

Peace breaks out between the Mods and Rockers

TWENTY-FIVE years ago bank holidays and the seaside were synonymous with the ritual clashes between Mods and Rockers that have endowed scooter and motorcycle owners with a stigma which remains to this day.

Rallies are now attended by up to 6,000 scooterists whatever the weather and are generally relaxed, friendly, and well-organised. Scooter enthusiasts like Jeff Smith of scootering's governing body, the National Scooter Riders Association (NSRA), and Stuart Lamming, editor of *Scootering* magazine, brave the labyrinthine intricacies of local council politics and the bigotry of local councillors to secure sites for the meetings.

Both men also cajole owners of custom, vintage and classic scooters to rescue their machines from beneath layers of dust and display them at meetings along with hordes of racers and home-made specials that are likely to attend.

Now, rallies are announced at short notice by newsletter and are strictly policed by NSRA's private security under the supervision of local police forces, who frequently end up arresting locals rather than rally-goers.

Scooters and motorcycles, of course, share common roots and while not exactly bosom buddies, motorcycling and scootering have grown out of their rather stormy (some would say misunderstood) adolescence. They look forward to a time when the appearance of one at the other's rally will cause no more alarm than another rise in the mortgage interest rate.



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