

One (successful) year on... and a relaunch

It's been a hugely successful first year for the club - we now have over 500 members from all over the UK and from overseas. The year has seen the first club competition, with Aprilia UK taking club member Alastair Clegg to a sunny Sardinia for the launch of the Pegaso Strada, and our first track day - 30 club members descended on Brands Hatch Indy Circuit in June.

Another success has been the growth of local meets and rideouts, particularly in Surrey, Hampshire and Essex.

The highlight of the year, though, must have been the trip to Aprilia's HQ in Noale in September.

But there have been some learning points from the first year as well. The forum has attracted several thousand posts, but requiring members to log in before seeing the forums hasn't been popular.

The welcome pack attracted a lot of members, but was fearsomely expensive, and difficult to keep stocked. Running a club that quickly grew to several hundred members also became too much work for one person.

So as we move into year two, we're going to make some changes:

Changes for the club in year two:

- The **website** is being overhauled to bring it up to date and make it easier to use. By popular demand, we've added smilies to the forum!
- This **newsletter** will become a regular feature with news about the club and about Aprilia.
- There's now a team of us involved in **running the club**, so we should be able to do more - and do it more efficiently. Details on page 3 (but no topless shots, you'll be relieved to hear!).
- We're setting up a regional structure to co-ordinate **local meetings and rideouts**. More details to follow in the next newsletter (it's too cold for most of us at the moment!).
- We'll produce a range of **club merchandise**.
- We're setting up three **track days** with Hot Trax with discounted rates for club members.
- We'll aim to make use of more national events - bike shows and race meets and the like - where we can meet up.
- And... we'll **reduce the membership price**. Instead of £25 for the first year and £20 thereafter, membership will be £15 per year. For 2005-06, membership will include a club aprilia t-shirt. Check the website for details: <http://www.clubaprilia.net>

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National aprilia day

15 July 2006

In addition to the various local meets, and a presence at various bike events, we thought it would be a good laugh to get as many Aprilia owners together as possible for a day in the summer, with some rideouts, a decent meal, and a chance to meet fellow enthusiasts and club members, and have a say about how the club is going.

National Aprilia Day 2006 will be on Saturday 15 July 2006 (six days after England beat Italy in the World Cup Final) at the England's Rose Pub in Postcombe in Oxfordshire. It's a biker-friendly pub just off junction 7 of the M40, so should be easy to access for most of us. We've booked great weather for the day, so put it in your diaries RIGHT NOW!

More details in the next issue of the newsletter.

New Aprilias... Thousands of 'em!

It's a great time to be a lover of Aprilia bikes - they are springing up all over the place. After the Pegaso Strada launch in May, 2005 saw the launch of the new Tuono - those of us who went on the factory tour in September were lucky enough to see and sit on the pre-production model in the picture on the right - the first English riders to see it.



PREPARE TO BE POPULAR

The new Tuono is good looking in the metal, and got great reviews from the magazines so it should sell well.

Has anybody in the club ridden one? If so, post your thoughts on the club website - and if you've bought one, bring it along to a meet or a rideout...and be prepared to be very popular!

Closer to Christmas, Aprilia launched the Pegaso Trail, the off-road sister of the Strada. It'll sell like hot cakes in Europe, where this sort of bike is popular, but time will tell how well it will do over here.

There are new, tweaked RSV-R and Factories for 2006 as well, which will have a range of small improvements - but no sexy lion graphic on the side - I'll stick to my 05 model!

More good news is that we are told that these are the first of 19 new models over the coming few years, and will be focusing on mid-sized (600cc+) and larger (1000 and maybe 1200cc) bikes... and a new engine... and a return to World Superbikes. The problems of 2004 seem well and truly behind Aprilia. Thank heavens for Piaggio!



Track Days

SIGN UP FOR TRACK DAYS NOW!

We are booking three track days this summer, all through Hot Trax, one of the leading track day companies. If we can get enough club members interested, we should get a decent discount on prices. If you haven't done a track day before, club days are a perfect opportunity to give it a go: lots of support (and lots of fellow novices!). For the more experienced rider, it's a perfect chance to show off in front of plenty of fellow Aprilia owners.

Last year's track day at Brands was a big success, but we want to give this year's events more of a club feel, and get local dealers involved. Check out the track days section of the forum for more details.

The days are:

Brands Hatch - Tuesday June 6
Donnington Park - Friday Aug' 18
Oulton Park - Tuesday Sept' 19



Diary Dates

Planning any bike events in 2006? Why not meet up with some fellow club members? Events this year club members are already planning to attend include:

Italian Bike Day

Ace Cafe - Saturday 7 May.
This was a great day last year. We were comfortably outnumbered by Ducati owners. Let's tip the balance!

National Aprilia Day

England's Rose Pub,
Postcombe, Oxfordshire -
Saturday 15 July.

club aprilia organisers

Given the amazingly quick growth in the club in its first year, we have very quickly had to move to a committee to run the club. It obviously became too much for one person to run the club solo, and we're sorry to those members who became frustrated in the Autumn of 2005 as progress on the club slowed. With a committee we can do more, and do it more efficiently, so you should start to see some progress!

We are:

Founder	Rod Monteiro	Rodmonty
Membership	Mark Devonald	Mechanical Assassin
Merchandising	Alastair Clegg	Raiderfan
Newsletter	Cliff Eaton	adman
Track days	Lee Thompson	Monkey

We're also moving (slowly!) to a regional structure, so that we have club members across the country who are willing to help co-ordinate meets, rideouts and other local events. More news in the next newsletter - or check out the website.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Renewing membership

For those who joined the club in its first few weeks, the first year's membership will have expired. Others will expire in the next few weeks. Not to worry. While we have restructured the club, we've had an amnesty on membership renewals. We'll be back in touch at the end of February to seek renewals for all those old hands who joined before the end of February 2005. After that, joining and renewing should operate more smoothly.