

## The 'Flight of Fantasy' Run Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016

So after Saturday's downpours with their attached weather warnings fortunately Sunday dawned dull but dry. Thank goodness thinks I, for although The 'Flight of Fantasy' Run is not intended to be a 'concours' event it does attract one towards the Solvol Autosol and nothing can be worse than spending a day cleaning and polishing your pride and joy only to have your efforts washed away into the gutters. The late Trevor Bull, god bless him, many years ago proposed a Run whereby the participants voted for the machine they would like to ride home regardless of age or condition and to this end he made from solid silver scale



model of a Supermarine Spitfire and oh how we would like to fly one of those home!!!

Tony's Diner at Quatford near Bridgnorth was to be our starting point, and at 10 o'clock the guys and gals arrived on their treasured possessions. Triumphs were represented by Martyn Griffiths beautiful restored ex-RAF 3HW (left), Bill Orchard and Moss Trupp were mounted on pre-unit 650's, a pair of

immaculate 500 Tiger 100's of Julian Edwards and Bill Harley, a brace of 'Twenty Ones' a 350cc of Ray Heap and Roger Slater on my 420cc Special. We had a couple of Nortons, the 500 ES2 of Stuart Monroe and the mighty 750 Commando of Ian and Lesley Goodhall of Kidderminster. Our Section Secretary Dave Spencer, Jonathan Jinks and



Moss Hardy

were BSA mounted, Keith Little was riding his 650 Ariel Huntmaster and Rob Todd was aboard is 500 Matchless. Bringing up the rear was Chairman Martyn Round on his 400 Honda Four, Alex. Williams on a delightfully 'ratty' and rare 200 Villiers powered Panther (above) and me on my equally 'ratty' 250 Ajax-Villiers powered Dratsab (left).



But the pleasant surprise of the day was the arrival at Tony's of Pat and Brian Empsall with their well-used and trusty 1928 Triumph combination.

So at 10.30 off we went, our route taking us up the Bridgnorth by-pass and down the western side of the Severn before turning towards Chorley, Stottesdon, with magnificent views of The Clees and The Malverns before heading through Bagginswood, Kinlet, Neen Savage, avoiding the infamous ford, to our coffee stop in Cleobury Mortimer high street. Suitably refreshed we turned off the Cleobury high street and headed towards Neen Sollars, Mable and along The Teme Valley to pass Shelsley Walsh, Shelsley Beauchamp and up and over Woodbury Hill. Our return route took us to Bliss Gate, Heightington, Dunley and along the Severn to Bewdley and over Habberley Hill and through Wolverley to our lunch stop at The Old Waggon and Horses. It was time for voting for The Flight of Fantasy Award



and voting proved our riders have a wide interest and enthusiasm for the machines that others love and cherish but the motorcycle which came out 'on top' was the splendid little 1933 250 BSA of Moss Hardy. It looks a treat, runs very sweetly and will be remembered fondly as the last restoration of the late Colin Lloyd. Well done Moss she's a credit to you and I'm sure Trevor would have approved of the selection.

Some final observations if I may. Martyn Griffiths was observed in a deep and meaningful conversation with a group of young motorcyclists who arrived at Tony's (right). The question is was he selling the virtues of our vintage movement to the next generation or simply negotiating the price of a 'slick' 125 for his own amusement. In all her years of motorcycling Lesley Goodhall had never come across a Dratsab before. To much merriment and mirth, husband Ian



enlightened the lovely Lesley and it was suggested she'd met many in the past!!! Finally, sincere apologies for the poor quality of your voting slips. I had produced a set well up to Brexit standards but sadly due to the high speed of my Dratsab they had blown out of the wicker basket en-route. It's been said that Neen Sollars was showered with confetti and will never be the same. Ladies and gentlemen I sincerely hope you enjoyed your day out as much as I did. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the start of next year's event.

Bill Danks