

Chapter Two

1999

Chapter Officers

Director	Tim Lee
Assistant Director	Simon Garrett
Second Assistant Director	Kev Taylor
Secretary	Martin Fairley
Treasurer	Terry Beesley
Editor	Mick Penny
Membership Secretary	Marie Beesley
Road Captains	Martin Bennet Bob Brocklehurst Mick Proctor Shaun Sunderland

The committee for the first year was kept small in number, filling all primary officer and just two discretionary officer positions. There were four road captains.

Membership for 1999 – 166.

Events Programme

Date	Event	Type	Destination
07/03/1999	Running In Run	Ride-out	Knockerdown
28/03/1999	Easter Egg Run	Charity	Nottingham
05/04/1999	Easter Monday Ride	Ride-out	Skegness
04/06/1999	Llanthony Abbey	Weekend	Offas Dyke
11/06/1999	Knockerdown Camp	Weekend	Derbyshire
26/06/1999	Power Run	Weekend	West Burton Power Station
03/09/1999	Sherwood Rally	Rally	Tattershall
02/12/1999	AGM	Meeting	Nottingham

Highlights of the year were:

- In their very first year the Chapter put on its own rally at Tattershall Park Country Club (3rd – 5th September).
- The Quill and Quiver was selected as the new name for the newsletter, and made its first appearance on the front of the June issue.
- The 9th European HOG Rally was held at Cheltenham (1st – 4th July) and became the first international rally to have Sherwood Chapter members attending.

The importance of a Chapter newsletter and the contributions made by members cannot be stressed too strongly. Four of the the following items (b to e) have been taken from the set of newsletters produced in the first year by editor Mick Penny. The following articles give a flavour of 1999:

- a. Memory of the first Sherwood Ride-out ('New Riders') in March 1999 (by founder members in August 2008).
- b. Copy of the Cider Rally report by two members attending their first HOG rally from the June issue of the Q & Q.
- c. Copy of the front page of the very first Sherwood Chapter newsletter (February issue), which consisted of a letter from Martin Webster (Webbo), who at the time was Carnell promotions manager at Big Rock.
- d. Copy of the front page of the first newsletter to be called the Quill and Quiver (June issue).
- e. Copy of a statement by the Chapter Director, Tim Lee, from the October and last Q & Q issue of the year. The HOG constitution requires the Director of a new Chapter to be a member elected by the sponsoring dealership. This was the case with Tim Lee, and it is clear from this letter that there were conflicting interests between the Chapter and Big Rock.
- f. Copy of a Sherwood Rally 1 report taken from the November/December 1999 HOG Newsletter + two photographs.

New Riders Outing, March 1999

By Lynn and Pete Baker

I had a 1993 FXLR at the time and was a newcomer to Harleys. My wife and I went on the first 'New Riders' outing which took place on a cold, windy and rain-sodden day in March. As I remember, only three riders turned up. A lad from Lincolnshire on a blue Heritage Softail, my mate Ken on his Lehman conversion Roadking trike (since thrown through a dry stone wall and binned) and me and the strife. The 'ride-out' was led by a pleasant chap from Carnells at Liverpool who was going to ride a new Buell back up to the Pool. Undaunted by the rain, we set off. Pretty soon we lost Ken, but carried on to arrive at the Knockerdown for lunch, which our leader gallantly offered to pay for. During lunch Ken arrived, having guessed where we were headed.

The run back presented us with our first taste of the problem carburettored Harleys suffer from in inclement weather - they'll run when it's cold, they'll run when it's wet, but they won't run when it's cold AND wet! The Buell ran perfectly throughout as it was fuel-injected while the rest of us coughed and spluttered our way back to Big Rock to be greeted with "Oh, didn't you know? You need winter fuel conditioner which we will be only too happy to

sell to you!" I read somewhere that in the early days of Harleys in Britain the boffins in Milwaukee at first refused to believe the tales they were hearing about running problems. Perhaps someone from Kawasaki put them right!

(Editorial Note: The lad from Lincolnshire was none other than Dai Gunter!)

Figure 2.1 A founder member's 2008 memory of 1999!

The Bridgwater Rally Write-Up 1999

By rally virgins Shaun and Helen Sunderland. (A.K.A. From the mouths of innocents)

Sun, Sea andCider (of course!): The perfect combination for Bridgwater rally, the first of the year, (aptly named the cider rally) and it was our first ever HOG rally.

We were given instructions to meet with members of Sherwood Chapter at 2.00pm at Tamworth services. At 2.00pm (due to bank holiday traffic) we were still miles away from our arranged meeting point; so as soon as there was a clearing on the motorway it was 'Give me warp speed Scotty,' and the reply was 'Sorry Jim, the 883's givin' it all she's got!' and with a stroke of luck we hurriedly arrived, (with the speed of a getaway vehicle from a bank robbery,) as Sherwood Chapter were pulling out of the services.

Two minutes later, Terry Turbo and Mork were giving us a roadside demonstration on how to secure our three stones (weight) of baggage, (we weighed it before leaving,) to the luggage rack; as it was slipping off. It had tilted to one side; I think it was trying to see round the corners. Earlier, my wife Helen had pointed out a white van man who was crying with laughter, and who appeared to be looking at us. It now became blatantly obvious what the white van man was laughing at! It was quickly recognised by other Chapter members that it was our first ever rally. Jokes followed continuously throughout the weekend about our wide load and bulging bag! Fortunately, Martin (the Count's) wife, Nanny, was following us down in their car, so at the next fuel stop we were able to off-load some of our gear into it.

Despite this initial hold-up we all arrived safely at St Audries Bay approximately three and a half hours later, having had a smooth and enjoyable ride in glorious sunshine, led by our unofficial road captain Colin who did a marvellous job.

The holiday park is set in a scenic location amongst wonderful countryside and with a beautiful coastal view. With the engine still running, Terry Turbo introduced us to the site's home brewed scrumpy, which we later named (after experiencing its effects) apple flavoured paint stripper!

At the check-in, we collected our wristbands, event programme and t-shirts, and expected to be pitching our tent alongside other Sherwood Chapter members, but were soon to realize that we were camping on our own as they had all booked caravans on the site. It

became obvious again that this was our first rally! The next day we had some company, John and his wife Ursha arrived, and pitched their tent and Harley garage next to ours. Yes, I did say Harley garage!

130 bikes went on the first ride-out to 'Riders' in Bridgwater. The ride-out followed one of the most picturesque valleys in the West Country. The bikes roared through quaint, thatched cottage lined villages with many of the locals coming out onto the streets to spectate and wave as we passed by. Then we headed across Quantock National Park, with stunning views across the Channel and then dropped down into 'Riders of Bridgwater', where we enjoyed live entertainment, free hog roast and buffet, all funded by 'Riders' themselves. There was also a 10% discount being offered on H-D parts and accessories, with free fitting on all bolt-on accessories.

Mid afternoon we left 'Riders' and headed back to St Audries. The Chapter Challenge on the green looked great fun but I had started to check out the bikes that were entering the ride-in show, as I had been asked to be one of the three judges for the competition. Terry Turbo from our Chapter won 'Best Custom' paint job and if you've ever seen Terry's 'graphic' custom paint work you would understand why. (Triple prize winner of BMF fame 1998 – Ed).

Each evening there was live entertainment by local bands, talented as they were; it was only when the disco came on that people really got up to party.

Sherwood Chapter members were the first up on the dance floor, swiftly followed by other Chapters. At one point there were even Harleys being ridden around the dance floor. Entertaining as this sounds, the best entertainment came from Sherwood Chapter members themselves. On the last night, or should I say early hours of the morning, we heard our Chapter from the other end of the site chanting a chorus of 'Chapel Ash' and then 'NO'. (Only for the benefit of a visit from friends who are C.A. members – Ed). The next day we heard that a Sherwood Chapter Challenge took place that morning as well, which involved Mork sliding down a grass embankment bare bottom! Great fun!

Day 2 and 80 bikes went on the ride-out to the South West Custom & Classic bike show near Shepton Mallet. We decided to join the 57 bikes that left for the second ride-out to Lynton & Lynmouth, one of the most spectacular towns on the West Coast, which has a nail-biting 1 in 4 gradient hill (Porlock Hill) of which it is famous for. Riding down this was a great experience.

Returning back to St Audries we went through the National Park back towards the medieval village of Dunster and enjoyed the beautiful scenery and radiant sunshine.

As you know, this was our first ever HOG rally, and quite honestly it's got us hooked. It had the perfect combination of factors, warm sunny weather every day, a scenic peaceful

location, good facilities, home brewed cider, clean site, extremely well organized, and everyone, without exception, was so friendly. The event attracted 400 people!

A special thank you goes out to the twenty members of Sherwood Chapter who attended the Cider Rally for making us feel so welcome and especially for giving us tips on bag packing and riding the Harley way! It was a fun packed and memorable weekend, we'd strongly recommend that you put it in your diaries for next year as we will certainly be putting it into ours. See you there.

Figure 2.2 Bridgwater Rally report.

Sherwood's 1st Rally, Tattershall



One of Britain's newest HOG Chapters - Sherwood HOG, sponsored by Nottingham dealer Big Rock - held its first rally earlier this summer. If this rally is anything to go by, the club has got an excellent future ahead of it, writes Mick Penney. The beautiful facilities of Tattershall Park Country

Club were opened to Sherwood members and their guests and the weather held up perfectly all weekend. A beautiful ride-out into the little known Lincolnshire countryside was well attended and a great line-up of bands, headed by Vigorous, kept the members dancing and drinking far into the night on both nights. Big Rock was on hand to help with technical problems and the entertainment - particularly the archery contest - kept everyone happy all weekend. We have booked the same weather for next year so put the date in your diary - September 1st - 3rd 2000.

Figure 2.3 The first Sherwood Chapter Rally held at Tattershall Park Country Club, Lincolnshire.



Figure 2.4 Russ Trimbell getting ready to ride. (DS)



Figure 2.5 Ian Winning after a hard rally! (DS)

History in the making as Mick Penny, the first Sherwood Chapter Editor, used the letter here as the first page of the very first newsletter. Webbo, the writer of the letter is Martin Webster, who was at that time Carnell Promotions Manager at Big Rock. The next page shows the front page of the first newsletter to be called the **Quill and Quiver**.

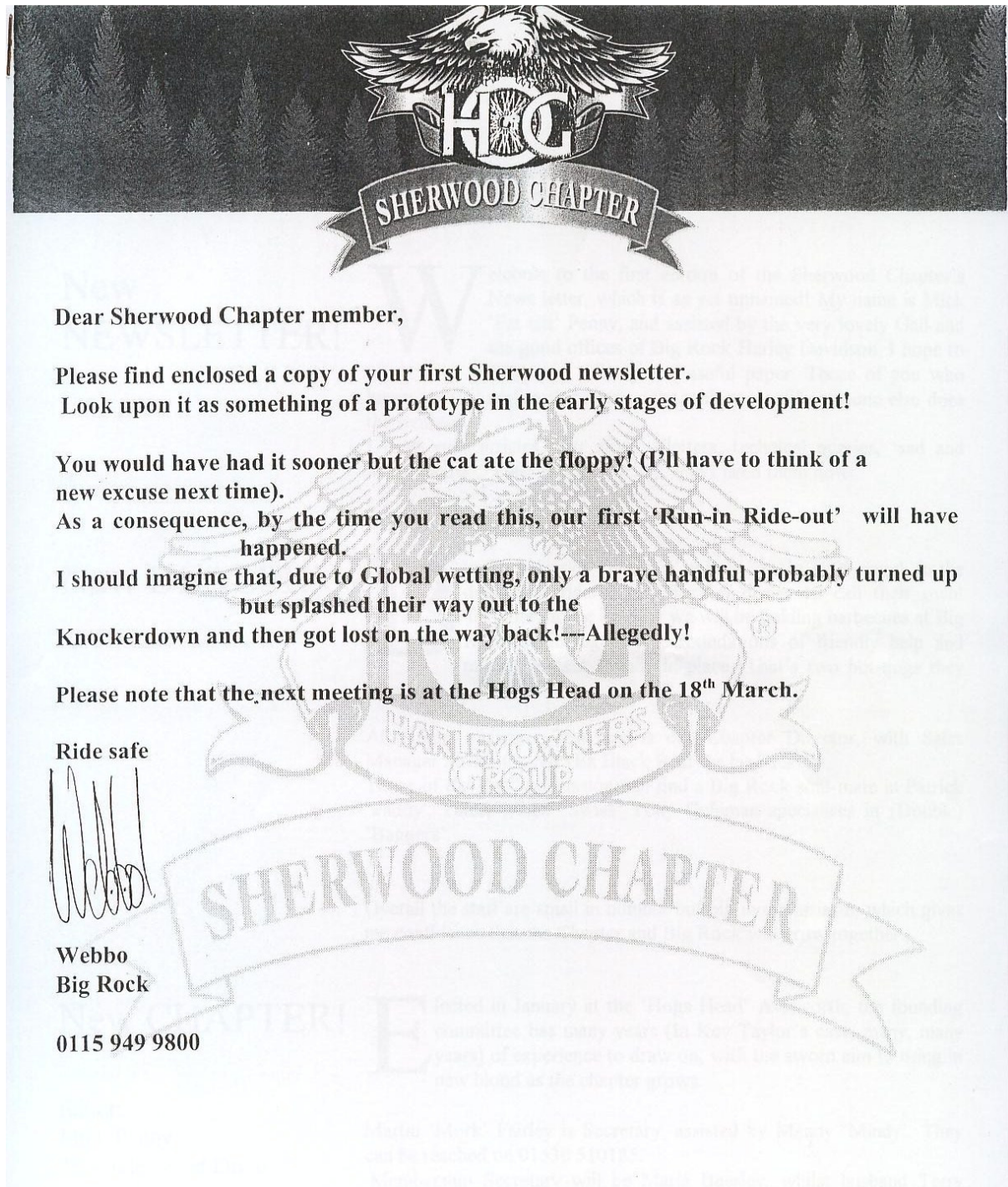
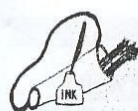


Figure 2.6 A copy of the front page of the first Sherwood Chapter newsletter.



THE QVILL & QVIVER

JUNE 1999

THE NEWSLETTER OF SHERWOOD HOG

The views and comments contained in this newsletter are the personal views of the contributors and are not those expressed by HOG UK, Harley Davidson, their authorised Dealers or Agents



Membership cards will be required to be shown at the door at future general meetings Apologies ... but it appears that some folk insist on attending without joining first !!



Rally's Galore for all

Another great seasons riding has started with the first of the great rally's ... good old Bridgwater. I for one have just about recovered from it, a big thanks to chapter director Dave Holden and his crew for a great weekend, (Hows the new tatt Dave) ... and prior to that how's about the Skeggy run.

So ... are you all thirsty for more, then don't forget to book your tickets for **Sherwoods First Rally, September 3rd-5th**, a great looking line up of bands, events, ride out, ride in show and lots more with some great trophy's up for grabs.

It's a shame some of our merry band were ambushed on the way to The Knockerdown Inn for Sunday lunch but then, the Chief Constable of Derbyshire has to justify his existence somehow I suppose, anyhow he managed to catch a real bunch of hardened criminals but you can read about that further on. (Rambling on again aren't you Ed)

Still we're luckier than heart by-pass patient Walter Fryer who wanted to show his gratitude to the hospital that saved his life by doing a fund raising walk for the Leeds General Infirmary. Unfortunately the 54 year old was killed instantly when a 50 ft branch broke off a beech tree and landed on top of him. There was not even a breath of wind that day. !!

Make sure you check your events calendar for up and coming events and rally's a suggestion has been made for those not able to attend a full weekend event to meet at BIG-ROCK on Sundays at 11.00am for a ride to Knockerdown for lunch. If anyone does it then drop me a line and tell me how it went (but watch for the police ambush at What-standwell).

Thanks to all contributors of this issue, keep sending your letters and weird stuff in for us all to share.

All items to Mick. P. The Editor, 78, Underwood Dr, Stoney Stanton, Leics. LE9 4TD.

If you want your stuff or piccy's back then a stamped S.A.E. would help. Ta very much, Ride safe.

Mick.P.

Its time to 'put on yer patches' for Sherwoods first riding season ! So don't forget to claim your Sherwood Chapter arm flashes. Available at the general meetings or by post. Send S.A.E. to me .

Marie Beesley
Membership Sec.

P.O. Box 393

Leicester

LE3 9ZY

Have a great season,
Marie

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Figure 2.7 A copy of the front page of the first Quill and Quiver, taken from the June 1999 issue.

This 'end of term' letter shows that the first year was not without its teething problems!



First of all may I both apologise for not writing to all of you before now and thank you for supporting Sherwood H.O.G. during the last year. As you may realise I have been unable to devote the amount of time I would have liked to the chapter as a result of the many calls on my time during the first year of operation at Big Rock.

Despite this, over this period, I have listened carefully at every opportunity to comments, criticisms and, on rare occasions, praise directed towards the group and the committee. I have noticed with alarm that during the latter part of this time the whiff of politics and an air of dissatisfaction with both the chapter and the store have begun to emerge.

The most mentioned gripe I can answer here and now. Big Rock exists to make a profit for the shareholders of Dixon Motors Plc not unlike the majority of commercial organisations in the world today. This means that every 'benefit' for the group has to be paid for from the profit made by Big Rock and justified by Simon and myself to senior members of management. The decision not to offer discount to group members was made in order that support could be given wherever possible in other ways, and that is what we have tried to do.

As Big Rock grows as a business then we shall be able to increase this level of support in line with the increase in turnover.

Other criticisms, such as, allocation of Sandy Balls tickets, venue for the monthly meeting, lateness or non-delivery of newsletters and any other issues I become aware of I shall address following the formation of the new committee and report back to you as a matter of priority.

In the meantime I should like to thank the current members of the committee for their efforts this year and take the opportunity to remind you all of two things;

One; The main aim of belonging to the group is for us all to have FUN united in our common passion for all things Harley. Lets keep the politics and backbiting out of our group, this ain't no practise you're only going to get one life!

Two; It is a well known law of physics that you only get out what you put in, this is also true of H.O.G. groups. If you can spare some time and fancy being involved in the steering of the chapter into a new century come on down and lend a hand, *you know it makes sense!!!!*

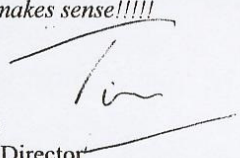

Tim Lee
Chapter Director

Figure 2.8 A copy of the Director's end of year letter to the membership, taken from the October 1999 Quill and Quiver.