



Thunderbird Times

November 2013

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

The next event is the annual ride to the Tadworth Childrens' Trust hospital. You may have seen an article in the national papers about a 17-year old who had come off his motorcycle and had been in a coma for six months, and came round last week. He is in Tadworth now and unfortunately probably will be for a while. This is just one example of the cases they have there. We will be meeting at Rykas at 1030 for a short ride up to Tadworth, they always are happy to see us. Please support this if you can.

Bowling

A good evening out, thirteen of us chucking balls about and almost as many again opting to sit and watch. Top scorer of the evening was Paul Skeet. Thanks to Gerry for organising it.

Quiz Night

Six teams of four or five competed – highest score was Mog's team! Some questions to tax our little used grey matter – but we learned a few things. Like, a concert harp has 47 strings. I have no doubt that extra bit of knowledge will keep me in good stead for the rest of my natural. Thanks to Bob for setting it all up.

Motorcycle Live

We hired a minibus again for the trip up to Birmingham. Not so well supported this year, but we all found plenty to look at there. The main interest of course was the Triumph stand. Nothing completely new, although they have a Thunderbird derivative with new frame and tinware with all the touring gear, but no price as yet. The rest seemed to be detail changes and colour schemes. I'd never sat on a Thruxton before, so I tried the display model for size and found my knees, when tucked in, went under the tank and actually touched the valve covers. Obviously not a bike to ride in shorts.

Bob's Bits

You may be aware that there have been a number of fatalities involving cyclists and LGV's (Large Goods Vehicles) in recent weeks. Most accidents seem to occur when the LGV is turning left, the cyclist is trapped, having nowhere to go to escape the collision. The reason why I am telling you this information is that all PTW's Powered Two Wheelers (Scooters and Motorcycles) are at risk when in close proximity to Large Vehicles. As an HGV Driver I often encounter cyclist's who undertake, I don't think they realise the potential danger they put themselves in. Most modern trucks have two mirrors on the offside, on the nearside they have three, the third being a Kerb Mirror. This enables the driver to look down towards the nearside front wheel. The fact is, there is still a blind spot, just behind the front wheel. Most biker's are aware of the danger and they keep a safe distance. Whist not wishing to teach you how to suck eggs, just be aware, if an Artic is going to turn left, the vehicle will need to make a wide swing, often crossing the white line to negotiate the turn. Stay back. Ride Safe. Bob

Sunday 10th November

Had to bump-start Paul's FJ1300, it had a flat battery. Eventually arrived at Ryka's where John had been waiting over an hour. After a few minutes we saw Mog and Barry. We looked at some of the machines that assembled in the car park including a cruiser styled bike that was powered by a Chevy 5.7 litre Corvette engine. Also we noticed a 1966 Thruxton Bonny. We set off for the short trip to Newlands corner for a cup of tea and more browsing, The Alvis Owners Club had a dozen classic cars there. Then Mac

arrived, we had more tea and coffee, Mog Paul Mac and Barry went for a pint, myself and John rode home, A good morning's ride in the winter sunshine. Bob

Last Saturday we took a trip up to the West-End just to do something different. After looking around for a couple of hours, mostly clothes shops I hasten to add, I thought I'd like to see something I've always liked. So while walking along Park Lane, we went into the Aston Martin showroom. I was like a kid in a sweetshop. Taking centre stage was a new Aston Martin Vanquish. Finished in Pearlescent Royal Blue, Cream Leather seats with Blue piping, Rosewood Dash, Chrome clocks, Sports Suspension and Sports Exhaust System. A thing of beauty. I had to ask the Salesman how much it was. A standard Vanquish from the Factory would be £187,000. This one in the Showroom.....£237,000. Now, Where did I put that Lottery Ticket. Bob

Events

Sunday December 8th - Tadworth run, meet Rykas 1030

Thursday December 26th - Boxing Day run, Jovial Sailor, Ripley. Red Tree lay-by (A217) 1100.

Wednesday January 1st - New Years Day run, Surrey Oaks, Newdigate. Red Tree, 1100.

CLUB CONTACTS:

Website	http://www.tomccmsl.co.uk/	
Chairman	Mog Pharoah	020 8947 7727 (day)
Vice Chairman	Paul Cooper	020 8394 1909
Secretary	Doddie Kent	020 8660 5227
Treasurer	Malcolm Orpin	020 8640 2608
Membership Secretary	Barry Bryant	020 8407 0130
TT Editor	Mal Orpin	malcolm.orpin@talktalk.net
Social/Show Secretary	Bob Simmonds	020 8669 0921
Runs Leader	Fred Reavell	020 8873 2545
Regalia	-----	-----
Website Administrator	Dave Lidbury	Triumph@lidders.fsnet.co.uk

THE BRANCH:

Meets at the Goat,

Carshalton Road, Mitcham, CR4 4HJ

(Tel: 020 8648 1935) every Tuesday from 8.30 pm

A man told the doctor: 'My wife's pregnant, but we haven't had sex in over a year. I don't understand it.'

The doctor said: 'It's what we in the medical profession call a "grudge pregnancy".'

What's a grudge pregnancy?' asked the man.

The doctor replied: 'Well, somebody's obviously had it in for you.'



FINALLY, THE FESTIVE SEASON WILL BE UPON US SOON, SO I SHALL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH OUR MEMBERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS, AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR. RIDE SAFE.

Mal