

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Manchester Bike Show**

### **The Hatters Chapter at the Manchester Bike Show**

Over the weekend of the 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015 the Hatters Chapter attended the Manchester Bike Show at Event City, Barton Square, Trafford Centre. It was reported that some 12,500 people attended the 2014 show so the chapter felt that by having a presence at this year's show it would provide the perfect opportunity for the Hatters to make themselves known to people in the North West and to advertise the fact that there is still an official Harley Owners Group Chapter in Manchester operating from their base at Burnage Rugby Club.

So, on the Friday prior to the show an enthusiastic group of volunteer members turned up at the venue to set things up. Rick and Malcolm were the first to arrive closely followed by Brian, Ross and Paul. Arthur rolled up on his bike with Jan in the car delivering all the stuff needed to set up the display. By the end of the day there was a fine looking double size show stand in place complete with nine gleaming Harley Davidson Motorcycles on display which had been kindly provided by chapter members. When the request went out for display models there had been no shortage of bikes put forward but space on the stand limited the number that could be accommodated so a selection that best summarised the Harley range was chosen.



**The Hatters Stand**



Over the course of the weekend the Hatters stand created a great deal of interest with many visitors looking around the display and chatting to members of the club. Some of the visitors had assumed that it was a Harley sales stand and were disappointed when they learned that there were no deals to be struck. Other Harley owners from the Manchester area were surprised to learn that there was still an active HOG Chapter in the city believing it to have been disbanded with the demise of the Manchester dealership. A lot of people went away with the Chapter Membership information packs and ride out

forms so the hope is that we will see a few more new members as a direct result of the exercise. Several existing and lapsed members also came to the stand to view the hardware and to renew old acquaintances.

A highlight of the weekend was that during the closing hours of the final afternoon the show organisers placed a note on Malcolm's bike to inform him that he had won an award for his bike and inviting him to attend the presentation ceremony at 4pm.



**Malc's Award Winning Bike**

The general opinion amongst those who had been involved during the weekend was that it had been a very enjoyable and worthwhile exercise in promoting the Hatters Chapter to the public of Manchester and surrounding areas. It was definitely felt that we should seriously consider making another appearance next year. A few suggestions to consider if we do:

- Have some flyers describing the various bikes on show so the punters can read about them.
- Bring your own refreshments along on the Friday as there is no catering facility on that day.
- Also think about bringing your own refreshments on the other days too to save yourself a bob or two.