

1st September - The 'Flight of Fantasy' Run

Two weeks of glorious summer sunshine and would it last for our 'Flight of Fantasy' Run? Now the 'Flight of Fantasy' is not intended to be a 'concoors' event but 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. Fortunately for all parties concerned the day damned dull but dry.

Now the late Trevor Bull, god bless him, many years ago proposed this Run whereby the participants voted for the machine they would most like to ride home regardless of age or condition and to this end he made from solid silver, a 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. Early arrivals included the Goodhalls of Kidderminster on their mighty and immaculate Norton Commando 750 and Rob Todd on his Matchless G80, a pair from the once mighty Associated Motorcycles.

Sticking with 'the pairs' theme it was a splendid to see Stuart Monroe on his escape from hospital and Mike Cutler on their rare and possibly unique 400cc Automatic Hondas. The last 'pair' in our mix was the Velocette's of John Shaw and Dave Roberts. Messrs Higgins, Spencer, Fitzpatrick and Minton gave us a splendid turnout of immaculate BSA Twins and Team Triumph was represented by 350, 500 and 650cc twins of Messrs Harley, Heap, Williams and Woodward.



Now I must report, in the nicest possible way, an Italian invasion and what a mix it was! From the delicate 175 Gilera of Pete Fisher, through the Morini of Neil Trinder, the V50 Guzzi of Alan Bromwich to the immaculate Triking three-wheeler of Paul and Chris Harris, well it has a mighty V twin Guzzi motor 'up front'. On the 'singles front' I turned up on my son-in-law's Ariel Red Hunter (left), bought new by his grandfather Les Dunn from Copes of Bearwood in 1937,

and Chairman Martyn Round on the ex-Trevor Bull, ex-Harold Badham 1930 Model 5 Sunbeam (right), a bike associated with our North Birmingham Section for the last 50, yes 50 years. Finally and the pleasant surprise of the day was the arrival at Tony's of Pat and Brian Emsall with their venerable, well-used, but trusty 1928 Model N Triumph combination.



So off we set off at 10.30 heading for Six Ashes, then onto Alverley, Shatterford, Trimpley and using the scenic back-road into Bewdley with its splendid views across the Severn Valley to the Clee Hills and beyond. After a compulsory stop in Bewdley

for a well-deserved ice-cream, with sprinkles, at Teddy Grey's, we headed out from Bewdley, our route taking us along the River Severn to Dunley where we headed up Hurtle Hill, through Heightington and along the Ridgeway, with its magnificent views of The Malverns and onto Bliss Gate, Rock and Abberley. From Abberley we hit the Bromyard Road with its drop down into the glorious Teme Valley before starting our return route via Pensax, Clows Top and Mawley Oak to our coffee stop at The Larches.

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. Our Italian visitors, the BSA and Triumph twins were all vote winners but the machines which came out 'top of the pops' were the Ariel Red Hunter and the Model 5 Sunbeam with equal votes. As the run organizer I made the casting vote and awarded the silver Spitfire to Martyn Round and the Sunbeam. Well done Martyn she runs so sweetly and is a credit to you. As a previous custodian, I'm sure Trevor would have approved of the selection.

From The Larches it was a gentle and scenic run through the peaks and troughs of the Severn Valley to Bridgnorth and onto the conclusion of our run at Tony's Diner at Quatford.

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

