

Bristol MGOC - Brunel Run Weekend 2007



The Brunel Run Weekend took place from 31st August to 2nd September. This year's event presented new challenges to the Bristol MGOC as we decided to change the location for our annual Brunel Run. After 13 years at Woodhouse Park we were given the opportunity to use Barton Camp, near Winscombe. This venue belongs to the Bristol Children's Help Society who are a Bristol based charity providing breaks for needy children away from the stresses of home life.

The organisers arrived on site on Friday and spent an intense couple of hours marking out camping spaces, allocating indoor accommodation, putting up signage, organising the kitchen and generally finding our way around the extensive new venue.

Within two hours our entrants began to arrive and either settled into their rooms or erected their tents. We also had some camper vans and caravans. The evening was spent talking about MGs, catching up with old friends, barbequing or visiting the local fish and chip shop.

Saturday morning saw more people arrive and, after a wonderful 'full English' breakfast, our surprise celebrity was ready to wave off the first run participants. Quite how we managed to resurrect Isambard Kingdom Brunel for the task was a secret known only to a few but he was a welcome guest.



1947 Y Type being sent off by Brunel

54 cars followed the route of around 90 miles which took us over the hills and levels of Somerset. The route had been planned to take advantage of some stunning views and we tried hard to find roads with minimal hedges so that the MGs didn't feel hemmed in. Not that all our entrants had MGs although they were definitely in the majority - ranging from a 1947 Y Type to an up to date MGTF which had travelled all the way from Essex complete with two people, all their camping gear and a large Koala bear for the raffle!

We travelled through the outskirts of Weston super Mare via Brent Knoll, down to Weston Zoyland, past Burrow

Mump and Muchelney to the town of Somerton where a short walking quiz had been arranged. Somerton may have been a little surprised at the influx of MGs but made us very welcome.

The route back passed through Glastonbury with its magnificent Tor and then up onto the Mendip Hills where there was a viewpoint that encompassed a huge outlook across half the county. Then we drove through the village of Priddy and down to Chew Valley Lake with its seemingly resident ice-cream van and bird-watchers. A few miles on the main road brought us to Burrington Combe and back up across the Mendips to return to our venue at the end of the afternoon for refreshments.

Most people followed the prescribed route and didn't get too lost. Some people made up their own itinerary but that didn't matter - everyone had seen some beautiful countryside and picturesque villages and towns.



Steve Vaughan as Brunel with Tim Hipwell, South West Regional Secretary



Brunel Prize Winners receiving their award



Enjoying Saturday Night

The Walking Quiz was marked and the tie breaker was to draw a bridge that Brunel would have enjoyed. After much enjoyment of the bridges submitted, the winners of the 2007 Brunel Run Prize were Tina and Andrew Hounsom. The entries can be viewed at www.bamgoc.co.uk - click on Brunel Run and follow the links.

On Saturday evening we enjoyed a BBQ and disco which was much appreciated by our younger visitors. Most people relaxed over a glass or two and chatted with friends old and new. By midnight we were tucked up in our beds.

Sunday morning saw another of Theo and Nick's famous English breakfasts which was much appreciated by all. Then some polishing and

cleaning was spotted as cars were assembled on the field for judging. This is, of course, a serious business which took some time but entry forms were eventually filled in.

The winners were as follows:

- MGB/C/V8 Roadster Chrome Bumper - SPH 101M (Roger and Pat Mayo) - Exeter
- MGB/C/V8 GT Chrome Bumper - OUI 2254 (Dave and Kath Palmer) - Bristol
- MGB/V8 Roadster - Rubber Bumper - ORY 88G (Brian & Jan Dicker) - Exeter
- MG T types/Y types - LST 389 (John and Liz Cornish) - Bridgwater
- MG Midget & Sprites - TBP 860K (Ken and Clara Waylett) - Bridgend
- POST 1980 MG's RV8 MGF/TF MMM - S660 DBD (Valerie Page) - Dorset
- Other MG Rover ZR/ZS/ZT - FG 54 FYF (Colin Murrell)- Bristol
- MGF - LD 04 JYP (Katherine Guy) - Colchester
- Mike Meek Award - MGB GT - CHROME BUMPER - TAP 11G (Trisha and Neil Doubleday) - Exeter

Barton Camp was voted a considerable success as our new venue and a raffle was held over the weekend in aid of the Bristol Children's Help Society with many prizes both alcoholic and otherwise and profits from the weekend will also be donated to this fund.



Sunday judging



Helpers relaxing after the run was over

So our thanks go to everyone who attended and to all those who helped in organising our 14th Brunel Run. Pictures from the weekend can be viewed at www.bamgoc.co.uk (click on Brunel Run and follow the links).

Bristol MGOC is one of only a handful of clubs which still offers a whole weekend of enjoyment each year. We are already planning for our 15th Brunel Run in 2008 so why not put this event in your diary for next year - you'll be glad you did - we're looking forward to seeing you.

Pauline