



The somewhat irregular newsletter of the North
Staffordshire branch of the BSA owners club

April 2009



Jon's new B31 but no doubt he has already told you all about it!

red marley hill climb

Red Marley Hill Climb is always an event to look forward to and this year I was looking forward to watching some of the pre-65 trial that always takes place on Easter Sunday, the day before the hill climb. On Sunday morning, Jon and I met up with Myles, Derek, Jeff and Roger at the petrol station on Sutton Maddock Island. I was letting the side down a little by not riding a BSA, the Tribsa clutch being in pieces at the time, but at least this meant Derek didn't feel obliged to point out that the Tribsa isn't a Real BSA. Firstly, we headed for the cafe at Quat for some refreshment. This was not uneventful. The car park was very full and I parked the Serow on the hill, Jon parked his B31 slightly uphill from the Serow. Without warning the B31 slid down the hill and knocked the unsuspecting Serow over, narrowly missing a new and expensive looking bike and sending my helmet bouncing down the hill. With a little help, the Yam was soon upright again and parked safely and was found to be fairly unscathed by the incident. Having checked it over, we set off for Red Marley. Things seemed to be going well when the Jon's B31, in front of me, started making some disturbing noises and a big orange flame shot out of the exhaust pipe. Just as I was expecting it to come to a halt, it picked up again and seemed to be back to normal. Then came more strange noises following by billowing black smoke. This time Jon, Derek and I found a handy layby to stop in and investigate the problem.. Myles, Roger and Jeff soon came back to help. Investigation showed that one of the push rods had decided it no longer wished to contribute to the smooth running of the B31 and had completely detached itself. Many hands make light work and this was soon rectified.



We arrived at Red Marley without further mishap. As the happy campers set up their tents, Jon and I began to regret that we had decided not to camp – so much so, that Jon rode my bike home and fetched the car with a mattress in the back and all the other necessary requirements for a night sleeping in a car!

While he was gone, I went to watch some of the trial while the others made themselves comfortable with some liquid refreshment. It was too hot to bother walking far so I only watched one section of the trial and wish I had made more of an effort as it was very entertaining with lots of interesting bikes taking part.



After spending some time looking around the pit area we eventually headed for the bar, only to find we were the first ones there. We also observed that it was so cold in the marquee that you could see your breath even though it was “like summer” outside, as Jon kept reminding us. There was a decent band playing for entertainment and it proved to be a lively and enjoyable evening - had it been less lively we might have frozen to death. All in all, £5 for privilege of camping and being entertained seemed like a good deal to me (although the beer prices were a little steep!).

The following morning, at about 7.30am, we were awakened by a cheery cry of “Good Morning Riders” from the loudspeaker. There seemed little point in trying to sleep for longer since the practice sessions were due to start at 9.00 so we crawled out into the daylight and started to think about breakfast and a cuppa. It was a very misty morning but this cleared and it turned out to be a warm, sunny day, just the thing for watching more energetic folk race up a ridiculously steep hill.

We had all read about “Rev” in the most recent Star and his budget built 1956 BSA A10 he had put together for Red Marley and were pleased to see it in the pit area and made a mental note to look out for him in the hill climb. I think he had a couple of mishaps, one due to having to avoid another rider who had come to grief, but he had two finishes – 36.19 and 35.72 – so well done Rev!



Another BSA of note was little Bertie Bantam, a 1969 Bantam 175, who with his owner Karen Kazy Ferrier bravely attempted the hill. Unfortunately, they did not finish but you have to applaud the attempt – and he is a Very Good looking Bantam (I think so anyway!)



As always, the hill climb was brilliant to watch – whether you were willing some of the slower bikes to make it to the top or marvelling at the speed of the faster riders – the sounds and smells of the bikes at Red Marley are simply intoxicating (although I am not sure about Derek’s idea for scented candles).

The Allcomers title was won by Arthur Browning “King of the Hill” on his 1965 Jawa Metisse 500 and the fastest time of the day, and a new hill record, was taken by Carl Pope on a 1968 BSA 500.



Badge on the tank says BSA, the results page on the Red Marley website say this is Vincent Priestley on a 1938 Ariel Red Hunter 500. Lovely bike, whatever it is!

Hazel

PS If you type in Red Marley 2009 as a search on You Tube, there are a couple of films of the hill from the riders’ point of view.

Events

April 2009:

Sun 25th - Sun 26th - Classic Motorcycle Show, Stafford County Showground. Come and meet us on the BSAOC stand and see some of our members' bikes, alongside the Daytona Bikes

May 2009

Fri 1st - Sun 3rd - Birmingham Branch Camp 2009. Engine and Tender pub campsite, Broome, Nr Craven Arms, Shropshire. Saturday rideout.

Fri 8th - Sun 10th - South Cheshire Branch's "Monstrous" May Camp, including a trip out to the Thundersprint.
www.cheshirebsa.co.uk

July 2009

Fri-Sun 3-4-5th - VJMC Uttoxeter Motorcycle Show. We are having the North Staffs branch camp at this event. Tickets can be obtained from the following: By post - VJMC Uttoxeter Motorcycle Show, PO Box 21671, Falkirk, FT1 9AL or By 'Phone - 01324 410519. In both instances, please state BSAOC Rally, your full name, address, current membership number and branch.

Footnote

Please send any contributions for either the newsletter or the website to editor@bsaoc-northstaffs.co.uk or hazel@hazelclarke.orangehome.co.uk

These can be autojumble items, requests for information/help, reports of events, forthcoming events, news about your projects, photos, recommended suppliers, bike friendly places to visit, interesting websites – absolutely anything you would like to see in the newsletter. If you don't have internet/email access, please give me details at the meetings, your contributions can still be included in the newsletter.

You may have noticed the lack of newsletter in recent months – apologies for that but this will now be remedied. Hopefully, there will be a newsletter every month, certainly every two months depending on contributions received. Please send Stuff for inclusion in the newsletter, otherwise you will just be subjected to pictures of bits of my B40 rebuild and the purple B31!!

Any questions or suggestions to either of the above email addresses (or in person) please.

Thanks.

Hazel

