

# CBX Global: Clubs

**Team Leader: JP Grasmuch (photo at right)**

**Team Member(s):**

To join this team or submit an article please contact JP Grasmuch at CBXTRA6@aol.com or call 973-538-8634 between 7 pm and 9 pm EST

**GOAL:** Ensure ICOA club and member participation in the CBX Global community with the long term goal of each club that can sourcing one hard to get part so all CBXers will benefit

**SUBMISSIONS due for next Express 4/15/2003.** Current article format/content, but be creative. 350-750 word count in MS Word or Email format preferred. Jpeg pictures please. Regular mail/photos acceptable.

**APPRECIATION:** Mel Watkins and UK Club



*As a regular feature Xpress, the CBX Global Team headed up by JP Grasmuch will be bringing you some insight on other CBX clubs abroad. Our first article feature is devoted to the United Kingdom CBX club headed by Mel Watkins, a long time member of the ICOA. It is a particularly interesting article due to the long and fascinating English motorcycle heritage!*

*As you admire this wonderful article and the enclosed pictures, there will be no doubt in your mind that the UK Club members take their CBX passion seriously!*

## Short History of the CBX Riders Club (UK)

*By Mel Watkins UK Director ICOA 1876 and Chairman CBX Riders Club (UK)*

The UK club was formed in 1992 as it had been found that whilst ICOA members from England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales enjoyed the Xpress as a magazine little else seemed to benefit their membership of the association, with all membership fees quite correctly being forwarded to the USA. I think this was partly to do with the feeling of remoteness from North America.

Members could just not nip down the pub for a pint of beer with an American or Canadian friend from the Club. It was a Transatlantic Flight or forget all about it, if you see what I mean! This left no funds to promote the association around the UK at motorcycle shows where we recruited most new members or cover the cost of stationery or telephone calls etc. which is the normal expenditure one expects for running a motorcycle club.

At its peak, the Great Britain Chapter of the association in late 1992 was the largest in the ICOA with nearly two hundred members, even larger than California or Canada. It was a difficult decision to make to break away from the ICOA but the then UK Director Peter

Broad who has now retired and lives in France felt he had little choice as he could not run the UK Chapter on fresh air! Indeed, he spent a great deal of his own money to finance the running of the chapter.

Talking to other Chairman/ Presidents of overseas CBX Clubs it appears they also came to the same conclusion and set up their own clubs. This is not a criticism of the ICOA only it was felt there was no easy way around the problem unless membership fees were set at a much higher level and some funds diverted to the European chapters which did not seem practical then or now. So now you know where all the Brits went!

The Riders Club has had four Directors/ Chairman over the years, Peter Broad, Alan Hall, Andy Crandon and myself. The day to day running of the Club is dealt with by myself, which includes paying bills, booking club stands at shows and dealing with the press/media. We are very lucky to have an excellent membership secretary Helen Vitty who with her husband Keith keeps things moving on this front.

The membership now stands at just over five hundred and since the website [www.ukcbxclub.com](http://www.ukcbxclub.com) was setup we

have had a number of overseas CBXer's join.

The Club has a committee of members who hold the various club posts such as regalia secretary. The committee stands for re-election each year at the Club AGM (Annual General Meeting) which is held at our largest rally in Central England each year. The Club accounts are discussed having been published in the Club mag at least a month before the AGM to enable members to prepare any questions they may have either at the meeting or in writing if they are unable to attend. Fortunately, to date members appear happy with the way the Club is being run!

The Club has a number of technical advisors led by Carl Woodcock whom members can telephone when they have a problem with their CBX and articles of a technical nature are published in the Club mag from time to time.

The Club magazine is published quarterly and normally runs to around forty pages in size A5 with four pages of colour including the cover. Members are encouraged to send letters/articles and emails for inclusion. However, we have the usual problem of never having enough material unless we keep reminding members that no material, no magazine!



Another member Ian Byrne has very generously covered the cost of producing the Clubs plastic membership cards, which has saved the Club a great deal of money over the years. Needless to say he has been made an Honourary Member for Life. This year we have followed the ICOA and set-up our own website which can be accessed on [www.ukcbxclub.com](http://www.ukcbxclub.com)

We run a spares registration scheme whereby if a member wants to obtain or sell a part/parts, they can telephone a central number and they will be put in touch with other members who may have or want the required part. Parts are also advertised for sale or wanted in the Club magazine as well as on the website.

### **2003 CBX Euro 2003 Rally**

In 2003, we will host the CBX Euro Rally, which is organized each year by one of the European or Scandinavian CBX Clubs. Normally, one expects to see at least three hundred CBX's at the event. Quite a sight and sound! The Club has a stand at several of the Classic Bike Shows around the country when we show up to eight members bikes. Our most recent display at The Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Magazine Show in Staffordshire enabled us to sign up fifteen new members. Not bad for a small Club such as ours!

### **Goodies and other items you can buy from the UK Club**

Dennis Lodge produces the Club Christmas Card is also producing a superb CBX calendar for 2003, which is available from him by mail or [dennis@rabbitfarm.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:dennis@rabbitfarm.freeserve.co.uk). Dennis is also involved as Layout Editor of the Club.

Club regalia such as T-shirts, cloth badges etc. is available through the Club mag or via email from Malcolm Smart on [malcolm.smart1@btopenworld.com](mailto:malcolm.smart1@btopenworld.com)

We are finding more and more parts are becoming harder to obtain such as spark units and exhaust both of which are no longer available from Honda. Club member Ian Billingham who

also belongs to the ICOA, sells reproduction 79/80 side panels and logos as well as oversize cam couplings, a number of which I understand he sold at Marlinton. Ian has plans for other items in the near future. He can be contacted on [CBXBILLY6@aol.com](mailto:CBXBILLY6@aol.com)

I sell repro seat trims and straps for the 79/80 which are quality items with stainless fittings made to look like the original fragile ones but far superior in strength. My email is [www.cbx6meluk@aol.com](mailto:www.cbx6meluk@aol.com). I also sell the largest range of CBX pin badges known to man! Well, I hope this short story gives you a flavour of the UK Club and if you have any questions do not hesitate to send me an email or contact me via my address or telephone number shown in the Xpress

### **How do ICOA Members find out about the UK Club?**

The Club can be contacted either through our website address above or by telephone **0044 1 745 827026** or write to me at the following address: **Watkins, Chairman CBX Riders Club (uk) 9 Trem-Y-Mynydd, Belgrano, Abergale, Conwy UK LL22 9YY.**

Membership fees for overseas members are as follows: First year £23 (\$36 approximately depending on exchange rate) Subsequent years 21 pounds (\$33 approximately) When you join you get the latest Club magazine, enamel Club pin badge, membership card and details of other benefits such as our own insurance scheme if you are a UK member.

### **What is your perspective for the UK CBX Club? What is your objective as the current president?**

I wish to see the Club continue to expand but it depends on how many CBX's are out there! Originally, HONDA UK imported 2500 1000Z's in 1978 and just under 300 81/82 models. We have around 650 in the Club, so there must be a few more out there somewhere! Going by the number of secondhand used parts I have seen over the years, not many I guess! I foresee a situation much as happened with the Vincent Club, whereby CBX Clubs will manufacture parts for the CBX. It has of course already happened on a limited scale with the Australian club leading the way. So let's hope other clubs follow suit, funds permitting.

