



Brunel TRs

representing the TR Register in Bristol, Bath
& surrounding area
newsletter 134
august 2011

hello and welcome

With the exception of Tim Carr, you all missed a very good International weekend at Harrogate and one of the best Internationals in a while in my opinion. It helped of course that the venue was set in some fantastic countryside and all who attended were blessed with good weather, but it also benefited from a different format and a very well received hill climb on the Friday. I think us southern softies will have to accept that the International may be heading north in the future.

I've just spent the weekend at the Summer Classics show at Easter Compton, which for a maiden event, wasn't bad. The Saturday was a bit quiet, not to mention cold and wind swept, but Sunday was a much better day with a good selection of cars and even some sunshine.

I had the privilege of driving the Register's Coca Cola car to the show. It's an early 1978 Speke TR7 and reaffirmed to me why I had up-rated and fettled with my own car so much. It didn't take long to be reminded of the wallowing handling, the lack of any stopping power and all the noises from the standard two-litre engine. It also had a four-speed gearbox, and although I quite enjoyed the long-legged gear ratios around the country lanes, on the motorway the poor thing was screaming a bit!

Anyway, that's all from me. Don't forget the walk before the meeting on Wednesday and the Brunel barbeque on Sunday. I don't think I'll be doing the walk, but should see you in the pub and hopefully on Sunday, if not before.

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group leader's ramblings

What can I say about our recent trip to Blenheim Palace? Normal Brunel really, exceedingly good company, lots of laughs and a very good time had by all. In true Brunel fashion the convoy managed to get split up on more than one occasion and we had the odd mechanical breakdown, but nothing too serious that a large washer could not cure. Mind you, locating said washer is another story.

We all managed to get to our hotel in one piece, although we did have a spot of bother finding Churchill's grave. Who would have thought that they would have laid him to rest in the local churchyard at Bladon? Find it we did, after much stopping, turning around, three point manoeuvring, stopping again and some reversing. The hotel was good, albeit without any real ale, but that's just me being pedantic. The evening meal was also very good and not rushed. Some strange drinks appeared during the course of the evening, mainly to celebrate Helen Luffman's birthday.

Sunday dawned and we all managed to get to the Palace together, although we did try to leave Bob and Angela Crocker behind. So what of Blenheim Palace itself? It is big, very big in fact and extremely grand. The ruling classes certainly knew how to build the odd house in days gone by. We also had the added attraction of jousting, falconry and Elf's unsuccessful attempt at fooling hungry wasps.

All in all, another splendid Brunel weekend and our thanks must go to the Social Committee for some faultless planning and organisation.

TR Register International Weekend, Harrogate

As I was conspicuous by my absence at Harrogate (*along with everyone else, Ed*) for the TR Register International Weekend I will leave it to Etienne to give you the low down. From what I have been told and read it was a very good venue and attracting many a favourable comment. So no doubt we will be returning sometime in the future.

Brunel Barbeque

My initial plans to invite all local TR Register members along to this barbeque has not materialised, so it will just be current members. This is mainly due to extreme pressure of work and lack of time, but also due to my concern over available parking space and the logistics of knowing how many to cater for. I do have an alternative plan for next year at a different location, which I will work on. In the meantime I will contact all new TR Register members to our area and hopefully maintain the influx of new faces to Brunel meetings.



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Silverstone Classic

Roddy and I, together with Bill and Pam - who we tried to find, but managed to avoid all weekend - flew the Brunel flag, quit literally on our campsite. Quite why this event is not more popular with members is a mystery to me. The campsite is very good and at only £10 per night quite reasonable.

The event itself is excellent with some superb cars in action on the track. You get the opportunity to get close up and personal with every car in the open pit lane and generally marvel at some extremely expensive machinery. Highlight for me was watching the Group C cars qualifying in torrential rain on the Friday evening. It was absolutely fantastic, regardless of being akin to a drowned rat after being caught out on the circuit when the heavens opened. The old F1 cars from the era before the current sanitised look-a-like cars, were also a feast to the eyes and ears.

The TR Register presence could have been better and a few comments have been made. The closeness of the International Weekend did not help, but hopefully if next year's event does not clash with the return to Malvern things may be a bit different.

New Members

We welcomed James Anderson from Pilning, who owns a Green TR7 FHC and Paul Webb from Chepstow, owner of a Red TR6 to our last meeting were. We look forward to seeing you both at future Brunel meetings and events

See you on Wednesday after you have all had a nice walk in the park!

Andy

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social committee report

Having just returned from a lovely weekend with the Club at Blenheim Palace, followed by a visit to Oxford last Monday and then the Easter Compton show just gone, I'm now looking forward to the next few events on our calendar.

I am sure Andy will have commented on our Blenheim Palace trip, so I'm going to move on briskly, although I could have stayed at that hotel even longer - they were so friendly and as for the food, just fabulous!

Club Walk, Wednesday 17th August. We're planning to walk in the grounds of Ashton Court before the August meeting. Meet at the entrance of the Dovecote at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start. The meeting will be held in the pub as usual after the walk, around 8.30pm.

Brunel Barbeque Sunday 21st August. This year's club barbeque is being held at the Bishopsworth Manor House, Bishopsworth. The arrangements are to meet at the Manor House at 1.30pm, where we plan to have a tour of the house and grounds at 2.00pm. The cost is £3.00 per head, with the proceeds going to charity.

The Club will provide the meat and drink as well as the actual barbeque. All we're asking you to bring is something for the salad table and I will bring a list of suitable dishes ideas to the meeting. Also, if you have any folding tables or chairs can you please bring them along? If you intend on coming, please let me know.

Hobson's Brewery Trip Sunday 3rd September. The Plan is to travel via The Malverns and thread our way up to the Brewery where my nephew will give us a tour and samples! Some have requested to stay overnight to make the most of the beer and the countryside, which is lovely. Bewdley offers the Severn Valley Railway and Ludlow offers the castle and beautiful town. We will discuss this at the meeting. Unfortunately, Dennis and I have to return swiftly to attend an evening wedding celebration.

And finally, it was lovely to be with so many of you at the Blenheim Trip and thanks to Derek and Derek for their input. It made me realise what a good group we have!

Elf

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Brunel social calendar

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Sat 6 th - Sun 7 th	Visit to Blenheim Palace
Sat 13 th - Sun 14 th	Summer Classic, Easter Compton
Wed 17 th	Monthly meeting, the Dovecote, Long Ashton and walk
Sun 21 st	Brunel Barbeque, Bishopsworth Manor House

september

Sat 3 rd	Hobson's Brewery Visit
Sun 4 th	Thornfalcon Classic Meeting
Sun 4 th	Aces Classic Run
Fri 10 th	Social Committee Meeting, Toby Inn, Henbury
Sat 11 th	Classic & Sports Car Action Day at Castle Combe
Wed 15 th	Monthly meeting, the Dovecote, Long Ashton
Fri 17 th – Sun 19 th	Goodwood Revival

*Official TR Register event

Contact Andy Spencer or Elf Harris for further details of group events