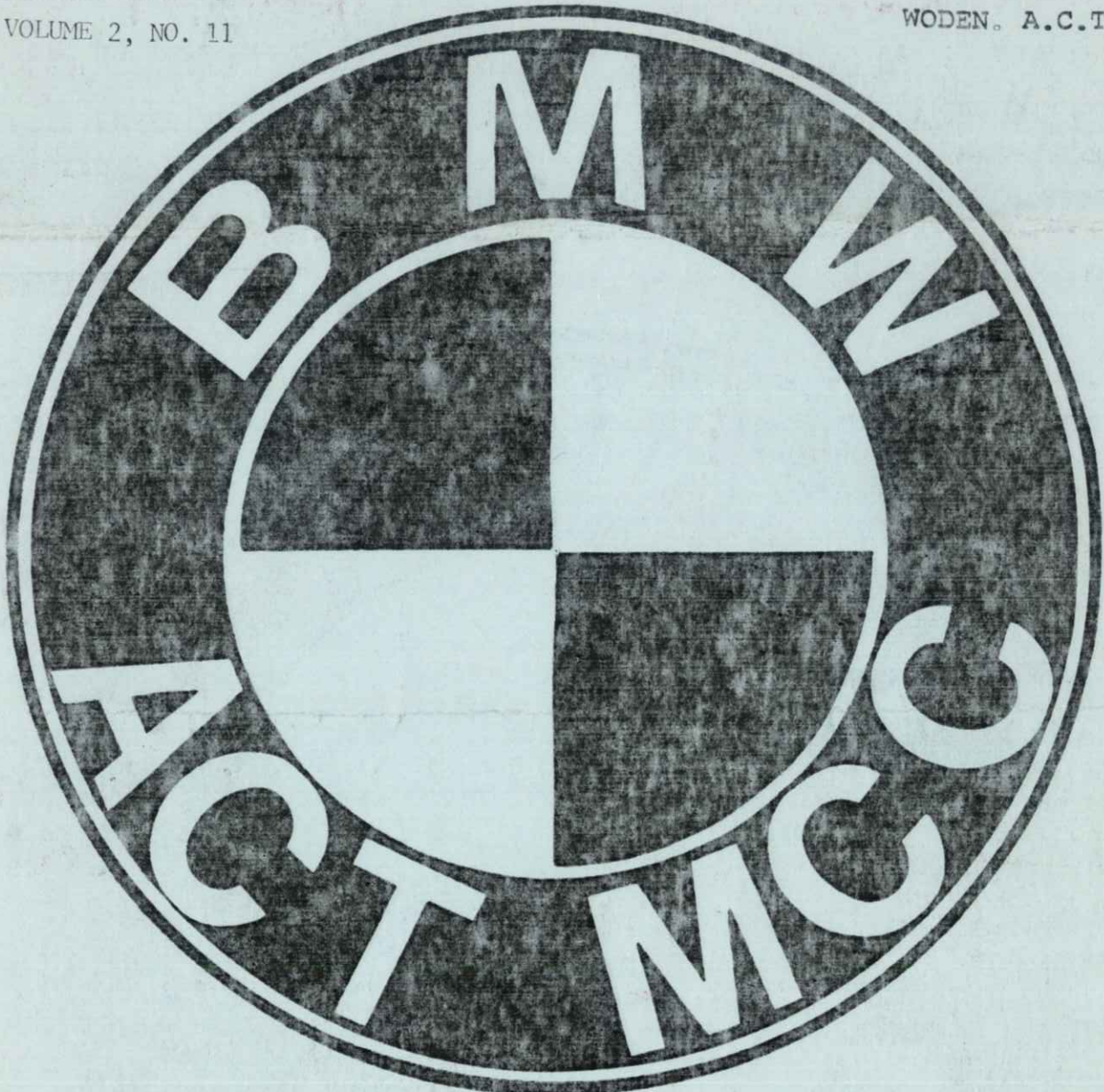


JANUARY 1983

P.O. BOX 1042

WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

VOLUME 2, NO. 11



COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT:	Chris Fulker, 61 Bosworth Circuit, Kambah	Ph: 310114 (H) 469192 (BH)
SECRETARY:	Lesley Oliver, 9 Hanson Pl, Watson.	Ph: 495660 (BH)
TREASURER:	Bill Searl, 46 Euree St, Reid.	Ph: 486692 (H)
TOURING SECRETARY:	Rob Rumsey, 3/22 Bungendore Road, Queanbeyan.	Ph: 733300 (BH)

A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

Hi! Well 1983 is well on its way and so we take this chance to wish you well for the new year. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and that no one is still waiting for Santa to show up with the list of goodies posted to him early in December; mind you, I'm wondering why he didn't bring me the MKM BMW special that I ordered - I know they are in short supply, but I thought BMW may have made a special effort so that Santa could fulfill this one order?!!

Some of you may have received motorcycle accessories as Christmas presents - so how about a product review? (Forms are available at the next meeting). You may leave out the parts about price and where it was purchased from ...

The new meeting place at the Austrian Club had some teething problems - someone had double booked our room, so we had to meet in a different area (the Manager was away at the time of the meeting). However, we will have it sorted out by the next meeting, and we will be able to provide supper again.

I hope those members going away for the Australia Day long weekend have a good time and a safe trip and we look forward to a good turn up at the next meeting!

Till then, Ride safely

Chris Fulker

ECONOMY RUN

By Jeanette Hann

On Sunday morning we set out early to try to beat the heat for the Ducati Club Economy Run. The course began at the Mobile Cinema Service Center, through the Cotter, past Tidbinbilla, through Tharwa, down Jerrabomberra Ave, across Kings Avenue Bridge and back into Civic. The course was 92kms and the run started at 10 a.m. Before then everyone filled their own petrol tanks and five bikes were each clocked off at three minute intervals. On their return everyone checked in with the person who had checked them out. Time taken for the trip and petrol used were calculated using a computer (quicker? - well no). In the meantime most of us went further up the street to Haig Park and had a BBQ lunch and waited for the results. Those who were there from the Club were Werner & Ursuala; Jenny David and Melanie, Bill; Bob, Chris, Alex Leitch; Piers Crocker; Chris and myself.

The results when they finally arrived were as follows:

- * Best Timed Economy - Paul Chicchio on a Morini
- * Best Economy - Norm Searl on a Norton 500 with 113.3 mpg.

In the BMW Section -

- * Werner came first in with 98.2 mpg
- * Rob Jacobs 89.08 "
- * Bob 64.83 "
- * Piers 60.15 "
- * Alex 57.49 "
- * Bill 50.96 "
- * Ian (with sidecar) 43.48 "
- * On my Suzuki I got 74.81 "

Everyone left about 3 p.m. soon after the results were given. It had been a hot though enjoyable day for us. Next year we will try to do better!!.

SURVIVAL : RIDING INTERSECTIONS

(This article was taken from the QLD BMW Club Journal)

You're approaching an intersection. You notice a car sitting at the stop sign at the side road on your right. The driver is looking directly at you. You wonder if he sees you coming. After some close calls at intersections in the past, you're wary of other drivers with whom you must share the road!! In fact, you wouldn't even trust your own mother if she were one of those other drivers!

So, you slow down and drift to the centre of the road to give yourself a little extra space ... just in case &, as you near the centre of the intersection, sure enough, the other guy does pull out. Directly in front of you!

You've prepared for it but still, you just about have a heart attack trying to avoid centrepunching his nice new Commodore. With a sheepish look on his face, the other driver smiles half-apologetically and continues on his merry way. You fume, wondering whether the idiot should be stopped and given a knuckle sandwich for his trouble. You decide no, 'cause you realise that just maybe, you're lucky to be alive ...

By being street-wise, you've avoided ending up as an accident statistic in the next morning's newspaper. Yes, intersections are classic hazards for unwary street riders. And the main reason for it is plain old carelessness on somebody's part. Granted, it's a proven fact that most car/cycle accidents are attributable to motorcycle blind or inattentive motorists. The other bloke, in most cases, just doesn't see an approaching motorcycle. Or if he does see it, he may have a difficult time in judging both its approaching speed and distance.

Psychologists have even coined a term for motorcycle-blind drivers: Mental Set. It means that many drivers aren't conditioned to looking out for small vehicles such as motorbikes. Mental Set is a kind of mental block. A Mental Set driver can have 20/20 vision and still fail to consciously notice a bike.

This fact isn't hard to believe when you realise that the act of seeing is mostly a mental process. True, the eyes pick up sensory impressions, but the brain must still interpret them to form meaningful images. And a mental block or inattentiveness will offset even the best of vision. So the driver who exclaims "I never saw him", after pulling in front of some hapless biker isn't lying. To him, a motorcycle quite possibly doesn't exist.

Intensifying Mental Set is the driver being preoccupied by something, such as a song on the radio or the lighting of a cigarette. Perhaps he's thinking of what work will hold for him today, or how he'd like to get rid of his mother-in-law. So you can see there are a million reasons behind a driver's careless driving. So the fact remains that at intersections, bikes are very vulnerable. Accepting this, you have to determine the safest ways to negotiate these places.

Rule 1: Stand out. Make yourself and your bike as outstanding as possible. Make it hard for other drivers NOT to see you. A headlight on during the day helps achieve this. So does wearing the brightest riding gear you've got. That's not to say you should dress like some simpering poof, but just bear in mind lighter colours assist all those mindless morons in their four wheeled tin tops to notice you.

Lowering your speed to where you can manouvre sharply or stop quickly, if you have to, makes good sense at intersections. Beware of slowing down too much, however, in case other drivers are fooled into thinking that you're going to stop or turn. And always bear in mind that some of these weak-minded motorists have difficulty in judging the speed and distance of an approaching motorcycle.