



Manx
National
Heritage

Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

TOURIST TROPHY MOTORCYCLE RACES

Select Bibliography

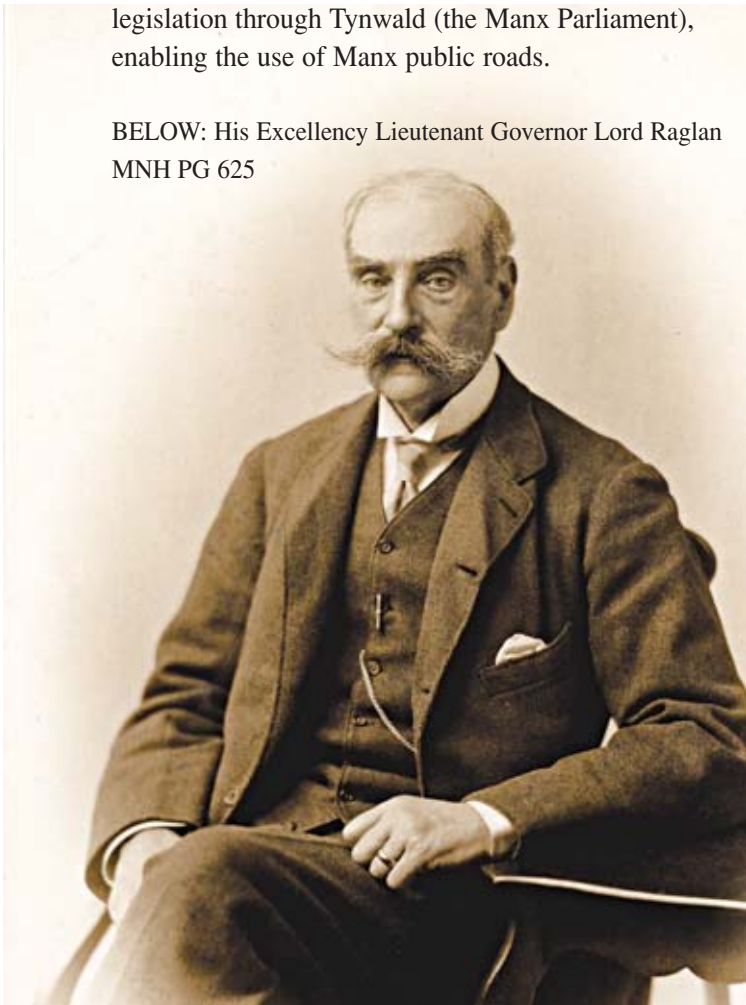
No. 15

July 2006

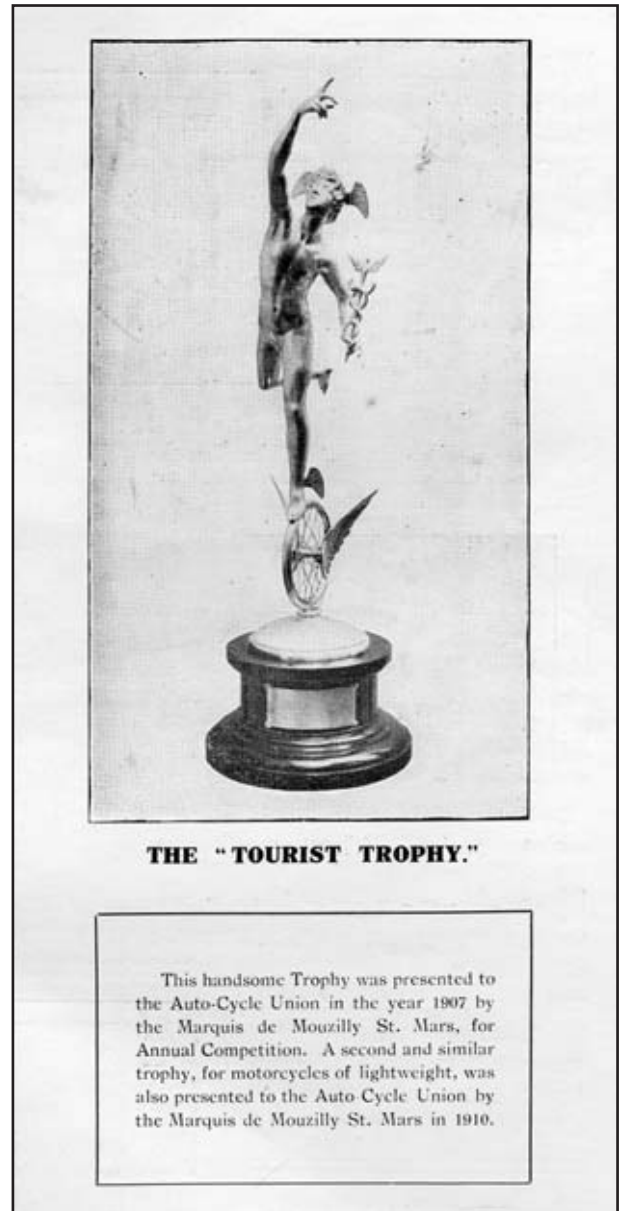
The TT (Tourist Trophy) motorcycle races have given the Isle of Man an international reputation as the ‘Road Racing Capital of the World’.

The origins of the races began with the need for a course on public roads to hold trials for the Gordon Bennett car racing trials. As legislation prohibited these being held in the UK, the Secretary of the Automobile Club of Great Britain, Julian Orde, persuaded his cousin the then **Lieutenant Governor Lord Raglan**, to secure legislation through Tynwald (the Manx Parliament), enabling the use of Manx public roads.

BELOW: His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Lord Raglan
MNH PG 625



The first car trials were held in 1904 and the resultant publicity was a major boost to the Island. With further trials in 1905 and 1906 the stage was set for an expansion to include a competition for motorcycles.



THE "TOURIST TROPHY."

This handsome Trophy was presented to the Auto-Cycle Union in the year 1907 by the Marquis de Mouzilly St. Mars, for Annual Competition. A second and similar trophy, for motorcycles of lightweight, was also presented to the Auto Cycle Union by the Marquis de Mouzilly St. Mars in 1910.

1914 programme. MNH C498

The first motorcycle TT races were held in 1907 at St Johns with 27 competitors racing 10 bone-shaking laps of a 15 mile circuit on public roads.

In 1911 this short circuit was replaced by the Mountain Course which, at that time, turned right at Cronk ny Mona and came out at the top of Bray Hill.

A few years later the course changed again to follow the route which still forms the 37³/₄ mile circuit for today's races.

The races have been held ever since except during the two World Wars and in 2001 due to the risk of a foot and mouth epidemic in the Island's animal livestock.

The TT races, then and now, are a test of endurance for both rider and machine and an opportunity for manufacturers to push to the limit the reliability and technological innovations of their latest motorcycle designs.

There are permanent TT displays at the Manx Museum with everything from one of Joey Dunlop's motorcycles and Mike Hailwood's race trophies to TT badges, stickers and beer mats.



Badge issued to Scouts who helped at the 2006 TT
Source MNH 2007-0007

This bibliography is intended as a selective guide to the material available to both motorcycle race enthusiasts and researchers into the history of this event.

UK Motorcycle Press Coverage of the Races

For many years there were two main weekly motorcycling journals which reported on the races. Back files of these are available at a number of libraries, archives and museums. Eventually these titles closed and coverage continues in Motor Cycle News.

The Motor Cycle

First published in March 1903 this weekly journal, popularly known as the 'Blue un', competed with its rival for coverage of the races for many years. After merger it continued until finally ceasing publication in October 1983. The Library has a partial set of extracts relating to the TT.

Library Ref C498

Motorcycling

First published in November 1909.

Popularly known as the 'Green un', it eventually merged with 'The Motor Cycle' in August 1967. Again the Library has a partial set of extracts.

Library Ref C498

Motor Cycle News

Established in 1955 and still produced as a weekly newspaper style publication.

The Library has a fairly complete set of TT issues.
Library Ref C498

Other journals usually published monthly have covered the meeting and continue to do so but these are too numerous to list here.

Specialist Newspaper Coverage

TT Special Newspaper

Published by Geoff Davison from 1927-1965 and then by the Hanks family to 1986, this title ranges from four up to almost daily issues during TT fortnight each year. It provides extensive reports on the races and practice sessions together with background detail. The Library has a reasonably complete set, available for research purposes on microfilm.

The Library's holding of TT material has been enriched by the kind action of Mrs Mary Swales, who gifted the TT collection of her late husband George Cuthbert Swales. Mr Swales had a great love of all things to do with the TT.

Wals Handley
BIRMINGHAM KNOWS!
WINNER of
4 T.T. Races
and 23 International
Grand Prix
"The obvious firm for
Motor Cycles" is the
T.T. Winner's Depots.
SUFFOLK STREET &
701, STRATFORD RD.,
BIRMINGHAM.

THURSDAY
JUNE 10, 1937
THE T.T.'s OWN NEWSPAPER
Eleventh Year of Publication
Edited by G. S. DAVISON

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17, Watson Street, MANCHESTER.
Russell Bldg., School Lane, LIVERPOOL.

The T.T. Special

Practising In Retrospect PRICE 2d.

IMPRESSIONS AFTER SIX EARLY MORNING RISINGS

In retrospect since practising opened last Thursday . . . we have had three bad days, two not so bad, and one very good . . . we have seen the speed of the fastest Senior (judged on each morning's performance) rise from 55.6 m.p.h. to 83.5 m.p.h., the fastest Junior from 63.95 m.p.h. to 82.6 m.p.h., and the fastest Lightweight from 62 m.p.h. to 73.8 m.p.h. . . . we have seen a new lap record created in the Junior class, and last but not least, we have seen a big blow given to the oft-repeated contention that a foreigner making his first T.T. appearance cannot properly learn the course in the time allowed for practising.

To follow up this point right away—Herr E. Kluge, a German, had not ridden on the course prior to last Saturday. Weather conditions on that occasion were bad enough to deter anyone—nevertheless, Kluge completed a lap at about 45 m.p.h. on a Lightweight.

On Monday he raised his average speed to 63 m.p.h., on Tuesday he lifted it to just over 70 m.p.h., and yesterday when on his eighth official practice lap, he bumped his speed up to 73.8 m.p.h.,

LEVIS "MONARCH of the HIGHWAY"

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HOTEL SEFTON
PROMENADE, DOUGLAS

which is less than half-a-mile per hour slower than the class record made by Stanley Woods on race day last year.

Without detracting from the fine performances made by British riders—



E. Kluge, the German rider of a Lightweight B.K.W., who did a lap yesterday in 29 mins. 54 secs., and is at the head of the Lightweight Leader Board.

more about them later—I think Kluge's second lap yesterday was the outstanding feature of the six practice mornings.

He has proved that a rider with ability can master the T.T. course—
(Continued on page 8).

The example above is from the 10th June 1937 issue which leads with practices and the performance of the German rider, E. Kluge, in the Lightweight class
Source MNH C498

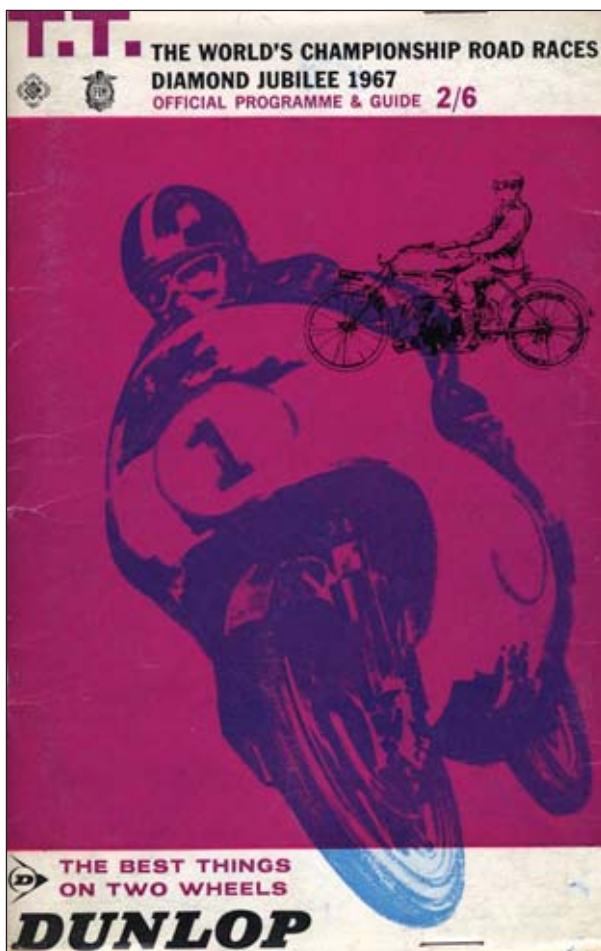
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Official Programmes and Race Guides

The Library has an incomplete set of these from 1914 and 1920 to date. Formats have varied from the early long thin style (illustrated) to the present day 'A4' size. From 1977 they have been accompanied by a separate race guide booklet which lists all the entrants and allows for annotation of results.



Source 1929 programme cover
MNH C498



Source 1967 Diamond Jubilee programme cover
MNH C498



Source 1982 75th anniversary
programme cover MNH C498

Books

Arnold, Peter

TT Races Diamond Jubilee 1907-1966

Shell-Mex & B.P. Ltd

Although competitor's records are now available on-line, this has a useful summary of all riders and their finishing positions in individual races.

Library Ref C498/145

Beighton, Peter; Douglas, Andrew

"Steve Hislop's 'You Couldn't Do It Now!'

Douglas: Mannin Printing, 1993

ISBN 1-898363-00-5

Compiled largely from IOM press reports this provides a guide to the development of motor races on the Island up to 1920.

Library Ref C498/81

Davison, Geoff

TT Anecdotes (1966)

The Story of the TT (1947)

The TT Races behind the scenes (1949)

TT Tales drawn from the TT Special (1950)

All Birmingham: TT Special

Geoff Davison edited and produced the famous TT Special newspaper for nearly 40 years until his death in 1966.

These are just some of the numerous volumes he published and give a period view of the races.

Library Ref C498

Duckworth, Mick

TT 100: The Official authorised history of Isle of Man Tourist Trophy Racing

Ramsey: Lily Publications, 2007

ISBN 1-899602-67-4

Library Ref C498/227q

Harris, Nick

Motocourse History of the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy Races 1907-1989

Richmond: Hazleton Publishing, 1990

ISBN 0-905138-71-6

Useful appendix of the first 10 finishers in each race.

Library Ref C498/75q

Higgins, L.R. & Quantrill, C.

50 years of T.T. History

Shell-Mex and BP Ltd 1957

Library Ref C498/16

Useful statistics on riders and machines. A reissue from 1953, revised again in 1960.

Library Ref C498/16

Holliday, Bob

Racing Round the Island: A Manx Tale of Speed on Wheels

Newton Abbot: David and Charles

ISBN 0-7153-7217-3

A summary history with course maps and photographs.

Library Ref C498/26

Island Racer TT 2002-date

Horncastle: Mortons Media Group Ltd.

Published annually prior to TT fortnight. A guide with review of previous year.

Library Ref C498/132

TT Results Books 1984-2000, 2002-2006

Issued annually by the Race Organisers, these consist of the press information sheets issued to the media with practice and race times for each meeting.

Library Ref C498/73q

TT Special Year Books

Vols. 1-8

Birmingham: TT Special

1985-1991

ISBN

Vol. 4 0-900726-08-3

Vol. 5 0-900726-09-1

Vol. 6 0-900726-10-5

Vol. 7 0-900726-11-3

Vol. 8 0-900726-12-1

These provide statistics, articles and reports for the years 1984-1991

Library Ref C498/61

Wright, David

Travelling Marshals at the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy and Manx Grand Prix Races.

Laxey: Amulree Publications, 2006

ISBN 1-901508-06-4

Although not about the competitors, many of the marshals were ex riders and it does provide detail on behind the scenes events at the TT.

Library Ref C498/126

Photographs

The Library has a small collection of photographs relating to the TT, many of which are copies commercially produced by firms such as Keigs. Due to copyright restrictions we are unable to supply copies of many of these and enquirers seeking race scenes and riders are advised to contact one of the commercial suppliers advertising in the motorcycle press and on the internet.

The following are three examples which featured in the 2007 exhibition 'Staying the Course' at the Manx Museum: Joey Dunlop all time winner of a record number of races, Giacomo Agostini multiple world champion who duelled with Mike Hailwood in the 1960s and a typical Norton of the 1930s.



Joey Dunlop in the TT winners enclosure 1980
Source MNH PG 7652/6



Norton racing bike tuned by Steve Lancefield, freelance racing bike tuner. c.1930s.

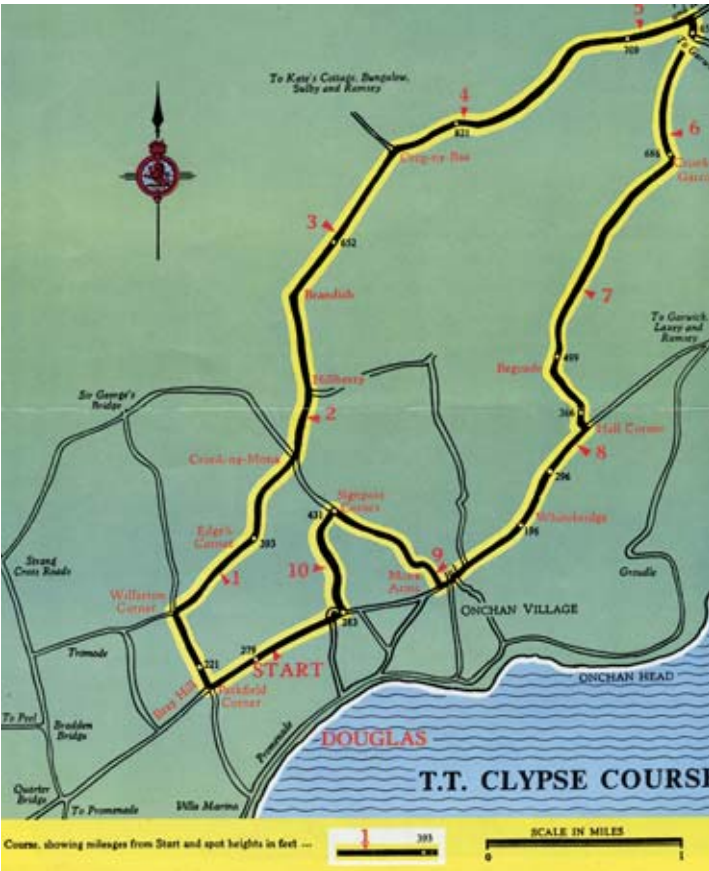


Giacomo Agostini at TT Grandstand c.1968/69
Source MNH PG 8301/1

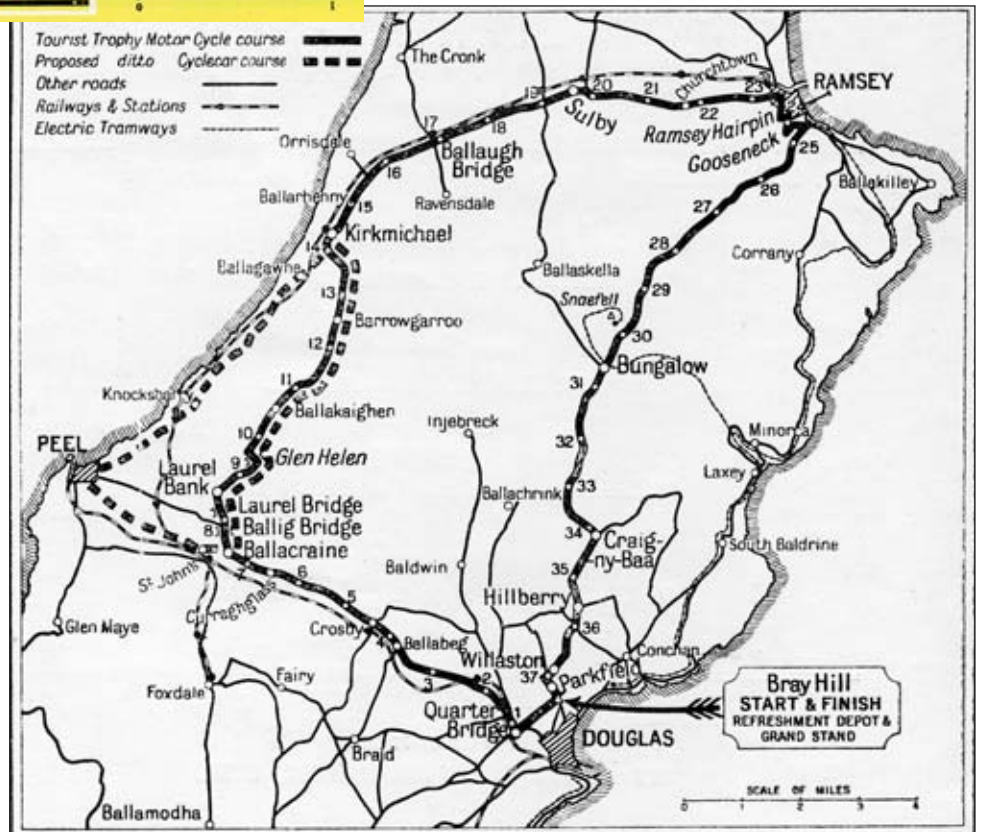
Courses Used

Three courses have been used; the original course at St. John's 1907-1910; the Mountain Course 1911-1914,

1920-1939, 1947-2000, 2002-2007; and the Clypse Course 1954-1959



Source 1950s TT programme insert
MNH C498



St John's Course marked as proposed Cycle/car course
Source 1920 programme
MNH C498

Web Links

Auto Cycle Union

<http://www.acu.org.uk/>

Former organisers of the TT who issue rider licences to compete.

Duke Video

<http://www.dukevideo.com/>

Suppliers of vhs/dvd coverage of TT fortnight.

Greenlight Television

<http://www.greenlight.tv.com>

IOM TT Marshals Association

<http://www.iomttma.com/>

No marshals equals no event; volunteers always welcome.

Manx Radio TT

<http://217.23.164.199/radiott/default.aspx>

Available during race fortnight

Mortons Media Group Ltd. Motorcycle archive.

<http://www.mortonsarchive.com/aboutus.htm>

Motorcycle News

<http://www.motorcyclenews.com/>

Includes preview and coverage of the meeting.

National Motor Museum

<http://www.beaulieu.co.uk/motormuseum/introduction.cfm>

Useful research library with copies of journals.

National Motorcycle Museum

<http://www.nationalmotorcyclemuseum.co.uk/>

Former TT machines on display.

TT Database

<http://www.gov.im/mnh/collections/tt/search.xml>

Part of the MNH web site which enables searches for race, rider and machine information.

TT Official Web Site

<http://www.iomtt.com/>

A large amount of information including: news, TT database, circuit guide, photo gallery, race and lap records and a concise history of the TT.

TT Supporters Club

<http://www.ttsupportersclub.com/>

Vintage Motorcycle Club

<http://www.vmcc.net/>

Useful resource for information on older TT bike manufacturers and machines.

The Manx National Heritage Library holds a wealth of various and extensive source material. Staff at the Library and throughout Manx National Heritage are always pleased to hear from anyone with an interest in Manx history.

**Manx National Heritage,
Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LY.
Tel: (01624) 648000
Fax: (01624) 648001
E-mail: library@mnh.gov.im
Website: www.gov.im/mnh**

Opening times: Monday to Saturday,
10am to 5pm
Closed Sunday and for one week in January.

Our Library is a reference only facility and does not lend items through the Inter Library Loan system. However photocopies of some material, subject to copyright and the need to preserve originals, may be available on receipt of the appropriate copying fee. Some material may also be available through Inter Library Loans from other libraries and research centres.

The following links are useful for researchers:

British Library Newspaper Library:

<http://prodigi.bl.uk/nicat>

British Library on-line public catalogue:

<http://catalogue.bl.uk>

Library of Congress:

<http://catalog.loc.gov>

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