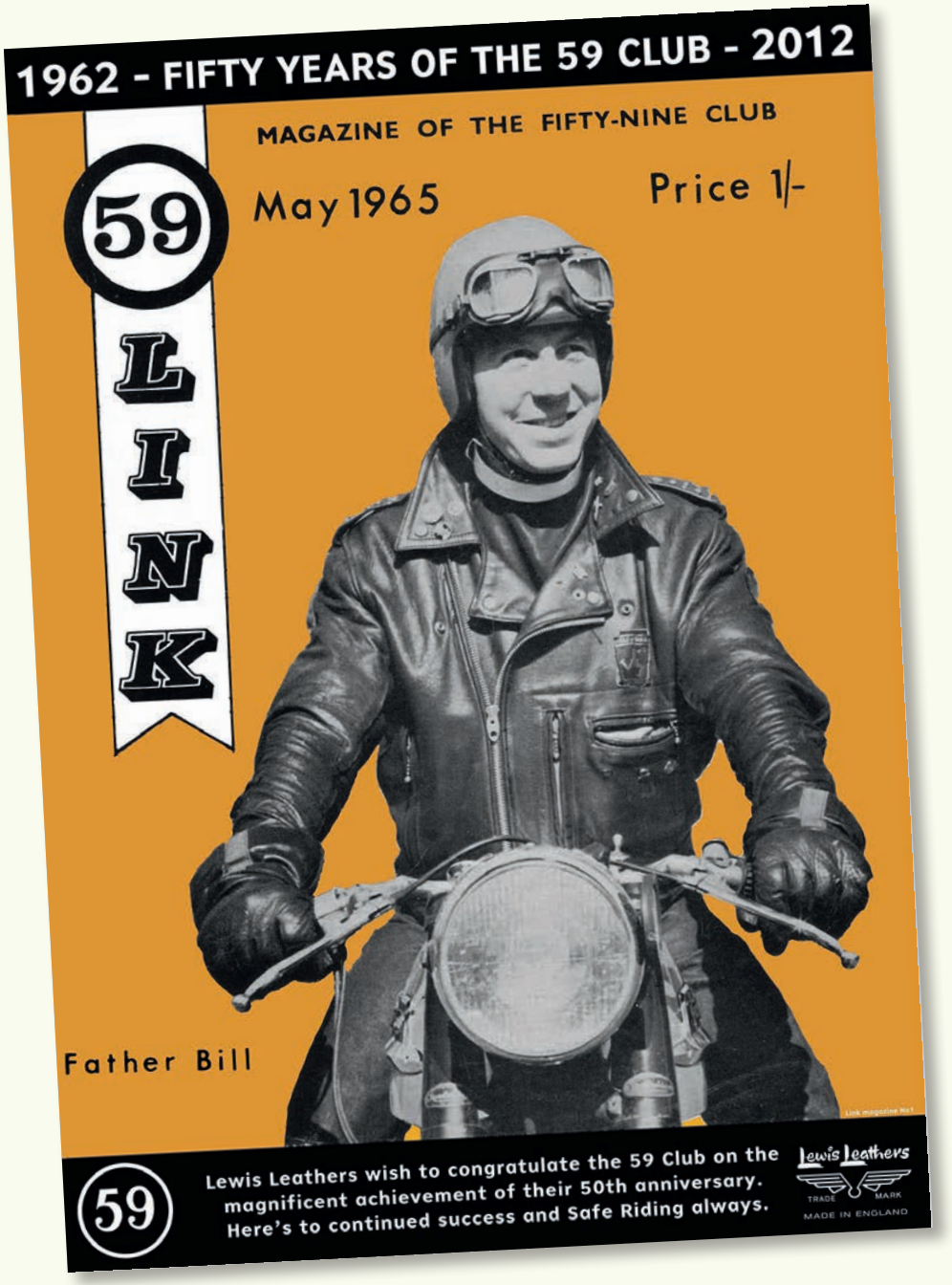
LINK 59

THE MAGAZINE OF THE FIFTY-NINE CLUB • WINTER 2016

NEWS + REVIEWS + EVENTS + STUFF



Limited edition prints donated to the 59 Club by Lewis Leathers. Available to buy from the Club for £5

Ramblings from the editor...

Firstly, welcome to the new look Link Magazine. Thank you all for your continued support; it is your membership that enables the Club to keep going towards its 60th year.

We would also like to thank Club member Christian Riou for designing and setting up our new website; we think it looks great, and it is a joy to work on! Plus helmets off for the fantastic new look for 'The Link' from Yak at Korero Press. The Club's leaders are all volunteers, and we endeavour to open the Clubhouse twice a week (for most of the year) Wednesday & Saturday evenings, so that you can visit and meet other members.

Our continued support from the Ace Cafe London helps no end with memberships and Club regalia and with the organisation of the Ace, as a charity, we are far better placed to concentrate on running the Club which is still quite a task now we have social media to attend to and our aim to reignite The Link , oh, and riding motorcycles.

Hopefully, we are through any teething problems with the Ace switchover, but if there are any problems, please let us know. Remember, we have all the original membership cards dating back to 1962, so if you have joined in the past and want to renew, we can find your original number!

It is important to point out, that unless your subscription has been paid directly to the 59 Club here in London, you are not a member of the proper & original club both in the UK or internationally. So please don't pay any money to anyone purporting to be 59 as there is only one original 59 Club, everything else is an imitation and if we don't hold your details, you have been cheated out of being part of motorcycle history.

Remembering this history reports, when the late Father Bill Shergold, rode to The Ace Cafe in 1962 and introduced himself to the young riders and started the motorcycle section of his youth club, it was so anyone with an interest in bikes could have somewhere to go, especially in the days when there wasn't anywhere, and he always made sure the club did not forget these simple roots.

As Club leaders, we love café racers and rock n' roll, but these are not a prerequisite to becoming a 59'er.

There are no restrictions on dress or what bike you ride, even scooters which many original members rode as it's all they could afford!

The ethos and traditions of the club are, as they have always been, everyone welcome to join, but do note that wearing the 59 badge (it is NOT a patch) is like wearing a vintage Triumph, an Ace Cafe or Lewis Leathers badge, purely a statement of your acknowledgement of a wider and special part of motorcycling that we see not as past, but as ongoing, our badge says you know your biking history and want to help keep it alive as a club.

Now, 2016 has been a busy year so far! Apart from our attendance at the Ace (59 Club Day, Triton & Cafe Racer Day), Club leaders

Gary Hall & Del Rowe also attended the cafe's annual RBLRB Day (Royal British Legion Riders Branch) to present a cheque for the sum of £559 to the charity's representative Dave Hope.

The cheque was in the memory of the late Father Denis McSwiney, a long-standing member of both organisations. Also present was 59 member Mark Chapman, (whose Triumph cafe racer took pride of place) alongside with the Chelsea Pensioners and Brent Mayor Parvez Ahmed. The Club was also at the wonderful Brooklands Museum's Motorcycle Show in July, meeting up with members old and new, it was a great day watching the variety of bikes and riders charging up the hill climb. Also, member Martyn Mann, recently took the 59 stand to the annual Ton Up Day at Jacks Hill Cafe in Towcester, whilst a few of the members (my wife Yvonne and I included) went over for the Isle of Man TT.

Due to circumstances beyond our control at the club, the annual 'Tinsel & Turkey' party did not take place this year, but next year is on the calendar (see Events List), and will again include entertainment from our resident rock 'n' roller Terry Batt, plus a chance for members new and old to talk two wheels.

Another event to look forward to is in November. Quite a few of us attend the annual Salon Moto Legende on the outskirts of Paris, where the French Section of the 59 Club have a stand and display, they put on a great night of food, drink and rock n' roll at their clubhouse – it's an event not to be missed!

So, we hope you're enjoying the new look Link Magazine and on a day to day contact, do befriend us on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/59-Club-147292677755

We look forward to receiving your introduction as a member, and do send in your motorcycling and 59 stories, anecdotes, and photographs for the next Link Magazine to: 59club@hotmail.com

Dick Bennett

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"I MIGHT HAVE GUESSED... MY HOROSCOPE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A TALL DARK STRANGER AND A CHANGE IN MY FORTUNES!"

24TH ANNUAL

ACE CAFE REUNION

RIDE WITH THE ROCKERS

BRIGHTON BURN-UP

ACE CAFE LONDON

DEPART 10:30

SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2017

ROUTE: A406•A40•M25•M23•A23• MADEIRA DRIVE•BRIGHTON SEAFRONT

ACE CAFE LONDON,
Ace Corner, North Circular Road,
Stonebridge, London NW10 7UD

A406, NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD, PARK ROYAL EXIT.
UNDERGROUND - BAKERLOO LINE, STONEBRIDGE PARK
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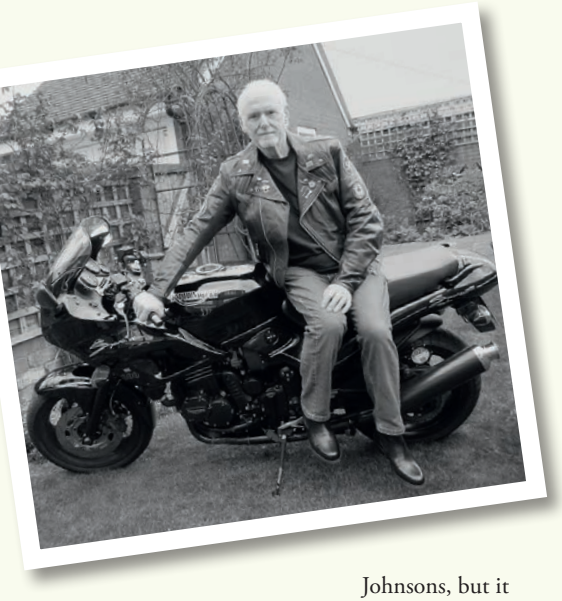
Teenage to old age

I regard my formative years as that transitional period somewhere between puberty and maturity. Some would say that nearing 70 I haven't reached maturity yet as, like many of my contemporaries, I'm still riding bikes and attending themed events at the Ace Cafe in London including Classic British Bike Day, Triton and Café Racer Day and of course 59 Club Day. That said, I'm pleased that I had the good fortune to be living in East Kent during my teenage years.

The world of two wheels started on my 16th birthday (dare I say it, on a Lambretta 125) and opened up a culture of leather jackets, motorcycle clubs, race meetings and biker cafés. I suppose that youngsters, both male and female and of a similar persuasion, were doing the same thing all over the country, but I counted myself lucky in having a plethora of venues in Kent catering for the leather-clad Rockers with whom I socialised. My hometown on the Kent coast was just a few minutes bike ride from Margate with Dreamland amusement park and it's seafront arcades, and of course the much-hyped notoriety of the Mods and Rockers clashes of the mid-sixties. Like many I quickly graduated through the bikes from the Lambretta and a 200cc Triumph Tiger Cub to a 650cc BSA Road Rocket with mandatory clip ons and goldie pipes.

With ownership of the larger bikes, there started a quest to venture farther field than the local cafés, which had been The Coffee Lounge at Birchington and the Trapezium at Sandwich. Standing in Birchington Square at weekends waiting to hurl abuse at any passing Mods heading for Margate seems so churlish now, but it was all part of the scene back then. In order to meet with like-minded souls, The Top Hat in Dover and The Sunshine Café at Cheriton in Folkestone became regular rides, and the Ashford Aces Motorcycle Club was a convenient one to join. However, the famous 59 Club was the one many aspired to join. Why did I want to join the 59? I don't really know now, other than it was the patch to have on your jacket at the time. The whole aura of it's beginnings as the motorcycle section outgrew the original youth club, and the ethos of it's running was a huge pull to a rebellious and anti-establishment teenager. Being 80 odd miles away it certainly wasn't somewhere convenient to pop down to of an evening if you suddenly fancied it. Weekend rides to the Club at St. Mary's Paddington, and then on to the Ace Cafe, became a feature of the Rocker culture. A brief kip in railway rolling stock in sidings close to the Ace on the "Norf Circ" sufficed before heading back to the coast the next day. Thankfully the rest of Kent had a similarly vibrant bike scene and the most well-known stop off between the coast and London was Johnsons on the A20. I was never a regular at



Johnsons, but it served as a half way stop off or meeting place before and after a race meeting at Brands Hatch. Box Hill was another popular meet as was The Halfway at Harrietsham. Café patch collecting became the norm, and I still have a Johnsons patch on my jacket today (not the original unfortunately), as well as still being a member of the 59. I suspect that for many who joined the 59 in their teens life quickly moved on. In my case along came marriage, family, mortgage, a change of career and responsibilities. The Rocker culture I had enjoyed throughout my teens faded into the background and bikes became just a commuting tool. Sadly most of the café sites have been utilised for housing or at least a change of use, but the culture lived on as did the 59. Having retired ten years ago and re-established my riding credentials, I was delighted to find that the Club was still functioning and rejoined immediately, and also that The Ace Cafe had been resurrected thanks to the efforts of Mark and Linda Wilsmore. My original 59 membership was retrieved by the dedicated leaders and allocated once again. I've been surprised to find out that Club leaders from the beginning of the 70s are still doing the same voluntary job. They are owed a huge debt of gratitude for keeping the legend alive. I am glad that I was able to participate in the Club's 50th-anniversary service, and that I managed to get to the funeral of Father Bill Shergold, who I only met on one occasion, but if you have been part of the culture, then there are certain things that just have to be done. Membership of the 59 is now a matter of heritage for me, and I'm happy to support it through an annual membership fee administered by The Ace Cafe.

Now, with my 70th only months away, I look back on those early biking years with a great deal of affection, and I'm gratified that the culture does live on, some of it in much the same vein as 50 years ago. Do I want to live the Rocker culture? Not now. I've done that, but it's a big part of my past that I like to recreate now and again.

"Silly old sod" I hear some say, but it has given me a lifetime of pleasure. I can still meet like minded souls and more importantly can still ride. Yes, I had the odd tumble and yes there was some uncalled for violence. Some contemporaries did not survive, and that's always sad, but that's also the way of the world.

I wish no ill will to the Mods who are ageing at the same rate as I am, and who are just as enthusiastic about their scooters and cultural heritage. I'm pleased to see younger generations taking the same youth culture forward.

The legend lives on.

Ian Blyth.

EVENTS

Please remember the Club may be closed on the evenings that we are attending events.

Saturday 19th November 2016
The 59 Club France, in Paris, holding their Party at la Marine. There is a great Classic Bike Show on in Vincennes that weekend, Salon-moto-legende.fr They set up an excellent stand there to promote the Club and do us proud.

Sunday 18th December 2016
Christmas Carol service at the Ace Cafe. Join us for a sing-along & mince pies. Starts: 7pm.

Saturday 21st January 2017
34th Annual Rockers Reunion Party in Reading. An excellent evening and the Club's stand will be in the large hall this year. Please come and find us. Info: www.rockersreunion.co.uk

Sunday 12th February 2017
59 Club Renewal Day at the Ace Cafe.

Saturday 25th February 2017
59 Club Tinsel & Turkey Party in the hall downstairs from the Club rooms. Live music, raffle, eat as much as you can from the 'feed the 5,000 buffet'. Bring your own drink. Tickets: £8 per person if bought and collected in advance, or £10 on the evening. Tickets will be sold at all the events that we will be attending so you can buy them there.

Sunday 25th June 2017
Triton & Café Racer Day at the Ace Cafe.

Saturday 2nd July 2017
Brooklands Motorcycle Day. An excellent event

Saturday & Sunday 22nd to 23rd July 2017
Ton Up Day, Jacks Hill Café, Towester

Friday 8th September 2017
Ace Cafe Reunion Weekend starts with Bike Night at the Ace with live music & also the arrival of The Continental Run.

Saturday 9th September 2017
Whole day at Ace with live bands, DJ's and lots more. Café Racer Ride-Out departing at 10.30am. Café Racer Competition at 2.20pm.

Sunday 10th September 2016
Brighton Burn Up & Ride with the Rockers departing from the Ace at 10.30am.
The 59 Club stand will be on Madeira Drive all day. You can't miss us. You will be able to renew membership and buy regalia, but more importantly stop to chat and imbibe in a cuppa along with partaking in Sandra's famous bread pudding and Heather's delicious cakes.

Sunday 24th September 2017
59 Club & Bantam Day at the Ace Cafe.

Brooklands with the '59, 3rd July 2016

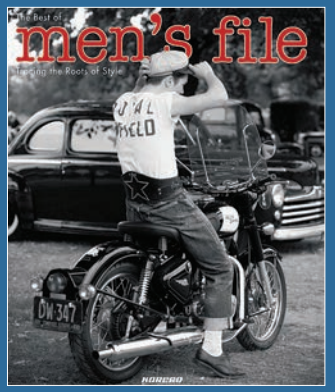
We had a great day ay Brooklands Motorcycle Show, alongside the Ace stand, Pictures are-Dick on Father Scotts BSA SR 500, Steve, Heather, Roger and Gary having a chat with a club member. Many great bikes and good company thanks to all our members for coming to see us.

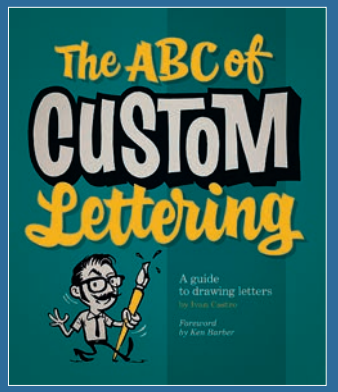
Martyn, Steve and Gary at Brooklands.

BROOKLANDS MUSEUM

KORERO PRESS

Visual inspiration to get your creative juices flowing!





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CLUB MEMBERSHIP

THE 59 CLUB was originally founded as a youth club in 1959 by Father John Oates, at The Eton Mission, St. Mary of Eton Church, Hackney, London, but it was following visits by his colleague the late Father Bill Shergold, on his motorcycle, to the then notorious Ace Cafe, and meeting with the "Ton Up Kids", that in 1962, a service and blessing of the bikes was held at the church. This set the 59 Club, a registered church charity, on the road to becoming a legend.

Seemingly overnight, from the moment of this church service, thousands of young motorcyclists joined the 59 Club and, to the sound of rock n' roll, it became a motorcycle club which, from 1964, was to be ever identified and associated with the Rockers!

Fifty years on, and having worked together from the very first Ace Cafe Reunion of 1994, through to the full re-opening of the Ace in 2001, the sharing of history, heritage, community and common values, has brought the 59 Club and Ace Cafe London ever closer together, and with the advent of ever increasing interest in these two now legendary and iconic institutions, both have agreed to team up.

Today, lead by motorcycling Father Scott Anderson, the management team of Club Leaders have partnered with Ace Cafe London who will provide full support for the 59 Club with membership administration, marketing, regalia and other areas of Ace expertise, with a view to assisting and ensuring a long and successful future for the Club.

- **Exclusive Club membership card and Club sticker**
- **Annual Club magazine 'Link'**
- **Discount, on production of Club card, at London's Lewis Leathers store**
- **Discount, on production of Club card, at Ace Cafe London on**
- **59 Club merchandise**
- **59 Club badges**
- **Opportunity to join the Club's Classic Section**

Membership of the 59 Club, which is open to all motorcyclists, is by means of renewable annual subscription, members receiving membership cards. A copy of the Club's newsletter "Link", is mailed out once a year to members.

Club Nights

From 7.30pm – 11pm
on Wednesdays and Saturdays at:
59 Club Rooms & Facilities,
The Swift Centre
387a Barking Road,
Plaistow, London E13 8AL

Contact number during Club Night only:
07423 591 001

- Entry to the Barking Road, Plaistow Club Rooms is at the side of the premises, through the double doors, and up a flight of stairs.
- The main Club room features a tea and coffee bar, seating area, table football, pool table, table tennis and jukebox.
- Please note that off-street parking for motorcycles is limited and the locking and securing of vehicles is recommended.

Membership and Regalia

Email: the59club@ace-cafe-london.com

Information & Events

Email: the59club@hotmail.com

www.the59club.org.uk

59club

59 MEMBERSHIP 59

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW TO JOIN THE LEGEND

then scan and email to: the59club@ace-cafe-london.com or
post to the address at the bottom of the form (please allow 28 days for delivery).

1 YOUR DETAILS

Please write in CAPITALS.

Membership number (renewals only) ☐☐☐☐☐☐

First name _____

Last name _____

Address _____

_____

_____

_____

Post/Zip code _____

Country _____

Birth date DD / MM / YY ☐☐/☐☐/☐☐

Telephone _____

Email _____

Joint Member (Member number - 2nd person at same address - renewals only) ☐☐☐☐☐☐

First name _____

Last name _____

Birth date DD / MM / YY ☐☐/☐☐/☐☐

DATA PROTECTION ACT: ACE CAFE LONDON IS REGISTERED UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION ACT OF 1984. FROM TIME TO TIME WE MAY PASS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO OTHER COMPANIES WHO WE BELIEVE OFFER GOODS AND SERVICES IN WHICH YOU MAY BE INTERESTED. IF YOU WISH TO AVOID THIS PLEASE TICK THIS BOX: ☐

2 MEMBERSHIP FEES

☐☐☐☐☐☐ Classic Section Membership Number (Renewals Only)

*Please tick **one** of the following Membership boxes.*

TYPE OF SUBSCRIPTION	SINGLE MEMBERSHIP MEMBER	SINGLE MEMBERSHIP &CLASSIC	JOINT MEMBERSHIP MEMBER	JOINT MEMBERSHIP &CLASSIC
UK Annual Subscription	£18 ☐	£23 ☐	£24 ☐	£29 ☐
EU Annual Subscription	£23 ☐	£28 ☐	£29 ☐	£34 ☐
Worldwide Annual Subscription	£28 ☐	£33 ☐	£34 ☐	£39 ☐

3 BADGES

*Badges are only available to current members. You must have **CLASSIC** membership to order **CLASSIC SECTION** badges.*

CLUB BADGES

ITEM AND PRICE		QTY	AMOUNT
2.75" Cloth Badge	£5		£
7" Cloth Badge	£10		£
Strip Cloth Badge	£5		£
Metal Pin Badge	£5.50		£

***CLASSIC SECTION* BADGES**

ITEM AND PRICE		QTY	AMOUNT
2.75" Cloth Badge	£5		£
Metal Pin Badge	£5.50		£

POSTAGE *(Please tick one)*

UK	£2.00 ☐
EU	£3.50 ☐
Rest of world	£4.50 ☐

4 PAYMENT METHOD & TOTAL

Membership Total (from **2** above)	£
Badges Total (from **3** above)	£
Postage Total (from **3** above)	£
Total to pay	

☐ Cash (only in person)
☐ Cheque (£, to 'Ace Cafe London')
☐ Bank Transfer: UK: Sort code: 40-02-26, A/C: 12707519
World: IBAN: GB42MIDL40022612707519 BIC: MIDLGB22
☐ Credit/Debit Card. Please select type: ☐ *Visa* ☐ *Mastercard* ☐ *Eurocard* ☐ *JCB* ☐ *Switch* ☐ *Delta*

Card number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ Start date ☐☐/☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐/☐☐ Issue No. ☐☐ *(applies only to debit cards)*

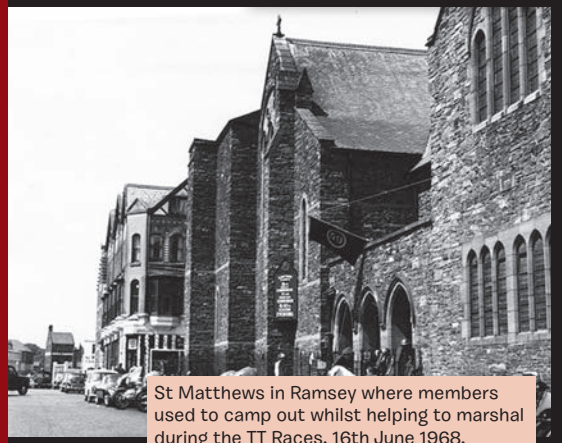
Security number ☐☐☐ *(last three digits from number on signature strip on reverse of card)*

Name as it appears on card *(IN CAPITALS PLEASE)* _____ Signature _____ Date _____

59 Club, Ace Cafe London, Ace Corner, North Circular Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 7UD, England
Tel: +44 (0)20 8961 1000 Fax: +44 (0)20 8965 0161 Web: ace-cafe-london.com

Father Bill and Father Graham with some members mid-1960s iconic shot.

Members parked in Ramsey in the Isle of Man for the TT Races.



St Matthews in Ramsey where members used to camp out whilst helping to marshal during the TT Races. 16th June 1968.

Period shot of members outside the Nick.

Scrapbook

Downstairs in the Coffee Bar at the Club in Paddington 12th April 1969.

I Am Who I Am!

I first went to the 59 Club, in Paddington, when I was 15 years old. Some of my school friends had taken part in a charity walk and had got chatting to a group of 59 Club members who were marshalling the walk on their bikes. So, four of us girls decided to visit the Club. There was a fly in the ointment. Well, a couple really. My Dad, and also the fact that I lived in Bermondsey. So it went like this 'Dad can I go and meet the girls at a new Youth Club that is run by a couple of vicars?' He replied 'I don't see why not. Where is it? 'Paddington' I replied. 'But I can get a number One bus all the way there and back.' He did flinch when I said Paddington but didn't say no. But then I didn't tell him it was open four nights a week.

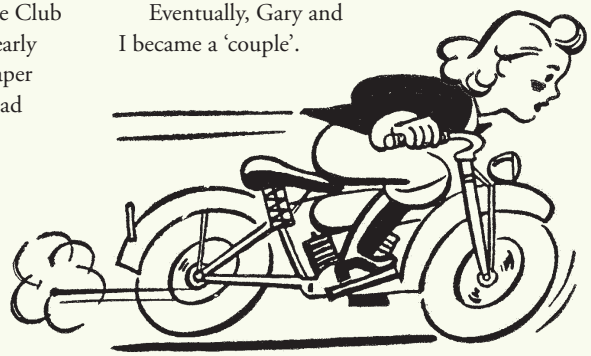
I know that at first members were told that they were members for life, but it was soon realised that the Club would not be able to support itself and a yearly subscription would need to be charged. Members were given a membership number for life but then had to pay a yearly fee. But when entering the Club then showed their membership and yearly subscription card and they paid a cheaper entry fee. I was too young to join so had to wait until I was old enough. The rules were that you had to produce your driving licence and insurance to prove that you had a bike. Or someone could join you as a pillion, but that was limited to just a couple a year per member.

So I paid a full whack entry fee every time, no discount for me. I used to help out behind the counter and with the clearing up at the end of the evening. Eventually, Big Pete took pity on me and joined me as a pillion. Even when I left school at 18, I couldn't afford a motorcycle let alone ask my Dad to be the guarantor for the HP. When I was younger, I was the only one without roller skates in my street as he said that they were too dangerous. So I knew I would get nowhere if I asked. When I brought home my first Lewis Leather jacket his shoulders dropped as he eventually realised that the 59 Club and motorcycling were here to stay.

I made many friends for life at the Club at Paddington, and when it transferred to Yorkton Street in Hackney, I took part in the renovations, alterations and decorating the new Club headquarters.

After it opened, I could often be found sitting at one end of the helmet park (manned by Tony) doing memberships, subscriptions and selling badges.

Eventually, Gary and I became a 'couple'.



That's when I should have bought a motorcycle. We did talk about it, but I still lived at home with my parents and worked locally so I couldn't even use the excuse that I needed it to drive to work.

Father Bill married us in 1980, and we settled on the Shooters Hill Slopes in SE London in a terraced house with a mortgage and no garage unfortunately. The views across London are spectacular though! No money to spare for another motorcycle so I car shared with a workmate. Eventually, in 1983 our son, Adam, was born. We had already bought a Kawasaki Z1300 so invested in a new Saluki Sidecar to put on the side. Gary went up to Suffolk to get it fitted and caused a traffic tailback while rather gingerly driving it home as some of our friends drove behind him on their bikes to stop traffic overtaking. I have always fancied driving the outfit but there's no leading link forks fitted, and Gal says it only needs 'sheer grunt' to drive it. That counts me out then. Father Bill was asked to baptise Adam. He said that he did get 'perks' with his job and that we could have the church to ourselves for the service. Which was probably just as well, as we turned up with the outfit along with a load of friends, also on their bikes.

We've had so much fun with the 'Old Girl' (outfit). She's been to the Isle of Man, burnt out her wiring loom on a long weekend ride through France (but that's another story), countless Club nights, shows and family outings. That is until she got stored away in our friend's garage one winter and due to family circumstances stayed there for nearly 15 years.

Shock, horror! The GLC folded, and we stopped receiving grants for the Club. The Local Council weren't interested in funding a Youth Club' where the majority of members were not local residents. We had these exceptional premises in Hackney. It cost a fortune to run in heating, let alone maintenance and insurance. The grants received from the GLC had helped towards these costs and also paid for 'Cookies' (Mike Cook) wages. Unfortunately, the lease ran out, and the Church authorities needed to evict the Club so they could sell the buildings on. The Club Leaders wanted to carry on with the Club, but unfortunately, we had to make Cookie redundant, and he went and retired to Poole but still stayed on the Council of Management of the Club. Now all the Club Leaders, Helpers and Council of Management were all volunteers so it was a big commitment.

When I brought home my first Lewis Leather jacket his shoulders dropped as he eventually realised that the 59 Club and motorcycling were here to stay.

We started looking about for a new place to meet. One of our members told us about the Swift Centre in the Barking Road, Plaistow. We went and viewed it and thought it would be a good stop gap. It would mean sharing the building but then the Club could afford the rent and it made life easier all round. We are still there meeting two evenings a week. Nothing fancy, just somewhere to sit, imbibe tea or coffee and chat with people who have motorcycles as part of their life. There's not many clubs that meet twice a week. Maybe we are the exception, but that is down to the commitment of the Club Leaders who spend lots of their time and also money supporting the Club.

I've spent over 40 years doing the memberships. We have a filing cabinet, at the Club, containing over 32,000 record cards. If a member contacts us with their details, 95%

of the time I can find their record card with their original membership number on it. The other 5% most probably have been misfiled and sometimes I find them later. About five years ago I said that I wanted to stop doing the memberships as it had taken over my life. Dealing with over 800 memberships a year plus regalia and all the work that's involved with it and trying to fit it in with Club, work and family life was taking its toll. Gary and I weren't getting out on the bike together. Also getting up at 5 am every day and spending the majority of the weekend dealing with 'Club Stuff' as I call it was wearing me out. I also couldn't find the time to do the Club magazine 'Link' either. The answer to this problem due to our linking history was to ask the Ace Cafe London to deal with the memberships and regalia for the Club. After many lengthy discussions with the Ace Cafe, Dick drew up an agreement and contract for the Ace Cafe and the Club to sign. The contract works very well in the Club's favour. It's still early days and we may have had a few teething problems but it is now so much easier for members to join, renew and buy regalia. After 40 odd years dealing with memberships etc., it does seem strange but it's so nice to be able to get on with life.

Many people (some not even members) have said that the Ace is now running the Club. That is a massive mistruth. We the Club Leaders and the Council of Management run the Club, no one else. More importantly, we are all voluntary and do not receive any payment from the Club. Any money received from memberships and regalia goes into the Club's coffers to support its costs. So thanks to 59 Club members paying their subs and supporting the Club along with a bit of help from us the Club is still going strong and looking forward to its 60th Anniversary in 2019.

Gary has now got the 'Old Girl' out of the garage and has spent the last two years tinkering and riding her about. She needs a bit of time and money spent on her to bring her up to her full glory but I'm determined that will happen now we've both got some time. Yes! I'm still the permanent pillion and as my joints and eyesight now seem to be deteriorating I don't think that I will be taking my motorcycle test.

Over the years motorcycles, music and dress styles have changed. Yes, we went to the Fishmongers Arms, Lyceum and many other rock and roll venues in the early days and still do now. We saw Bill Haley, Carl Perkins and many other bands of distinction. The Club regularly held dances then too. Can anyone remember the Wild Angels, Shaking Stevens and the Sunsets, The Houseshakers, Lee Tracey, and also The Traumatics to name but a few?

My music list is quite eclectic and I don't think that I was ever a 'Rocker' as such because I've always been a Plain Jane. The only exception was in my younger days when I painted daisies on my white Bell helmet. My jackets have always been plain. I've picked up Wendy's leather which is so heavy with badges I'm sure it would give me round shoulders if I wore it.

Anyway, the 59 Club is not just about its iconic past. What to wear. What to ride. What music you like. It's about the love of motorcycling.

I may only be a 'permanent pillion' but if you broke me in half I'm sure that you would see THE 59 CLUB stamped all the way through like a stick of rock and I'm sure that there are other 59 Club Members out there who feel the same.

Sandra Hall

News Roundup

Gary and Derrick presenting a cheque for £559 to the RBLRB charity.

Royal British Legion Riders Branch Day

It was decided to make a donation from the 59 Club in memory of the late Father Denis McSwiney. As Father Denis was very involved in both the 59 Club and the Royal British Legion Riders Branch we thought that it should be to the RBLRB. So, Derrick Rowe, Gary and I visited the Ace Cafe on RBLRB day. It was packed with bikes and people of all descriptions. We were made very welcome. The sun shining was an added bonus. Quite a few Chelsea Pensioners arrived, and they made quite a colourful addition to the day. One of whom even played the bagpipes. We presented the £559 cheque to Dave Hope with Derrick and Gary posing for loads of photos along with RBLRB members, Chelsea Pensioners, Mark Wilsmore, 59 Club and RBLRB member Mark Chapman and his Triumph Thruxton Bonneville and of course the Mayor of Brent. Later in the day, they had their presentations and raffle draw. To my delight, I won a prize. Throughout the day they had raised over £1000 for their well deserving charity.

Sandra Hall

Father Scott Anderson Chairman of the 59 on his BSA Gold SR500

This was taken in 2003 just after he had the BSA built to his specification, he used this as his only transport to run round the Parish on his rounds and also come to up the 59. He now has a W650 Kawasaki with an electric start.

This poor old BSA has languished in his back garden for many years, not used and suffered badly from corrosion; it was sunk under the mud above its rims. I was lucky enough to purchase it from him and have recently got it back on the road having taken it apart into many pieces and cleaning and replacing some parts, then reassembling it back to its former glory, I will be taking it to Brighton for the Burn up. It's a great bit of 59 History.

Dick Bennett

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Ton Up Day at Jacks Hill Cafe

As the weekend clashed with a rally that we go to every year, Club Member, Martyn Mann volunteered, yet again, to fill his van with the Club gazebo and gear and then take it to Ton Up Day at Jacks Hill Café for the weekend. There was a great atmosphere on the Saturday night with a raffle and a great band, The Fantoms, playing for those who had gone for the whole weekend.

The weather was pretty good on the Sunday. The car park was kept full by bikes constantly arriving and departing all day. This meant that there were lots of bikes to chat about, discuss and admire. There were also plenty of club stands and stalls with t-shirts, clothing, motorcycle gear, etc., for people to stroll round. Martyn was kept busy all weekend with Club members, both past and present, talking about the Club. He told us that the weekend was very enjoyable. Thank you Martyn! Shall I pencil you in for volunteering next year?

Sandra Hall

A couple of 'British beauties

Brush with Speed

The Art of Vince Ray

I was six years old. My dad had a Morris Oxford and it was being overtaken by bike after bike. Bloody idiots my father fumed. I was fascinated by this swarm of giant bees that made a deafening thunderous roar that seemed relentless. We got to Skegness and parked up next to the Ship near where my uncle lived and found that this was the destination of many of the rockers who'd past us on the road. A regular mid-1960s bank holiday. Fifty years later I'm still making artwork based on those days so I guess it made a lasting impression.

For commission enquiries for T-shirts, band and event artwork, contact:
facebook.com/vinceray58

'British Bikes Are Best' kind of says it all and represents Vince's obsession with classic bike icons.

A few examples of commissions for T shirts and stickers showing Vince Ray's themes of speed, danger and a touch of glamour!

Brighton Burn-up!

Every year Gary and I transport the 'Club Stuff' to Brighton, and there is a lot of it I can assure you. We've spent many years of loading a van on a Saturday night and then getting up at 4 am on Sunday morning to head off to Brighton. A few years ago I decided that enough was enough so we now arrive on Friday afternoon with all the gear and stay in a hotel. Sandra and Neil Thompson join us too. Yes, it costs us all money but the weekend becomes a lot more relaxed and enjoyable. This year Gary and Neil (with his broken leg) went off to watch the Sprint for a while on the Saturday. So that was an added bonus!

We start to set the stand up from 7 am on the Sunday with members who arrive extra early to help us. By 9 am the kettle's on, the tea's brewed and we're ready to start the day. 59 Club members start appearing and parking their bikes by the stand. Some renewed their subscriptions or bought regalia and then joined us to drink copious tea or coffee, consume bread pudding, scones and cake. But more importantly, meet other members to chat, and have a thoroughly good time. The stand was constantly full up with members coming or going all day.

I usually can be found doing memberships etc. But I was suffering from blurry vision due to ongoing eye problem/treatment and unfortunately had a painful ear infection too. This made me extremely deaf. So as in Gary's words 'wasn't good for anything', I was told to 'go sit down and rest' (yes, loudly) whilst Gary and Dick dealt with members requests. It felt very strange!

I did volunteer to keep the urn topped up, and that kept me busy as Yvonne was on 'teapot duty'. She was the ultimate hostess by keeping everyone fuelled up with hot drinks. Heather dealt with my bread pudding and her wonderful cakes. There was no excuse for members to go thirsty or hungry.

The Ace Cafe provided live music for people to listen or dance to all day. Father Scott came and did a short sermon and blessing on the stage too.

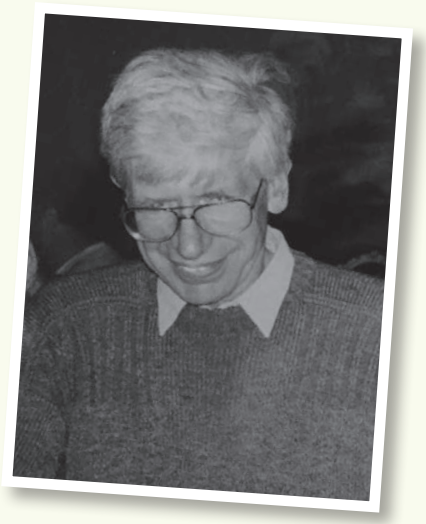
There were plenty of club stands or stalls along the front to peruse and buy from. Let alone look at all the thousands of motorcycles and scooters that were parked up. The weather was ideal, although someone said that it was raining in London. We've had that before where Brighton was basked in sunshine while the rest of England was being drenched in rain.

Before we knew it, people and bikes were drifting away. We started to load up the rental van with Derrick and Derek who stayed to help. It didn't take long thank goodness. Living in south-east London, we always head off home via the A roads and join the M25 at junction 5 to get to the A2. For once we didn't meet any travelling fairs or huge tractors with even bigger trailers that refuse to pull over to let traffic tailbacks overtake. We had a lovely drive home which helped as we still had to unload the van when we got home as it had to be returned at 8 am the next day. If you didn't get there, you missed a brilliant day. Put it in your diary for next year.

Sandra Hall

Unsung Hero

Pictured right is Brian Hepburn the Club Accountant since the early '60s, one of the unsung heroes of the 9. As the Club is a registered Charity and a limited company, it has to submit yearly accounts. Brian has made sure that the accounts that Del Rowe and myself (Dick Bennett) put together make sense and he also audits them for our AGM. Brian is one of the original people on the Council of Management when the Club was set up and without which the Club would not function, our thanks go out to him for his help and support over all these years and those to come. Brian is part of the Club's history behind the scenes.



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59 Club: International Sections

These are sections that meet in various countries, the proviso being that all section members are up to date members of the London club and that membership is not exclusive to those who meet in sections in that country. The 59 Club takes its ethos from the church where all are welcome, there is and never has been a probationary period to join, no dress code or motorcycle type exclusions. Indeed all are welcome who share an interest in the club and its traditions; that is the very reason the club started. This has always been the way the club has functioned and will continue to do so into the future. We are not associated with, or ever have been associated with any patch or 1% clubs. There are some 'so called' 59 Club sections using the club badge who have no membership of the main London club, and as such are NOT part of the 59. Any true member will have a five-digit membership held on File at the London HQ. We have kept the club going for 50 years relying on this and unpaid leaders, the same goes for imitation regalia, only regalia purchased through the 9 is genuine. No-one has any rights to use the club insignia other than London, who have registered trademarks and is a registered charity. Only those sections who fulfil the above criteria will be on the links. We are gradually adding to this section as we confirm with member sections the criteria above.

France: www.59legend.com
Spain: www.the59club.es
Italy: www.facebook.com/FiftyNineClubRoma
Germany: www.savory.de/59club.htm
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