



Spoke 'n Piston

March/April 2002

Volume 7 No.2



FROM THE CHAIR...

Dear Fellow Members,

New Committee 2002

Following our first committee meeting for the 2002 year, held on Thursday, 14 March, I am pleased to advise you of your new committee. I have the privilege once again of serving you as Chairperson. This term of office will complete two full years, which is permitted in terms of the constitution. The remainder of your committee comprises existing members, **Adriaan Scheepers** (GS rides), **Richard Hussey** (Treasurer), **Deon Gericke** (Road rides), **Brian Cannoo** (Communication), **Izak Geldenhuys** (Road rides) and new members, **Basiliki Gericke** (Secretary) and **Pieter Swart** (GS rides). I once again take this opportunity, on behalf of our committee and the members to thank **Allie Scheepers** for her efforts over the past years while holding the very important and time-consuming office of Secretary.

As intimated last newsletter, we have been successful in adding “new blood” to your committee. This addition brings fresh approaches and new ideas to the experience of the existing committee and should add to serving the needs of our 112+ members. While the Annual General Meeting is still fresh in our minds, I appeal to all members to consider the affairs of your Club. Next year, we will be looking to introducing two new members to achieve a rotation of existing committee members to generate new ideas. Please be receptive to offer your talents in areas needed to run your Club in an effective and efficient way.

Spoke ‘n Piston

Please assist your newsletter producer, Henri Heyns by providing “**any news-worthy**” snippets of information, stories, technical articles etc. Henri has an enormous task trying to chase up articles of interest to make the Spoke ‘n Piston worthy of printing. Please help. Thanks to those who have provided articles.

With wishes for shared riding pleasure in 2002,

Regards,
Mike.

Bits and pieces from the A.G.M.

(Henri Heyns)

The Club held its seventh Annual General Meeting on 1st March in a very hot club house with some sixty + perspiring, yet enthusiastic members attending.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Mike Hennessy re-emphasised the club's vision of 'shared riding pleasure' by giving effect to its mission of 'fostering fellowship through the safe, supportive and responsible riding and enjoyment of BMW motorcycles, in a courteous manner'.

The Committee concentrated on the four big 'C's during 2001. These were Communication, Companionship, Competency and Clubhouse. The Chairman then set out the activities and successes around each 'C' during the year.

Membership now stands at 112 with family membership showing an unexpected increase. The latter forms 33% of the club total whilst country members are represented by only 3%. Participation in club socials and rides showed an encouraging increase. It is estimated that riding events for the year totalled some 15000 kms travelled, good news for the purveyors of petrol, tires and bike parts, no doubt.

A 'pensioner' category of membership was introduced in the club during 2001. This means that members over 65 can have their subs halved to R75.00 per annum. Other categories and subs are: Ordinary R150, Family R200, Student R75 and Country members R75.

Charity Work

The club has the Bramley Children's Home as an adopted charity organisation and has once again showed its support by arranging a visit to the premises, organising eats, drinks and bike rides for the kids and generally showing those unfortunate ones that we care. In addition, a study grant of R2500.00 was made to a deserving girl student, Twiggy Croucamp, to enable her to continue with her studies in the area of para medicine.

Office bearers for 2002.

As was expected, the existing incumbents acquitted themselves so well of their various tasks that they were unanimously reappointed for the ensuing year. They are:

Mike Hennessy, Izak Geldenhuys, Deon Gericke, Adriaan Scheepers, Richard Hussey and Brian Cannoo. The only head shaking a firm "no" was that of Allie Scheepers who declined renomination due to business commitments. In appreciation of the sterling work done by Allie as club secretary, honorary club membership was bestowed upon her with full approval of the meeting.

General

The new secretary is the charming wife of committee member Deon Gericke. Her name is Basiliki and she is hard at work taking over from Allie. Her job in the club is not an easy one and the Chairman asked members to please give her all the support they can.

Another new face on the Committee is that of Pieter Swart. He is in his 29th year and an avid BMW F 650 biker (his second), having upgraded from a Yammie TW 200. Pieter loves the outdoors and is a dedicated off-roader. His greatest wish is for more off-road riders to come forward and share the wilderness with him.

Robin Dawson, now Chairman of BMW Club Central (the equivalent of ours) is also a club member here and attends every Noggin. That club rides every third Sunday of the month and on a suggestion made by him, we will be publishing their events regularly from now on so that those among us who cannot get enough out of one organised ride per month, can join them for a second bite of the cherry. They will also publish our events in turn.

Some members have still not renewed their subscriptions. Please attend to this as the club cannot function without your dues and a lot more needs to be done on the club house and for charity. I'm sure you good people can part with the few bucks without any great sweat.



Blowing our own trumpet...

Six places out of twelve!

BMW motorcycles has again lead the way by taking six positions out of twelve in sales of bikes over 500 cc up to the year end 2001. From the table below it can be seen that BMW captured a whopping **64,3 %** of the bike sales for that period. A total of 1589 bikes were sold, out of which 1022 are BMWs.

Is there anyone who still doubts that BMW is on the up in a big way?

1.	BMW	F650 GS	279	17,5 %
2.	BMW	R1150 GS	248	15,6 %
3.	BMW	F650 GS Dakar	205	12,9 %
4.	Suzuki	GSXR 1000	169	10,6 %
5.	BMW	R1100/50 RT	157	9,8 %
6.	Yamaha	R6	98	6,1 %
7.	Ducati	748 BIP/R	83	5,2 %
8.	Honda	CBR 900 RR	80	5,0 %
9.	Honda	CBR 600 F4i	73	4,6 %
10.	BMW	K1200 RS	70	4,4 %
11.	Yamaha	R1	64	4,0 %
12.	BMW	R1100 S	63	3,9 %



Smile Awhile

An elderly lady approached a photography shop with a much-worse-for-wear pre World War 2 snapshot in her hand. It depicted her late biker husband in full riding garb with a helmet on. She wanted to know if the shop could reproduce the photo to make it look better, but also if it was possible to remove the helmet from her husband's head. Sure thing the shopkeeper replied. Just say what hubby's hair colour was and how he combed his hair. With a surprised look the widow suggested that he remove the helmet first and then see for himself what he wanted to know.

Biking Casualties

We are sorry to report that the following members have been involved in biking accidents over the past few months and have suffered injuries to varying degrees as a result: **Rene Changuion, Charl Engelbrecht and J.C. Giani.**



It is our sincere wish that their recovery is speedy and complete and damage to their bikes minimal so that they may soon again be part of the line-up of enthusiastic BMW riders of our Club.

Friends in need...

(Henri Heyns)

The Pretoria BMW Motorcycle Club recognises the enormous need for financial assistance by thousands of children in South Africa who, for one reason or another, are left parentless or virtually so, and would have no one else to turn to, had it not been for a number of Children's Homes spread all over the country. These organisations do excellent work in providing sustenance, security, schooling at selected educational institutions, and generally speaking, an acceptable level of upbringing and development for these little ones, to be able to fit into the community when grown up.

Our club has singled out one such organisation, the Bramley Children's Home in Groenkloof, as the charity to support. This institution has to care for some fifty plus needy children between the ages six and eighteen. Club support can be in the form of an annual financial contribution, a fun day for the kids where they are entertained for the day, which includes motorcycle rides on the premises, either at the Home or elsewhere, and financial assistance to a meritorious individual identified by the Home's controlling body to further his/her studies.

One such occasion took place on Sunday 3rd March when a contingent of club members rolled up at the Home for a quick visit. Of course, quite a number of kids are away weekends but the remainder were quite happy with the situation as so much more attention could be given to them.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of a cheque for R2500.00 by club member Deon Gericke to Twiggy Croukamp for furthering her studies to become a paramedic, her lifelong ambition. (See the story and picture elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Bramley Home's general manager Martie Booysse has expressed her and the children's heartfelt appreciation for the attention given them by the club and especially for the fact that they are approached first to determine the areas where the need is the greatest. Although not being in a position to refuse

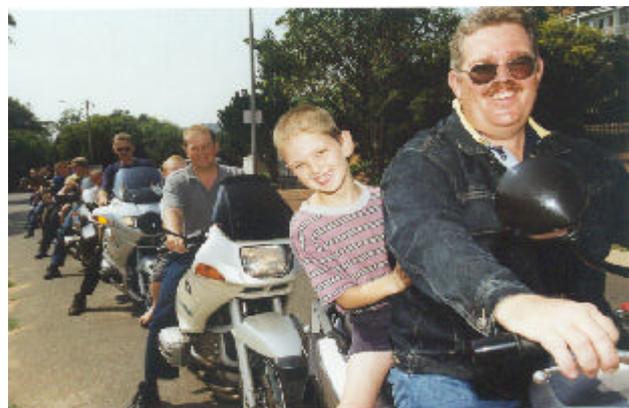
donations of any kind from whomsoever, she points

out that prospective donors could make their contribution so much more useful after consultation with the Bramley staff. Some years ago for instance the need for ironing boards and hair dryers (of all things!) was revealed by the females of the species at the Home and the club responded accordingly by delivering a few items of each at the next visit.

The Bramley Home works marvels for the children in its care and one always leaves the premises after a visit wondering how they can do it. The kids are friendly, well-behaved and always so eager to welcome visitors (especially on motorcycles). Keep up the good work Martie and be assured of our enthusiastic support always.



Tertius Basson en 'n blonde passasier van die Bramley Kindertehuis. Mens wonder soms wie geniet die rit die meeste.



'n Hele rits motorfietse met opgewonde en geesdriftige kinderpasasiers agterop. Baie van hulle weier om weer afgelaai te word!

Clicks and Shutters at the AGM

*Two new members on the committee are **Pieter Swart** (left) and secretary **Basiliki Gericke**. With them are old hands **Mike Hennessy** (again chairman this year) and Treasurer **Richard Hussey** (right).*



*Providing for the needs of the inner person are champion braaier **Bruce Meyers** with **J.C. Giani** overseeing the intricate operation*



*Chairman for another term, **Mike Hennessy** reviewing the activities of the past year in his annual report*

***Johan en Ada Botes** geniet blykbaar die vrugte van die twee braaiers se sorgsame arbeid*



Top performer

(Henri Heyns)

Ina Croukamp, declared the most deserving student for the Pretoria BMW Motorcycle Club's prestige award this year is called Twiggy, although why, is a mystery. Most of us old enough to remember will recall that during the sixties, a spindly British fashion model, who became famous the world over, hit the charts. She was so fragile however that she became known as Twiggy. It was with this thought in mind that I looked up 'our' Twiggy in the office of the Bramley Children's Home. And what a delightful surprise it was to find a very attractive, well proportioned young blond woman with a ready smile and a charming demeanour bearing that name, truly a tragic misnomer if ever there was one.



In the picture Club Committee member Deon Gericke presents the award to a proud Twiggy with the Bramley Childrens` Home General Manager Martie Booyse looking on

Chatting to her, one immediately detects in this young woman a zest for life, decisiveness, a quick response and an urgency to excel. Twiggy is eighteen years of age and has spent the past ten years in the care of the Bramley Home. She is known to be a hard worker with a love for English and domestic science as subjects. A career in medicine would be her ideal and in the process of working in that direction Twiggy's immediate objective is to qualify as a paramedic. In order to attain that status she has enrolled for a course at an ambulance service in Pretoria specialising in sports rescue injuries. For her final certificate as a paramedic Twiggy has to complete three study courses and one thousand hours of practical training. After that she would like to be employed full time by an ambulance service.

People who know Twiggy intimately describe her as a people person, one who is friendly, loving, caring, sincere and always available to help where needed. Martie Booyse, who has taken a personal interest in this young woman's development calls her 'an adorable child'.

Asked about her dislikes, Twiggy declared that computers and unreliable people fall into that category. She ardently supports running or walking programmes aimed at wildlife preservation and prefers cats as pets.

On behalf of the club we congratulate Twiggy on her achievement and hope that this small token of our appreciation for excellence will serve as encouragement for greater things to come in the not too distant future. We stoop to remind her that nothing worthwhile in this world is achieved without dedication and effort, but that hard work and perseverance promise to render without fail whatever one desires.

Keep up the good work Twiggy. We wish you everything of the very best and please let us know from time to time how you progress. We all have the utmost faith in you.

As I see it...

Keep inside what needs to be inside

(Henri Heyns)

A joke of yesteryear with profuse apologies to members of the weaker sex who may mistakenly interpret this chuckle as a not too well disguised attempt at sexism:

A lady car driver in front of you lamely lets her right hand protrude through the window. Of what one fact can you be sure in assessing her intentions? That the window is open!

In olden days, before the advent of direction indicators or 'flickers' as they are now called, all intentions of stopping or direction change had to be conveyed by the right hand of the driver of a car or truck with right hand drive and naturally the converse in the case of LHD. Motorcyclists of course used one of both hands as circumstances demanded, which proved to be a clumsy arrangement as one hand had to come off the handlebar to signal. A right hand turn by a car driver was shown by extending the right arm with the back of the hand showing backwards. A left turn required the hand to move in an anti-clockwise motion from the wrist. To signal stopping the right arm would bent upwards at the elbow with the hand facing backwards. In consequence of such an elaborate signalling arrangement we as youngsters were always taught not to let any part of our bodies stick out of the car because it might confuse drivers and other road users behind one.

It may be of interest to the reader that I saw a 'traffic indicator' for the first time in my life in 1941 on the steering wheel of a Buick Special straight eight motor car of that year in my hometown Brakpan. (The USA only entered WW 2 in December that year).

But what do we see today? We see limbs sticking out of cars everywhere and sometimes through all the windows. I've seen people (and not necessarily drivers) flick ash off their cigarettes, toss out debris of all sorts, make obscene signs, play with toys, point to objects, or just let their limbs protrude for no apparent reason. And all this leads to the utter

confusion of the guy behind, especially the biker, who must concentrate all his senses to determine what the person in front is signalling about. No, with all the signalling devices within easy reach of the driver, let us train ourselves as well as our passengers not to let any part of our bodies protrude from the windows. It is a bad habit and only leads to more confusion on the roads and the ever-present possibility of traffic accidents.



Brain Teaser

Come on you brainy members. Try this one for size and see how much grey matter really rests between your ears. There's really no catch but a bit of solid thinking is required:

You have ten pouches, each containing ten gold coins. Nine pouches contain coins weighing ten grams each, whilst one contains coins of nine grams each.

Now determine which pouch has the nine gram coins. (Naturally all the coins have the same size and their mass difference is so small that only by weighing can one tell which is which.)

Remember that you may only weigh once but you may open the pouches.

A prize will be awarded to the first correct entry. Send your entries to the editor: henrih@netactive.co.za or drop us a line in the Club post box at Bruce's place.

The closing date is 15 May 2002.

*“Hoe lyk dit dan met nog `n doppie oubaas?” Met skynbaar verlangende oë kyk **Krummels** op die kroegtoonbank by die klubhuis na die leë bierblikkie voor hom en smee vir nog `n bietjie lafenis uit die kelders van die brouer. Die vraag is of sy eienaars **Tertius** en **Sania Basson** hulle oor hom sal ontferm. Wat dink die leser?*



Have you???????

If you`ve changed your postal or e-mail address, your fax, telephone, cell phone number (or even your name for that matter), please let us know so that we can keep in touch. Just drop us a line by post or use the letter box provided in the show room at the club house.

*“**Pottie**” **Potgieter** is an accomplished furniture designer/maker and spent many hours of his free time fabricating a beautiful bar counter and liquor cabinet for the club. Seen here enjoying a drink at “Potties Pub”, as this watering hole is called from now on, are the creator (left) with chairman **Mike Hennessy**, expressing a big thank you for a magnificent job. In the background is barman **Jonathan Berman**, ready, willing, and able to come up with another round should the need arise.*



Rugbygrappie van die maand

Gedagtig aan die sukkelgang van ons rugby hier in die Noorde vir die afgelope aantal seisoene, is die volgende storiëtjie miskien van pas.

`n Rugbygeesdriftige bel vanaf Nelspruit na Loftus Versveld en vra of die wedstryd tussen die Blou Bulle en die WP nog die komende Saterdag aan is. Ja, kom die stem oor die telefoon, bevestigend dat dit wel so is.. Menende dat die sitplekke miskien uitbespreek kan wees vra die oproeper: “Is daar nog plek?” Ja, kom die stem weer en vervolg dan: “Watter posisie speel jy?”

Free advertising in S `n P

If you have anything to sell, swop, wish to buy or even if you want to ask for or give advice, or make an announcement, why not use the pages of Spoke `n Piston? We will gladly accommodate your wishes provided they are above board and sincere. Unfortunately we cannot handle the buying or selling of bikes, spares and equipment other than collector`s items.

Send your material to the editor at the address on this page or telephone (012) 430-5799. His e-mail address is: henrih@netactive.co.za

To avoid inconvenience and prevent errors please ensure that all correspondence is received well ahead of the date of publication which is around the middle of the two month period of the newsletter. Please also provide full particulars relating to the who, what, where, how, when, why and how much of the article.

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