

Festival of 1000 Bikes, Mallory Park 8/9/10 July 2011

It only seems like yesterday we were under the scorching Leicestershire sun at Mallory Park for the 2010 event and yet the entry forms for the 2011 event have just dropped through the letter box.

Moto Guzzi Club GB will once again have our marquee on site and those who have attended the event previously will know the routine.

For those who have not and are still preparing their diary for this year, here are some relevant points of information that cannot be gleaned from the VMCC publicity and may be of assistance.

The event centers around track sessions of 15 minutes duration for road bikes on Saturday and race bikes on Sunday, this is because there are noise restrictions in force for how many days per year unsilenced machines can be run on circuit.

At the end of the two days 1000 bikes will have been out on track with Sunday having many stars of past and present out on track and no restriction or extra charges over the whole weekend on where you have access to. In 2010 about 15000 people attended the event.

There will be one track session devoted solely to Moto Guzzis which will probably take place mid morning on Saturday, this will cost £33 but you will get two passes with free camping and full access to the whole event for the weekend for two people.

This is cheaper than going both days as spectators even if you then decide you don't want to go out on track.

In the past people who have only entered the Guzzi session come in longing to go out again but as all sessions are pre programmed this is not possible so my advice is to enter the Guzzi session but on the form in the special requests box put extra afternoon session, you can have a maximum of three sessions during the day. Extra sessions cost £23 each.

The Moto Guzzi session should be limited to bikes capable of at least 80mph but we have had slower machines included. In other sessions machines are segregated into groups with similar performance.

If you have never been out on track before Mallory Park is the ideal pace for the initial experience. If you have a slower machine or are less confident, there is no need to feel intimidated if a faster rider passes you, everyone is going the same way, no one is going to pull out or turn across your path like on the road. Marshals are constantly riding round during all sessions to ensure safety. If a faster rider passes you, you will not know he is approaching and once he is by he is of no consequence. If you come upon a slower rider give them plenty of room when you pass. It is not a race nor is it a parade. Ride as fast as you are comfortable with.

When you are sitting in the assembly area waiting to go out in your initial session you will want to run off and hide (I still do and I've been doing it 40 years) but then the gate opens for your session and a marshal leads you round for a slow lap during which all the misgivings disappear. On the start/finish straight he will then pull to one side and wave everyone on to go at their own speed. You will probably get 10 or 12 laps in during the session which is sufficient as people tend to get faster and get more confident as the session progresses.

You will think the session has ended far too quickly and be itching to get out again.

You will have advance notification of the time of your session(s).

Especially if you have an early session it is advisable to get there on Friday as scrutineering (having your bike, documentation and riding gear checked) is open Friday evening and if there are any problems to sort out it saves having to rush on Saturday morning. We have had one member who forgot her proof of identity with photograph and almost missed her ride.

You do not need racing leathers, normal riding gear will suffice.

When your session ends take your bike to your tent or to the area of the Guzzi club marquee. You will need to have your stand held up with a plastic cable tie while out on track; this will be done for you in the scrutineering area. This is most inconvenient so take a few spares with you to replace them when you have ripped them off to use your stand. All light glasses and indicator lenses need to be covered in sticky tape, do it yourself before you go to scrutineering as the stuff they use is hard to get off. Take your mirrors off or put some tape over them, they are an unnecessary distraction, likewise your speedo.

I am hoping we will have our own official club photographer on site again. He will have souvenir photos of every Guzzi out on track and a lot that aren't) perhaps we can get him to take shots from the Lake Esses corner this year; he got some stunning shots from there of later sessions last year.

In previous years there has been a designated Guzzi camping area. I was informed last year by VMCC that this was totally unofficial and was in what is designated as the late reception area which has restricted access to the circuit, facilities and entertainments after 6pm requiring a long walk to the access point. This year VMCC have told me we will have our own Guzzi camping area.

We would like volunteers to man the Moto Guzzi club marquee over the weekend for which we have a limited number of weekend passes. If anyone (including dealers provided it is road registered) wishes to display a machine in the marquee even if you do not want to take part in any track sessions there are free weekend passes available. Priority will be given to those wishing to display for both days (there is no problem going home on your bike in the evening and returning the next day if you wish). We will have sufficient space to display about 8 machines in the club marquee which will be situated near the hairpin entrance.

This year we are dispensing with the BBQ in the Moto Guzzi marquee but on Saturday evening at about 6 pm we propose to have a communal meal in the Moto Guzzi marquee delivered from a local Chinese takeaway. All interested parties can contact me for a menu and booking will be through me, All Guzzitis welcome. We should have tea and coffee available in the marquee at most times over the weekend.

If you wish to take part in the track session(s), display a bike or help in the marquee please get your entry in to VMCC or contact me early. VMCC have an absolute cut off date for entries of late May and then programs go to press and you will miss out. They want the Guzzi session booked by early May. We have a maximum of 45 for our session and they give us grief if we are short on numbers. Last year we were short so they allowed half a dozen Bennellis in with us. I was getting requests from members for inclusion in our session as late as two weeks before the event. Obviously was this far too late.

Contact me or Vintage Motor Cycle Club 01283 540557 SamBrown@vmcc.net for track event entry forms, or download them from this website.

All other enquires contact me.

Please come along and support the club at one of the best bike events of the year.

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