



Thunderbird Times

August 2009

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

Bonneville 50th Celebration Weekend

I was hoping somebody else would put fingers to keyboard on this, because I personally had a bad weekend and feel pretty negative about it. We went in various small groups, I went with Chas & Tim, minor problem with Charlie's back brake but otherwise a good run up there. We met at the hotel where everybody except us hardened campers (!!), Dave K. & Brian B., were staying. My Bonnie refused to start, eventually came home in Brian P.'s van & I rode his TR6 back. The campsite was about half a mile uphill from the centre of attractions. The grass was shin-height. There were two toilet trailers between 2-300 people. The washing facilities were a couple of cold water taps over a trough, for everybody. In the main area there was virtually nowhere to sit except the ground, and apart from the Heritage Museum itself, nowhere under cover - fortunately the weather stayed fine. The bands were OK but had to finish at 2300. The first night it was so cold in the tent none of us got much kip, not helped by the indigestion Brian & I suffered through the burger (included in the entry price). My other half picked up a bug & a week later still hasn't properly recovered. And finally (I think) earlier in the year the organisers asked for sponsors for trophies for the bikes. We coughed up the £70 from branch funds, and although other branches got a mention in the programme, we didn't. I've queried this with the club.

On the plus side, there was a good display of Bonneville's right through from 1958 to current, including one of the rare Buccaneers. The museum was good but didn't take long to walk around. And there was some quite decent cider and beer from the Slaughterhouse Brewery in Warwick.

Shame, really. There was obviously a lot of time and effort put into organising the event. Still, that's just me - there were probably hundreds there who had a really good time.

The Runs

The July club run to Newdigate saw another good turnout. Rob had a bit of a problem with his hybrid Honda, the battery carrier fell off & despite attempted repairs with bungees, the battery came into contact with the back wheel which wore a hole in the bottom of it. Still, it got him to the pub where a better class of bodge-up got the battery secure & eventually got him home.

August run to The Sportsman at Mogador was again well supported. The only drama was John LeFevre waiting on his corner while everybody else went another way. He eventually realised what had happened and found us all at the pub.

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Barb, wife of Dave Lidbury, who had a "Lady's Operation", on the 16th July, is well on the way to recovery. She would like to thank all at the club, especially those who sent the "get well cards", for their kind wishes. She now wishes the time to pass quickly so she can get back on the bike and also drive her car.

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Dave had a request, through the website, for old motorcycles to be used as a backdrop to some fitness video (as if any of us need such a thing!) so it seemed a good opportunity to share the experience I had last year with the 'media'. Doddy got a similar request for a classic bike for a photo shoot. I duly turned up for this at Bounds Green - that's north of the river - at around 1pm as requested. By about 3 they'd got themselves sorted out and we hauled the bike into the front room of an unoccupied house, & humped it up onto a bike lift. They didn't want a shiny bike, so my morning polishing it up was wasted as they sprayed it with something to make it look grubby. Eventually that part of the shoot finished about 7pm, when the film crew moved upstairs. I was told I could go. I was left to hump the bike out on my own & clean all the gunge off. The young lady who had organised this part of things had disappeared, so for all this I didn't even get the price of my petrol. I took great pleasure in starting up the bike next to the production desk while they were filming - they obviously didn't share my pleasure. So the moral here is if you should succumb to the temptations of cinematographic fame and fortune, get the money up front! The result is the advert in the link below, about one minute in you can see my bike through the smoke (special effects, not from the bike) for a matter of seconds. The guy sitting on the bike actually came on his own machine, a rather strange mix of Yamaha, MZ, and the biggest SU carb I have ever seen - a proper rat bike which they could have used and saved me the trouble. See the finished product at the site below, but watch carefully, there's not much evidence of the bike!

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/video/2008/dec/03/advertising-britvic>

Forthcoming Attractions :

Sunday 6th September - Bob's Horam Run - meet Godstone Ponds 10.30

Sunday 20th September - 'Ride It Right', Haslemere Fire Station. Meet Tolworth Bowl 10.00

Saturday 26th September - Kempton Park Bikejumble.

THE CLUB:

Meets at the Princess of Wales, **98 Morden Road, London SW19 3BP**

(020 8542 0573) every Tuesday from 8.30 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.

CLUB CONTACTS:

Chairman	Mog Pharoah	020 8947 7727 (day)
Treasurer	Malcolm Orpin	020 8640 2608
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