

MR CREATURE'S 6th

AL ASSOCIATION FOR WITH A DISABILITY www.nabd.org.uk

> It was with a tinge of sadness that I set off for the Any Spare Change rally this year, due to Mr Creature himself having told me the previous week that this year's ASC rally would be the last. There is no-one who could fault Mr Creature for his valiant and selfless efforts on behalf of the NABD over the years, but the sad fact is that he is not the healthiest of men, and the physical and emotional stress of organising and financing an event of this nature for the past six years has taken its toll.





ALTHOUGH never a huge event, the ASC rally has, over the past few years, enjoyed a loyal following of around 350-400 people. However, as seems to have been the case lately with most events, this year ticket sales had suffered noticeably. Despite this, there was a real party atmosphere amongst the 270 or so people who turned up to the Plough Inn at Farcet Fen, near Peterborough, on Friday night.

The live entertainment for the evening – in the rather posh, fully-lined and wooden-floored marguee - was to have been provided by two bands, but the first dropped out at very short notice. Undeterred by this setback, Mr Creature and several musicians from other bands who were due to play over the weekend got up on stage and filled the gap with a very entertaining jam session, before making way for the newly-reformed legendary rally band, The Beermonsters, who rounded off the night in fine form, as is their wont.

Saturday was packed with entertainment from early afternoon (which was guite early enough for those who'd got into the weekend spirit on Friday night). Bike show entries began to assemble from noon and then the marguee started to fill up in anticipation of the Smacked Arse Comedy show. Rick Hulse had, once again, put together a fine line-up of stand-up comedians including Adam Rushton, Paul Savage, an extremely funny young comedian, El Purnell - whose unusual and exceptionally funny act was conducted entirely in Equadorian Spanish - before a short-notice but absolutely brilliant replacement headline act, Phil Walker, had everyone in stitches.

The evening entertainment was also choc-a-bloc with talent with an excellent eclectic mix of solo sets from Damien Russell, Stevie Simpson and Tracey Browne, topped off with a magnificent performance of classic rock and blues by the Mick Rutherford Band. Despite the somewhat lower numbers than in past years, the atmosphere in the marquee was joyous throughout the evening and many a hangover was created in its wake.





We shouldn't forget, however, that the Any Spare Change rally is a charity event in support of the NABD, with every penny going directly to helping disabled bikers to adapt bikes and/or trikes to suit their needs. One particularly nice touch was that large laminated posters featuring the adaptions sponsored by the proceeds of this event in previous years were on display in the marquee so that everybody could see the end results of supporting Creature and the ASC Rally.

This year, the event raised a very satisfying total of £2423.58 to be added to the total raised in past years. Mr Creature was not shy in telling everybody that, this year in particular, the event had benefited from some much-needed sponsorship from wonderful denizens of the UK motorcycle scene, so I think it's only right that they get a mention in this report too; BSH sponsored The Mick Rutherford Band, Damien Russell and the stage lighting, and also co-sponsored (with Buns of Apathy) the PA and sound system. Club In a Pub sponsored the performances by The Beermonsters and Exhibit A. Kerry and Freak of www.grassseedstore.co.uk were, once again, the sponsors of the Smacked Arse Comedy Show, while Captain Smurf was behind the performance by Tracev Browne. Smacked Arse Comedy

was responsible for the rally patches, The Enema Bandits MCC took care of the performance by Stevie Simpson and Davina's Teas 'n' Cakes stall sponsored the disco. The word 'respect' is all too often spuriously used amongst bikers, but true respect has to be earned by your actions, and I think it fair to say that, by his outstanding efforts on behalf of others, Mr Creature has, over the past six years, earned a position of true respect in the hearts of countless bikers throughout the UK. I know that it's his intention to continue supporting the NABD in other ways, but I for one will always remember the Any Spare Change rally with great fondness and so much respect for its organiser, Mr Creature. Bravo, that man, and all who have supported this event over the years!

> words: BARBARA ROSSA photos: CREATURE'S CAMERA & PAUL MARSHALL



BEST IN FIELD: Dave Foxy Fox **BEST PAINT: Lisa Soley** BEST BRIT BIKE: Robert Leigh

BEST STREETFIGHTER: Jules Newton BEST TRIKE: Poddy BEST CHOP: Michael Madisor LONG DISTANCE FEMALE: Rebecca Hargraves (183 miles) LONG DISTANCE MALE: ONTOW (301 miles) CREATURE'S SPECIAL AWARD: Rick Hulse