

## Bristol Area MG Owners' Club - 16<sup>th</sup> Brunel Run – 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September 2009

After overcoming the extreme weather in 2008, Bristol Area MG Owners' Club went undaunted into the planning of the Brunel Run 2009.

We were once again lucky to be able to use Barton Camp as our venue. This camp is run by the Bristol Children's Help Society to give underprivileged children a break away from difficult family circumstances. The facilities improve year on year and we like to think that the proceeds of the Brunel Run go a small way to helping this process.

So, Friday afternoon saw Bristol Area members arriving early to set up the signs and rooms for our visitors. Most of our campers used the field but a few enjoyed last year's indoor camping experience so much that they were happy to put their tents in the indoor basketball court – I just knew that indoor camping would catch on!

Our Regional Secretary, Tim Hipwell, had originally planned to be elsewhere with a car of another marque where the Stig was going to be in attendance. However, Tim realised the error of his ways and we managed to fit him in. He didn't miss out on seeing the Stig either as a life-size picture of this enigmatic figure mysteriously appeared on Tim's door.

The Regional Secretary from the South East also attended along with Area Secretaries from both East Sussex and Southampton & New Forest so a good compliment of Club officers were around!

Friday evening is always the same at the Brunel Run - friends old and new meeting up and chatting over a few drinks. This year we had the added attraction of a fish and chip supper. Our thanks go to the local 'chippy' who managed to provide sixty fish suppers in a record time and at the end of the evening, attendees retired happily to their rooms, tents, caravans and campervans.



Saturday dawned dry and we breakfasted handsomely thanks to Theo and his team who kindly provide their time free of charge as a gift to our charity. More people than arrived who had decided to come just for the day. Organising all the cars became a little chaotic but some arm-waving soon sorted out that small dilemma and we were able to let our breakfast chefs out!

Over sixty MGs were waved off by the inimitable Marc Neale – disguised this year as McRed Hairy McLegs. Cars ranged from the 1940's to today's models – our furthest travelled being the immaculate MGTF 80LE of Katherine Guy which had come 213 miles from Colchester complete with passenger and camping gear.



The route started across the Mendip Hills and then through the lanes south of Bath (yes, that really was a public road near Wellow!) to the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum at Calne in Wiltshire. Sadly, one of their founders, Hasell Atwell had passed away just a few days before so we were extremely grateful for their warm reception – just as Hasell would have wished. Their tea and home-made cake was very welcome.



After the museum the Brunel Run route wandered past Lacock and then swung back through lanes north of Bath, skirted the edge of Bristol and then through Keynsham and back south past Bristol International Airport to return to Barton Camp in time for Helene's home-made cakes and tea.

Most drivers and navigators managed the whole 112 miles without mistake – even one driver who had his six year old daughter navigating the outward leg and his eight year old daughter on the return trip – never let it be said that girls can't navigate!

The Brunel Quiz 2009 was devised as a "Find the Odd One Out" with various pictures of bridges. The Tie Breaker was to complete the following in 25 words or less: We came to the Brunel run because..... The winner was Pat Hughes. Her entry was: *Because it is one of the few weekend events that you can attend and everyone always makes you feel welcome. A really great weekend!*

On Saturday evening the main room was cleared so that the 'staff' could get it ready for our dinner. Penny and Lynn once again surpassed all expectations with help from

Mark, Andy, Yvonne, Kevin, Bert, Pam, Helene and Steve. Waitresses complete with frilly aprons served a sumptuous meal of Swedish Meatballs with a cream sauce and cranberry, mashed potatoes, cabbage, peas and carrots, followed by gateau and cream. I don't know how they do it! If someone asked me to feed 90 people I'd rather WALK the Brunel Run!



After our meal, Marc 'Two-Decks' Neale entertained us in the Octagan Room with a disco and a surprise visit from 'Elvis'. As usual, Marc came up trumps!

Sunday morning, after another of Theo's breakfasts (and aspirin for those with hangovers) we got down to the 'serious' business of judging the MGs.

The winners were:

MGB Roadster  
MGB GT  
MGC/ V8 / RV8  
MG T Types / Y types  
MG Midget / Sprite  
MGA / ZA / ZB  
MGF / TF  
Other MG Rover ZR / ZS / ZT / MMM  
MIKE MEEK AWARD FOR BEST IN SHOW  
CHRIS LEVERETT'S CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE

Jeff Cook  
Geoff Edge  
Brian Griffiths  
Mike Wright  
Sean Leverton  
Jean Sanders  
Kate Guy  
Colin Hughes  
Mark Tossell  
Colin Hughes





The extensive raffle was then drawn with lots of prizes kindly donated by both individuals and local companies. Special mention must also go to Bruce Gauld who was sponsored to the tune of £200 to have his hair cut!

Our thanks go to all who came and all who helped - especially our cooks and the domestic gods and goddesses who cleared up afterwards.

And so, the 16th Brunel Run drew to a close with many fond farewells and promises of return in 2010.

Complaints this year? None that I know of. Plans for 2010? ALREADY IN HAND!

So we look forward to seeing you next year.

Pauline