



# Thunderbird Times

MAY 2010

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

## Fleet Run

The weather looked a bit off-putting, but six of us ventured out. This time we went straight to Fleet, instead of having the usual breakfast stop. And it was noted by a few people that the MSL were on time for once. The route is marked with pink labels, maybe we could borrow the idea for our club runs. The rain held off until we were in the halfway pub, and kindly stopped when we left. I won a prize in the raffle, & that's about it – no dramas.

## National Rally, Bainland

The weather up at Bainland was reasonably kind to us, except for those brave enough to participate in the Sunday run to see the sand flats & off-shore oil rigs of sunny Cleethorpes! Still, at least we managed to find a nice warm little bikers pub on the way back to dry out and watch the Moto GP in.



MSL had the biggest club turn-up for this National meet, and we won an award for our efforts (quite right too!) Pity we didn't get a discount at the bar –the prices were worse than down here!

Strange that there weren't that many old bikes there, or new ones come to that - I didn't see one Tiger 1050, or a new T'bird 1600 up there. Mog's bike must have been the oldest there?



Lincoln run-out - the wimps went by van.

There were a few little incidents along the way apart from minor breakdowns, with a disagreement between some older members of MSL who felt they needed to air grievances amongst us, but all ended as it should. Mog summed it up when he said 'If we didn't have these sort of things going on, we'd have nothing to talk about!'

Ron & I found a nice little canal-side ride to do next year after a detour for fuel! **Paul S.**

## Tadworth Hospital

We were invited to Tadworth on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May to give George a birthday treat. George was 18 on Wednesday and he likes anything to do with bikes. He owns a trials type 125cc, but since he suffered a brain injury last year he cannot ride it. A small group of us said we would meet at Rykas at 10.45 on Wednesday. As I was riding along Pixham Lane towards Rykas I saw a Triumph coming towards me, it was Paul. When I rode into Rykas I saw Jim and Rob waiting. They said Paul entered the car park, rode straight past them and out the other side. After a few minutes Fred turned up, so the four of us rode out. After a few minutes my T-Bird started misfiring and slowed to about 20 mph. This was not the first time either. We stopped for a couple of minutes hoping it might clear, it carried on spluttering until we reached the top of Pebble Hill, then it started to run as normal. When we got to Tadworth, Paul was waiting outside. He of course put the blame on trucks obscuring his view in Rykas car park. He should go to Specsavers! We made our way to reception and was told to follow the perimeter road round to where George and his family and friends would be waiting. Although George cannot say or express much, you could tell by his eyes he was delighted and surprised to see our bikes. Because of his condition he would not be able to sit on a solo machine, so the

carers strapped George to the backrest on Jims trike and then strapped George to Jim amid much laughter . They gingerly rode around the car park, both faces were a picture, George was clearly in his element. Then we were very kindly invited in to join the family to celebrate his Birthday. The carers laid on a lovely spread and we were told to tuck in and join in the festivities. We stayed about an hour, chatting to various family members and then we all said goodbye to George and headed home. Everybody hopes one day that George will be able to get back on his bike.

As for my bike, I spoke to Dave Kent and he had the same symptoms with his bike. He said it may be the Igniter box, which to replace is a snip at £500!! I rang Rosners, they suggested to test No1 coil first, Dave had two spare coils, so we changed it over and so far no problems. Watch this space. **Bob**



£410 worth of igniter, in case you were wondering what it looks like.

### ...and an update

Limped home from the Sportsman on two cylinders, Steve was behind me, he said there were blue flames shooting out from the exhaust. I have now replaced the ignition pick-up in the casing, coils and spark plugs, checked all the connections, but it still misfires. Dave tells me that Triumphant in Wales sell used igniter boxes. I rang them and they were helpful. What they do is supply you with the older style box (95-99). Instead of using the multi-pin connector they give you crimping connectors and a wiring diagram. Apparently he sells these kits to Triumph dealers, they

retail at £140 plus vat. I rang Rosners, they sell the box for £410 plus vat. Rosner is going to do a diagnostic check on the bike on the 8th June, if the box is faulty I think I will get one from Triumphant. Put this in T-Times, it may be helpful to others. **Bob**

### ...and finally

Bob came round, we switched the igniters, and my bike promptly went on to two. I think that proves it's the magic box without the £60 diagnostic check. **Mal**

### Royal Oak Mods & Rockers Meet (Rusper)

I found out about this too late to send round details. Five of us made our own ways down. There were some very impressive bikes, and more scooters than you would find in a 1960's skip. Although they were covered in lights & mirrors the riders didn't strike me as 'Mods'. Football shirts and sawn-off combat trousers with tattooed legs seemed very popular – 1960s mods would not have been comfortable in this get-up. In fact there was not a mohair suit to be seen – not surprising really, all of those sold in the '60s must have led to the virtual extinction of the mo. The Royal Oak is a real ale pub - none of your girlie lager and Guinness, but you could get a nice cup of tea (I'm told).

### Sportsman, Mogador

Unfortunately there was a little accident on the run – a result of brakes on modern Triumphs' being better than the Meridens, resulting in a punt up the rear end for a guy who had come from the Berkshire branch. Nobody hurt thankfully, don't know about the two bikes involved.

### THE CLUB:

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, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, April to Sept.

Please ensure you have a full tank of petrol



Well done to Dot, who, not content with organising a surprise birthday party for Mike at the PoW, went on to win the Weakest Link!!

Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.

EVENTS:

- June 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Run to Medway Branch Classic Bike Event
- June 18/21<sup>st</sup> Camping, Porlock, Devon, see Bob Simmonds
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> **MSL Bike Show & BBQ**
- June 29<sup>th</sup> Club Run, Dog & Duck, Kingsfold
- July 4<sup>th</sup> London MC Museum Triumph Thunderbird 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary day

**M.S.L. - Best Attendance**  
**T.O.M.C.C. National Rally**  
**Bainland, Lincs., 2010**  
(WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM SURREY)

