



Thunderbird Times

February 2010

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

A. G. M. - 23rd March Princess of Wales, 8.30pm.

Bob had a call from Tadworth hospital, the money we collected has been used to buy a couple of DVD players for the wards.

DEVON WEEKEND

Here are some details regarding the camping trip in June. Camping is £7.50 per night, for those not wishing to be under canvas there is a luxury caravan that sleeps up to 5 people and for a weekend break up to 3 nights it costs £ 100 per night for the caravan not per person. The site has a well stocked shop, toilets and showers, a laundry room and weather permitting a B B Q. The caravan is usually booked up early so be quick. There are several pubs that do B&B in the area. We may have the services of a car to carry some of the equipment, if not maybe some kind person would volunteer

To book the caravan phone Colin & Jill Harman at Cloud Farm Linton . N.Devon tel no 01598-741234. Friday June 18-Mon 21.

Bob

EXCEL

I took full advantage of my OAP concession and waving my Travelcard demanded "£10 concession please!". Well it is on my door step and rain was predicted for the Sunday afternoon, so no bike riding. On second thoughts I took the bike, good call as by 9.30 am there was already a long line of cars queuing to get in.

I must say that the system for entry was excellent, I was inside in five minutes, no waiting. Nearly all the bike manufacturers I would want to see were there, Moto Guzzi, Ducati, BMW, the new Norton company and of course Triumph. Two I skipped were Yamaha, seen the price of the new R1, blimey!!, and that well known tractor builder. The bike I wanted to see was the new Norton and it's a cracker. It feels just right, the parts are top notch and when I told the salesman that if felt the master cylinder holders on the handlebars were like Meccano bits, he countered by saying I could have the better ones from their other models!. It is definitely one for my " Best Ten" garage.

The Triumph stand was cheap and cheerful considering they are in the black. Still there were most bikes present, and I had my first seat on the new Thunderbird. I was pleasantly surprised by the way the seat and controls felt " right " unlike most cruisers that seem a stretch to everything. I would love to have a test ride to convince me, at present though, it would not fit sideways in my garage, so the TBS is safe for a while. I have to confess that I think the styling is a little bland, it does not grab me like the first time I saw the old Tbirds in the nineties.

I got round in my usual two hours and after being disappointed in not at first finding my new Caberg in size and price, finally located one and on haggling a fiver (just my pride) off the price left for home. Got out in five minutes (when I remembered where I left the bike) and smiled at the now half a mile of cars queuing to get in. " take the bike , Mate!". £10 for two hours ? , cheaper than I usually pay at Kings Cross! and more educational.

Ron Granger

A woman tells her doctor, 'I've got a bad back.' The doctor says, 'It's old age.' The woman says, 'I want a second opinion.' The doctor says: 'Okay - you're ugly as well.'

Ace Café London Motorcycle and Custom Show

Alexandra Palace 26-28 February 2010

I don't know why but when ever I go to these big exhibitions I never seem to see much there that makes me want to say afterwards 'Did you see so and so, wasn't it great'. Well things were not much different this time either. Mind you, when some of us went up to the NEC Birmingham show last year most of us I remember were talking about the new Norton range and how we were impressed by the look (forgetting the front brake reservoir bracket) and stats if not the price. The Ace Café London Motorcycle and Custom Show would be better renamed A Million Things You Can Do With A Harley Engine And Two Or More Wheels. In fact, they could almost drop the name motorcycle from the title and just call it the Ace Café London Harley Davidson Custom Show. Norton was supposed to be there but I did not see them. Honda was also named in the press release but I did not see them either. In fact the only the only straightforward manufacturers I came across were believe it or not TRIUMPH, HD and KTM. Triumph had admittedly just a caravan and half a dozen bikes but they were there. No wonder they are climbing up the sales charts. The range was limited to a couple of Thunderbirds and 4 incarnations of the 900 twins. My favourite is the Scrambler at the moment, but since I like the Thruxton and the T100 I won't order one yet. There was a Rewaco trike tucked round the back, very close to the Triumph stand but several yards from the Rewaco stand that might interest Jim.



Harley Davidson and related products seemed to have the majority of the main two halls. I liked the Shaw stand best. This is a picture of part of the Shaw stand.

Some of these seemed to have no relation to motorcycling at all. I did not buy the tile cutter or the power drill attachment for putting slot head screws in expertly, even though this stand had more punters than



any other. The clothing, helmet, and accessories retailers were represented in profusion in all three halls. Perhaps his spiel and expertise at cutting bathroom tiles was brilliant or was it that the rest of the ancillary stands were not quite so interesting.

The AJS and Matchless owners club, The Ace Café and also the London Motorcycle museum had creditable displays of tradition older machines on display. The major part of the exhibition was given over to the custom bike market. There were many companies selling parts and whole bikes and even whole bike kits. Approximately 20-25k UKP could buy a reasonable looking HD based kit for a complete Bobber from Zodiac. There was also a large display of owner's custom bikes, which were entered for the competition to be judged by Russell Mitchell of TV 'Biker Build Off' fame on Sunday. He was giving an interview on a stage set up at the end of the Great Hall adjacent to the Ace Café stands. The stage was part of the Ace Café's programme which included various other interviews and events throughout the day such as a tyre changing competition on stage, luckily I missed that. The program also included various stunt bike displays on the back lot by Stunt Starz. The stunt display I saw was ok but as the stunter, Alstar, said the surface was made of blocks which are apparently not ideal and which were a little green resulting in lack of grip. He managed to fall off several time to prove his point. Since I manage to fall off even when there is perfect grip I felt inclined to excuse him.



The display of custom bikes was entertaining but for the non-aficionado there were so many that they just became samey after a while except for a few notable examples that did not use HD engines. I even saw one using a Bonneville engine.



Once you have seen a few dozen custom bikes with half the worlds output of chrome for a year and the widest drive belts ever manufactured, one starts to long for an old British 650cc with oil leaks, brakes at both ends and a kick start that refuses to keep its rubber glove on no matter how many cable ties you treat it to. The builder of the 'Mantis', a very pretty green monster, told me; that his bike was insured for £50K, the bits which were gold plated, how he was going to sell it to a German as an ornament, that he hated it, and finally admitted it was virtually unrideable. No front brake and no turning circle.

I think that that this event is purely for the custom machine fans and why not. I don't think that the average motorcyclist need add this exhibition to his calendar unless he needs a new helmet etc which he could get elsewhere. But if you did want to go then I would say that it was well organised with enough places to eat and rest. I arrived about midday and there were plenty of people but not excessively, so it was

easy to get around and see all the stands and speak to anybody without too much trouble. The attendance dropped as the afternoon progressed. I don't know what the attendance was during the rest of the three days but I think the organisers might have been just a little disappointed especially if it was as little as Saturday afternoon's. The venue of the Alexandra Palace is much nicer and closer if smaller than the NEC, although the distance to Birmingham does not seem such a drawback when the exhibition is held on the same weekend that Boris's train set closed the Victoria line, the Circle line, and the Metropolitan line at the same time to change the light bulbs in the tunnels.

Fred Reavell

REDHILL AIRCRAFT MUSEUM

<http://www.wingsmuseum.co.uk/>

We thought it may be an idea to have a ride down to the Wings Museum, Nutfield, one Sunday. Bob has chased this up, and it so happens they are holding a Grand Opening Weekend on Saturday/Sunday 20/21 March. Kempton's on Saturday, so Sunday 21 would be good for a ride-out. Admission is £8, sounds a bit steep, they say it covers overheads etc. Refreshments are available on site. Meet at Rykas at 10.30.

'When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.' -Multi-Engine Training Manual-

EVENTS

February 26/28th (Friday-Sunday)	Ace Café Show, Alexandra Palace
March 14th (Sunday)	Pioneer Run
March 20th (Saturday)	Kempton Park Autojumble
March 21st (Sunday)	Run to Wings Museum, Redhill Aerodrome
March 21st (Sunday)	RealClassic Bike Show & bike jumble, Ardingly
March 23rd (Tuesday)	MSL AGM

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:

Website	http://www.tomccmsl.co.uk/	
Chairman	Mog Pharoah	020 8947 7727 (day)
Treasurer	Malcolm Orpin	020 8640 2608
Secretary	Doddie Kent	020 8660 5227
Membership Secretary	Dave Kent	Ditto
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Social Secretary	Bob Simmonds	020 8669 0921
Runs Leader	Brian Peters	01737 551762
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Website Administrator	Dave Liddbury	lidders@lidders.fsnet.co.uk

An elderly couple are attending Mass.

About halfway through, the wife leans over and says to her husband, 'I just let out a silent fart; what do you think I should do?'

He replies, 'Put a new battery in your hearing aid.'