.1 Team secured 3rd place.

Reported that the Yorkshire Centre Board was alarmed at the growing lack of interest in Centre Meetings and the hope was expressed that more young men would become actively interested in Centre work. The subsidising of the A.C.U. by

the R.A.C. was mentioned. W.Ryan pointed out that it was more in the nature of payment for work done in controlling motorcycle sport for the R.A.C. than a subsidy.

SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS. Having been cancelled in 1933 for lack of entries consideration was again given for the inclusion of events for cars.

Awards were agreed:- Yorkshire Championship Races - total £12.

20-mile Handicap Race - £12. 1-mile & 4-mile races - £3.10.0d for a number of 10 entries in each race.

£5 to the competitor who breaks the Flying Kilo record by the greatest margin.

The programme to be improved with a short biography of the more prominent competitors present 2,500 to be printed to sell at 1/0d. Admission to the Enclosure 6d, with the use of a Chair 6d extra.

Gaumont British Distributors Ltd. sought permission for a cameraman to take films of the meeting.

Suggested that the Silver Bullet recently acquired by Fred Dixon be taken down to Saltburn for display was discussed.

Insurance against Rain. Was considered. Decided to take out a Policy to cover the sum of £50 over a 6-hour period between 10 am. and 4 pm.

The event was held Saturday 21st July and for the first time included a 10-mile Handicap Race for Cars, and the drivers of same had to become members of the Middlesbrough Club.

The winners of trophies were:-

20-mile championship, 350 c.c. - J.B.Moss, speed 64.48 m.p.h.

600 " - L.S.Cordingley, 68.09 m.p.h.

Unlimited - F.H.Marshall, 65.77 m.p.h. who

also won the 20-mile handicap race, speed 64.46 m.p.h.

The following course records were broken:-

20-mile - L.S.Cordingley, speed 68.09 m.p.h.

He also broke the 4-mile record with a speed of 77.49 m.p.h.

The 10-mile Handicap Race for Cars was won by S.Tate, Morgan at a speed of 46.6 m.p.h. A feature of the Race was very fine driving by Sir Ronald Gunter Bart. in a super-charged Maseratti.

L.A.Lumby replaced H.N.Ellis as Timekeeper and thus commenced a long association with the Club's speed events.

A book of photographs taken by Mr Wright was presented to the Club.

RIDERS IN OTHER EVENTS: Fred W.Dixon won the 500-mile Race at Brooklands and a letter of Congratulations was sent to him. He competed in other races with cars with distinction.

The following also participated in events organised by other clubs with distinction:-

E.W.Kendrew, P.C.Hodgson, C.T.Barker and Jack Gash.

## 1935

The A.G.M. was held on 11th Feb. Chair was taken by T.Ainsley and attended by upwards of 60 members. Officers elected were:-

President: Fred W.Dixon,

V/Presidents: A.C.Allen, W.Armstrong, T.Ainsley, A.Blackburn, A.V.Buttress, A.Chapman, A.W.Foster, J.Gilchrist, G.W.Liddle, R.H.Eichardson, W.Ryan, W.Upton.

5 members of the Committee: D.Rayner, A.Clarke, C.Pette, T.Miller, T.H.Blackburn.

Captain - J.Gash. V/Captain - A.W.Armstrong.

Hon.Gen.Secy: A.V.Buttress. Hon.Assis.Secy: T.A.Hanson. Hon.Finan.Secy: J.F.Drxon. Hon.Press Secy: F.C.Barker. Auditor: J.H.Simmonds.

A. Vote of Thanks to the retiring President, John Gjers, was carried unanimously with instructions to write and convey to him the hearty thanks of the members for the work he had done for the Club during his Presidency.

Fred Dixon and Herbert Barker, having met with a flying accident, a letter was sent expressing sympathy with them in their troubles, coupled with the earnest hope for their speedy recovery.

FINANCE. Attention was drawn to the loss sustained by the removal of the Fruit Machines and an appeal was made by the Auditor for consideration into ways and means of raising money. Turnover was £2,753, a slight increase on the previous year. The Balance of Assets over Liabilities amounted to £229, an increase of £62.

At the first meeting of the Committee W.Tattersall was elected Chairman, T.A.Hanson Vice/Chairman.

A Trials Sub-Committee and a sub-committee to initiate schemes to increase revenue were elected who decided to recommend a Sweep on the Derby and that a monthly Whist Drive and Dance on a bigger scale in other premises be considered.

SPEED LIMIT OF 30 M.P.H. The Middlesbrough Council proposed to subject certain roads not in a built-up area as defined by the Act to a speed limit of 30 m.p.h. and the Executive were given instruction to oppose same. Considerable correspondence took place with Harold McMillan M.P., Commander E.T.Bower, M.P., Ernest Young, M.P., and F.Kingsley-Griffith, M.P. on this subject.

HOSPITAL INSURANCE SCHEME. Agreed that the Club continue to underwrite its own Scheme and to exclude payments to Hospitals where a member's accident had occurred whilst travelling as a fare-paying passenger in a motor-vehicle. Mr C.L.Hodgson had sustained a fractured leg in a football match and it was agreed to pay his expenses from the Hospital Insurance Scheme.

Two claims were paid of £1.11.6d and £2.12.6d. Balance in hand was £23.14.3d.

CLUBHOUSE MATTERS. Agreed to support an application for an extension of the permitted hours.

Consideration was given to installing a plant to keep beer at a constant temperature and the offer of J.& E.Hall to install their Murray Hall plant for the sun of £125 was

accepted. This ran into difficulties when the Water Board required a Water Meter to be installed which had to be in a separate brick-built outhouse.

Repairs to Central Heating Boiler and other improvements were approved up to a sum of £20.

The sum of £50 was expended for a new set of Snooker balls and to have the 3 tables renovated.

Miss A.MacLane was appointed to assist the Steward.

**BILLIARDS IN CLUBS ON A SUNDAY.** Billiards played in Public Houses on Sundays being illegal the matter of it being played in Clubs was investigated and it was reported that it was perfectly legal for this to take place, clubs not being pubs.

**NEW RULES.** A Sub-committee was appointed to revise same and it was decided to submit these to an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on the first Monday in January 1936.

**MOTORCLUB JOURNAL.** Was issued every month. Shell-Mex gave notice to cancel their advertisement with the June Issue and Messrs Binns from the May issue. Wm. Younger & Co. agreed to advertise on the inside back page.

**RESIGNATION** of Mr A.W.Munnoch. the former Hon.Auditor, was accepted with regret.

A.V.BUTTRESS was elected President Elect of the Yorkshire Centre.

W. TATTERSALL. the Chairman, having dived into the sea fully clothed to rescue a bather in danger of drowning at Redcar. A letter of congratulations and appreciation was forwarded to him.

**DEATHS.** The passing of Mrs T.Ainsley, wife of the former Treasurer and Hon.Financial Secy. was reported and mention was made of the work she had done for the Club.

**NATIONAL SAFETY FIRST COUNCIL.** Agreed to subscribe a similar amount as the previous year.

**DONATIONS TO CHARITY.** At the request of His Worship the Mayor a Collecting Box was placed in the Club in respect of the Hospitals Saturday & Sunday effort.

An Appeal in respect of the Royal Wedding Gift National Fund was made and the sum of one guinea was sent to the Mayor. (A photograph of T.R.H. The Duke & Duchess of Kent inscribed to the effect that members of the Club had made a donation to their wedding gift was received.)

A donation of 10/6d to the Middlesbrough Old Folks Welfare Society was made.

**CHRISTMAS DRAW.** It being illegal to despatch raffle tickets by post and as an alternative it was agreed that prizes should be obtained and that one or more of these should be raffled in the Club each week, and a sum of £1.14.0d for the North Ormesby Hospital was collected on a night of the Draw.

FRED W.DIXON won the T.T.Race on the Ards Circuit and a letter of congratulation was sent to him. He was also successful in winning the Empire Trophy on Brooklands Track.

ALF.W.ARMSTRONG was married in June at St.Lukes Church, Thornaby to Miss Doris Russell and they left for a motoring honeymoon. Subscription list was opened to provide a suitable present.

W.McMASTER was again appointed to represent the Club on the Committee for the Institute for the Blind Dance.

The Club were consulted by F.A.Sakkitt on the formation of a Club in Sunderland.

## S O C I A L

ANNUAL BALL. Provisionally booked for the 27th Dec.1934 was held on Jan.3rd 1935. It showed a profit of £1.11.7d. Donations were received from Winterschladens and by E.Spark Ltd.

RUNS were made to the Lake District, White Horse Kilburn (Captains Day), Patterdale (Ladies Day). Surprise Run conducted by G.Blincoe to the Garden of Mr & Mrs Wood at Old Shotton. Church Parade at Carlton-in-Cleveland, also attended by members of the Stockton and South Leeds Motor Clubs. To Whorlton. Childrens Day Run to Marske.

A CRICKET. MATCH was held at Newton-under-Roseberry on June 19th and the ANNUAL FOOTBALL MATCH with the High School Old Boys took place on Dec.26th at Darmans Ground, Oxford Road.

THE GOLF SECTION continued their activities and 40 members joined. Matches took place at Saltburn, Loftus, Linthorpe and Tees-Side Golf Courses. W.Forrest was the winner of a Silver Cup presented by the Club and C..Weastell, professional of the Middlesbrough Golf Club, presented a Silver Cup to be competed for annually.

A FILM SHOW by E.A.Morris of Harrogate and a Lecture on Gliding by a member of the Newcastle Gliding Club.

FORMATION OF A LADIES CONCERT PARTY. Agreed that they rehearse on Sunday afternoons, the prime movers being Miss H.Beavis and Miss Mills. This never got off the ground,

WEEKLY WHIST DRIVES & DANCE continued its popularity and lady members under Mrs A.Liddle and Mrs Hodgson successfully organised same together with 4 Bridge Drives which showed a profit of £7.13.9d.

VISITS were received from the staff of the Tees Conservancy Commission and British Titan Products Sports Group.

THE DINNER & PRIZE PRESENTATION was held in the Club on Friday, Nov.8th, Gentlemen only. Guests included Fred Marshall, President of the Yorkshire Centre, Dr.E.J.Burnett and T.McKenna Saltburn U.D.G., two representatives from the Stockton Club and the Betterset Concert Party entertained. Tickets were strictly limited at the cost of 3/6d each.

THE ANNUAL BALL was held in the Town Hall on Friday, Dec.13th and attended by 362 guests. Joe Hurst's Band of 10 players was booked for the sum of £14 and Dance Music was relayed to the Crypt by loudspeaker. Supper cost 2/6d per head. Admission tickets were 6/6d. Decorations were in the hands of George Buck, the Town Hall Manager. An Oyster Bar was provided for the Committee and 10/0d worth of Guinness was also supplied. Two attendants were employed to look after the parking of cars. The Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor A. and Mrs Elstrop, attended.

## TRIALS

### SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS.

The A.C.U. advised that petrol and oil companies would not attend 1-day meetings. It having been suggested that the event should be run on August Bank Holiday Monday, the Saltburn U.D.C. did not agree and asked that it still be run on a Saturday in July. Council requested to receive a deputation from the Club. Council agreed to a deputation on the 27th March at 8-50 p.m. Following a meeting with the Saltburn U.D.C. the date of Saturday, August 10th fixed for the event.

A Public Address system was hired at a cost of 5 guineas and a Pluvius Policy to cover a 6-hour period was obtained and it was reported that the income on the day amounted to £153.

Events were - CARS: 10-mile Handicap Race, 3 x 1-mile races and 3 x 4-mile races. M/CYCLES: 3 x 1-mile races, 3 x 4-mile races, 3 x 20-mile Yorkshire Championship Races, 1 x 20-mile Handicap Race.

The Saltburn Council, having been unable to receive a deputation to discuss facilities for a paying gate, admission to the Enclosure increased to 1/0d including tax.

### WINNERS OF EVENT:

20-mile Championship up to 250 c.c. - D.Parkinson, speed 50.31 m.p.h.

" up to 350 c.c. - J.B.Moss, speed 63.30 m.p.h.

" up to 600 c.c. - J.K.Swanston, " 66.67 m.p.h.

" unlimited - J.K.Swanston, speed 67.35 m.p.h.

20-mile handicap for motorcycles - C.F.Brett, 59.49 m.p.h.

10-mile " cars - H.Hodgson, 68.47 m.p.h.

Profit on the Event amounted to approx. £20.

A Film of the Event was shown at the Gaumont Cinema on Friday and Saturday, 17th & 18th August

SHEPHERDS HILL CLIMB was held on Whit.Monday, June 16th.

Speed Hill Climb for Cars and motorcycles and circuit racing for motorcycles. Considerable crowd paid for admission, profit being approx. £30.

Fastest time of Day - Cars - G.M.Kreedy, PRICE CUP.

Motorcycles ~ T.E.Flintoff - J.H.GEAVES CUP.

Miss Walker, the owner, was not agreeable to events being run on a Sunday.

INSURANCE. Agreed to support the Scheme outlined by Messrs Muir Beddall for a compulsory 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Insurance in competitions in which the speed element was the governing factor.

FIVE RELIABILITY TRIALS, two in conjunction with the Stockton Club and three under the Group System, the first was a team Trial on Sunday, April 7th, winning team being-, A.W.Armstrong, W.T.Peters and E.W.Kendrew jointly held the Blackburn Memorial Cup.

28th May - Group Trial, winner A.W.Armstrong - JOHN GJERS CUP.

30th June - Group Trial in which there were separate classes for Cars and Cycles - winner J.Gash - RYAN CUP.

Car Class - Mrs M.M.Hanson - GILCHRIST BOWL.

8th Sept - Group Trial - winner A.W.Armstrong - GJERS CUP,

29th Dec. - Winter Reliability Trial - winner A.W.FOSTEER TROPHY - T.A.Hanson.

THE A.C.U .issued a new appendix to the General Competition Rules in respect of Grass Track Racing and requested help with the introduction of motorcyclists in the Divisional Signals Corps of the Territorial Army.

MEMBERS successful in other Clubs' Events were G.G.Bensley, E.G.Pipe, J.Gash, G.Walton. and the Club's team secured 3rd place in the Yorkshire Centre's Team Trial.

Len Ainsley, son of Tom Ainsley, former Treasurer and Financial Secretary, went to America with Captain Eyston on his record-breaking expedition to the Salt Lake, Utah. Len started his career with Freddy Dixon. He was reported to be responsible for some of the design of the new car.

NEW MEMBERS. - 84 including Gerald Stokeld, Alan Keen, H.Connelly, Mr & Mrs Frank Pugh, L.Connelly and Mr & Mrs G.D.Cunningham, W.Oliver, A. (Don) Taylor and Alec Thompson who rejoined, Reg.M.Harkness, A.W.Zeland, W.Clare, Mrs L.Forman.

E.J.Halliman, a St.John Ambulance man, was made an honorary member.

## 1936

The A.G.M. was held on Feb.17th. Chair was taken by W.Tattersall and upwards of 60 members attended. It was considered that the activities carried out during the year under review (1935) had been a great credit to the Club and the Committee.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT. The President, Fred W.Dixon occupied the Chair during the discussion of the Balance Sheet. It was reported that the Turnover amounted to £3323.19.0d which was a record. The Balance of Assets over Liabilities amounted to £478.8.3d which, compared with 1934 showed a decrease, accounted for by the alterations, redecorations and renewals that took place during the year.

Officers Elected:-

Hon.Gen.Secy - A.V.Buttress. Hon.Assist.Secy - T.A.Hanson Hon.Press Secy - F.C.Barker.

Captain - J.Gash, V/Capt - G.G.Bensley.

Treasurer - H.F.Houghton.

5 members of the Committee - W.Tattersall, J.F.Dixon, C.L.Hodgson, A.W.Armstrong, W.Forrest.

An EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING was held on 6th Jan. when a new revised set of Rules was submitted and approved.

CHAIRMAN. At the first meeting of the Committee T.A.Hanson was elected, F.C.Barker V/Chairman. Jack Gash was appointed to represent the Club on the Teesside Safety First Council.

HOSPITAL INSURANCE SCHEME. After some dispute on payment to be made to the hospital and for the use of an. ambulance it was agreed to meet the charge of £1.1.8d.

Another claim from the N.Ormesby Hospital in respect of a member who had been detained 3 days, was paid,

CLUBHOUSE MATTERS. Fred W.Dixon, having requested that the mortgage on the premises should be cleared in a period of 4 years, it was decided to approach the Bank for an overdraft for this to be effected. They offered to advance a sum of £900 on the security of the premises and it was agreed to pay Mr Dixon £1,000 to discharge the mortgage., An Extraordinary General Meeting to approve of same was held on the 28th Sept. The insurance on the premises was revised.

Improvements to the premises included a domestic hot water supply, seats around the Billiard Room upholstered, lighting improved by the fitting of Century type lamps and the question of scrapping the then heating system was considered.

A.C.Allen reported he was trying to Improve the outside appearance by cultivating the garden surrounds.

LADY MEMBERS. Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed at ladies being allowed to use the Billiard tables particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings, and it was decided to write to the two ladies concerned asking them to refrain from using the tables on these evenings.

Arising out of this a suggestion was made that lady members should not be allowed in the Billiard Room. Later the Hon.Secy. stated that he had been approached by several members respecting same and had deemed it advisable to withhold instructions given pending further discussion. W.Ryan felt that the action taken was unconstitutional and if persisted in would result in a cleavage of membership. It was decided to confirm the action taken by the Secretary and the subject lie on the table for the meantime and that in future any matter affecting the rights and privileges of membership, notice of notion should be given that future notices of meetings should contain a copy of the Agenda and that the Minutes be duplicated and circulated as early as possible after the meeting.

PRICE OF DRAFT BEER was fixed at 4d per glass, ½pt - 4½d and 1pt. 9d.

W.McMaster was again appointed to represent the Committee for the Institute of the Blind Dance.

A.V.Buttress was elected President of the Yorkshire Centre.

J.F.Dixon resigned as .Treasurer.

POOR CHILDRENS OUTING. 50 poor and deserving children were taken to the seaside and provided with a meal. Sports and Games were organised and many members with cars assisted with the transport whilst others contributed food and cash for the effort.

DUPLICATOR. An Ellams Duplicator was purchased for the sum of £9.10.0d.

DONATIONS, TO CHARITY. N.O.Hospital £1.5.9d. Old Folks Welfare Society 10/6d. Treloar Cripples Hospital 10/6d. One guinea to the National Safety First Assn. One guinea to the Mayor's Appeal for Funds to the National Memorial to King George Vth. British Legion Poppy Day - Hon.Secy. having been co-opted a member of the Organising Committee he appealed for members with cars to assist in the distribution and collection of Poppies and Collecting Boxes. Collection was made to the N.Ornesby Hospital on the occasion of the New Year Social function.

PARKING FACILITIES. The Town Council requested to agree to Parking Facilities in streets near the Club. The suggestions apparently having been rejected the Town Clerk's attention was directed to the Car Parking facilities for patrons of the Corbett Concerts held in the Town Hall which the Club thought should be given to other people.

ASSOCIATION WITH THE R.A.C. The R.A.C. having stated that every Club member owning a car must be affiliated to them it was decided to take no action.

KING GEORGE. V. Died during the year and on the day of the funeral the Club was closed until 6 p.m. and the Dance arranged for that night was cancelled.

MOTOR CLUB JOURNAL. The Journal under the editorship of T.A.Hanson appeared each month and contributors and advertisers were thanked for their help in its production.

WAR CLOUDS. The menacing attitude of Germany under Hitler was beginning to make itself felt and a letter from the Town Clerk respecting Air Raid Precautions was considered. The Club intimated their willingness to assist in any way possible.

The premier social function was the Annual Ball held in the Dorman Hall on Dec 28th attended by 320 guests. The change of venue was the result of the Linthorpe Lawn Tennis Assn. complaining about the clashing of their event and ours. The Town Hall Manager and Town Clerk wrote stating that the Club could not have the Town Hall on the date provisionally reserved; Monday, Dec.28th and it was therefore transferred to the Dorman Hall,, Joe Hurst's Band had been booked to play in the Town Hall, asked to be released from his engagement and the Blue Rhythm Boys Orchestra was booked in his place for the sum of £21.

The popular weekly Whist Drive & Dance was continued and Mrs Hodgson and Mrs Ward organised a number of Bridge Drives from which a donation of £9.1.4d was made to the Club Funds.

The indoor social activities were wound up on Dec.31st with a Social Evening when all games were free and dancing continued until midnight. A contract Bridge section was formed with a membership of 21.

The Golf Section continued its activities and 9 different events were arranged. Chairman of the Section was T.Ainsley, Hon.Soc. H.F.Houghton, Captain F.Carey, W.Balmer, Treasurer.

The sum of two guineas was sent to the Cleveland & S.Durham Institute for the Blind being the proceeds of the Weastell Trophy Competition.

A visit was paid to the Club by Jos.Zahradnik, a Czechoslovakian National who was touring the World by motor. He was presented with a Club Badge and given a donation of 5/0d.

#### TRIALS.

The R.A.C. gave notice of a new set of General Competition Rules the effect of which gave any person who had his road driving licence suspended would be ordinarily prohibited from holding an International Competition Licence and requesting the Club to report any member guilty of unbecoming conduct which would not ordinarily result in him having his driving licence suspended. It was agreed to support the R.A.C. in their effort to prevent the sport being brought into disrepute by such conduct.

RELIABILITY TRIALS. Three were run in conjunction with the Stockton Club, two of which were under the Group system. Two had to be cancelled for lack of entries. The first was a Team Trial held on 25th Feb., the winning team were F.F.Keeler, R.L.Percy, Stockton Club and R.A.W.Dunn, Middlesbrough Club, the premier award being the G.H.Blackburn Memorial Cup.

A Group Trial held on May 24th was organised by the Stockton Club, the premier award for the Middlesbrough member ~ the John Gjers Cup, winner T.A.Hanson.

The Winter Trial held on Dec.27th. The event was of a sporting nature and the organisation similar to that of the Scott Trial, winner was G.G.Bensley who took the A.W.Foster Trophy and as a result of these three events the Middlesbrough Club won back the Shield held by the Stockton Club with a score of 81/3 pts. against 72/3.

SPEED EVENTS at Shepherds Hill were held on Easter Monday, Whit.Monday and August Bank Holiday Monday and miniature T.T.Races were held at Ormesby Hall by the courtesy of Major J.B.Pennyman and the Evening Gazette put up a Challenge Trophy.

Four events were run –

the Junior over 10 laps won by Jack Brett, Velocette - J.H.Graves Cup

the Senior - 10 laps " G.G.Bensley - Gilchrist Bowl. He was also successful in winning the Ormesby Handicap Race over 20 laps for the N.Eastern Gazette Challenge Cup.

R.H.Just sustained a fractured leg and was later granted the sum of £5 from Club funds.

Public support being insufficient Major Pennyman decided not to allow any further meetings on that course.

SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS. Decided to offer the sum of £.5 each to Noel Pope and Eric Fernihaugh towards their expenses should they attain a speed of 110 m.p.h. on the Flying Kilo course and that a further £5 be paid to the one breaking the record by the greatest margin.

Suggested that Mr "Erimus" be engaged and that anyone finding him should be given a small prize.

It having been agreed in 1934 that the meeting should not be run if the start was to be earlier than 5 p.m. This year's event being timed to start at 2 p.m. and it was agreed that if the event was run in 1937 it should not start until 5 p.m.

The Event was held on Saturday June 27th. An entry of 31 Motorcycles and 11 Cars was considered disappointing as the prize money for car events had been considerably increased.

The winners were:-

20-mile Yorkshire Championship up to 250c.c.-A.W.Armstrong, Rudge, speed 56.6m.p.h.

Up to 350 c.c. - J.B.Moss, Velocette, speed 66.7 m.p.h.

Up to 500 c.c. - F.H.Marshall, Norton, speed 69.10 m.p.h.

Unlimited - Dr. J.K.Swanston, speed 71.99 m.p.h.

20-mile Handicap Race - A.W.Armstrong, Excelsior, speed 62.5 m;p.h.

20-mile Handicap Race for Cars up to 5000 c.c. - A.H.Hutchinson, Hutchinson Special, speed 58.06 m.p.h.

The record for the 20-mile Race standing at 68.09 m.p.h. was broken twice as will be seen from the speeds recorded by F.H.Marshall and Dr. J.K.Swanston.

MEMBERSHIP. For the year amounted to 346, an increase of 21. 100 new members were elected including G.A.Bensley,.R.Birkett, Miss M.Liddle, W.Poulton, G.V.Hickson, Mrs Bunting.

The Deaths of C.Burton, Alec Thompson, (a former V/President) and C.W.Sibbald, were recorded,

FINANCE. A loss of £59.5.2d was reported due to two causes - A loss on Outdoor Sporting Events and a decrease in income from Special Efforts.

FRED W.DIXON won the Ulster T.T.Race (Cars) and congratulations were sent to him.

## 1937

The A.G.M, was held on 17th Feb. The Chair was taken by T.A.Hanson, 40 members being present. It was reported that the membership for 1936 amounted to 404, an increase of 58.

The Death of R.N.Gray was reported.

The Profit for the year was £232 which, following 2 yrs. when Losses were reported, afforded great satisfaction. This was considered to be due to the increased membership and use of the Club's facilities.

The policy of establishing a Reserve Fund to finance the Hospital Insurance Scheme proved to be a profitable one - there had been no claim and the accumulated Balance amounted to £59.15.0d.

Elections; Committee - D.Rayner, T.Miller, W.Oliver, T.H.Blackburn, A.Clarke. Hon.Sec;. A.V.Buttress, Hon.Assis: Sec: T.A.Hanson. Hon. Press Sec: E.G.Barker. Hon.Treasurer: H.F.Haughton. Capt: J.Gash. V/Capt; G.Bensley.

At the first meeting of the Committee T.H.Blackburn was elected Chairman, J.Gash V/Chairman.

Standing Orders governing debates in Committee and Sub-committee meetings were approved and it was agreed on a proposition by W.Ryan that same be adopted for A.G.M's and any extraordinary meetings.

A Competition & Games & Entertainments Sub-Committee was elected.

Associate Membership. In order to encourage Motorcycle membership the formation of an Associate Membership was proposed, the annual subscription to be 5/0d, Hospital payment scheme 1/6d extra, the rights and privileges of such associates to be defined and it was suggested that a solution to this difficulty might be the creation of a new motorcycle club to be run by the Middlesbrough & D.M.C. and rules covering same were drawn up.

Fred W.Dixon having left Middlesbrough, resigned as President. His decision was accepted with regret and the Committee decided to record the example which Mr Dixon had always set to members by his achievements in the motoring competition world and the advocacy of many things which enhanced the reputation of the Club. It was unanimously agreed to nominate W.Ryan as President in his place at the next A.G.M. and mention was made of the wholehearted enthusiasm that Mr Ryan had always shown in Club affairs. In thanking the members for the honour they had done him he said he would never let the Club down and he hoped that the Club would continue to support him.

Improvement of Club Premises. It was agreed that the Concert Hall and Entrance Hall be redecorated. The firm whose tender had been accepted found they had made an error in their quotation and a special meeting of the Committee was convened to consider same when it was decided to accept the amended offer under protest and express dissatisfaction at the amount charged. The seats around the Billiard Boom were re-upholstered. A new table for Table Tennis was purchased but as the only League in the district was one connected with the Church & Temperance Institution it was considered that the Club would be ineligible to join same.

Death of Jim Guthrie. Jim Guthrie of Hawick who had first demonstrated the art of "sliding" the corners on Saltburn Sands and who had finished 2nd in the 1927 Senior T.T.Bace and was a member of the Middlesbrough Club winning team met with a fatal accident whilst competing in Germany. A memorial scheme was promoted by the "MOTORCYCLE". A donation of 10/0d was made to same and an appeal made to members for donations.

Coronation of King George VI. The outside of the Club premises, were decorated and each member received a free drink with which to toast Their Majesties.

Donations to Charities. The following were made:-

National Safety First Assn: - one guinea. North Ormesby Hospital - £1.6.0d.

Treloar Cripples Hospital - 10/6d. Earl Haig Poppy Day Fund - £2.12.0d.

Coronation Day Emblen Collection - 10/6d.

A.V.Buttress was appointed Transport Officer by the Poppy Day Collection Committee and members took an active part in providing the necessary transport.

Teesside Safety First Council. T.A.Hanson was appointed to represent the Club.

Club Badges. Agreed to purchase 25.

Resignation of Typist and Stewardess. In view of her forthcoming marriage Miss V.Dearlove, Typist, resigned and was given a wedding present. She was replaced by Mrs V.Blackburn and subsequently by Miss E.Scarrow.

The Stewardess, Mrs A.Coley, resigned in September and Mrs I. Worth was appointed in her place and subsequently Mrs F.E.Yates.

Motorclub Journal. Was regularly published each month and the Editor, T.A.Hanson, was congratulated for his untiring efforts.

Limitation of Membership. It was agreed to submit to the next A.G.M. a resolution to alter Rule 5 - "No application shall be considered from a lady unless she falls within the following categories:-

1. The wife or daughter of a member.
2. Is in possession of a driving licence and regularly drives a car or a motorcycle.
3. Has attended and is taking an active part in any of the social or sporting functions organised by the Club.

New Members. elected during the year - 70.

Honorariums to the Hon.Sec; Hon. Treasurer and Assis.Hon.Sec. of £60, £2.10.0d and £7.10.0d respectively, were approved.

## SOCIAL

Following the creation of the Associate Membership section Social Runs were made to the Lake District, Kirby Lonsdale, Bamborough Castle, Rosedale and a Church Parade at Carlton-in-Cleveland.

The weekly Whist Drive & Dance continued its popularity and a number of Solo Whist Drives were run.

Bridge Drives organised by Mrs Liddle resulted in a donation of £5.13.6d to Club Funds.

The Contract Bridge section organised by Mr W.Ethell held a number of meetings.

The Ford Film and the Esso Film were screened on 18th March and 15th Sept. respectively and two visits were received from the Nalgo on 11th Feb. and 4th March.

The Prize Distribution & Supper was held in the Club on 2nd December and ladies were invited. Guests included T.McEwan who came to collect his Saltburn awards, Mr & Mrs A.E.Morris of the Yorkshire Centre and A.W.Nicholls and G.E.Blakeway of the Stockton Club.

A Snooker Handicap was organised, the winner being H.V.Barker, runner-up J.Seaman.

On Tuesday, 28th December nearly 70 poor children were entertained with Tea and Gifts off the Christmas Tree, new pennies, oranges, apples, sweets and ice-cream. The effort was made possible by the generosity of many members.

The Annual Ball was held in Dormans Hall on Wednesday, 29th December attended by some 340 guests. The Blue Rhythm Boys Orchestra of 7 players played for Dancing and catering was by R.Spark & Sons and Winterschluden & Co. Price of Tickets was 5/0d.

Entertainment in the Clubhouse ended with the Annual New Years Eve Party for which an extension of the permitted hours was obtained.

GOLF SECTION. Reported a most successful season, membership of the Section amounted to 50. To commence the Season a Supper & Social Evening was held at Newton-under-Roseberry attended by about 30 members. Section received permission to erect a board in the Club giving the names of the winners of the Section's principal events. Two guineas was donated to the North Riding Infirmary.

The year's outdoor activities wound up with the usual Boxing Day Football Match between High School Old Boys and the Motor Club - result being a draw.

## TRIALS

Five Reliability Trials were run, the first being a Propaganda Trial run in 2 sections for those who had never previously ridden in a Trial and for those who had. The winner of the former was A.W.Zealand - G.M.Liddle Memorial Cup. A tie between R.L.Percy and E.G.Pipe for the other section who jointly held the J.H.Graves Cup.

Ryan Cup Trial on June 9th was won by H.W.Reading.

On Sept.28th a semi-Sporting Trial for the Gilchrist Bowl was won by E.R.Hall. The Captain (J.Gash) issued a Challenge to the Stockton Club and the event was held on 7<sup>th</sup> November. Middlesbrough Club ran out the winners by 918 pts. against

Stockton's loss of 933 and retained the Stockton & D.M.C. Shield for another 12 months.

The Winter Trial scheduled for 26th Dec. was postponed due to the state of the course and was run on 9th Jan.1938, winner being E.G.Pipe.

Shepherds Hill. In view of the loss sustained in 1956 it was decided to run only one event, this on Whit.Monday, May 17th, when there was a profit of £50.

#### Saltburn Speed Trials.

Were held on 5rd July, entry of 31 motorcycles and 12 cars. A feature of the Meeting was the riding of T.McEwan who established a new record for the course of 74.35 m.p.h. winning the 20-mile Yorkshire Championship race unlimited c.c. for which Dr. J.K.Swanson had set up a record in 1936 of 71.99 m.p.h. McEwan also broke the record for the 600 c.c. race with a speed of 73.86 m.p.h. his riding throughout the Meeting being a model of consistency.

Other winners were:- J.B.Moss (Norton) 350 c.c. championship, speed 61.18 m.p.h.

D.Parkinson (Excelsior) 250 c.c. " " 55.58 "

20-mile Handicap race proved to be a great struggle between T,McEwan and J.B.Moss and was won by McEwan with Moss 5secs. behind. Speed 73.24 m.p.h.

20-mile Handicap race for cars was won by J.W.Birnard (J.W.B) at a speed of 56.33m.p.h. winning the N.Eastern Gazette Cup.

Valuable assistance was given by lady members resulting in the income from the sale of programmes balancing the expenditure.

A Pluvios Policy to cover the sum of £50 in case of rain, was taken out.

The Income amounted to £209.3.3d and the Expenditure which took no account of Postage, Stationery and overhead charges, amounted to £206.8.5d.

Scott Trial. Difficulties over the organisation of this Trial in the West Riding of Yorkshire became apparent and the Stockton Club were approached with a view to Middlesbrough and Stockton making joint application to run the event in 1938.

## 1938

The year the Scott Trial came North and Neville Chamberlain came back from Munich waving a scrap of paper declaring - "PEACE IN OUR TIME",, But subsequently preparations for War were intensified.

The A.G.M. was held on 17th Feb. The Chair was taken by T.H.Blackburn and over 80 members were present. Membership amounted to 444 comprising 256 Full members, 120 Lady members, 33 Visiting members, 32 Associate members and 5 honorary members, an increase of 16.

The Profit for the year of £261.10.6d was announced.

The proposal to limit the number of Lady members, as recorded in 1937, was defeated.

A proposal (Rule 6) empowering the Committee to annually confer honorary membership on such persons they may deem worthy was carried and an increase in subscriptions (Rule 7) to take place from the 1st January 1939, 12/6d for Full members and 7/6d for Lady members was carried.

Elections: President: W.Ryan, who then assumed the Chair.

V/Presidents: W.Armstrong, C.Allen, T.Ainsley, A.Blackburn, A.Chapman, J.F.Dixon, J.Gilchrist, G.W.Liddle, R.H.Richardson, C.N.Sadler, W.Upton.

Committee: A.W.Armstrong, W.Tattersall, C.L.Hodgson, H.W.Barker, J.T.Jobborn.

The Hon.Sec: Hon.Assis.Sec; Hon.Press Sec: Hon, Treasurer, Captain and Auditor were re-elected. G.G.Bensley was elected V/Captain.

The deaths of A.J.Ross, C.Warne and H.Anderson were reported.

At the first meeting of the Committee Jack Gash was elected Chairman and it is recorded that his work on behalf of the Associate membership section had ginged up our outside events.

C.L.Hodgson was elected V/Chairman and a Competitions & Games Sub-Committee was also elected,

Fred W.Dixon was elected an honorary member.

The resignation of G.O.Liddle, son of G.W.Liddle, the first honorary Secretary was accepted with regret.

The President, W.Ryan, said that he thought the discussions which took place at the A.G.M. could not be passed without comment and he regretted to note that members of the Committee were found to be in opposition to the Committee's proposals and regretted to note that the Club appeared to be spreading into factions. It was agreed that a Special Meeting be convened to consider the question of lady members in Club life. This special meeting was held on 7th April when the proposal that "this meeting is of the opinion that the restriction on further election of ladies is desirable in some manner" was considered. It was felt that most of the dissatisfaction and

reason for this proposal could be traced to two lady members who played billiards. The Hon.Sec. urged the meeting to handle the matter very carefully pointing out that we were at the moment on a crest of the wave and that if we could hold the position for a little longer we would be able to go ahead with alterations which would solve many of our difficulties. On the proposal being put to the vote, 6 voted for and 5 against. The motion was declared lost.

Clubhouse Improvements. A new Central Heating Boiler was fitted. The high wall on the Clarendon Road side of the Club having become unsafe, was demolished and a discussion took place respecting the use of the land in front of the Club as a Car Park.

Five separate plans for extensions were submitted varying from £1,800 to £5,000. The No.1 plan was approved, the cost not to exceed £1,000.

A Club Badge was exchanged with the Automobile Assn. of Bengal.

A Wireless Receiver was presented by Mr G.Bensley.

C.Matson was appointed as a Waiter.

Unemployment Insurance for Domestic Servants became compulsory. The Club's contribution in respect of Males was 9d and Females 6d.

Donations to Charity.

National Safety First Assn.Coming of Age - one guinea.

Treloar Cripples Hospital - 10/6d.

C.P.E.E. - 10/6d.

Mayor's Hospital Saturday Fund - one guinea.

Proposals to form the Club into a Limited Company were not proceeded with but a recommendation that members be approached immediately for a loan in £1 units with an average of 2½ units per head of membership was suggested, the loan to be repaid annually of at least £100 by ballot.

Air Raid Precautions. It was reported that when the matter of A.R.P. was first brought forward the Club were approached and agreed to provide Despatch Riders. Since then many original ideas had been scrapped and the assistance of members in this direction was not now required. Several of the officials, Committee and members undertook duty as Special Constables and were trained in anti-gas measures and rendered valuable assistance in connection with the distribution and fitting of Gas Masks. Prior to Neville Chamberlain going to meet Hitler in Munich as recorded previously.

An official Club Handbook, was produced.

Committee were represented on the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and permission was given to the Council to broadcast on Shepherds Hill and the Redcar event, (see previous announcement).

## NEW MEMBERS

Full - 82 including W.E.Telfer, F.M.Rist, H.Darcy, A.F.Findlay.  
Associate - 24.

## SOCIAL

Runs were made to the Wainstones, 2 Potholing expeditions with the Stockton Club to the Lake District and twice to the Lake District by the Bergensteiners (a group of members who were interested in Fell Walking and Rock Climbing).

The popular weekly Whist Drive & Dance continued.

Basque Childrens Party. Civil War was taking place in Spain. A number of children who were evacuated to this country were entertained and then gave a Concert on Spanish lines.

The Annual Ball was held in the Linthorpe Assembly Boons on 30th Dec. Over 200 guests attended including Their Worships the Mayor & Mayoress of Middlesbrough, Councillor Mr & Mrs W.E.Price (Coun.Price was for many years a member of the Club and the donor of the Price Trophy. He was the man behind the Cleveland Precision Motorcycle - see Part 1 of the History - introducing Freddy Dixon to the T.T.) Jack Marwood's Band played for Dancing. Catering was by R.Spark & Sons and Johnson & Chadwick. Price of tickets was 6/0d.

Visits were received from the N.A.L.G.O. and Commercial Travellers.

A complaint about Lady Members monopolising stools in front of the Bar was considered as also was a request by them for permission to obtain a dartboard. It was considered ridiculous to have 2 dartboards in the Club, one for either sex. A dartboard was subsequently presented to the Club by lady members and accepted.

The Motorclub Journal was published each month under the editorship of T.A.Hanson.

Cricket Section. A Cricket Section was formed and a donation was made from Club Funds towards the purchase of the necessary gear. Harry Wilson was appointed Secretary. Ten matches were played, the Section winning six and losing four. The Committee was W.Oliver, C.L.Hodgson, R.Shuker, L.Raby, W.Tattersall, G.Bensley, W.Clare, F.H.Wilson. Harry Wilson carried his bat for 51 in one match, Bill Proctor 39, E.Birkett 33, Sam Brown 32 and had a very useful innings. Lance Raby took 8 wickets for 10 runs at Newton and Harry Hewlett 7 for 8 against Uptons.

An all-in Polo Match versus the Middlesbrough Rugby Club in the Middlesbrough Baths was won by the Motor Club.

The Annual Football Match against the High School Old Boys on Boxing Day was a draw. As a result of this the sum of £1 was forwarded to the local Nursing Assn. and was augmented by 15/0d by the Dorman Long United Athletic Club, being their fee for the use of the ground.

Bridge Drives - 1937. Sum of £3.8.10d handed to Club Funds.

Golf Section. Membership for the year was 50. Events were held on the Saltburn, Hartlepool, Eaglescliffe, Loftus and Linthorpe Courses. On the financial side the Section closed with a balance in hand of £5.1.0d. Their Annual Supper took place in the Club on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December.

## TRIALS

SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS. Were held at the Coatham end of Redcar on Saturday, 25<sup>rd</sup> July due to the sand on the usual stretch at Saltburn being in such a condition that it was impossible to form a race circuit. The Redcar Corporation's permission for same was readily granted. (Thus it will be apparent that the beach between Marske and Saltburn (so excellent in 1928 when World records were envisaged) was progressively deteriorating, which made a move to the Coatham end at Redcar inevitable. The Races were ever after run there. The name - Saltburn Speed Trials - was retained).

Once again the weather was favourable, an entry of 30 motorcycles and 11 cars. No new records were established.

Winners:

20-mile Championship up to 250 c.c. - D.Parkinson.

350 c.c. - R.A.Edwards.

600 c.c. and Unlimited - E.Watkinson.

Club members Handicap for G.H. Blackburn Cup - A.W.Zealand.

20-mile Handicap for Cars - N.E.Gazette Cup - R.V.Robinson.

A profit of £70 is recorded. Redcar Corporation donated the sum of £15 towards running of same.

It had been decided to dispense with the Pluvius Policy, the Public Address Equipment and Bill-posting and the awards in the Championship and Handicap Races were reduced to £5, £3 and £1 respectively. The B.B.C. were asked to broadcast but replied 'No'.

SPEED EVENTS. Whit.Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at Shepherds Hill, Yorkshire Centre Championship Hill Climb. Riders provided the 3 championship trophies which were won in their respective classes: 250cc. - H.Dancaster. 350cc. - G.Cockbone, a member. Unlimited - R.A.Edwards.

Both motorcycle and car records for the Hill were broken. R.A.Edwards, Rudge, knocked 6.6 secs. off the record by 15 secs. and H.Souter, Hutch Special, knocked 1.8 secs. off, his time being 15.4 secs. The event was witnessed by over 2000 and showed a profit of £30.

G.G.Bensley was entered in the LEINSTER 200, the Club paying his entrance fee and insurance. He later informed the Committee that he was unable to take advantage of the offer for business reasons.

Agreed to support the manufacture and racing of the E.R.A. CARS for the sum of two guineas per year for 3 years and members were asked to augment this amount by subscriptions. A bankers order to this effect was completed.

7 RELIABILITY TRIALS run including Passengers, a Presidents Birthday Trial and a Propaganda Trial. Winners of trophies were:-

Gilchrist Bowl - E.W.Kendrew.  
Liddle Memorial Cup - R.Markham.  
Graves Cup - A.H.Rutherford.  
Price Cup - E.G.Pipe  
Northern Echo Cup - A.H.Rutherford  
Gjers Gup - He between E.G.Pipe and A.H.Rutherford.  
Ryan Cup - E.G.Pipe  
A.Foster Trophy - Tie between E.W.Kendrew and E.G.Pipe.

In connection with the Passenger trial on 31st July the venue was Ruswarp where cricket, Aquatic, sports, together with Boating, was indulged in.

On the occasion of the Presidents Birthday Trial at Castleton over 100 were entertained to tea by the President and Bill Ryan was presented with a specially inscribed Presidents Badge and a Box of Cigars. A photo of this gathering is in existence.

SCOTT TRIAL. As a result of difficulties which the Yorkshire Centre A.C.U. were experiencing in getting organisers to run this famous national event, a joint application was made with the Stockton Club for permission to promote same in Cleveland. This was granted by the Yorkshire Centre Board and took place on Saturday, 19th November starting from Carlton-in-Cleveland. It was an outstanding success, bringing both credit to the Club and to the officials responsible for same. Jack Gash gave up many Sundays in the work of preparation, F.C.Barker who solely was responsible for the very striking souvenir programme.

The winner was Len Heath who created standing time, completing the course in 3hrs.38mins.44secs. The Best Performance by a member of the Middlesbrough Club was that of F.M.Rist who won the John Gjers Cup and the Gazette trophy. Other Middlesbrough members who completed the course and secured awards were E.W.Kendrew, E.G.Pipe and J.T.Hodgson. As a result of same and the auction following the declaration of the results a cheque to the value of £15.3.6d was forwarded to St. Dunstons and the Club was invited by the Yorkshire Centre to undertake the organisation of the event in 1939. Programme Sales amounted to £18.10.0d.

Numerous congratulations were received and the Secretary of the Bradford & D.M.C. wrote - "Practically every member of our Committee was at the Trial as a rider, observer or spectator and were unanimous in agreeing that this Year's Scott was as near perfection as regards both organisation and route chosen, as it was possible to be."

## 1939

The year that WAR with Germany started.

The A.G.M. was held on 20th February. Chair was taken by W.Ryan, the President, and was attended by over 120 members.

A letter was read from Mrs M.A.Marshall suggesting that a Ladies Committee be formed with a view to organising social functions and making social events more attractive. The Committee promised to consider same.

W.Tattersall resigned his seat on the Committee being at complete variance with the Executive's principles and methods of management.

Profit for the year was £223.16.6d.

Elections: A.V.Buttress, T.A.Hanson, F.C.Barker, H.F.Houghton and J.Gash were re-elected to their various offices. J.Gash was elected Chairman and the office of V/Chairman was not filled. J.T.Hodgson was elected V/Captain, J.H.Simmonds Auditor.

Committee; W.Oliver, G.V.Hickson, T.H.Blackburn, H.Wilson, A.Clarke.

A resolution authorising the Club to borrow a sum not exceeding £1,000 on mortgage for the purpose of alterations and extensions, was approved.

The Committee's Report commenced with a statement that the outbreak of War was bound to effect the activities of the Club. Profit for the year amounted to £70 being the third successive year that the Profit had been reported.

Honorariums; Hon.Sec. was voted £60, Hon.Treasurer £22.10.0d and Hon.Assis.Sec: £7.10.0d.

Membership was 421, 103 being Lady members, 33 Associate members, 16 Visiting Members and 6 Honorary members - a decrease of 23.

CLUBHOUSE. An Appeal for funds in connection with the proposed Clubhouse alterations and extensions was reported to be disappointing. Plans had been approved and passed and the Architect estimated the cost of same would be £1,300. The tender of Norman Thompson for £1,475.14.11d was accepted. Lloyds Bank Ltd. agreed to an overdraft of £1,500 for this purpose. An Extraordinary General Meeting was held to authorise the Committee to charge this amount on mortgage to the Club.

In August it was decided that in view of the international situation the work of alterations and additions to the Club be postponed and instructions were approved for windows to be screened. Arrangements however were proceeded with to open out the front of the Club as a Car Park. Appreciation was expressed at the manner in which members continued to support the Clubhouse since the declaration of War.

An effort in the early part of the year to organise Sunday Concerts was abandoned as the response to same was not encouraging.

Following the suggestion made at the A.G.M. a meeting of LADY MEMBERS was convened and a Committee formed under the chairmanship of Mrs G.W.Liddle with Miss P.Toomey as Secretary, Mrs Wetherall Treasurer, who organised Whist Drives, Dart Competitions, Garden Fetes on the 20th June and 19th July.

#### DONATIONS:

National Safety First Assn; one guinea.  
Treloar Cripples Hospital - 10/6d.  
Earl Haig Poppy Day Fund - £1.14.6d.  
C.P.K.E. - 10/0d.

In connection with the Poppy Day Appeal the Hon.Sec. acted as Transport Officer and members played an active part. in same.

HOSPITAL INSURANCE FUND: No claim had been made. A reserve fund in respect of this amounted to £109.15.9d.

CHILDREN IN THE CLUB: It was agreed that children should only be admitted into the Lounge and a notice to that effect be placed on the Club Notice Board and the Steward advised accordingly.

When the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced Increases in the Horsepower Tax letters of protest were addressed to local M.P's and Alfred Edwards, M.P. for Middlesbrough East paid a visit to the Club and discussed the subject with members.

NEW LINO was laid on the BILLIARD ROOM FLOOR. And Lighting was improved.

Decision was made in November to make MONDAY NIGHT Trial Riding members Club Night.

Criticism voiced at the QUALITY OF THE BEER which had been received since the War. Suggested that the Executive place a trial order with another firm.

Decided to purchase a second hand NATIONAL CASH REGISTER for the sum of 11 guineas.

The criticism of the STEWARD made at the A.G.M. and a resolution that the Committee take more drastic action in the matter of these complaints having been carried, the Steward subsequently resigned and Mr & Mrs C.Scarr were appointed to the post at a salary of £5 per week,

The resignation of Mrs Turner was accepted.

Miss S.Header son was engaged as a BAR ASSISTANT.

#### SOCIAL

SOCIAL RUNS were held in May and June for the purpose of exploring new ground for the Scott Trial. A Potholing expedition on 25th June organised by the Captain with the Stockton and South Shields Motor Clubs and to Whorlton on 6th August. The section of the Club known as DER BEEGENSTEINEBS went Rock Climbing in the Lake District and the Isle of Skye.

GOLF SECTION. Continued to flourish. Many outings were arranged and matches for the three trophies, Ryan, Foster and Weastell, were played.

CRICKET SECTION. 11 matches were played - 7 were won and 1 drawn. High spots of the play were: Bowling - L.Raby, 5 wickets for 13 at Cargo Fleet, H.Hewlett, 4 for 15 versus Electricity Works and S.Mudd, 8 for 41 at Redcar. Batting: Bert Robson, 54 not out, H.Wilson, 47, Phil Dawson 47 and B.Birkett 39.

On Sunday, 19th Nov. a return visit of the SPANISH REFUGEE CHILDREN was organised.

PRIZE PRESENTATION took place at a Smoking Concert on 23rd Nov. During the course of same an unfortunate incident occurred between a member and one of the Concert Party following which the member was suspended for 28 days and an apology forwarded to the Concert Party and Miss K.Ryan who had been asked to present the prizes.

ANNUAL BALL. War broke out - arrangements were cancelled but a Dance was held in the Grand Hotel from 7 to 11 p.m. and a light Supper provided. 180 members and friends attended and a very pleasant evening was spent, there being a unanimous demand for a repeat event. M.C's appointed were W.Oliver, H.Wilson and G.Hickson.

The annual FOOTBALL MATCH against the High School Old Boys on Boxing Day was won by the Old Boys. A collection of 10/6d was made and handed to Captain Jack.

NEW MEMBERS; 43 including J.Bradley, V.D.Wieland, Mr & Mrs D.Williams, T.Lightfoot, R.W. Godson plus 13 Associate Members.  
Hon.Members elected: J.H.Simmonds, F.W.Dixon, S.Gjertson, C.J.Halliman, S.Jackson.

#### TRIALS

5 RELIABILITY TRIALS were run. Winners of Trophies were-  
Northern Echo Cup - tie between E.W.Kendrew and G.R.Codling.  
Little Memorial Cup - J.W.Smirthwaite. Graves Cup - A.H.Rutherford.  
Gilchrist Bowl - E.W.Kendrew, Price Cup - A.H.Rutherford.  
Gjers Cup - A.Bailey A.W.Foster Trophy - R.Markham.

SPEED HILL CLIMB, was held on Whit.Monday at Shepherds Hill, Swainby. No records were broken. The winners of the various events were:- E.W.Kendrew, W.Walker, J.I.Goudie, D.O. Paterson, G.E.Codling.

The SALTBURN SPEED TRIALS were held at the Coatham end of Redcar on Saturday, 24th June, when the Club's usual luck in the matter of weather deserted them. There was a strong wind blowing the whole of the time. An entry of 30 was received for the Cycle classes and 5 for the Car. Winners of the principle events were:-

20-mile Championship up to 250 cc. - D.Parkinson, 350 cc. G.G.Bensley,  
600 c.c. and Unlimited - D.Parkinson.  
Club members Handicap for the G.H..Cup - J.M.Simpson. G.H.Blackburn Cup  
20-miles Handicap Solo, motorcycles - W.Billington.

Cars - N.E.Gazette Cup - R.Harkness.

Tribute was paid to the Yorkshire Evening Post who presented two trophies to the winners of the two Handicap races.

A letter from the Saltburn U.D.C. regarding the transfer of the course from Saltburn to Redcar was considered and the Hon.Sec's proposed reply was approved,

F.M.Rist was a member of the ARMY TEAM in the INTERNATIONAL 6 DAYS being held in Germany in August. They made a hasty return home.

WATSON CUP. E.L.Watson of Castleton offered a Cup for annual competition providing the Club would not include the road which passed his house in any competition. This was accepted.

INSURANCE OF CLUB OFFICIALS. Messrs Muir Beddall & Co. were asked to quote for same but it was considered that the premiums they asked were too high and it was decided to ask the A.C.U. to consider making insurance of officials compulsory and thereby reducing the premium.

At the same time it was agreed to insure the Saltburn event for the sum of £50.

## OUTBREAK OF WAR

As stated at the commencement of the Record for 1939, War with Germany was declared on the 3rd September. Following the return of Neville Chamberlain from Munich in 1938 active preparations were made throughout the year for what it was still hoped would be unnecessary.

Many male members took part in A.R.P. training and joined the Special Constables, of which the Hon.Sec. A.V.Buttress, was appointed Sergeant. Prior to the announcement he organised an exercise with the dimmed, masked headlights as designed by the Government department concerned but with street lighting still in existence and other vehicles on the road with regular side lamps and head lamps, everyone found it most difficult to negotiate the roads on the set route. Immediately on the Declaration of War the Special Constables were called up. This caused confusion to many who had to get leave-of-absence from work or alternatively (where self-employed) neglect their businesses. It could be anticipated that a certain amount of what was subsequently found to be unnecessary took place and the writer remembers on the Sunday morning after the Declaration, the Air Raid Sirens sounded whilst he was on his way from Redcar. As instructed he immediately stopped his car, donned his Tin Helmet with Gas Mask at the ready. When nothing happened he felt very conspicuous and somewhat of a fool as local inhabitants who had not received any training stared at him in amazement.

The Club had already been blacked out which meant that the roof lights in the Billiard Room had to be masked, black curtains fitted, outside lights extinguished in preparation for what was anticipated, a massive air attack from Germany.

At the first meeting of the Committee future activities were considered and the matter of the Club Journal, Club Challenge Gups, Labour in the Clubhouse, Executive Powers for Officials, Awards for the year's competitions, War Risk Insurance,

Provision of Car Parking and Air Raid Shelters, the Associate Membership Section were reviewed. The following action was agreed upon:-

Club Journal: Supreme effort to be made to keep this going in its present form.

Challenge Cups: To be issued to new winners but that they sign a receipt acknowledging the ownership of the Cup and agreeing to return same on request.

Executive Powers: Agreed that the President, Chairman, Hon.Secretary and Hon.Treasurer be vested with plenary powers to deal with any matter which might arise as a result of the War which could not await the summoning of the Committee.

Air Raid Shelters; Notices to be displayed in the Club advising members of the nearest public Air Raid Shelter and consideration was given in the matter of a Shelter for the Staff.

R.I. (Bobby) Hughes proposed that an effort be made to raise funds and send presents to those members who were serving with the Forces and as a result of this and other money raising schemes the Committee were able to despatch parcels of chocolates, cigarettes and notes to all members in the Forces in time for Christmas.

On Wednesday, 6th December Captain Jack of the N.E.Daily Gazette and his party of Middlesbrough Footballers played at Snooker, Billiards, Darts etc., the effort being in aid of the N.E.Gazette War Relief Fund. The sum of £10 was collected.

W.Oliver and T.A.Hanson undertook to work a National Savings Scheme in connection with the Government effort to finance the War.

It is recorded the following members were serving with the Forces:-

R.M.Harkness.	W.J.Hugill.	Miss A.Young.	L.A.Lambert.
G.Turner	J.E.Russell	F.W.Knott	H.V.Barker
V.Wieland	J.D.Simpson	S.H.Thompson	T.Goodaan
M.H.Head	J.E.Gaston	A.Lambert	F.M.Rist .
N.Davison	G.C.Ellis	E.Birkett .	T.H.Blackburn

It is recorded in the October Journal that after nearly 4 weeks we had survived without an Air Raid and the Club members were setting acclimatised to the new conditions. Each evening more and more members were coming into the Club, many of which had been missing during the past weeks, which seemed to indicate that some would not be content to stop at home every evening during the coming Winter. In the November issue it is recorded that the blackout is to some extent losing its terrors and the hope was expressed that increasing activity in the Clubhouse would continue.

Afternoon Whist Drives were being organised by the Ladies Committee and on 21st November a Whist Drive commencing at 7.30 p.m. in aid of Comforts for members, was arranged, tickets 1/0d including refreshments. It is noted that it would be a moonlight night and all old friends were expected to be present.

On Thursday, 23rd November the Annual Prize Distribution took place with a first-class Concert Party. Also it was decided to hold a Dance in the Grand Hotel on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> December from 7 to 11 p.m. A light Supper was provided, the attendance was 180. It is recorded that it was a very pleasant evening and there was a unanimous demand for a repeat.

Although it had been decided to not proceed with the proposed alterations and extensions, new chairs and tables and a new maplewood floor in the Lounge were purchased and completed.

the A.G.M. for 1939 reported that the membership was 421, a decrease of 23 and the Profit for the Year was £69.17.0d.

NEW MEMBERS:- 28 Elected including D.Williams & R.W.Godson, together with 9 Associates.

Honoray;- J.H.Simmonds, F.W.Dixon, & C.J.Halliman.