



Thunderbird Times

APRIL 2011

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

Charlie Goddard Run

26 bikes turned out, a bit down on previous years partly because we lost a couple of clubs who normally support us, having their own runs elsewhere. The drop-off system worked as it should this time, which meant nobody was left to rot on a corner somewhere in the depths of Kent as in previous years. The only mishaps were Pete Watkins' battery lost its electricity somewhere – he got going again on the emergency circuit for a few more miles, but had to give up & call out International Rescue; and Martin put his foot in a hole when stopping on his corner, and couldn't hold the bike up. Fortunately, Hilary (on the back) is a well-brought up girl and did the right thing – threw herself under the bike to save damage. And succeeded. We raised £300 for the centre. And here's a bit from Dean – how it started...

To my memory, Dad started the run to the last chance in 1998 with the two stroke club and BSA club i.e. Paul Wood. He got one of his dogs from there. They said that it was run on charity donations and his love for dogs inspired him to get involved. The first runs were contributions of food, dog bowls etc. that could be carried on motor bikes and of course money if they had no bungies. As more people and bike clubs got involved (Mighty South London) it became a bit of a pilgrimage each year with food be laid on chairs to sit on instead of a damp field as I remember in the early days. When he retired he had more time to dedicate to the Last Chance and became a collection driver, which meant taking a truck to Wales to collect dogs that were on death row back to Edenbridge so that new owners could be found. This was done every month. Chris still owns two dogs saved from Wales, Sam and Tess

He would be very proud of the way the MSL has continued this annual event and how well supported it has stayed now he is no longer with us.

Dean.

Easter Runs

Good Friday saw us out to visit the VMCC at Copthorne before they took off on their run. After that, a pleasant ride down to Billingshurst and a spot of liquid refreshment before the long trek home. Monday was the run to Tadworth childrens' hospital. This time there was another group of bikes going, around 40 we were told, with a police escort. We gave them 20 minutes start as we didn't want to show them up! The kids enjoyed it, MSL had a collection & gave them £400, along with the collection, toys and eggs brought along by the other bikers. This is a very worthwhile cause, so thanks to everybody concerned, especially Bob who organised our run.



Crystal Palace

Although it has anything to do with TOMCC, you may be interested in the Crystal Palace sprint racing May 29/30th. No bikes, but a varied assortment of classic cars. And it's local for a lot of us.

<http://www.motorsportatthepalace.co.uk/gallery.html#>

THE 73rd PIONEER RUN

The 20th of March was approaching fast and it was time to uncover the veteran Triumph once more. It was running when it was put away last year so not much to do I hope, it is like an old lawnmower it started with no

trouble. I decided to clean the plug and carb, it was ready to go.

Thank you to all the guys at the start it does take away the butterflies due to the anticipation of whether or not it will start before the bottom of that short downhill slope, once on the road it all goes away.

The ride went very well as far as the duel carriage way at Gatwick. At that point the engine let go, not a good place to stop for me or my tender van, I did think that was as far as I was going this year. But after inspection it was clear to see that the problem was the inlet valve spring retaining key, it was no longer there. The good news was I had made a spare last year, after hearing other riders talk of the problem, it was in the van, so after 20 minutes, a repair and a coffee it was back on the road. I did not stop again, arrived at the sea front at 11.40 am, about the same as last year. I will have to do a bit of work before next year.

I now have 11 finishing medals out of 12 rides. Next year is number 13 say no more.



Thanks again to all.

Bernard.

(A world record was set in 1911 by one Albert Catt, on a 3¹/₂hp Triumph, same year/model as Bernard's, of 2468 miles in 6 days (*lifted from The Classic Motorcycle*). Over to you Bernard – you can beat that!)

EVENTS

April 29 th	Rykas 1100, mystery tour.
May 2nd	Fleet Run. Meet Tolworth Bowl 0900
May 6-9 th	TOMCC Rally, Norfolk
May 21 st	Southern Classic Bike Show, Kempton Park
May 24 th	Club Run to The Sportsman, Mogador

THE CLUB:

Meets at the Prince of Wales, **98 Morden Road, London SW19 3BP**
(020 8542 0573) every Tuesday from 8.30 pm

CLUB CONTACTS:

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