

(1)

THE VINTAGE MOTOR CYCLE CLUB.

An inaugural meeting was held at the Lounge Cafe, Hog's Back, Surrey on April 28th 1946 for the purpose of forming the above Club.

Despite very bad weather conditions 38 enthusiasts turned up. The majority were on their vintage machines, some of them coming from as far afield as Cheshire, Shropshire, Notts & Leicestershire. If there had been a prize for ~~endurance~~ endurance it might have been won by C.E.Allen, B.E.M. who, complete with his wife on pillion, after coming from Loughborough that morning finished up at home at 4 a-m- the next morning. The Press were present in force & managed to get some excellent photographs under difficult conditions, while the Police & A.A. were most helpful in regulating traffic & parking machines. The period before lunch was spent as a grand re-union of pre-war acquaintances, in making fresh friends & inspecting the interesting collection of machines.

The Lounge Cafe, proprietor L.A.Lock, put up an excellent meal after which all sat down to a meeting to decide the formation of the Club. C.E.Allen, the promoter, took the Chair & outlined his ideas. Others took part in the discussion & these conclusions were arrived at. The main object of the Club was to encourage the use & preservation of Vintage machines. The title was to be the Vintage Motor Cycle Club. Subscriptions 10/- p.a. with entrance fee of 10/- *and* the financial year from June 1st to May 31st inclusive. Those eligible for membership must be owners of machines manufactured not later than 31.12.30., solos & sidecars. Other three wheelers were not included. The question arose re non-owners of machines who would be given 6 months in which to acquire a machine, but this matter was rejected. Any one of note or of use to the Club, if a non-owner, could be elected as an Hon. member at the discretion of the Committee.

Club activities hoped for would include a rally cum hill climb or trial, a workshop & museum, a library, a sales & wants system for machines & spares, liaison with the Vintage Sports Car Club, insurance of difficult cases, rider's discussions, a periodical bulletin f.o.c. by Editor C.E.Allen, & an annual dinner. The difficult question of the distribution of machines and/or spares acquired by the Club for cash or as gifts was debated but no decision

arrived at. Certain modifications to maker's specification would be allowed. The Club rules were to be put in hand by the Committee as soon as possible, meanwhile it was hoped that anyone who signed a membership application form would take these for granted as being normal. Mr.F.W.Pinhard, Sec. of the Sunbeam Club was invited to speak. He offered the facilities of the Pioneer Register to the Club & suggested that representatives of various clubs catering for riders of old machines should occasionally meet to compare notes & avoid any overlapping of activities.

Capt. J.J.Hall was elected ~~xxx~~ President of the Club & then took the Chair, when Officers & Committee were elected. Vice Presidents- Brigadier C.V.Bennett, O.B.E., M.I.M.E., M.I.A.E. (War Office), Graham Walker, A.B.Bourne & W.Boddy (Press), Wing Commander A.M.Maclachlan (R.A.C.), Lt. Comm. F.A.McNab (A.P.M.C.), C.E.Allen, B.E.M., H.C.M.Beaumont. Committee- W.J.Lawrence (Hon. Auditor), H.E.Cohen (A.P.M.C.), M.F.Walker, I.B.Wicksteed, T.G.Griffiths, D.S.Jenkinson (Vintage Sports Car Club), A.J.Bonnett, C.Quantrill & Hon. Sec. & Treasurer C.S.Burney.

C.E.Allen's award for the best kept vintage machine went to J.A.Whaley for his 1927 Sunbeam while R.C.Ashton's 1921 Model H Matchless combination won C.S.Burney's prize. Special mentions were to S.H.Johnson's 1928 Norton for age & character, C.Quantrill's 1924 Scott for age, design & rideability, C.S.Burney's 1928 Burney for originality & serviceability. J.B.Wicksteed's 1927 Royal Enfield also attracted attention.

After a vote of thanks to the President & the promoter C.E.Allen the meeting then dispersed after the general opinion that all had thoroughly enjoyed themselves in spite of the bad weather & that such a Club had at last fulfilled a long felt want.

18.6.46.

President.

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer.