

Competition Corner

by Martin Randle

I have been joined by a fellow Club member, Andrew Pearce, in the endeavour to raise the profile of “Comps” and you will find his contribution in this issue as well as a report on the Ilkley Jubilee Run and the latest on the 9 Countries Run.

Club Members in Competition

Martin Randle and Kevin Makin in the Ilkley Jubilee Rally

Andrew Pearce in the Classic Rally Tours Belgian event 26 April

Andrew Pearce in the Plymouth-Dakar event at the year end!

The event report on the Ilkley Jubilee follows and I am sure Andrew will be keeping us informed of the events in which he is entered. Now, who else is out there competing? Come on, don't be shy!

Ilkley Jubilee Run

20 February – e-mail to confirm we are in the run! There are several Triumphs in the rally including two other Vitesse and some TRs. Car preparation then continued which was basically new plugs, etc, and uprated brake pads. A run to the West Lanes meeting seemed to confirm everything was well until the car came to a halt one mile from home at midnight. Investigations next day discovered a cracked rotor arm since replaced.

The day of the event started early with leaving home at 6.15am to arrive for the noise test and scrutineering at 7. Noise consists of the noise level being checked at 4500rpm – no problem for us. We did meet up with a crew in another Vitesse 6 though; they were not members of any Triumph club but were in the Historic Rally Car Register. This was their second ever event having entered the HRCR's championship – we both had breakfast in a “greasy spoon” we found in Otley at the start of the day but the next time we saw them they were retiring from the event with serious gearbox problems.

The event itself consists of following the prescribed route and aiming to keep as close as possible to the timing laid down. There were also driving tests through the day, which were rather more exciting. Test at Settle, next to the fire station in a small business yard. This consisted of driving against the clock around cones, reversing and a final slalom to finish next to a wall where a number of young lads were sat applauding us! I certainly felt we had got the Vitesse well wound up and thoroughly enjoyed it, as did the audience – a blast of the air horns finished it off to a tee! Other tests were great too, especially the last one by the side of a reservoir. We had to stop astride a line twice to note code boards but other than that it was a straight sprint through the test. We even had time to stop and loan our towrope to a guy in a Cortina who later bought us a beer in the bar!

My Vitesse stood up to it pretty well although it did show why Classic cars are so “interesting” because the car developed a misfire on the way to the event which disappeared but a loss of power up hills developed later. The gearbox also developed problems jumping out of second and third gears which had never happened before – being very notchy, yes, but jumping out of gear, no! What is

particularly annoying is that the gearbox had cost me £20 and had only done two Round Britain Runs, a rally to Germany (including the Nurburgring) and this particular event – is it not possible to get value for money nowadays?

I am pleased to say that when the results came through a few days later we finished 10th out of 18 cars on the Run section of the event and it looks like we have provisionally won our class (against an E-type!). The whole event was won by a TR3 with a TR4 7th and another 11th.

I am also happy to say that from the start at 7am to when we left the finish at 8.15pm the Vitesse had proudly displayed the Club Triumph sunstrip whilst I had worn my Club Triumph polo shirt and baseball cap so at least there has been some publicity for the Club in motorsport circles.

Could other novices do it? Yes! The majority is following a route at given speeds, which requires a solid reliable standard car but, more importantly, good teamwork by the crew. Regarding the driving tests, these are like what most people understand as “autotests” but in different locations through the day. Anyone who can remember the old championships run by Club Triumph would recognise them. Most of all, though – it's fun! Go on, try it, you might like it!

9 Countries Run

Yes, this is still on and is going from strength to strength.

Definite are:

Martin Randle	TR7
Tim Hunt	TR4
Andrew Pearce	2500
Ellis Stokes	TR7
Tim Bancroft	GT6
Doug Crutchfield	TR2

Probables:

Glenn & Katrina Freeman	Stag
David Walker	Dolomite Sprint
Bruce Greig	Dolomite Sprint
Nick Jackson	Stag
Carl Shakespeare	Dolomite Sprint
Graham Ramsay	GT6
Barry & Caroline McGrath	Acclaim
Mike Sloan	TR4

Supporters/Helpers:

Dean Martin from Belgium aims to meet up with us at some point Friday night or Monday morning. Within the West Lancs group there is a movement starting that likes the idea but doesn't want to drive! They may well, therefore, book a flight to Nice from Liverpool airport via Easyjet and act as a welcoming committee. 9 Country Runners may like to take note of this as I am sure our friends could bring along any needed spares in hand luggage!