



Thunderbird Times

OCTOBER 2011

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

Events Update

This years Christmas run to Tadworth Childrens' Hospital has been confirmed for Sunday 11th December, meeting Rykas at 1030. Also, we're trying to arrange a date for a bowling evening in November, date will be announced. Anybody got ideas for Sunday runs?

TOMCC Forum, 23rd October

You probably saw this advertised in Nacelle last month. Seven of us went up to Meriden to see what it was all about, along with 60-odd other members representing 21 branches. Basically, the national committee are after ideas to improve the club, and this was a trawl for those ideas. Some of these covered ways to attract new members, getting current members more involved in the club, improving Nacelle, offering a greater range of regalia – no doubt this will all be covered more comprehensively in the next Nacelle. One item which provoked a bit of debate was the introduction of a new club badge, the triangular one now adorning the cover of Nacelle, apparently slipped in without recourse to, or approval of, the membership. From this, it was requested that any salient points arising from national committee meetings should be published in Nacelle. We came away feeling the day had been worthwhile, and that the mostly new national committee are really getting stuck in.

Somerset Camping Weekend

It was a glorious morning for the ride to the West Country. Myself, Malcolm, Paul S, Martin and Dean met at Tolworth at 9.30, headed down the M3 and then onto the A303, where we stopped for breakfast, then carried on our trip. We turned onto the A36 towards Warminster and Frome, reaching the campsite by 13.30, situated behind a country pub called The Bell At Buckland.

We decided where we were going to set up our tents, strangely not too far from the pub. We were then greeted by the pubs cat who was very inquisitive, in and out of our tents, then we saw the rooster (our 4am alarm call!) with all the hens, and then the ducks appeared.



After we were set up we rode into Frome, about 3 miles away, and had a wander around then had a swift beer in The George pub. The local bitter was Butcombes (4%), Dean had the cider (5%), then we rode back to the campsite. The Landlady came over and said hello, she was very friendly and welcoming. We went into the pub for our evening meal, very nice although we all agreed it was a little expensive. We didn't take them up on their offer of a 74 ounce steak - £50, or free if you could eat it in one sitting.

The next day I had a phone call from John Curtis (JC), the secretary of the Somerset & Dorset branch. I had contacted John before we went to let him know where we would be staying, and I asked him if he would like to meet us and show us some nice biking roads or places of interest. I told John we had planned to go to the RNAS Museum at Yeovilton, he said he could meet us there. Malcolm had some discount tickets from a previous visit there so we made a saving on the admission. It was interesting seeing complete historic naval aircraft. Martin and I decided to go on the Carrier

experience, we got into a simulated helicopter, the engines start up, then the floor vibrated and after 2 minutes of flying you have landed on the flight deck of the Aircraft Carrier Ark Royal . We stepped out of the starboard side of the helicopter and you feel you are on the Ark Royal. After a 20 minute tour of the operation of the ship you are transported out onto the flight deck to see Phantom aircraft approaching the ship and on a large screen in 3D, the plane comes around on the final approach and lands on the flight deck within feet of where we were standing. excellent, highly recommended.

We went outside into the warm sunshine and met up with JC. He also brought along Nigel (T140V), Dave (Thruxton), and Ted on a Sprint 955. JC was on a 675 Daytona. Dave explained our route which would take us through Yeovil down to Dorchester, then on to Bridport and West Bay, a well used bike stop. After an hour we rode along the coastal road known as The Jurassic Coast, fantastic views down onto Chesil Beach and Portland . We headed back, on the way we stopped to say goodbye to Dave and Ted as they branched off, then Nigel broke off. JC kindly stayed with us back to our campsite. We made tea for JC and had biscuits and cakes, then it started to get dark so we said goodbye to JC who had to get back to Yeovil. We thanked him and his friends for a great day out. Dean thinks we covered 170 miles.

On Sunday we rode to Wells. Just as you come into the city there is a great view of the Cathedral from the hill. We took a slow wander around the Bishops' Castle moat then went into the town centre where we found an old fashioned sweet shop that sold every sweet you could remember, in proper jars. After a good look around we made our purchases and rode back to pack up our tents and head home. An enjoyable 3 days.

Just a note ! JC and his branch have kindly extended a personal invitation to our branch for us to attend their first branch rally. They have been given the use of a local Rugby club , use of the bar , hot showers , camping and BBQ , live music. Dates TBA but should be in May next year. **Bob**

EVENTS

Nov19/27 th	Motorcycle Live, NEC Birmingham
Dec 3 rd	Kempton Park Autojumble
Dec 11 th	Christmas run to Tadworth Childrens' hospital
Dec 13 th	Quiz Night
Dec 17 th	Dinner/Dance, Denbys. Contact Paul, coops595@hotmail.com
Dec 26 th	Boxing Day run, 1130 Rykas – destination TBA

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