

## Paul's Saturday Two Bridges Run - Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> 2015

Asking a question can sometimes have the result of you being nominated for some task, my question on a club evening was "has the club ever thought of doing a Saturday run". The answer was, "it's a good idea, you can do it and we'll call it Paul's Saturday run." What had I let myself in for, it was going to be a new experience for me.

To start with I asked advice of various people as to the length, type of roads etc. Taking heed of advice I set to work. I had to start somewhere. Every journey has to have a starting point and a destination, and then a route can then be found between the two points. The plan was hatched, find somewhere to start from and then a destination; a Saturday was chosen to check out some destinations which ended with Bodenham Arboretum being the destination choice. Next was a start, somewhere where there was a toilet, and possible coffee, after some thought I decided that my business premises would probably be okay, the benefit being I did not have to ask anyone for permission. Next, hours spent looking over maps, trying to find a mixture of scenic lanes and roads. Once the provisional route was decided on it was time to get in the car with pen and notepad and drive the route, spent five hours in the car, all I then had to do was put it down on paper. Martyn Griffiths kindly volunteered to test the route, and passed it off, with just a few suggestions. Another trip in the car to rectify these and it was all done. Just have to pray for good weather now. April 11<sup>th</sup> arrived, at 7-30am I woke to rain on the bedroom window, gradually as 9-00am arrived it started to dry up quite well. I arrived at the start in good time (9-30) and waited, 10-00am arrived and people had started to arrive, by 10-20am there were 20 machines assembled for the run, and to add to my delight the Sun was now shining.



Left: Bill Danks' 1930 Morgan outside Louise Street Garage, Gornal Wood. Right: Jonathan Clarke with his unrestored 'original paint' 1959 BSA B31, chatting to Ron Higgins, who is also original and unrestored.



It was lovely to see new faces as well as regular run attendees. The run consisted of small lanes, 'B' and 'A' roads, and a little bit of dual carriageway. Setting off from Gornal, the run went through the Straits, past Penn golf club, then to Pattingham, Beckbury, and Sutton Maddock. The river Severn was crossed twice, then a ride along some small lanes with some wonderful scenery, ending up at Bodenham Arboretum; we had cup of coffee , and then people dispersed, some making tracks to Tony's diner, where sausage egg bacon and chips were enjoyed. There was only one casualty, that of Ian Harris who felt deflated after a puncture.

My sincere thanks to all those who gave advice, checked out the route, and to those who turned up to make the run a success, thank you.

Paul Raybould



Above left: Bill Danks, cheeks distorted by the G Forces of the Morgan at speed, and right: his multi-function steering wheel controls, much like a modern F1 car? Below left: Alan Bromwich preparing for his Modern Apprenticeship practical examination, and right: At the finish Martyn Round making do with chocolate cake in the absence of chips, and not sharing any with run organiser Paul Raybould.

