

DOC RAWLENCE MEMORIAL TROPHY 2015

Article posted in memory of Doc Rawlence and Roger Lye

Doc Rawlence always played an active part in Brimbo and was the Chairman for many years and then the President. When he passed away a few years ago he left a small legacy to the club which has now been turned into a trophy to be awarded annually to a Brimbo member who we felt was deserving of recognition. This has each year's holder's name inscribed on the brass plate and there is also smaller replica to keep.

The first recipient of this trophy is Roger Lye, who's been in Brimbo since 1979 when he and Jenny first moved to Stuston. He's always played an active part in the club, I recall chatting to him in the Scole Inn about a week after he'd moved to the area and he was using a Norton Commando. He'd miraculously found Brimbo in about a week with no Twitter, Facebook or a website!

I remember competing in grass track events for Brimbo members at the caravan site Roger and Jenny had opened up behind their bungalow - caravans were usually referred to as Wally Boxes! There were barbecues, plus odd camping weekends at the Lyes' for distant Brimbo members from deepest Newmarket as well as many other gatherings there over the years.

We've ridden to race tracks together around the country and I have a picture in my photo album of Roger and Jenny sitting at Guthrie's Memorial at the TT - several of us used to go to The Island in June each year. We attended the BMF rally at Peterborough on our overloaded bikes, scrabbled round the countryside on Treasure Hunts, messed around in the mud on trail riding exploits and talked hours of nonsense in cafes, pubs and at kitchen tables.

I recall, back in the '80s, a dozen of us were homeward bound after riding up Peddars' Way to Holme-next-the-Sea. Roger was on a unit Triumph twin, 5TA I think, and I was on my old G80 Matchless. Anyway, Roger got a puncture in his front tyre but, handily, had a can of Finilec puncture stuff taped to the frame. I remember him reading the label and then shaking the can for the full two minutes as instructed. I queried why he didn't think that sixty miles of riding down rutted cart tracks hadn't shaken up the can enough. He just grinned, squirted it into the tyre and

we all got home safely.

Our most recent ride out together was last March's Sunday Run when half a dozen of us went to Stephanie's Cafe at Wrentham for a Full English plate of lard. I remember Roger pushing his empty plate away, wiping the egg off his chin and saying "I've never had better!" We then all thacked, burbled and thudded our way homeward through the Suffolk lanes.

At the January 2015 AGM Roger took over as Chairman but, sadly, had to resign in May due to ill health. We wish him all the very best and I'm sure all past and present members will consider him a worthy first holder of this trophy.

Ray

