



COTSWOLD VALE TR **NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016**

And a Very Happy New Year to all our readers!

Usually there are a few bits “hung over” from the last edition, this month is no exception, so the prize for the biggest hangover goes to - Dave Lees, shown here “enjoying” a festive New Year curry:-



(Ed comment - how hot was that Dave? - nice illuminated hat by the way)

19th January – St Richards Hospice “Investigatory” Meeting



St. Richard's Hospice
CARING FOR LIFE

As discussed at the last meeting in 2015, and after consulting with Lesley Boother, Andrew Racey and I arranged to meet up with the fundraising coordinator. The meeting was organised to check out any potential opportunities to support the Hospice and its many fundraising activities, as well as perhaps coming up with some innovative ideas for the use of our cars in a planned and coordinated way alongside their already well established events.

Our suggestions concerned using the cars and our resources in order to generate income rather than (or as well as) CVTR members contributing themselves.

A variety of things from both our and St Richards standpoint were proposed and discussed, and more developments will be communicated as things progress, but one idea put forward was to have one of the CVTR Sunday Lunches at the hospice, a two course meal with proceeds going directly to them, using resources they already had – please check your diary and if there was one Sunday Lunch to attend this year, this one would be worthy of considering, date TBA!

Here is Andrew's take on the meeting:-

Following our last meeting in November, it was agreed by the membership that we should focus CVTR's fund raising activities in 2016 on St Richards Hospice. With this in mind, Ian Brown and I met with one of the fund raising coordinators, at St Richards Hospice, to discuss how we can help them throughout the year.

Very successful meeting where we talked about maybe having one of our Sunday lunches at the hospice, followed by a talk on what they do there (apart from palliative care), and a look around for those who wish to view their facilities. Two course lunch (with a pudding with custard) with profit going to the hospice.

We will of course have a collection box at all our meetings and events throughout the year. It was suggested that we have a few cars at the hospice in the spring to "launch" our year of involvement and a photo opportunity. The hospice has a number of day patients who maybe would like a trip out in an open top car, we confirmed we are more than happy to help. They also have various fund raising actives during the year and will give us details nearer the events as to how we can help support them.

So it's watch this space over the next few months.

Andrew Racey

20th January – Social Event Planning Meeting

Well it was icy and foggy, and although it deterred our TRDC colleagues travelling long distances, nine of our more local members made it to the Fleece to try and get some order into the calendar of events for 2016. Members will since have received an outline diary of organised events that have been "confirmed", together with a list of activities that are potentially to be arranged should there be sufficient interest. Once again this list has been circulated, with members asking to respond with any preferences, and with the opportunity to add things they themselves would be prepared to organise if other members wished to join in.

Members were also able to register their interest at the January meeting at the Fleece, and with a response deadline of 14th February, it is proposed to have the results of the feedback ready to discuss at the February meeting.

23rd January – CVTR Awards Dinner, Dumbleton Hall



Ably organised once again by Bob Heppel, CVTR members gathered together to enjoy the Awards Dinner at the lovely Dumbleton Hall.

Whilst numbers were down this year on previous attendances, those who "gave it a miss" probably "missed out" on one of the most enjoyable dinners CVTR has staged for some time.

The food was excellent, a marked step up from some of last year's efforts, the staff, quietly effective and efficient, the entertainment very good, and the company top notch as ever!

Prior to moving into the dining room, members were encouraged to assemble on the main staircase for a group photograph,



After the meal, Andrew Racey stepped up to deliver the award citations, and before making any announcements he confirmed that all the awards were known and approved by Colin before he passed away. Ceremonial duties of handshaking were undertaken by me, with TRusty cameraman Richard Durrant snapping away.

Dip Stick Award - as the recipient of this award was not at our dinner it will be presented at a later date (see January meeting review)

Car of The Year Award - as voted by CVTR members goes to Alan Wilding for his TR6. Unfortunately Alan was not able to attend and was duly presented with his award at the January meeting, see below.

Carbon Foot Print Award - John and Yvonne Walker, who travel the furthest of our CVTR members to attend meetings and social events.



Special Awards - to those members who have gone the “extra mile “ during the year to support CVTR. Brian Wiggins - organised three events in 2015 and that’s with working away from home during the week.



The second “Special Award” recipient was none other than **Richard Durrant** for the photography and reporting contributions to our newsletter
(Unfortunately there doesn’t appear to be any record of any photograph as perhaps Andrew Racey was unfamiliar with Richard’s equipment.....)

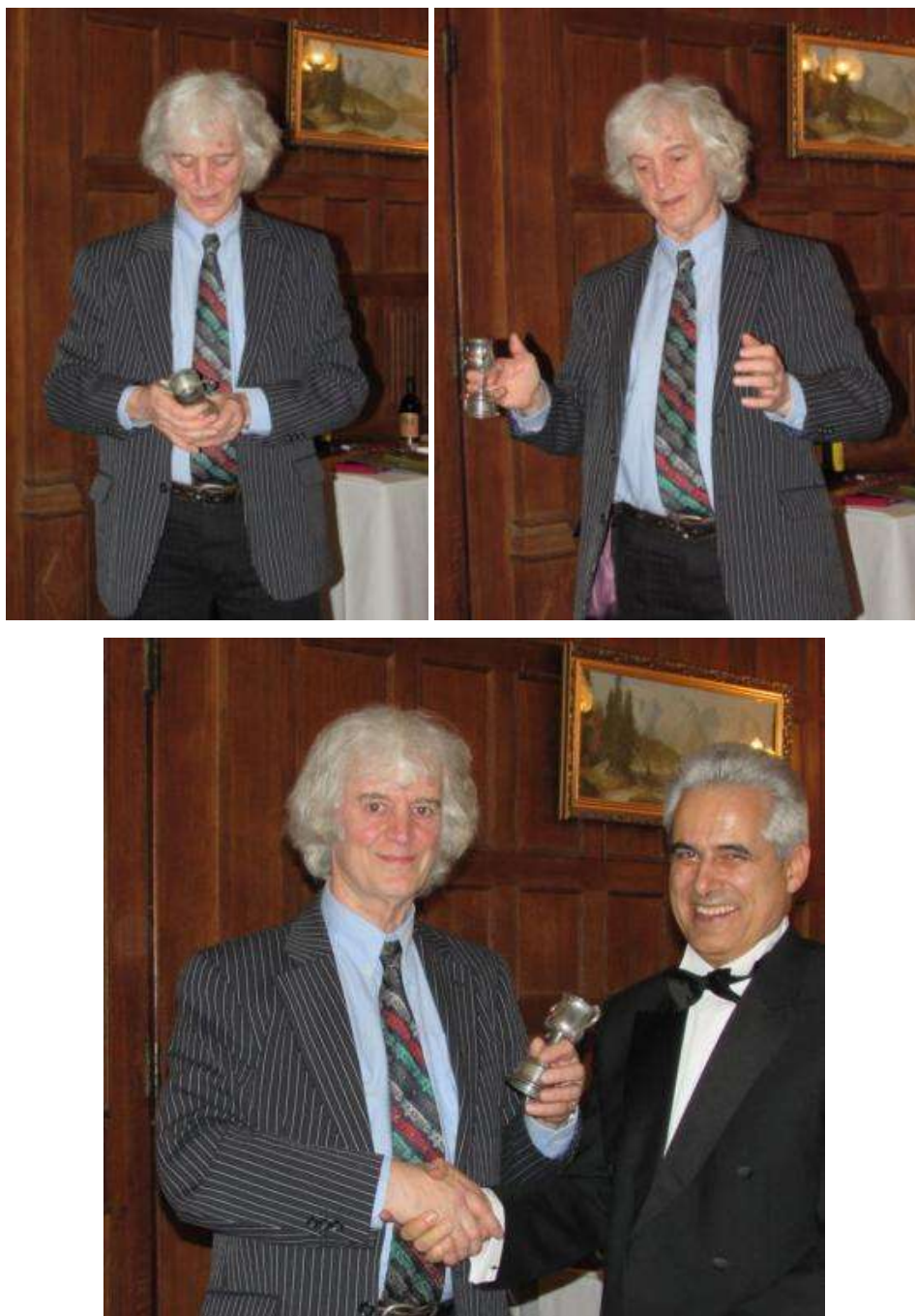
Friends of Cotswold Vale – Dave and Lorna Newberry who have attended a number of CVTR during the past 12 months.



Tony Holland Memorial Trophy - David Gillespie for his fantastic job on his TR3A



Sods Law Trophy - Brian Wiggins who started what he thought was a small job on the rear bearing of his TR6 and ended up almost rebuilding the back end (with some support from Keith Brown). Keith Brown then stood up and we were expecting to hear the next episode in the plumbing and drainage saga....or was it to be a fishing tale...

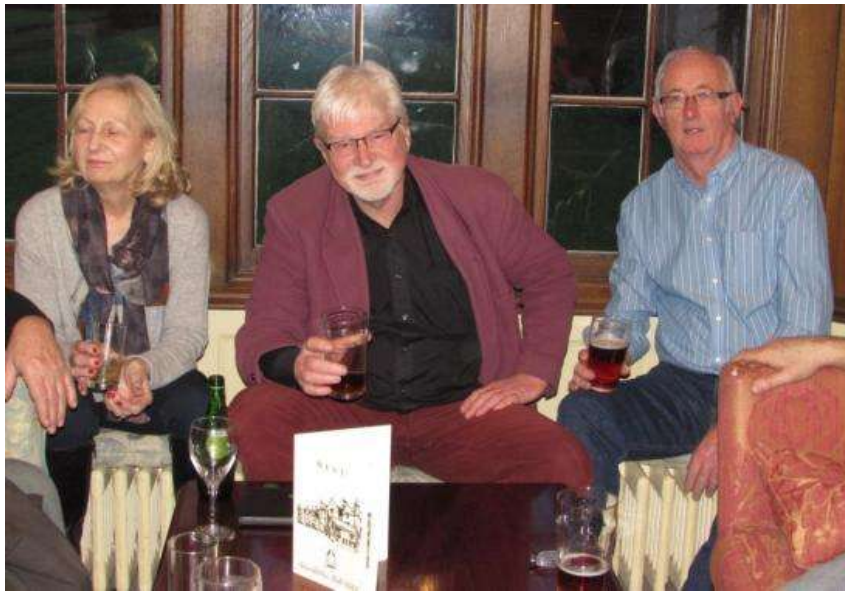


No report would be complete without an irreverent overview from one of our award winners, so here you go.....

COTSWOLD VALE ANNUAL DINNER 2016 DUMBLETON HALL

A picture portfolio from the latest Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation Evening, organised once again by Bob Heppell, supported by Rose and with assistance from the CVTR team Andrew Racey, Ian Brown, Keith Brown and of course the excellent staff of Dumbleton Hall.

A number of guests were staying overnight, so arrived in the afternoon and immediately proceeded to the bar.....



.....with the inevitable result....



We then changed into our finery, and the organiser received congratulations in the approved (by him!!) fashion...



The photographer then moved in for his...



Just in case you were wondering, the strap is Meg's handbag....!!

We then moved to the dining room for a splendid meal...



Our host and his good lady...



....and see if you can identify yourselves in this selection....



Dave and Cat had obviously noticed an interesting stain on the tablecloth..



...and Linda disagreed strongly with a comment made by the person on her right.
(identity deleted, but check the other pictures!!)



Rob made an amateurish effort to match the shade of his lipstick to his bow tie...



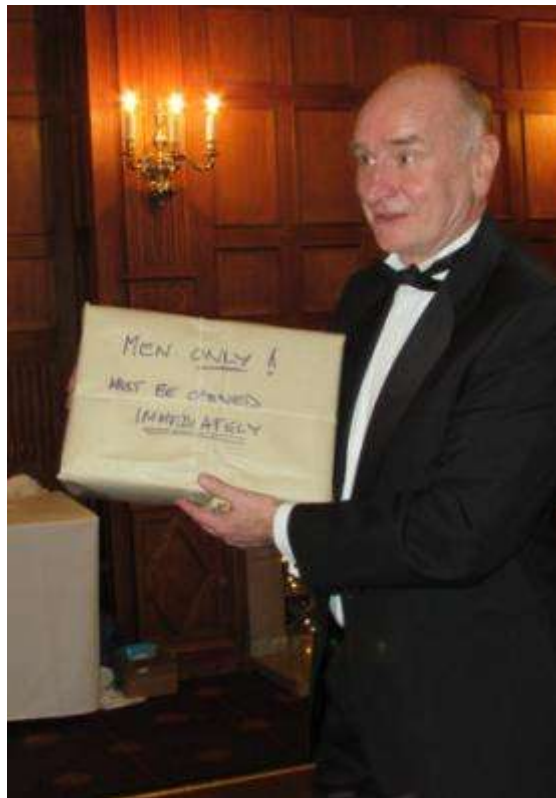
(I'll be looking over my shoulder for a while Rob, but I do have back up pictures....!)

Andrew then brought the meeting to order with a brief sermon, while Keith went into his arm-twisting routine with raffle tickets...



And the awards were duly consigned to the worthy recipients!

Keith then opened the raffle, which progressed well with all the blokes avoiding a suspicious looking parcel, until Ian was told by Sue to choose it.....



Ian followed the instructions....

...until he got to the last wrapper, and realised what he had let himself in for....



Ian took the hilarity in good spirit, and left the room. We didn't expect to see him back, but.....



...after he had regained his composure (zips can be excruciatingly painful!), Ian gave us an indication of one of his earlier lifestyle choices...



Just so you know that Ian isn't the only one to get caught!
Derby Dales weekend 2015....(images by Cat)



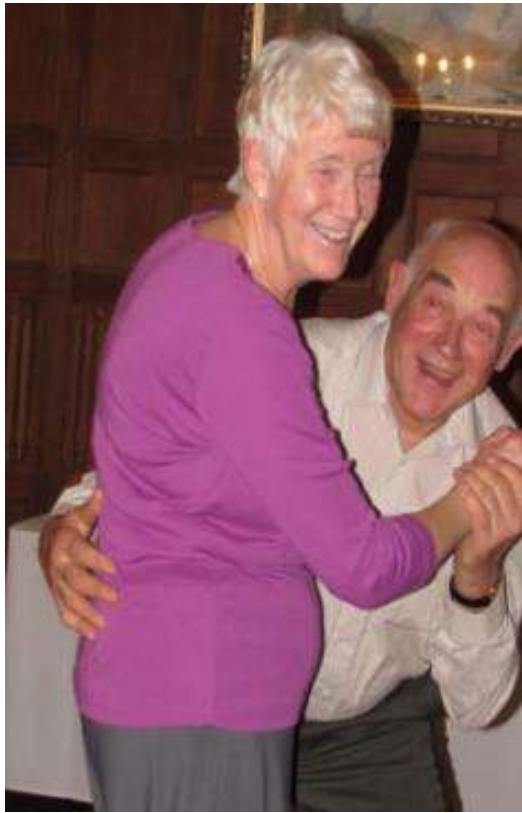
The music and dancing then commenced, provided by Chris Smith..



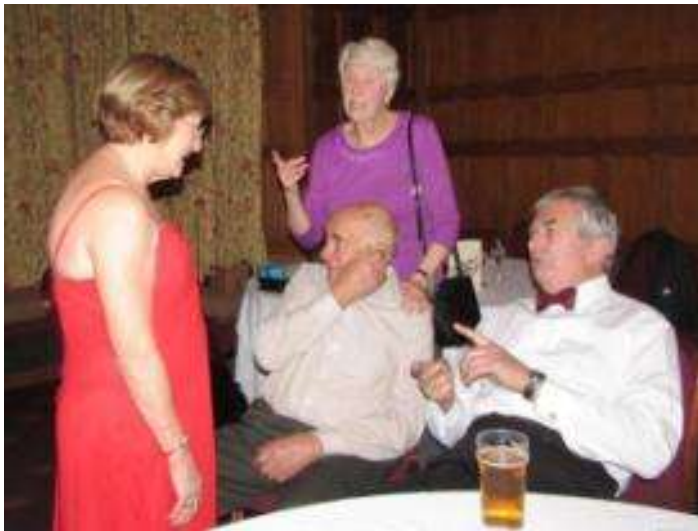
Host and hostess hit the floor in a clinch.... until something went wrong and they parted!!



Alfred and Pat demonstrated a new dance technique and then everybody got bored....



As the evening progressed, small groups got together for a rest and a chat....



I understand that Meg needs to have a word with Dave and Pat about what they said which caused such hilarity!! The Party finished at midnight and happy people set off home, apart from the usual suspects who retired to the bar. At around 2 am we noticed a member of staff tidying the lounge around us, so we did the decent thing and retired to bed.

Finally, a repeat of the group picture from the beginning of the evening, as those taken at the end aren't suitable for general consumption!!



Thanks again Bob for organising another splendid Annual Dinner Evening.

Richard and Meg Durrant

And for those Richard may have missed, you may be amongst this selection.....



Ed – my apologies to anyone missed out in this montage, and to those caught with other member's partners!

Our thanks also go to Meg for the knitted Ferrero Rocher chocolate cosies; we are amassing quite a collection.

Ian Brown

CVTR January 2016 Meeting

Apologies:- Andy Canning, Phil and Sandy Blake, Brian Wiggins, Dave and Sally Roberts.
32 members attended with two TR's in the car park.

In the absence of a Group Leader, Ian Brown chaired the meeting with help from Andrew Racey.

We started with a presentation of two awards held over from the Annual dinner.

Car of the year presented to Alan Wilding (as voted by the members) for his TR6.



The honour of **“The Dip Stick Award”** went to **Terry Smith** who turned up at Stoneleigh a week in advance of the event.



Ian reported on the various events and activities since we last met in November as described above, and from the December report.

This included feedback on our visit to St Richards Hospice which is CVTR's nominated charity for the year. We will hopefully hold a Sunday lunch at The Hospice in May, with further events as the year progresses. This could include us taking a car or two along for day patients to have a run out in, to auctioning a trip in a TR to a restaurant. We may also be asked to put a display on at some of their summer events and give people rides in cars –for a fee. We will also have a collecting box at our meetings and events throughout the year. So watch this space.

Following our November meeting where Andrew fed back his discussion with Chris Hale reference an alleged comment made at the international on “ CVTR being free loaders for tickets “. Keith Brown read an email from Chris who refuted making such a comment. Alan Wilding refuted this note with his personal knowledge of events.

Keith also asked the meeting to consider a proposal to support the official nomination of further “officials” of CVTR to avoid him or hopefully our new GL being the only people recognised by the Register. As some other groups do he suggested that the news team and web site editor are officially nominated as officers of CVTR. Members are asked to give this some thought before the next meeting.

Ian Brown then went through a suggested list of events throughout the year and asked members - both at the meeting and when they read the list attached to the minutes to indicate those that they would be interested in attending. Once we have that list we will then feedback where we have sufficient number to warrant setting up the event.

Keith Brown then ran the usual raffle.

Future Events

February 14th –Was highlighted as a Sunday lunch, however as we have no one identified to run it and it is St Valentine’s day it was decided to cancel the lunch.

February 21st - MG/Triumph spares day at Stoneleigh

February 24th - CVTR AGM, and normal meeting at The Fleece. We really do need someone to step up and take on the role of GL. He or she will of course be supported by the team of CVTR.

February 26-28th –Race Retro –Stoneleigh

March 5/6th - NEC Practical Classics Restoration show (MVC575 will be on the TR Register stand)

March 13th - VC Rally cars talk by Ian Cornish and Graham Robson, at Prescott, see TR Action and the registers web site for details.

March 20th - Sunday lunch, we need someone PLEASE to organise this event.

March 23rd - CVTR meeting at the Fleece.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Just a note of appreciation for all the work that went into the recent dinner at Dumbleton Hall, as we are all too well aware from the reality of Colin's passing in 2015 none of us have any control over our destiny or future, but our journey is truly enhanced by evenings such as the CVTR Annual Awards Dinner.

Jane and I had a lovely time catching up with the friends that mean so much to us and the camaraderie was very evident throughout the evening.

Bob Heppell did a brilliant job of organising the menu, seating and music.

So often at these events the menu doesn't do justice to the excellent results that turn up on the plate and Dumbleton Hall was no exception, the food was excellent with plenty to go round.

Lets hope that we can look forward to 2016 with renewed hope and welcome a new Group Leader who not only will get our full support but be part of a well respected TR Register Group

Thanks to the Team, - Andrew, Ian, Keith, Richard and of course Meg who provided the usual knitted chocolate covers and of course last but not least to all of those who turned up and made an evening (that personally I was not looking forward to) so exceptional and memorable.

Andy & Jane Canning

Dear Editor

Re the Awards Dinner

It was another great evening and night over despite the fewer numbers and we very much hope this event will continue.

I will be emailing Bob to thank and congratulate him.

Sadly that won't be at the meeting on Wednesday as I have to send my apologies from Batley yet again!

I was completely taken aback by the, not one, but two awards on Saturday but also delighted in equal measure. I consider myself to be a fairly minor player in 'absentia' who enjoys the cars and the group when I'm able to do so which is of course nowhere near as much as I would like it to be!

I wish to thank the Group for both awards which will be treasured for the 12 months there're in our possession. I am now 'spurred on' and determined to have both Trailing Arm assemblies back on the car by the end of next weekend. Then all I have to do is turn the car around and sort the front end out!

As Andy said at the Dinner, I'm sure all of us appreciate the work put in by you, Andrew, Keith and Richard to share the load of administration during this difficult period and doubtless that will continue even when a new GL is appointed.

(I note from the diary that an Autumn Leaves run is not on the schedule but just in case that means it can be added later, I'm happy to organise this again as well as the October lunch. If so we can discuss the format if there are any suggestions about alternative destinations, routes, distances etc.)

Regards

Brian Wiggins

TECHNICAL SECTION

Looks like Brian Wiggins has been very busy yet again:-

The wheel bearings have already been replaced on both sides by Keith into the original hub assemblies which are now coupled to new and uprated drive shafts from PropTech. Fortunately I did find a few hours over Christmas to lay out the new parts and then sub-assemble both trailing arms ready to go back on the car. The TA brackets and shims are original powder coated and replated respectively.

A slight concern is that one of the four bolts that hold the TA brackets on one side was very badly corroded which might indicate that the section of the chassis frame through it fits might be corroded as well! The prayer mat and a torch are ready to have a closer look asap. Hopefully that won't be the case so full re-assembly can commence!



(Ed comment, either your garage floor is nicely tiled or Gill is very understanding!)

Brian Wiggins

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Last month I left you with an extract from the same period of time in 1990, 25 years ago..... and it took some searching to find that the next CVTR entry in TR Action was exactly one year later....December 1991/January 1992

COTSWOLD VALE

John Gibbons

What a great spell of sunny weather to finish the summer season with. Just as well really, when I look back to that wet Saturday at the International at Stafford show ground in June. Maybe we should consider moving this event to August or September in future. I think the Concours event this year was a great success, really great that Sunday's weather dried up enough to allow the concours winners to display their cars for the benefit of enthusiasts and members alike. I hope the concours team has something planned along similar lines at Bath and West show ground next year.

We have had a good summer with the usual Sunday lunchtime drinks around the Cotswolds, even if the wheel bearing failure prevented me from attending our session at the Mount Stanton!

Glavon's TR Poseurs run went really well, even if I did manage to take the wrong turning on our home territory. (Never was much good at map reading while driving with my knees!). Thanks Steve for your invitation, and thanks for your excellent newsletter you never fail to send me each month!

I was unable to attend the Group Leaders' meeting in October due to the recession causing havoc with my spending budget. However, Cotswold Vale no doubt, will be attending the AGM at Hopcrofts Holt in November.

Our Christmas dinner will be held on Friday, 13th December (so fishermen are definitely not being invited!) at Cellars Wine Bar, Evesham at 8 p.m.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Birmingham Group for their hospitality at Stafford, in letting me share their barbecue under an umbrella, for Glavon Group in their very social approach to other local Groups and to all Cotswold Vale members who have taken the time and effort to support the events held throughout the year. A Happy Christmas and safe New Year to you all out there.

By the way Mr. Redway, I understand you have been experiencing trouble with your TR7 cylinder head, apparently the seizure of the thread rods is very common. I did read somewhere that "soaking" the entire block in diesel for three weeks should do the trick. I suggest you buy a cheap second-hand engine just to tide you over. I also believe Leyland state that this little operation should take a shade over three hours in the workshop under normal conditions.

TR

We have to skip several more editions of TR Action until we reach this testimony and insert from the legend and someone who is still in much demand to run the Disco at the IWE:- This edited version is extracted from Ian Evans' pages (TRR Chairman) in TR Action 99, June 1992,.....

ANDY CANNING IS COMING!

Is it, could it be possible, yes it is. Hi everyone, hope you are all O.K. Yes, its time to look out those ear plugs, and get the fancy gear cleaned and pressed, 'cos Andy's making his way to the Bath and West Showground for another Night of Solid Rock and smooch. I have dusted off the mike stand, blown the air line over the records and I am ready to roll.

after last year's event. So can I put a few things right, and start this year's TR event by saying, many, many thanks to each and everyone of you who cheered me on last year on Saturday night.

A very big thank you to Ian Evans for his lead in making sure last year was not the last disco for me. I was all for throwing it all in. Thank you, thank you everyone who put pen to paper and wrote all those complements about the disco in TR Action. I needed those.

And finally the boys at the back on lights and sound, without whom none of this would be possible, John and Peter Brown. Once again thanks to you all.

So what's new? Well a few records, not many though, I have slimmed my collection down since I officially hung up my headphones a year or two ago, but plenty of the usual TR stuff.

Friends that's about it, just remember when you hear that old Duane Eddy number, that's me signing on for another night of Total TR mayhem. Remember attend with a friend or be a dead end. See you Andy.

TR

Also from the same edition, June 1992, TR Action 99, Group leader John Gibbons was again active with his pen with this report, notable for the first mention of Colin Booter (and Alf who had already been a very early TR Register founder member....)

COTSWOLD VALE

John Gibbons

I write this report on 13th May whilst enjoying a lovely summers day, with clear blue skies and temperatures in the low seventies. No, I'm not in southern Spain, but in southern Worcestershire. I hope it continues as some of our Group are looking forward to a weekend in the hospitality of Glavon Group down on the farm at Wotton-under-Edge, at what promises to be a great weekend by all accounts! I have a rather unusual tale to tell concerning two cars.

A local gentleman celebrating his 80th birthday turned up at our lunchtime drink on Sunday in a 1980 W Reg. TR7 convertible. Nothing striking about that you may say. But it was with his other cars that my interest lay. I can now disclose the vehicles to which I had the pleasure of driving. A 1953 3 litre Mulliner bodied Bentley Saloon and a 1934 Triumph Southern Cross Six cylinder two seater sports! I drove the Bentley for some five miles, but along quiet country roads, although they were quite narrow, especially from the driving seat. The owner said he was quite impressed with my competence (perhaps that's why he resumed driving it shortly afterwards). The Southern Cross "Gloria" two seater sports happens to be a rare six cylinder car, of which the owner said was one of only four cars in the world, and one of those was resident in Tokyo. Of the other three cars, one is in

bits, which leaves only one more road going example in this country. It has a free wheeling selector knob mechanism linked to the gearbox and floor mounted shock absorber adjustment. Who said modern sports cars are innovative. The owner plans to have the oil pump reconditioned (if that's possible), together with a leaking sump, a result of a cracked casting, welded up. For those of you unfamiliar with pre war Triumphs, I would refer you to page twenty three of Triumph Sports by Autocar, published by I.P.C. Business Press Ltd in 1978, where a full autotest was given on the six cylinder car on 10th May 1935. This drive was almost to the day some fifty seven years later. If anyone is interested in viewing the car, would they kindly write to me, so I can contact the owner and make suitable arrangements.

Now to more mundane matters. The Group remains active with membership just topping 100. Two new members have emerged from the same village. Colin, who now has a very nice TR4A complete with early American 4 solid rear axle in British Racing Green, and Alf who has a very nice TR250 now complete in red with matching white racer strips on the bonnet. It boasts a Racetoration rebuild engine with triple Webbers. Watch out for the car at this years major events.

See you all at the International Weekend in July. Keep your head up and your top down.

TR

And finally this month, a reprint of the celebratory cartoon with respect to the 100th Edition of TR Action



Characters as follows, Barry Goswell - Birmingham GL, Graham Martin – founder of Flint and Co, brokers for inaugural TR Insurance scheme, Cat Tunnadine – Exhibitions Manager, Dave “Lightning” Brown – Apple County GL & West Coordinator, Mike Hazelwood – Midlands Coordinator (from my old grey cells, I’m sure someone will correct my errors!)

SUPPLEMENT

Richard Durrant was catching up on some reading over the holiday period and came across an article in Motorsport magazine dated July 2015, with a picture of our own Tony Cotgrave in a Simon Arron article, so with kind permissions from Simon and Motorsport, you can read it here:-

SIMON ARRON

I tend not to consult the programme before a hillclimb begins: it's more fun to stand trackside and wonder what the hell might appear next, but the entry contained everything from antique Velocettes to cutting-edge Goulds with monstrous diffusers via four V8-engined tubular assemblies that were loosely described as "Guernsey sand racers".

Other highlights included George Harding's energetically driven Mitsubishi Lancer – possibly the only vehicle I've seen competing with a tow bar, as I missed the caravan races that were briefly a feature of the UK fixture list circa 1974 – and a PA announcement asking for assistance because a car had become beached on a cattle grid while negotiating the return road to the paddock.

You don't get that at Yas Marina.

Overall, however, the weekend was marred by some competitors' struggles to comply with this season's tighter noise restrictions – a fair few failed – and, more worryingly, an accident that befell local competitor Steve Hemingway, who suffered serious injuries when he crashed his 1985 Pilbeam during the meeting's second day.

Pretty can sometimes be perilous, and I wish him well.



Tony Cotgrave's
Triumph TR2 framed by
Prescott's floral carpet

ONE WEEK ON, THE WEATHER forecast predicted a "91 per cent chance of precipitation" for Shelsley Walsh's season-opener, although the reality was 91 per cent sunshine between occasionally fierce squirts from above. British Championship competitors were

otherwise engaged at Craigantlet, but their Midland counterparts were in action... eventually. A fault with the timing system delayed proceedings – a road-going Mazda MX-5 was initially clocked at 150mph through the speed trap, although that was a touch more credible than the 187mph credited to a following Fiat X1/9...

The glitch was swiftly sorted and texture soon posed a greater challenge than technology, drivers never quite sure how slippery upper parts of the course remained beneath the trees. It began to look sensibly dry during the lunch break, after which a short, sharp cloudburst took us back to square one.

Several drivers were caught out, not least Andrew Lewis: his Lotus 22 squirmed through The Esses before slithering up and onto a grass bank, upon which it was eventually quite neatly parked. The car wasn't damaged and swiftly returned to action – for which a great deal of credit goes to the marshalling team, who managed to tease it back to earth using gentle persuasion rather than a hoist.

I was much taken by Rodney Eyles' Ralt RT3, complete with 2.7-litre V6 rather than the 2.0 in-line four that was a staple in the car's F3 heyday, and John Hewett's Lynxcar, the appearance of which has rather changed since I used to see one in John Nicholson's hands on what seemed to be a fortnightly basis, when the UK had two well-supported Formula Atlantic championships.

Little did I imagine that I might still be watching such a car 40 years later.



Rodney Eyles (Ralt)
at Shelsley in 1974
– 1st 1000, 1st 1000, 1st 1000
Below: Rodney Eyles' RT3
at Shelsley Walsh 1000 and
John Hewett's Lynxcar



Now a couple of mugs...



And a couple of small jobs to fettle.....



Now where did I leave that spanner????



Found it!!!!

Just to sign off with an update on Andrew Racey's new email address, please change the old one to the new one which is – andrewracey1947@gmail.com

Andrew Racey, Ian Brown and Richard Durrant