



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

June 2009



BSA Bantam at the Stafford Show

Stanford Hall Run

It was a bright sunny cloudless Sunday morning, (yes, it really was) when Jeff, Derrick and myself set off from the car park of the Turf pub Cannock, to meet up with other club members at a lay-by in Tamworth.

Upon arrival at the lay-by Jeff and Derrick proudly showed off their latest 'must have bike accessory'. This was a state of art, fold away cup/glass/beer can/wine bottle holder which was attached to the front of their top boxes. We sat there waving to passing bike riders, scooterists! and anyone else who waved at us, until we heard the approaching sound of a convoy of BSA's throbbing engines. Then all three of them came around the corner and pulled into the lay-by. There was Colin, Roger, and last not but not least Phil (Captain Kipper) with his new look extra short hair cut. The reason for this new look was because he put the trimmer on the wrong setting, then did one cut down the middle of this head which resulted in him having a reverse Mohican!! Not liking that look, he cut all the rest of it that short.

As my bike was at the front of the line, it was me who had the job of leading the pack. Riding a single cylinder 250 I did not want to hold back the twins, so I set a brisk pace along the A5 only to be asked on arrival at Stanford Hall if I was on some sort of mission to get there. Captain Kipper's computer showed an average speed of 42mph and a top speed of 62 mph, not bad for a B25ss Goldstar.

Arriving at the main gate both mine and Phil's bike cut out. However, a few kicks later they both started, but by now a queue had formed behind us, we caused even more of a hold up as we searched for our passes.

We headed across the field to find the Cheshire branch BSA stand. Ray Burgess Low and his helpers waved us in and we joined the already impressive line up, swelling its numbers by another six.

Then began the arduous task of wading through all the jumble stalls to find those parts we so desperately need to keep our mighty steeds on the road. In the blinding sun and blistering heat we staggered round gathering our spares, past the queues for the loos, past the over priced burger bars and then back to our bikes with their cup holders and packed sandwiches.

Ray asked for volunteers to go around the show ring on their bikes. Our dynamic trio of Jeff, Derrick and Phil boldly went forth and faced the public gaze and circumnavigated the show ring without so much as a rear wheel twitch (see pictures).

After the brave trio returned to the BSA stand, we passed the rest of our time chatting to show-goers about their and our BSA trials and tribulations. A few more cups of tea were drunk; putting the new cup holders to use, then a decision was made to head for home.

After a few tactical moves by yours truly, (as not to strain the twin cylinder bikes by having to keep up with my single cylinder B25ss Goldstar's speed!!) Colin took the lead following the A5 towards home. Along the way riders peeled off to arrive at their own homes having enjoyed a good day out in great company and good weather.

We would all like to thank Cheshire branch for their very warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Arthur (him who bangs the table on club nights)



UTTOXETER SHOW LINE-UP

The following bikes will be on the stand at Uttoxeter:

I Lancett - A10 Gold Flash

C Podmore - B40

J Berrow - Gold Star 500

D Elliot - RGS Lookalikee

C Rogers - Barracuda

H Clarke - B31

H Swetnam - A10 Rocket

B Evans Jnr - Boxer

C Lees - S F Special

C Harrison - BSA Raffle Bike A65

The show takes place on July Fri-Sun 3-4-5th - 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.

EVENTS

July 3rd-5th - Uttoxeter Show (as above)

July 4th-5th - Severn Valley Railway 1940s weekend

July 5th - Bridge Bikerz Cosford RAF Museum Bikemeet 10.00am - 4.00pm.
Free entrance to museum. www.bridgebikerz.co.uk

July 12th - Mill Meece pumping station classic motorbike rally
www.millmeecepumpingstation.co.uk

August 1st - Betley Show (near Crewe) - there will be some bikes & cars there as well as the usual rural show type things such as (last year) goose herding with dogs (like one man & his dog without sheep). Space for bikes is usually tight and there may not be room for more to be shown but we could try for those interested. There criterion is pre 1970. Steve Share has details.

September 10th, 11th, 12th - SVR Beer Festival at Bridgnorth Station.

September 12th-13th - Open weekend at Apedale Valley Light Railway at Chesterton on the north side of Newcastle under Lyme. Steve Share has access to entry forms should anyone wish to take their bike for show. Last year those who displayed vehicles received a rather nice aluminium plaque.

October 11th - Severn Valley Railway Classic Car and Bike.

ROYAL ENFIELD OPEN DAY, SHREWSBURY

It has just been chucking it down with rain, which reminded me of last month's open day at the Enfield dealers in Shrewsbury! It was a good day out last year and we like to support local businesses so we thought it would make a nice outing. The weather looked a bit iffy as Jon, Rhys and I were getting ready to set off but a few miles down the road it was fairly torrential and by the time we were getting close to Shrewsbury my new boots were full of water and my goggles were steaming up such that I couldn't see my way on to the roundabouts let alone find which exit to take off them. Still, we managed to get there ok and there were several other bikes who had braved the weather, including Myles (of course!).

It seemed sensible to head inside and try and dry out and warm up, with the aid of a bacon sandwich and a cup of tea. The new Enfields, parked outside in the rain, looked very nice from where we were standing indoors but I couldn't quite bring myself to look any closer yet. After a while, the clouds started to clear, revealing sunshine – enough sunshine that I was able to dry out my gloves and venture out and look at the new Enfields. I rather like the look of them. Like a lot of Enfields, some of the wiring looks as if it could be tidier but that's easy to sort so, on balance, I'd be pleased if I was given one. Or won one. Or won the money to buy one. Whichever, I'm not fussy!



There were some other interesting bikes in the car park, my favourite being this Norton (above), which belongs to one of the Priestley brothers who race up Red Marley hill every year. He admitted it has been modified a bit! The little James below was for sale, at what I seem to remember was a reasonable price. Just as well I have no money and no shed space!



There was an organised ride-out with Phil Read but we decided to give that a miss as Jon didn't want to embarrass Phil by leaving him behind. The truth is, we had just finished drying out and thought we would head for home before it started raining again.

It was an enjoyable morning out despite the weather and we'll certainly make the effort to go again next year.

Hazel

WEBSITES

www.thebsa.tk – BSA motorcycles and other BSA products

www.bikemanualman.co.uk – various bike manuals available on CD

www.tradeclassicbikes.co.uk – BSA and other spares, club discount scheme

I haven't purchased anything from any of the above sites, they have either been recommended by others or the link has been sent to me via the website email address.

WETTON HILL

Some pictures from John Holdcroft, taken at Wetton Mill



Gerry and Peter at Wetton Mill, with Peter's very pretty 250cc BSA



And another shot of that lovely Beesa!

HARVEY

Another picture from John Holdcroft, this time of Harvey riding his Seeley G50 Mk3 at Darley Moor in the CRMC Classic Meeting on 16 May. This was the only dry session he got out of four over the weekend.



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

