

# Creature's

## 2nd Any Spare Change rally

WORDS & PIX: JIM G

*I was fortunate enough to have been among those privileged souls who attended the first 'Any Spare Change Rally' back in 2007. It was without doubt a great success and for me at least the best rally of the year.*



**F**or a long time there was some doubt as to whether it would be repeated. Creature had been a bundle of nerves before and during the event and the poor bloke was thoroughly exhausted by the time it was over. But after a lot of badgering from those who'd had such a good time at the rally, and faced with the prospect of being able to raise another big wad of cash for the NABD, he relented and agreed to do it all again. Enthused by last year's success and not one to rest on his laurels, he was determined to make the second Any Spare Change Rally bigger and better. The biggest change was the venue - this year the rally was held at The Plough at Farcet Fen, near Peterborough. This allowed for an increase in numbers and was a good choice for the improved facilities such as a much bigger marquee and more and better toilets. One of the best things about the first rally was a fantastic line up of bands and it was always going to be a

challenge to equal it this year. Fair play to him, though, he carried it off admirably with a mix of last year's acts and some new ones. The highlight was Devils Rock Four who'd come all the way from Australia. You see one thing that always REALLY disappoints me at rallies is that a lot of bikers are stuck in some kind of time warp where music stopped in the late Seventies/early Eighties and all they want to hear is rock cover bands - when new bands come along and play their own material a huge chunk of the audience immediately gets up, grumbles a bit and leaves the marquee. That proves these boys must have been good 'cause everyone stayed put and there was lots of dancing and applause. If you want to see them, though, you're too late ... unless you willing to jump on a flight Down Under. However, it seems they have nothing like our rallies over there and they really enjoyed it - so much so in fact that they are exploring the possibility of coming back to do the rally next year. Let's hope so. Though I doubt Creature will be reimbursing their petrol money if they do!



An addition to the entertainment this year was Rick Hulse's Frog & Bucket Comedy Roadshow. Now it might not have been everyone's cup o' tea, but I, for one, was bloody well glad of a bit of light-hearted entertainment on a wet, cold and rainy Saturday afternoon. After all, you don't have to watch it if you don't want to but, it's nice to have a choice.

Anyway it went down really well - the marquee was filled with laughter and happy faces and for a couple of hours everyone forgot about the rain. There was also a custom show with trophies sponsored by your favourite magazine. No, not Hustler! I'm talking about this one, 100% Biker. The trophies went to Stevie's Triumph (Best

Paint & Best In Show), Phil from Tiger MCC's CBR600 (Best Rat), Chris Ireland's Indian (Best Trike), Wobbly from the Highway Hunters' Kwak (Best Chop) and Smudge's EXUP (Best Streetfighter). There was a bit of controversy over the choice of Chris' trike 'cos he'd brought it in a van 'cos of his work commitments, but the judges agreed that it was by far the best one there so ... Later in the afternoon it brightened up considerably for the silly games which involved various props such as wheelbarrows, free beer, flour, free beer, running about, free beer and marshmallows, but not necessarily in that order. Did I mention the free beer? This rally is very much the work of one man, not wishing to ignore all those who helped and gave their time and services, without whom it would not have been possible etc etc, but I think they would all agree that the driving force behind it all and the man who brought it all together is Creature. He has been actively raising funds for the NABD for about four years now - it started off with a collection tin

on the desk whenever he was doing his rock disco and escalated from there. After some health problems of his own he was persuaded to apply for an NABD grant to have a Klicktronic gear change fitted to his bike as he had difficulty operating a standard clutch. It was this illness and the subsequent invaluable help he received from the NABD that really inspired him to start a positive fund raising effort for the NABD, an effort that has culminated in The Any Spare Change Rally. His efforts were recognised at this year's rally when Rick Hulse presented him with the Sarah Russell Award for outstanding contributions to the work and aims of the NABD, as well as a certificate of merit for fund raising. Well I like to finish on a high note so I can confirm that Creature has got over his first year jitters and has now got a real taste for it so there will be a Creature's 3rd Any Spare Change Rally next year at the same venue so put it on your calendar. And on a positively falsetto note, it looks like this year's rally raised around £2.5K for the NABD. 🍻

