



Thunderbird Times

JULY 2016

Newsletter of the Mighty South London branch of the **TRIUMPH** Owners Motor Cycle Club

RUNS

The June Tuesday evening run was surprisingly well attended in view of the traditional English summer weather. Led by Paul Cooper, as regular runs leader Fred was in Scotland (more of that following), it worked well, good array of sandwiches at the Kings Head, followed by whiskey cake. A first for our runs – not much evidence of whiskey, but nice fruit cake. And the run home was dry.

Sunday 10th was the run to the Aviation Museum on the old RAF airfield at Tangmere. No flying from there now, but the museum has a lot of interesting exhibits, mostly associated with the base. A couple of little hiccups, my new Bonnie decided to throw a hissy fit, after 230 miles, and presented all sorts of worrying warning lights – back to Rosners on a recovery vehicle on Monday, where the coolant sensor was changed and seems all well now. Charlie's keys mysteriously disappeared from the table at Rykas, so Tim took him home for spare, and they eventually found us at Tangmere. Well worth a look around if you've got a spare few hours.

Saturday 16th – our annual visit to the Claygate Flower Show. Good for an afternoon of beer, cakes, ice cream, burgers, coffee, more cakes... a nice selection of classic cars and of course the traditional marquee full of flower arrangements, vegetables, yet more cakes, photography competition et al.



Scottish Trip

(Martin, Fred, & Sandy)

Saturday: 04:00 we all set off to meet at Cobham Services only to find it shut due to the slip road being closed. We managed to contact each other and met a bit further on. All together now, we made our first leg up to Birmingham.



Making good time we had our first coffee stop. We were able to have a few nice tea breaks on the way and soon found ourselves in Edinburgh, where we were greeted by the boys in blue advising us to secure the bikes as there had been a few stolen. With bikes now disc locked and chained we went into town for food and beer, the first night was without incident.

Sunday: We went back into town and did all the tourist stuff, bus trips, the castle etc we had a great day finishing with food and drinks. We got a cab back to the BnB and disaster!! We arrived back to find Sandy's bike gone. It took a minute or two to sink in to what had happened. All that was left was the disc lock, split in two and the chain cut in half.

We were so gutted for poor Sandy, I know these b*****s don't think about their victims but it's not only the loss of the bike, your pride and joy, but we were hundreds of miles from home at the start of a holiday that we'd saved for. We called the police who turned up and took all the details. They did what they could but it was now after midnight. So blocking off the entrance to the forecourt in case the scumbags came back for more we headed to bed.

The morning after the night before and Sandy decided it would be best to get a hire car home as he had two panniers and the rest of his gear to carry. With a phone call to Hilary who organised a one way car hire at a good rate (thank you Hilary) we got him to the car hire office and packed his stuff in the boot. It was a sad farewell. It was a tough call and we both felt like throwing in the towel but Fred and I eventually decided to carry on.

Monday: Our next stop was Inverness via the Forth Bridge and the Falkirk Wheel. Not the most direct route but well worth the detour. While we were at the Falkirk Wheel, a local there advised us to go and see the Kelpies, a mythical creature much like a horse except these are made of steel and 100 feet high.



Tuesday: our next destination was Thurso taking the east coast road via John o Groats.

Wednesday: we stopped at Dounrae nuclear processing plant. An interesting stop, especially with my very own personal science advisor:- Fred. We carried on the coast road and now it begins to get really scenic. Arriving at Ullapool, we checked in and explored the pretty village and found a great place to eat with live music.

Thursday: we travelled on a scenic route with some fantastic roads to Applecross, arriving in time for lunch at the only pub in this small fishing village. Suitably refreshed, we were about to leave when the barmaid asked which way we were going? We said we were going via the mountain pass to which she replied "that's good as you will be doing the hair pin bends downhill". As the so called organiser this was the first I had heard of hair pins! Then a local said the weather was closing in but we might just make it- great! We set off and as we began to climb I thought it was going well, but



we continued to go higher. We soon headed into low cloud and at 2000 feet the visibility had dropped to 30 feet with a shear drop to our left and pot holes just waiting to throw us off, with on coming traffic forcing us over. I was beginning to think park up and call mountain rescue, but we persevered and reached the top. Now we can start our descent- through the hair pin bends but at least the visibility was increasing. The road was tough and challenging but it was not to be the hardest one of the trip! We pushed on to our digs for the night in Drumnadrochit. This was a very memorable night with Fred treating me to dinner- Thanks for the bag of peanuts Fred- very much appreciated :) !

Friday: Was to be our last day in Scotland. The sat-nav wanted to take us back down the A9 but we decided to go back through Glencoe instead. This is normally a nice run but with heavy traffic and heavy rain it became heavy going. We negotiated manic traffic through Glasgow but by the time we got to the other side the weather had improved so it was a case of opening up the taps and pushing on to Windermere. We arrived at a really nice hotel for the last night of the trip having a swim, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi- we did the lot. Feeling rejuvenated it was time for food and beer.

Saturday: We could have gone straight home but that would have been no fun as there is a road called the Hardknott pass which I suggested to Fred and asked if he was up for trying it.



So with a full tank, which might not have been wise, we made our way. This road proved to be the most challenging of our trip; it has to be seen to be believed with hair pin bends, climbing at 30% inclines and adverse cambers, not to mention our bikes being fully laden. I noticed Fred's lights disappearing from my mirrors but what relief when they reappeared. We reached what we thought was the summit and stopped to admire the view. On seeing the valley below we could see the road stretching out before us and disappearing up another mountain. We realised we still had the worse to go. So on we went, eventually reaching the summit and what a view we had. There was a vast

expanse of mountainous terrain with dramatic cloud formations and strong winds whistling around our ears. Not a car, bike, person, bird or animal in sight. Now for the descent down yet more hair pin bends, stopping for a well deserved cuppa and a rest at the bottom.

Now we just had the small matter of a 350 mile trip home. We did a 180 mile stint to the toll road M6 stopping for fuel and tea and then pushed onto Oxford making our last stop of the holiday. With a toot and a wave I parted company at Leatherhead leaving Fred to carrying on.

It turned out to be an awesome trip covering some 1800 miles. Although the weather could have been better we were quite lucky it never really hindered us. The only thing that spoilt the trip was Sandy's bike being stolen and losing Sandy from the trip.

I would like to thank Sandy and Fred for making the trip with me . Also thanks to Fred for taking on the challenging roads, distances and sometimes weather. I had to remind myself he had 15 years on me but rides like someone half his age.

Till the next time- The Peak district departing first week in October-anyone up for this?
Call me on 07979560234 Thank you

Martin

EVENTS

The Old Coulsdon village show, which was put off due to waterlogged ground, has been rescheduled for Saturday 10th September.

July 23 rd	Saturday	Kempton Park bike jumble
July 24 th	Sunday	Classic Bike Show/Jumble, Ardingley
July 26 th	Tuesday	Club Run - Surrey Oaks, Newdigate, RH5 5DZ
Aug 7 th	Sunday	Horam Run – meet Godstone Pond, 1030.
Aug 20 th	Saturday	Capel Village Car & Bike Show. Meet Rykas 1200
Aug 23 rd	Tuesday	Club Run – William IV, Little London, Albury Heath, GU5 9DG

CLUB CONTACTS:

Website	http://www.tomccmsl.co.uk/	
Chairman	Paul Cooper	020 8394 1909
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Regalia	Amanda Dawson	

THE BRANCH:

Meets at the Prince of Wales,

98 Morden Road, London SW19 3BP

(Tel: 020 8542 6084) every Tuesday from 8.00 pm

Runs leave the pub at **8.00pm sharp,**

4th Tuesday of the month, April to Sept.

Please ensure you have a full tank of petrol!