



The Club

AUTUMN RUN ~ Blandford Forum, October 6-8, 1995

Principal Organisers: Keith and Richard Davies

The journey to Blandford Forum was very wet and the weather report for the Saturday Run none too promising. Looking out of the breakfast room window of the Crown Hotel, whilst at the same time studying the route map, one could see the many puddles to be encountered, or avoided, on the way. Some were geographical, like Affpuddle, Briantspuddle, Tolpuddle and Puddlestown, while some, meteorological, like small, large and muddy. The run itself described a figure of eight with the base camp acting as the crossover point.

The morning section along 'B' roads in the direction of Shaftesbury but traversing the Cranborne Chase towards Salisbury was hardly into its swing when something was very wrong! I had not had anyone past my corner post for half an hour and was staring back up what seemed a deserted road. I was beginning to fear the worst. Had it all gone terribly wrong? Should I back track? No! We had to trust the convoy system and hold position. Eventually word got through that the delay was due to Tom Waterer having suffered a puncture and that leader Keith Davies had set off with son and guest (now member) Richard to his Three Cross M/Cs workshops to get him a fresh horse. No sooner had this been achieved than that too went 'lame' with yet another puncture

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after only a few yards.

Meanwhile progress on the road was being made, with Mike Jackson having taken over the leading role, with no loss of members, thus vindicating, yet again, the 'Convoy' system. (Brownie points to Peter Sheen here, I believe).

Coffee was taken at the Horton Inn (Horton) shortly before crossing Blandford en route to the coast at Weymouth. This was to provide two elusive attractions; the Hardy Monument, which was omitted due to the lack of time, and the magnificent view over Portland Bill which was shrouded in a thick mist.

Following lunch at the Crown Inn (Punchknowle) - by which time Tom, Keith and Richard had caught up with us - the route

continued east around the outskirts of Dorchester, north along some good fast 'B' roads via Sherborne and then onto the Haynes Motor Museum for tea. Here cars as extravagant as the Duesenberg, or as anti-social as the Trabant were viewed.

The museum was founded by John Haynes, who built his first car at the tender age of sixteen! He put his knowledge into a booklet; selling 250 copies at five shillings each and so started the famous Haynes Manuals.

The home run from the museum was a choice between going east towards Wincanton but

turning south to Sturminster Newton or back towards Sherborne and then Sturminster Newton.

High Points of the Run:

- Hugh Palin's after dinner advice on keeping one's 'key' clean and in good condition for trouble-free use!
- David Strathcarron trying to dry his hands on a Durex machine (or was he looking for a receptacle to keep his 'key' clean in?)
- Tom Waterer's smile, having not

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missed the food, at lunchtime.

- The Sterling service given by serving wenches Angye and Fiona?

Low Points of the Run:

- The weather, which spoilt the views (but didn't dampen spirits)
- Missing out on the Hardy Monument
- Having to push 'Hyde & Seeks' van, to get it started, and after a full breakfast on Sunday morning.

Tony Dawson

January 1996