

Monthly Newsletter October 2019

For once sitting in the office in the afternoon seems a good idea, after all it's throwing it down outside, at least I'm in the dry. This morning was very pleasant in the company of Andy Prosser and Mike Wevill clearing one of the sections for the forthcoming Tamar Classic Road Trial on October 20th we managed to do the work before the rain arrived, doesn't usually work like that. There is a mild panic in the organising of the event in that we are desperately short of marshals, an event of this magnitude relies on the good nature of lots of folks to come and man/woman the hills so please give Mike Wevill a call on 01566 784451 and help him sleep at nights. The good news is that we have inflation proofed this years all you can eat breakfast at £6.50 which is the same as last year, so well done to the team of volunteers at Tresmeer Village Hall.

The "Tamar" is the biggest event in our calendar year with many months of planning by our dedicated team, it is also a valued event in that it brings in revenue for the club, without the funds from this event the club treasurer would be having serious palpitations, although I have it on good authority that Gin is a highly effective medicine for this condition and that our treasurer is undergoing trials for NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) although it is such a long trial period that many people hoping to see it on prescription may have a very long wait.

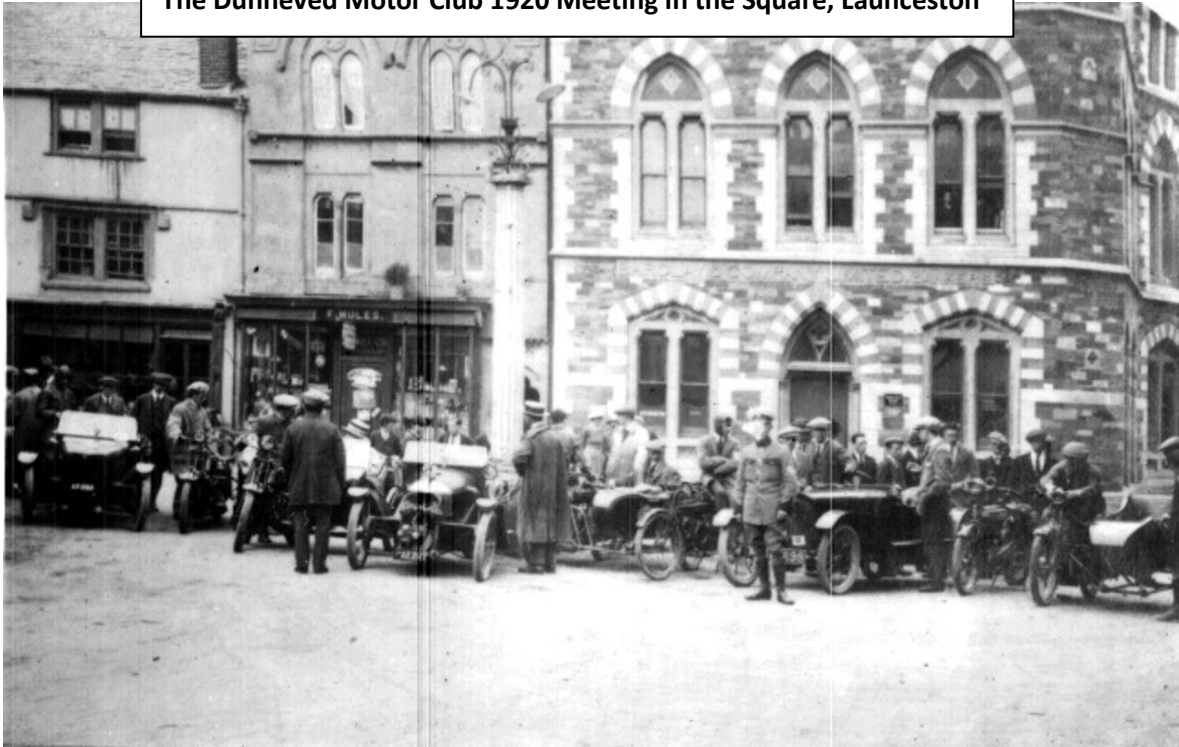
The **David Ayers** Sporting Trial was held on the 15th September at Trevilla , Marshgate , by kind permission of David Langley. With an entry of 16 competitors it was won by Richard Sharp, the Frank Ayers trophy was won by Rex Ward, other award winners were Simon Kingsley, Darren Underwood and Colin Flashman.

To me it seems a long way off but in reality not that far, just after Christmas on the 28th of December we host the **Ron Beer** Sporting Trial at Harrowbarrow, can't bear to think that far in advance so more news on this in next month's action packed full colour edition.

Enthusiastic Club members have entered a float in the Launceston Carnival on 12th October, if you would like to help with this please contact Club Chair Pete Cooper 07771 527093

It should be fun and give the Club some more publicity.

The Dunheved Motor Club 1920 Meeting in the Square, Launceston



Launceston and North Cornwall Motor Club will celebrate their centenary next year. Founded in 1920, we are one of the earliest motor clubs to be formed in the South West and the first in Cornwall. Originally named "The Dunheved Motor Club" we owe our formation to an enthusiastic bunch of motor cyclists who lived in Launceston and the surrounding countryside. The first Secretary was Maurice Prout, the then Editor of the Cornish & Devon Post. Many social events were organised in the early days. Including a popular Thursday afternoon run to Crackington and back and for a real test of stamina the occasional run to Lands End and back. On the competitive side rallies, sprints and hill climbs were in vogue and the latter usually involved timed runs over a half mile length on a public road.

Motor cars began to mix with motorcycles in the 1930s, by which time our Club had changed its name to "The North Cornwall Motor Club."

After the war there was a wave of enthusiasm and interest and George Edwards and Bob and Nancy Parsons organised all types of events from trials to driving tests and rallies. Throughout this time there was always an active mix of motorcycles and cars, though interest from motor cyclists waned in the late 60s. However, motorcycle interest revived again in the 70s when we became one of the first clubs (apart from the M.C.C.) to include motorcycles with cars in our classic road trials. Our club membership continues to include amongst many local enthusiasts and top national exponents of trials. In 1980 we changed to our present name, "The Launceston and North Cornwall Motor Club", once more identifying with our origins.

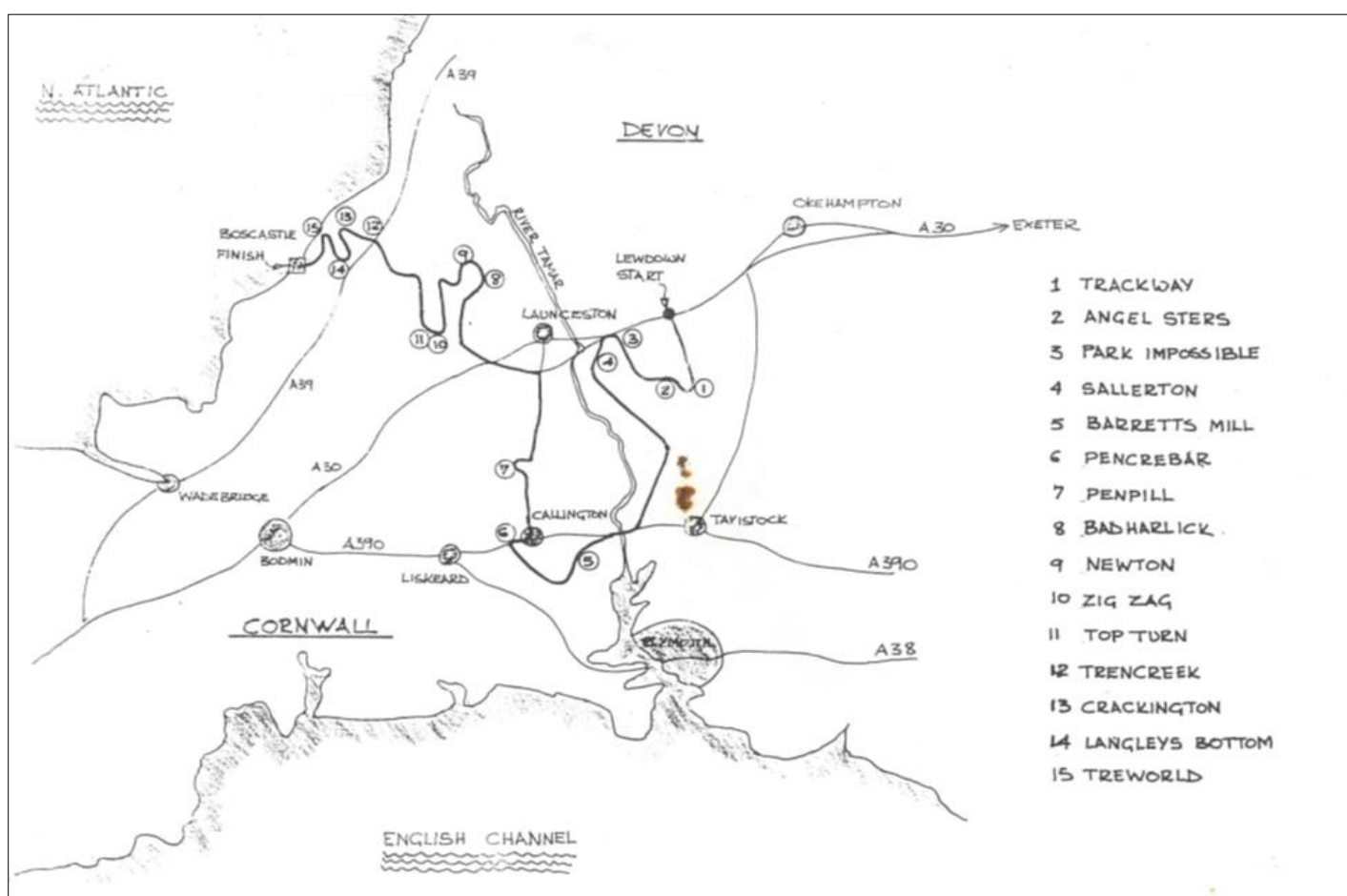
The club is planning several special events to mark this special year and will have a large exhibition in Lawrence House Museum during August, September and October 2020. To facilitate this, we would be pleased to hear from anyone who has personal or family memories, photographs, programmes, results, awards, certificates etc related to the club from the past 100 years.

If you can help us please contact Joe Caudle phone 07495 358904 email joe@lncmc.co.uk

To find out more about the club and present activities visit our website <http://www.lncmc.co.uk/>

A visit from a friend recently had Vivien and I chuckling in that he gave me an old Tamar Trial programme from 1993, I know it's only 26 years ago but it is still a reasonable passage of time. When I looked at the entry list number 63 was Vivien and myself in the Austin 7. It somehow seems such a long time ago, the Clerks of the course were our President Robin Moore, ex chair Warin Kelly and David Uglow. I have enclosed the centre spread map of the event as drawn by Warin showing the start at Lewdown Services on the old A30 and finishing at the Wellington Hotel , Boscastle . There were many familiar sections in use then that are still in use now, some have fallen by the wayside with others taking their place.

This was the 47th Tamar, but as Robin had mentioned in his opening gambit no one is really sure how old this event is but it is now well over 70 years of age ,though many of the competitors competing then are missing from current day programmes, in fact there is only a handful of those earlier competitors still trialling (maybe they just became sensible) but whatever the reason it is good to see that the event lives on.



Route of the Tamar Trial 1993.

And now we have part 2 of our President's Historical Notes.

As related in part one, the majority of motor clubs were initially formed to cater for the motorcycle enthusiast, and whilst impetus was slow before the First World War there was renewed vigour post 1918 when many clubs came into being.

The Launceston and North Cornwall Motor Club as we know it today, is no exception. It originally started in this post war period, and so we now find ourselves in our Centenary year.

There has been some confusion in my own mind because I have always understood that the year of our club's birth was 1920. The oldest trophy in our collection is The Lifton and District Cup engraved with this date. The origins of this are obscure and it would be nice to know precisely how this came into our club's possession.

However I am indebted to the Cornish & Devon Post for their weekly series of snippets of news from past editions. The issue dated 20th August 1919 stated "A Motor-cycle club has been formed at Launceston and the opening run to Tavistock will take place next Monday".

The following week under the same caption of the C & D recorded August 29th 1919, "The opening run of Dunheved (Launceston) and District Motor-cycle Club took place on Monday"..

So there we have the proof, and our club has been part of the "Lanson scene" ever since.

RHTM

(to be continued)

That's all for this month, as usual any contributions to the newsletter will be gratefully accepted.

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