



CVTR - TR REGISTER WHEELSPINNER AWARD WINNERS 2010

COTSWOLD VALE TR GROUP - JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

Well we finally made into 2011 and we are promised a year of austerity by our political leaders--so lets say to hell with them all and enjoy ourselves with the TR's and our friends in the club.

So, what have we been doing since our last meeting?

We started off the new year with a "committee" meeting on January 12th at Flacons Bar in Evesham, (the committee being anyone who wants to come along and throw ideas into the ring for this years diary) 10 members turned up and a new calendar of events was prepared for presentation to the January monthly meeting. This has since been e-mailed to all members by our group leader.

January 20th Acorns Hospice

At short notice CVTR were asked if we could supply a classic car or two to Acorns Hospice to take out some of the family of a youngster resident at the hospice. Well Ian Brown promptly sent an email around requesting any help possible from our members.

Numerous replies were returned, (thank you everyone) all of which were very positive and encouraging, which eventually distilled own to Ian Brown and Nigel Cluley turning up at the hospice around 2 pm that bright sunny and cold afternoon, later followed by Andy Canning in a borrowed Morgan plus 8 (see end).

On arrival at the hospice, the father and son we were meeting, burst out of the front doors along with a couple of family friends and the parents of other children in the hospice at the time, a very encouraging start, they were real classic car fans....

During our discussions with them, it turned out that the Aston Villa players had visited the hospice the day previously, driving Bentley Continentals and Range Rover Overfinch among other cars. It was even more encouraging when they all commented that our classics were "better" and much more interesting than the modern kit from the day before!!!!!!!

We then assembled inside for a cup of coffee and biscuits/mince pies before wrapping up for a drive out with the enthusiastic parents and kids.

Where to go? Well we decided to make a round trip via Tewkesbury and The Hunters Inn at Longdon, and back to the hospice, and so we departed, line astern following Andy, who knew they way!

It was cold and bright, but it was soon to get much colder, and I knew it was getting colder when my passenger put his hood over his head and buried his hands in his pockets to keep them out of the rushing air. The conversation slowed a little as he tried to conserve his energy.

As we approached Longdon, a patch of freezing fog came across us, and we got lost! It did provide a backdrop for atmospheric photographs around Bushey cricket ground, on the very edge of the freezing fog patch:-



After realising we had taken the turning before Longdon instead of the one signed Longdon, we were back on our way, through the freezing fog again, and about twenty minutes later we were pulling up outside Acorns for the team photograph:-



This was swiftly followed by more coffee and mince pies at the hospice before we met Ollie, the son and brother of Rob and Alex, friends of Sophie and George, and the reason why they were at the hospice.

Now I am absolutely hopeless with emotions surrounding these places and circumstances, and generally find it most upsetting, but I can genuinely say I find this place, and what they do, absolutely uplifting and an inspiration. It was a real pleasure to be a very small part, and to help brighten up several peoples day, particularly those as enthusiastic and genuine as Rob, Alex, Sophie and George!

Many thanks go to Nigel Cluley for giving up his time and making the effort at such short notice (and taking the pictures in the fog!).

Rob and Sophie have each emailed me to say what a great time they had with us, lets hope we meet them at some future classic car event.

I mentioned earlier that Andy Canning turned up late in a Morgan plus 8, and the reason behind that is as follows (I think):-

Andy contacted his friend, Barry Jeffrey and the owner of the said Morgan regarding this event, and without further thought, Barry offered to lend Andy his car. At this stage the car wasn't insured to cover Andy, so that very morning, after several phone calls, emails, scans, faxes, the insurance paperwork was completed in record time, and Andy was legally on his way over to Barry's place to collect the car. Next stop was refuelling, (and it takes a lot!) and making his way over to Worcester. This was truly a fantastic and very generous effort from both of them. Great to see Barry has now joined the TR Register, and wants a TR (I'm sure Andy will help him out!)

January 21st, visit to Midlands Air Ambulance, Strensham

Andy C, Ian Brown and Andrew Racey had a meeting with the fund raisers of the Midlands Air Ambulance at Strensham to discuss how we might get involved with them in 2011. They have a 20th anniversary to celebrate this year and expect some 1000 to 2000 people to turn up at their base at Strensham service area on September 3rd.

Our offer to them was to have a static display of cars as well as some available for rides (which we would charge for- with money going to the Air Ambulance). This proposal was ratified at the January monthly meeting. We will put "some meat on the bones" over the next few weeks and report back to the meeting and via this newsletter our progress. Nearer the time we will give detailed instructions on how to get into the service area without using the motorway and on the suggested route for rides.



Much as we tried, we couldn't hitch a ride, although one lucky passenger gets to make every trip:-



January 22nd, CVTR annual dinner at The Kings Court Hotel Alcester.

This was another great night, with 50 members and their partners sitting down for a super meal. Keith did his usual raffle with some of the star prizes being very expensive (and fattening) chocolates, and a “dirty old man walking stick”

Andy presented the various awards with

The Best Car -voted by the members going to Phil and Sandy Blake -TR5,

The Sods Law trophy went to Bob Heppel who turned up at Warwick Castle for" an hour or two "--not realising he couldn't leave until 6.00pm (" but I am expected home for lunch " he said)

The new Tony Holland Memorial Trophy went to Ian Brown for all the engineering work he did on his TR3a prior to the Round Britain Reliability Run,

The two TR3 car models were presented to Tim Walker and Martin Pugh (in recognition of their RBRR entry and effort) the other being awarded to Phil Collins for his work at Prescott last year.

The Carbon Footprint Award i.e. the most miles covered in a TR went to Ian Brown for, amongst other trips, his 2000+ miles on the RBRR.

Finally a bouquet of flowers was presented to Meg Durrant and Leslie Boother for their magnificent efforts in support of Prescott and the “bring and buy” at Malvern.

So a super night for all -- lets do it again in 2012.

Stop Press next year same venue on January 21st.

JANUARY 2011 CVTR MONTHLY MEETING

January 26th CVTR monthly meeting at The Fleece.

Andy welcomed everyone to a new year and a special welcome to John Radcliffe over from France, to John Stringer and Anne who we have not seen for some time and to Phil Collins following his hospitalisation. Apologies from Pat and Alf, Alan Wilding, Phil Barnett, Mark Hellings, Mike Hill, and Anthony Bond.

Andy presented Phil with his award for work at Prescott (see above) and to Ian Brown for the carbon footprint award..

He also presented Nigel Smith --landlord at the Fleece with a photograph of TS2 at The Fleece which will be put in the bar to show that CVTR meet there every month.



COTSWOLD
VALE TR



COTSWOLD VALE TR MEET AT THE FLEECE, BRETFORTON
FOURTH WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH @ 8.00pm

The meeting then spent sometime reviewing the diary of events for 2011. This will be sent to all members by Andy in the next few days. We did however confirm that we will be attending the air ambulance event at Strensham on September 3rd. and invite their fund raising manager to our meeting in February or March.

Forthcoming events.

February 13th Sunday lunch at The Hunters Inn at Longdon to be arranged by Dave Lees.

February 23rd - Monthly meeting at The Fleece.

February 25/27th -- Race Retro at Stoneleigh

March 6th - International Triumph show at Stoneleigh.

March 13th -- The Green Dragon-- Dave Gillespie to organise (subject to him agreeing)

March 19th -- Birmingham skittles night. Venue and details to be confirmed by Andy Canning.

The meeting also agreed unanimously to take up the kind offer from Mark Hellings for a trip around the BBC local radio station at Worcester.

So look out for the new 2011 programme of events and get the dates in the diary.

Other Stuff

TR REUNITED Part 1

By Phil Blake



Having owned a TR4 in my early twenties and a succession of other Triumphs from a Toledo to a GT6, plus a Spartan based on a Vitesse 2.0 litre chassis and engine, I thought 2009 was a good time to return to my Triumph ownership.

A TR5 was the one I had in my list of car owning ambitions and after 15 years of wanting, the time had arrived to start looking around for the right vehicle.

The only problem was that without selling the Cobra replica, which I was never happy with, I could not afford the TR5. So the next week I placed an advert on a classic car website and within three weeks it had a new owner.

There are not usually many TR5's for sale and with my shopping list of I really want a red one with wire wheels, overdrive, surrey top and an original UK vehicle (only 1161 of all colours were made for the UK market) it looks like I am making it a little difficult for myself.

After looking at a few cars that were fairly local, I saw an advert for a 5 that seemed to match my 'wanted list'. Great I thought, let's pop over and have a look ASAP before anybody else spots the advert, wonder where it's located.

Aberdeen is a long way from Warwick, in fact a long way from anywhere, except Inverness. The conversation went. Darling I have booked a weekend away for us and we are flying there tomorrow. Excellent, is it Paris, Rome or Madrid? Not quite but nearly as exotic.

I had arranged to meet Clarke (the seller) at Aberdeen airport and would recognise him by the Classic Car Weekly held under his left arm. He took us back to his house where the treasure was stored in the garage. Would you like to see the car first he said or maybe a spot of lunch. Lunch can wait let's see what you've got in that garage and it better be good. It was and after a short drive, a good look around and under the 5, I was more excited than when I had my first bicycle.

After lunch and a little negotiation, more in Clarke's favour than mine, we came to an agreement that if I pay him a deposit the 5 was mine.

There were a couple of problems, firstly it was December and it's cold and icy up north, secondly it's a long way to drive a 42 year old vehicle back to Warwick.

No problem said Clarke, the guy that repairs and services the vehicle has a covered trailer and he will bring the wee car down for you at a reasonable cost.

He did and two weeks later it was sitting in my garage with eight boxes of spare parts and an extra set of wheels and tyres.

Now was the time to have a more intensive look around the car, to see if it was as good as I first thought and to see how well the body off restoration had been completed. Up she went on the jacks and after putting stands under front and rear

It was time to have a crawl underneath and inspect the chassis, floors and transmission etc.

TO BE CONTINUED

TR "FOUND"

I didn't know I'd lost it – Ian Brown

Those of you who read TR Action, page 77 would see that my TR3A 257KDH was found by another TR Register member, David Bennett, so here is a transcript of his letter to the TR Register, which was forwarded on to me:-



"I don't know if the current owner is interested in the enclosed photos. The 3A featured this month (257KDH) now owned by Ian Brown, was rescued by me in the mid 70's from a lock up in the Clifton area of Bristol (located in the car park of a strip club) I stripped it hoping to rebuild it but lack of money (big mortgage – small family!) stopped all that. So I sold it locally and it was subsequently rebuilt. I now own a 3A which spent all its life in Tucson Arizona before returning to the UK 10 years ago. Yours faithfully"

Andrew Racey, Ian Brown and Richard Durrant (roving photographer)