

Ride a Bike Night – 6th July 2016

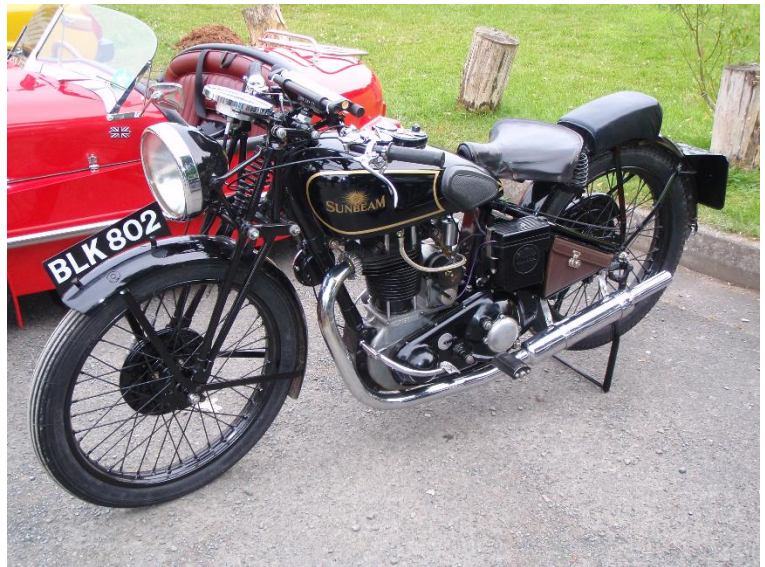
In the run up to Ride a Bike night we had an entertaining bout of the traditional North Birmingham Where's the Bloomin Cup game. Last year's winner, Keith Little, should have had it, but said he hadn't seen it since being photographed with it as Peter Ashen had kept it for engraving. Nonetheless, Keith went on to spend much of the next few days searching his loft. Alan Bromwich had the other cup, which had been engraved, but couldn't remember under what circumstances he had got it back, or whether Keith had been stood next to him. I thought it unlikely that Peter had it as he had relinquished cup retention duties to my own wife and we had been and collected them all. It seemed unlikely he would have kept one back. Alan Bromwich checked with him, but to no avail. I checked the cups that we had, twice, but it wasn't there. Maybe our Chairman, Martyn Round might know something, perhaps he had it if it had come to a club night to be presented but Keith wasn't there. The first problem with making that enquiry was stopping Martyn laughing! So, no cup. Never mind we have a couple of spares, one bought as a replacement during a previous 'lost' cup farrago (it then turned up), I could take one of those to present while we waited for the real one to be found. It was a pleasant evening, dry, and staff at the Round



Oak Inn at Wombourne had kindly taped off an area of car park right next to the pub for our exclusive use. Bikes started arriving, both regular members, others that we see less often, and some visitors with interesting machinery. Paul and Chris Harris were signing members on if they wanted to go off on the 26 mile run into nearby countryside and along the Sheepwalks. I couldn't go but by all accounts it was a lovely ride. During all this Peter Ashen had arrived carrying a box.... Yes, of course it was the Harry Haddock Cup, it had never got to Keith after all. Never mind, once I had thrust it into Keith's hands I was able to remind him that it should have been brought back clean. It's surely a mark of Keith's good nature and sense of humour that he promptly set to with the Brasso (left), rather than inserting the tin where I'm really glad he didn't!







Above, clockwise from Bottom left: Martyn Griffiths with his very shiny 1953 Matchless G9; Jonathan Clarke with his rather less shiny 1959 BSA B31; a visitor's Vincent Black Shadow; and Paul Hutton's 1935 Sunbeam M95L, with below it details of the tank top instruments and the gorgeous massive speedometer.

Previous page: top, a good selection of post-war machinery; below a pair of vintage Sunbeams, the nearest one being David Spruce's 1924 Model 4.

Once the riders had returned from the run the judges, Ian Harris and Alan Bromwich set to considering their verdicts, in due course awarding the George Burrows Cup to Maurice Hardy's 1933 250 BSA. This very pretty little bike was the last one to be restored by Colin Lloyd, who we lost earlier in the year, and he would have been very pleased both that it is in use in the Section, and that it had won an award.

The Harry Haddock Cup was awarded to Fred Etchells very tidy and standard 1960 BSA A7.

