

GROUP LEADERS NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you all.

You will have seen the Review of 2003 in the January newsletter so I'll try not to repeat too much from that comprehensive article.

Firstly, I must say thanks to all members and particularly the Committee for making last year such a success for SDG. We do seem to have come a long way in that time.

The revamped newsletter, web-site, calendar of events and club evenings have all improved significantly and are a credit to all involved. Thanks and well done.

2004 holds a great deal of promise, with more car related events, better targeted shows and an exceedingly busy calendar mapped out already. I hope one of the highlights will be the TR Continental Tour in September with SDG playing a leading role in its organisation and, of course, attendance.

So keep watching the web-site, attending the meetings and reading the newsletter to keep up to date on what YOUR group is doing.



Finally, thanks again for making 2003 (and my first year back) so good and I look forward to seeing you in 2004.

Ian L. May
Group Leader

Club Night 10th February \ Five Bells, Chailey

Once again, the Club Night at Chailey was very well attended by the usual stalwarts... at least two TR7's and several TR6's took pride of place in the car park. Our Speaker PC Steven Lee arrived just before 8:00pm, driving a white Vauxhall Combi.

As Steve's a member of Sussex Police Road Patrol Department, I'd have expected him to arrive in a Jam-Sandwich, with at least six cylinders at the front end delivering 220bhp or more to the rear end, whilst sporting several blue flashing lights on the top: I have to say the Combi, in it's basic livery, looked just like a bakers van. It didn't possess any street-cred whatsoever and, well, let's be honest, sTReet cred is what owning a TR is all about !!

We were treated to a very informative talk on Accident Investigation, and the Police's role in road maintenance and other, related, motoring matters such as traffic calming, speed cameras and roadside furniture....

We also heard how Steve managed to launch the Authority's BL Montego into a field of cabbages during his TRaining; and how this 'accident' is *still* the subject of discussion and debate within the confines of the Academy!

Finally, we were given several thought-provoking ideas to mull over on our drive home, together with pamphlets relating to current legislation regarding use of Mobile telephones and the still relevant Drink \ Drive campaign. Steve is scheduled to retire from the Force at the end of the year, and we thank him for taking the time and trouble to attend our meeting.

Andrew Poynter

A TR2 IN PIECES.

The story of my TR2 Rebuild (as at March 2004)

First a little background;

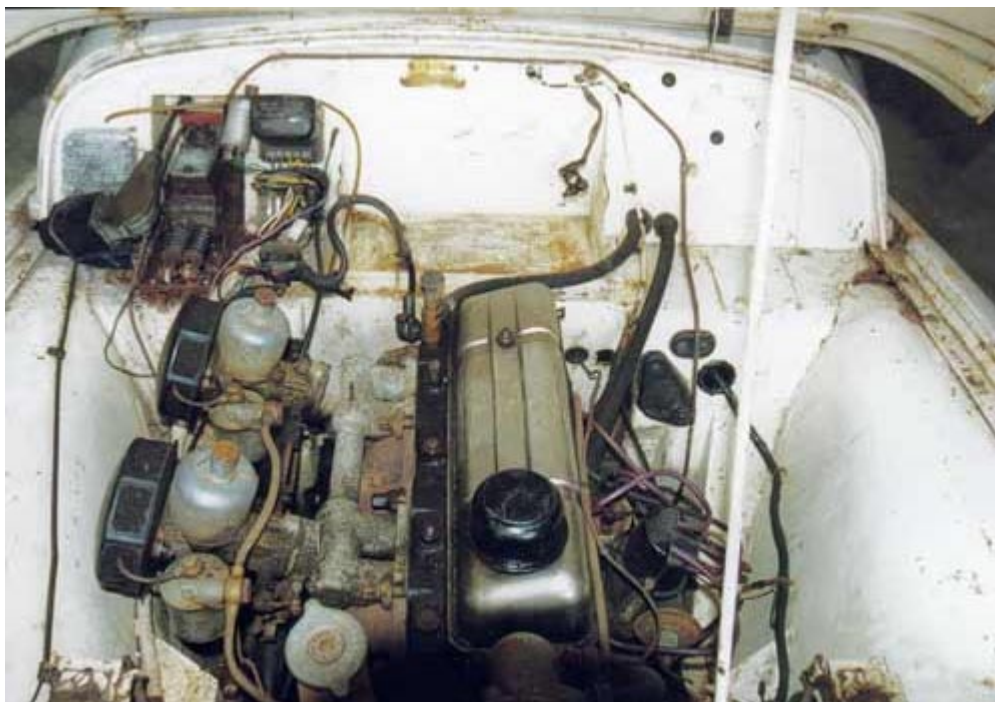
- 1954 long door TR2, off the production line 6th May 1954. Commission number TS 1562 in Pearl White with Geranium trim, hood and sidescreens.
- Originally registered HHS30, then ATR2 (yesATR2) and now 9963 AP.
- I purchased the car in October 1975 from my solicitor (and he is still my solicitor and friend)
- It's been to Le Mans twice, toured France and even made it to Monaco and back (albeit with a run big end).
- The car came off the road from regular use (by Angie) some 17 years ago.
- The rebuild (or should I say rebirth) begins.

After some 13 years in a lock-up garage and buried under loads of other TR and assorted spares or junk, depending on which you look at it, the TR was transported to my newly built garages at Linden House. Needless to say the brakes had mostly seized and it was all in a pretty sorry state.



However, having got it home and off the trailer Gregg thought it might be a good idea to see if it would start. I laughed. So we rigged up a jury petrol feed using a lawnmower tank, the old feed would leak at the petrol tap (the cork perishes) and the tank was probably full of holes any way. We looked at a spark and replaced it, put on a good battery to see if we could at least get the engine to turn over. It did and after a few more turns it fired then came to life with an almighty roar, accompanied by much cheering from us. The roar was as a result of two things, one it is normally a noisy car having only one exhaust box and two, when the engine started it blew out a mountain of rust which had previously been the baffles! It was a large pile of rust we swept off the garage floor.

As it had started, we all had to have a little drive in the courtyard to reacquaint ourselves with the TR2 (not Gregg, it was his drive) and it was even driven into the garage. Now to work. I hadn't actually intended to start the rebuild straight away, I had only wanted to get the car home. Gregg, however, had other ideas and before long had begun to strip the car down. The interior went; engine and gearbox came out, wings and front apron off along with the doors. But before any of this took place, loads of detailed photos of all areas, and from all angles were taken for essential later reference i.e. where did this go? I didn't of course stop him, as I was also bitten by the bug and it was great to actually be doing something to the TR after all that time.



We then decided to go the whole hog and remove the body from the chassis, so having removed the doors we braced the body between the A and B posts to stop the body distorting or folding in half when you take it off!



Next the chassis was stripped of suspension, axle etc and sent for shotblasting (Heritage Blasting 01435 868289) so we could determine the necessary repairs. The cost was £150 and it was returned in primer for protection. Necessary repairs included some patching and the replacement of the outriggers that support the floors. Also a large part of one rear crosstube had to be replaced along with the spring hangers. Gregg fabricated all the replacement metal except the outriggers and welded them in place. The outriggers were purchased but the tube was of a smaller diameter than original and therefore gave us some extra work.

Once repaired the chassis was given three coats of rust preventative primer. Intend to use chassis black for the final finish, but this won't be done until the body fitting is completed. Meanwhile we are also in the process of rebuilding the rear axle, which is the Lockheed type. This is proving to be a pain in the proverbial without the proper tools and presses, but we will get there! Fortunately Alan Peatfield, Kent Group Leader, has recently completed a similar job and was able to lend us a differential spreader etc and give some valuable advice, but it is still a pain.

Finally, we've made a start on the body, vowing to use as much of the original as possible, but it's not going to be a lot. At the moment, it looks like we'll be keeping the front bulkhead and scuttle, front inner wings (patch repaired and new front body mounting brackets) transmission tunnel and rear floor panel over the axle, the bonnet, doors but reskinned and possibly the spare wheel compartment. The jury's still out on the front and rear wings.

So the body has been cut in half (so no need for the A/B post bracing after all) and the floors removed. The next stage is to make a positive effort on the body starting with reskinning the doors and building the body around those. Using the original door frames should help in this process, keeping proportions the same as the original. Time will tell!

Hopefully more will get done as the weather improves so watch this space!

Ian May



South Downs

Events 2004

Tuesday March 9th Club Night **'SDG Mastermind competition'**

An opportunity to test your TR knowledge in our annual knockout team competition. For the ladies and less TR technically and statistically minded, general knowledge questions will also be included. A trophy will be awarded to the winning team on the night. Raffle to follow.

Tuesday April 13th Club Night **Video Night**

A selection of TR videos from the Register's extensive archive. Experience the thrills of past Triumph glories, or learn a little more about your cherished vehicle. Raffle towards the end of the evening.

Weekend May 2nd - 3rd **Magnificent Motors, Eastbourne**

The start of the SDG show calendar. A new event, which we hope, will prove a good reason to dust the car off and give it its first proper polish! Held on the Western Lawns and on the slopes of the Wish Tower. Plans included an evening concert in the Bandstand followed by a firework finale on the Sunday. Details to follow.

Tuesday May 11th Club Night **Visit to a Vineyard.**

Further details to follow.

Sunday May 16th **Kent Group Spring Green Rally**

SDG have been invited to join Kent Group on their road rally, which is to include a picnic at a Kent beauty spot. Contact either Allen Peatfield – 01634 375076, Philip Hill – 01622 735612, or Andrew Poynter – 01622 871932 for further details of this event.

Weekend May 22nd – 23rd **Brands Hatch CMSA Festival**

Festival of classic cars and bikes. Combines racing with a mix of trade stands and club displays, on one of which we hope to join members of the Kent Group. Contact either Allen Peatfield – 01634 375076, Philip Hill – 01622 735612, or Andrew Poynter – 01622 871932 for further details of this event.

Weekend May 29th – May 31st **Kent Weekender**

The Kent Group's major annual event which attracts many TRs from all over the UK, as well as many more from Holland, France and Belgium. It is always well supported by the SDG. Based in the historic town of Sandwich, the event includes the Kent Tour as well as a disco and plenty of places to visit during the day. Camping is many peoples preferred choice of accommodation but there are local B&Bs for those not brave enough! Contact either Allen Peatfield – 01634 375076, Philip Hill – 01622 735612, or Andrew Poynter – 01622 871932 for further details of this event.

Tuesday June 8th Club Night **Cannonball Run**

Our annual pilgrimage along the local highways and byways led by the irrepressible Paul Cannon. Raffle to follow.

Sunday July 11th **Summer Saunter**

A great success last year, with a mystery tour finishing up at the Filching Manor Motor Museum, this years event is to take a similar format. A mystery tour with an unknown destination is the order of the day once again. Those without a sense of adventure need not apply! The start will be at the Five Bells, Chailey, with coffee available to those who want it. The tour will take a lunch stop at an interesting pub, and carry on to a final attraction.

Tuesday July 13th Club Night **Best presented TR round One** More details to follow

Weekend - July 17th and 18th **Friday Ad Bentley Wildfowl Motor Show**

As you may have heard this popular site was recently threatened with closure by East Sussex County Council. Situation has yet to be confirmed.

Weekend - July 23rd and 25th July **TR Register International Weekend**

Why not come and join your fellow SDG members at the annual TR Register event? Situated under the Malvern Hills there is plenty to do for everyone including auto jumble, treasure hunts, runs, and even some shopping trips for the ladies. There are plenty of bed and breakfast hotels nearby for those of you who aren't keen on camping, but those of you who are intending to 'rough it' for a few nights why not make your way to the SDG campsite in the quiet zone? We will be waiting for you.
Look out for further details in the TR Action.

Sunday 1st Aug
MG Weekender

The South East Division of the MG Car Club has once again invited the SDG to attend its annual event held at Plumpton Race Course. Once again we hope that we can give good support to our neighboring club.

Sunday August 8th
Battle Abbey

A good day out and a chance for SDG to put on a great display of TRs. We hope to achieve one of every TR here, so get 'em out and give 'em an airing! Held in the grounds of Battle Abbey, the scene of the 1066 Battle of Hastings, there is always a large selection of cars as well as stalls and games, not to mention the historical interest such a venue offers.

Tuesday August 10th – Club Night
Summer BBQ

At the Five Bells Chailey possibly in association with a Jazz evening and other neighboring groups will be invited. Further details to follow.

Weekend - August 28th and 29th
Shoreham Airshow

A great event full of cars and aircraft. Held at Shoreham Airport near Brighton, this event includes large car club displays (of which the SDG stand will be one), trade stands and fantastic aircraft displays, both static and in the air. So whether your interest lies with cars, vintage aircraft or fast jets, there is just about something for everybody. Let's make sure SDG put on a great display.

Saturday September 11th
Brighton Speed trials

SDG has provided marshalling manpower for many years. The Brighton & Hove Motor Club Speed Trials is a major national sprint which puts all sorts of machinery against the clock on a quarter mile, standing start drag along Madeira Drive, on Brighton seafront. The mundane to the exotic, its all there. Turn up just to watch or join in with the paddock-marshalling melee, it's a brilliant event for motor sport enthusiasts. Hey, even enter the TR and make SDG proud!

September 14th Club Night
Best presented TR round Two
Further details to follow

September 18th - 20th
Continental Car Tours Compiegne Tour, France in conjunction with SDG.

Organised by SDG in association with Continental Car Tours, a registered tour operator, this is set to become an annual event. Take the TR to Compiegne, northern France for a weekend of French food, French wine, French scenery and French roads! Staying in a traditional French hotel, there will be organised tours, chateau visits and an evening dinner all included in the price of £139.00 per person. Also included are the ferry crossings. (Price based on two sharing a car). Contact us for further details and a booking form. Don't miss out on this fantastic event!

Tuesday October 12th – Club Night
To be announced

Sunday November 1st
London to Brighton veteran Car Run breakfast BBQ
The great London to Brighton veteran car run passes through Staplefield (between Handcross and Haywards Heath), the location for the SDG breakfast BBQ. Come and join us from 9:00am to watch, and err... encourage the drivers of these brilliant old machines on their quest to get to Brighton in one piece!

Tuesday November 9th – Club Night
SDG 2004 Annual General Meeting
The Five Bells, Chailey. Agenda to follow. Name the Car competition to follow afterwards.

Tuesday December 14th – Club Night
SDG Christmas Dinner
At our regular venue, The Five Bells, Chailey.
Menu available during November

NB: Details of events may change for reasons beyond our control

Arthur Massey's Race Calendar for the Revington TR/TR Register Sprint and Hillclimb Championship

Date	Venue	Date	Venue
18 th April	Gurston	18 th July	Gurston
25 April	Wiscombe	7 th Aug	Goodwood
16 th May	Shelsley Walsh	11 th Sept	Wiscombe
13 th June	Curborough	25 th Sept	Longleat
June TBC	Porlock		

Subscription time again

As mentioned in January's newsletter a year has passed and it means subscription time has come around again. Unfortunately due to rising costs and trying to produce a newsletter bimonthly means that we have had to put up the rate to £3.00. If you'd rather you could receive yours free via an e-mail just put your address below. I'd appreciate it if you can return the slip below plus a cheque made payable to 'South Downs TR Group' as soon as possible.

Name

Address

Postcode

E-mail

CONTACT DETAILS

Group Leader :- Ian May

Tel: 01825 733778

Email: yamnai@btopenworld.com

Deputy Group Leader :- Graeme Mowbray

Tel: 01342 317735

Email: graeme@verbania.freeserve.co.uk

Have you got a story to share perhaps a restoration project or an event you have attended or even if you want to sell a few items. Then we love to hear from you.

Please send articles to me: Jane Worsfold

10 Quantock Close, Eastbourne, E.Sussex, BN23 8EU

or 01323 461972 (before 8pm)

Cworsfold@tesco.net

Publication dates for the newsletter

9th May, 9th July, 9th Sept, 9th Nov, 9th Jan 05