



# VERDRIVE

The Newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Triumph Club

March, 1995

## Derek takes Daisy Mae's Top Off



### *In This Issue:*

- *"Good time had by all" at Milano's*
- *Inter-Club Dart Tourney Report*
- *"OIL DRIPS"*

Cover: No, Derek didn't take a hacksaw to 'Daisy Mae'. This Herald was seen at last Year's Bronte Creek show. I hope I haven't given Derek any ideas!!

**Editor's Note:** (Julio) - Well, gang, I have the great satisfaction of mentioning that yours truly went on a fun run on March 5/95. Great feeling - better than sex.

Here I thought I'd be the first out in the new year. WRONG! Denny Bird drove his TR6 back home to Washington, D.C. back in February. Curses - foiled again! I called John Day to inform him of my adventure. He had his TR6 out that day, too, but I beat him by 1 ½ hours. Hey, every minute counts! Beat him again!

The ride that afternoon was great. No overheating, high oil pressure and everything was nice & tight. Cold sometimes has its advantages. If I had a good heater it would've been a perfect afternoon. There'll be plenty of perfect afternoons this summer, for sure.



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**Editor's Note:** (John) - I just got my license renewal form in the mail yesterday. I'd like to say that I'm confident enough in the car to go for the 2-year license renewal option, but what's the point? There's also apparently an 'automated teller' machine for 1-year stickers at the Herongate mall. I think I'll give that a try.

I'm close to having the parts car stripped of all valuables. The main things still to remove

are the engine, diff unit, brakes, gas tank, harness, ... maybe I'm not so close! I moved both TRs out to sweep up last weekend - the garage seems so big with 3 cars outside. Soon it'll be just 2 again. (Lori says 'Promises, promises!')

### February 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

Despite the weather (why would it have to snow after 2 weeks of nothing?), we had a great turnout for our tour of Milano Auto Body. I suppose this is to be expected, since there is nothing more true to form than a Triumph experiencing some rust, and we owners wish to reclaim our cars from the ravages of oxidation. Joe Panuccio preferred not to talk specifically about any topics, but would entertain any questions people wished to throw at him. Joe was kept busy for the rest of the evening in that respect....

Before we opened the floor to questions for Joe, Clive conducted a brief talk on other issues. First of these was the Dart tournament, which was less than 2 weeks away, at the King's Stag Pub. The word had gone out far and wide, and a large number of clubs would be represented. In addition to the usual British clubs, Clive had also contacted such clubs as Saab, Volvo & VW. This will be of no consequence, since you gotta drive a *British* car to play a *British* game! Clive had also contacted sponsors for promotional goodies from the usual TR suppliers, and we hope the OVTC can win 'em all back! (*A full write-up on the tournament will be along later on.*)

This gave Clive the opportunity to introduce a guest at the February meeting: **Shannon Lee Manion**. Shannon writes for OLD AUTOS magazine, and has recently begun writing a column for the Ottawa *Sun* (Clive pointed out her promo of the Dart Tournament in the previous Thursday's *Sun* issue). We'll be putting Shannon on our mailing list to keep her up on our activities, and with her connections and contacts, we're sure she'll be able to return

the favour in spades. Shannon is looking to do a story on the OVTC for *Old Autos*, and in addition she was looking for some original owners for another story. Luckily, Harris Popplewell and Bruce Young were both in attendance that evening to help out.

The rest of the evening was open for people to mill about, to ask Joe questions, and to swap stories. I was half-unconscious with a headache and cold, so that's what all I remember that night...

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### "1st out in '95" Award (& a couple more)

This goes to Denny Bird, who drove his 1974 TR6 from Ottawa to Washington D.C. the week before, in preparation for when he & Cheryl locate there in May. Denny reports that it was 10½ hours straight through, with the TR getting 27 mpg, and no problems! It wasn't that way from the start, Denny said, because he first had no clutch! It turned out the reservoir was dry, although there was no visible puddle or sign of leaking fluid. Fluid was added, the clutch pedal pumped a few times, the fluid topped up, and he was off!

It won't be official until the end of the season, but we think Denny has already captured the 'long distance award' for a single trip (mind you, it was only a 1-way trip, not a round-trip). We'll see how things make out this season, anyway.

### 3rd Annual Brit Car Club Dart Tourney:

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> saw a dozen teams meet at the Kings Stag Pub on Colonnade Rd & Hwy 16. The OVTC was well represented, but we had a good cross-section of other clubs in attendance. The OVTC teams were as follows: Clive (Hawkeye) Law & Mike (Double Out) Stapleton; Julio Benco & Martin Harasek; John & Lori Day; and Jane Benco & Jane's friend, Cathy. Our competitors consisted of 3 teams from the MG club, 2 teams from the VW club, and a team from the Land Rover club. One person from the Lotus club was present, playing with an alternate from the MGs. John Carr was also present, as the "ultimate alternate": John was wearing a Jaguar sweater, but when no other Jag club member showed, John called up his MG persona. Belonging to 3 different car clubs gives you versatility!

I'll leave the rest of the story to Shannon Lee Manion, who described what she saw:

### "DARTS TO YOU" by Shannon Lee Manion

The very sympatico Ottawa Valley Triumph Club hosted a dart tournament on March 11 at the King's Stag, just off Colonnade Rd. Whereas they might have liked to have had more team involvement, I thought the VW club did quite well to have 7 members out to add to the merriment and to almost snatch all the trophies away from the other teams, which included a sleeper duo from the Land-Rover club, thousands (sic) of TR club members and a Lotus in a pear tree (?).

Keeping up the German stiff upper whatever were the pro-team of Peter and Ann Warren, while Rob Maxwell and Lisa Glover did the V-dubs proud, with Philomena Pope providing the expert darts and filling out the cheering section with Ron Cashman.

Yours truly arrived fashionably late, drank one small beer and promptly spilled another all over the table (cut off!!!), and in general made the rounds of the tables (no not emptying



bottles), pressing flesh and kissing babies (some day I'll run for whatever political party seems to be winning!)

Towards the end of the stiff competition, the Bug team to beat, Peter and Ann, almost snafued the top trophy, but the TR team of Clive Law and Mike Stapleton, neck and neck with them, was ruthless and they hacked their way to the glory circle. What could've been a major upset for the Triumph Club, especially since the Morgan Club wins the coveted BEST DISPLAY prize each year at the Richmond Sports Car Show every year, was averted.

The winningest team there had to be the L-R gang as they managed to sweep the high point trophy right out of the hand of the TR president, Clive. Coming in with Lord-only-knows what whopping point spread was Robin Craig (wild applause), and sliding in about a hundred miles below Robin was that man-about-town in a diesel L-R, desperate Dale Desprey.

Dale was awarded the *Wurst* award, a tasteful little trophy with a miniature dart board, in regulation colours, and with the cunningest little erect sausage standing to one side. Truly a monument one has to have on their desk at work, their mantle at home, or mounted on the front of their Land-Rover. Dixon and Sandra were the cheering section for this crew; I was in charge of spilling beer.

All in all, this annual event, sponsored by the local TR Club, is an excellent and fun-filled way to spend an otherwise boring mid-March Saturday. Thank-you to everyone who participated and to the Triumph Club for hosting a fine afternoon.

And to Shannon Lee for her description!! (*Oh, before I forget - the "Most Memorable Shot" award must go to Julio, who managed to break a picture that was hanging between 2 boards - the whole place went quiet at the sound of breaking glass, followed by: "It's o.k. - we fix!". Dangerous guy!*)

### **Where have all the Parts Cars gone?**

I'll tell you - Mike Crawford & Randy Hildebrandt have 'em all!

Mike was telling me at the meeting he just bought a parts TR6, with 2 spare engines! The seller insisted that everything has to go! Them's the breaks!

Randy's proving himself to be a TR parts car magnet (or is that *magnate*?) Randy's also going to be leaving the Ottawa area in May, only he's going to B.C., the land of the 'moist & humid'. While out in B.C. recently, Randy acquired a TR6 missing an engine, transmission and differential. No problem, since Randy kept those items from the last parts car he bought (remember the \$200 car with the overdrive?) True to form, this B.C. parts car came with a hardtop! That makes 3 Randy has now! He just acquired a second one a couple of weeks before that! Randy's son noticed the other night at home: "Dad, have you noticed that every room in the house has some Triumph parts in it?" Randy looked around and noticed he was right - the differential was in the dining room; there were boxes in each bedroom, and the engine & transmission out in the garage. *Is there no stopping this man?!* Hey, Randy - save some for us before you go, eh?

### **Green Bay Cabins (Henderson's):**

Larry & DiAnne Henderson are once again opening up their cabins to the OVTC this year. At this point, we're not sure just when! Last year a bunch of us went on the Victoria Day weekend. The same was set for this year, but DiAnne called Pat Mills to say that a group called to reserve 5 cabins that weekend. Business before pleasure! We're hoping one of the early weeks in June: I'll pass on details as they're known.

Last year was the first group event my TR6 went on - I was all anxious, polishing it up



the night before. No-one told me about the last couple of miles in, over gravel roads! No harm done, and besides, the weather & scenery were amazing! Westport is a lovely town, too, with really windy roads in & out!

**Calendar of Events for 1995 Season:**

Pat Mills has been compiling a list of events for the 1995 season. As there are only a couple in April, and since I'm running out of room for this issue, it'll appear in next month's Overdrive. In the mean time, the April dates are as follows:

- 23rd: Ancaster British Sports Car Flea Market (near Hamilton).
- 29th: Antique Car Show & Flea Market, Smith's Falls. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Fun Run plans for 1995 Season:**

Certainly by the April newsletter we can start planning our weekend getaways, so feel free to call either Julio or myself with your ideas or suggestions.

as it was in '91. The first ad will be in the *Citizen* in a couple of weeks, so that any & all callers will then have just a short wait before coming to the April meeting.

**"OIL DRIPS" (by Julio)**

- Well, Martin finally picked up his Dellorto carbs. He had a smile on him like the cat that ate the canary, or the expectant father who was told he has triplets. There's not much else you can do to your car now, Martin - or is there? Only your banker knows!
- Mike Crawford's latest steps at concours heaven - his dismantled TR6 is slowly disappearing from his garage to be dipped, stripped and painted. The car should be ready for '96. Now that the garage will be emptied, you should fill that void with a spare 6!
- The response to a Club scrap book has been underwhelming! So far, it consists of me, myself and I. Come on, gang - send me those photos of yourselves with your 'babies', past and present. I have lots of empty pages to fill.
- Dave Huddleson is slowly rebuilding his TR7 Spyder convertible, a special edition model exported to the U.S. only. Dave & Lynda will soon be a his'n'her TR family - something we should all be, right?! (From the voice of experience!)
- We still have 3 OVTC grille badges left. Still \$40 each, if you're looking to dress up (& class up) that bare front grille. Call Julio at 727-8113.

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**Membership Drive for 1995:**

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, we're going to try a media blitz this season to boost membership and get the word out. We've got a good thing here, and as we prepare to host the Classic again soon, we'll have the membership to make it another success, just

**Get your OVTC Regalia for Spring!!**

Sweatshirts - \$22      Golf Shirts - \$20  
Gatsby Hats - \$8      Baseball hats - \$8  
Windshield decals - \$5  
Embroidered Crests - \$7 ea., or  
2 @ \$15 (?); 3 @ \$20

# There are tipoffs that you've owned British cars too long

## Parts store clerk recognizes your voice on the telephone

Some people — me, for example — have no pride.

I "borrowed" what follows from *Occagon*, the magazine of the MG Car Club of Toronto. The club in turn picked it up from *The Roars*, the magazine of the Houston MG Car Club in Texas.

It's funny but it also contains a great deal of truth.

You know you've owned a British car too long when:

- You always park facing downhill.
- The guy at the parts store gets a cheesy grin when he sees you walk in; is listed as a dependent on your tax return; sends you a get-well card if you haven't bought a part for two weeks; recognizes your voice on the phone.
- You call the CAA and they recognize your voice, too.
- You get in a car and are surprised when all the instruments work; you can carry on a conversation without shouting; it doesn't need any oil, brake fluid or antifreeze.
- You get in a car and are *not* surprised by a spare battery; a tool kit that fills half the trunk; a slightly singed instrument panel.
- You hear someone talking about new shoes and assume they're doing a brake job.
- You look under the hood and see more duct tape than hoses and more electrical tape than wires.
- You tell your wife that the reason you were out till 3 a.m. was that the car broke down ... and she believes you.
- The family is no longer upset by sitting down to dinner and sharing half

## Wheeling Around

BILL TAYLOR

the table with carburetor bits.

■ You pay more visits to the auto parts store than you do to the gas station or grocery store.

■ Your car makes a funny sound and you immediately know what is wrong, what it will cost and which tools will be required.

■ When your generator dies, you just pull another one off the Lucas pile in the garage.

■ You distrust anyone named Lucas.

■ People ask you how many cars you own and you respond in fractional numbers.

■ You wash your hands when working on your car so you don't get the engine compartment dirty.

■ You allow four hours for a trip — three hours for driving and one for repairs.

If I can add a couple of my own (car clubs of the world may feel free to "borrow" them):

■ You'd rather give the family pitbull a bath than tune your SU carburetors. Again.

■ It doesn't embarrass you to ask your passengers to get out and walk up hills.

■ You can unstick a jammed starter in the dark in the rain in five minutes flat and don't regard this as unusual.

■ You set off the alarms at airport security checkpoints with the wrenches you'd forgotten were in your pocket.

■ You begin conversations: "I'd have driven here tonight, but ..."

■ You spend an evening at a friend's house and leave with the words: "Don't go to bed yet. I may be back."

*Bill Taylor, a reporter in The Star's Travel section, writes weekly on the wideranging world of cars and drivers.*

Submitted by:

Shawn Spence

591-8618

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**EVENTS**

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Registration  
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Friday, August 4, 1995

Driving tour to Elera Gorge  
Lunch  
More Touring and shopping  
BBQ Dinner

Saturday, August 5, 1995

Concours d'Elegance  
Awards Banquet

Sunday, August 6, 1995

Rallye  
Group dinner

Monday, August 7, 1995

Breakfast and depart

**MAIL**

Mail registration (including cheque or VISA) to:

Toronto Triumph Club  
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324 Beaver Street  
Burlington, ON, L7R 3G5  
Phone: 905-632-8296  
FAX: 905-632-5090

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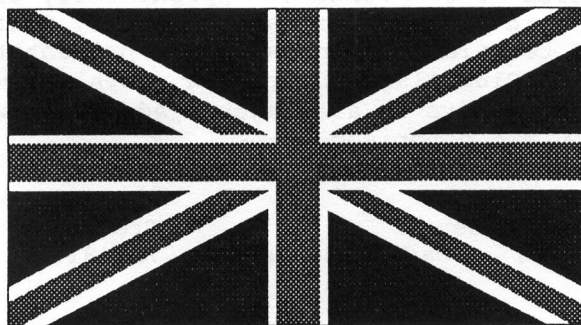
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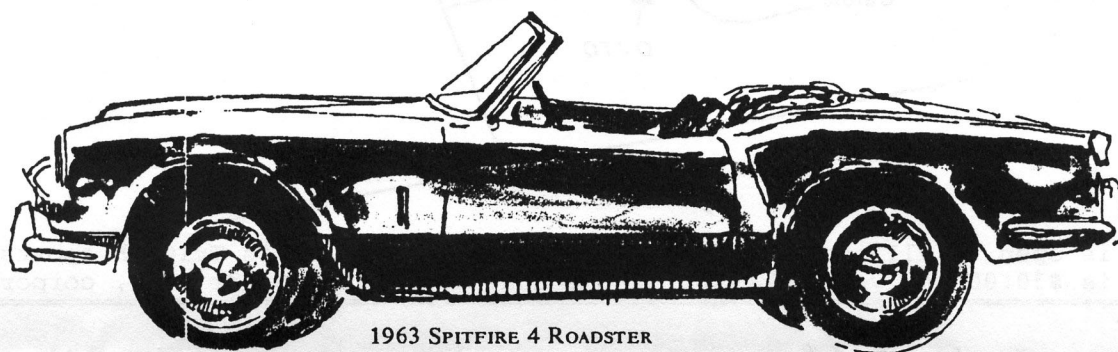
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The Ottawa Valley Triumph Club is comprised of approximately 65 members. The Club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Manordale Community Centre, Knoxdale and Carola (see map). Meetings include technical seminars, video presentations, restoration techniques and much more. The Club also publishes a monthly newsletter, *Overdrive*, which is distributed to members. *Overdrive* is also exchanged with newsletters from other clubs. The OVTC Executive at present is comprised of:

Clive Law  
President

820-7350  
John Day  
Editor  
723-9876

Martin Harasek  
Vice-President

823-1276  
David Huddleson  
Membership  
822-1315

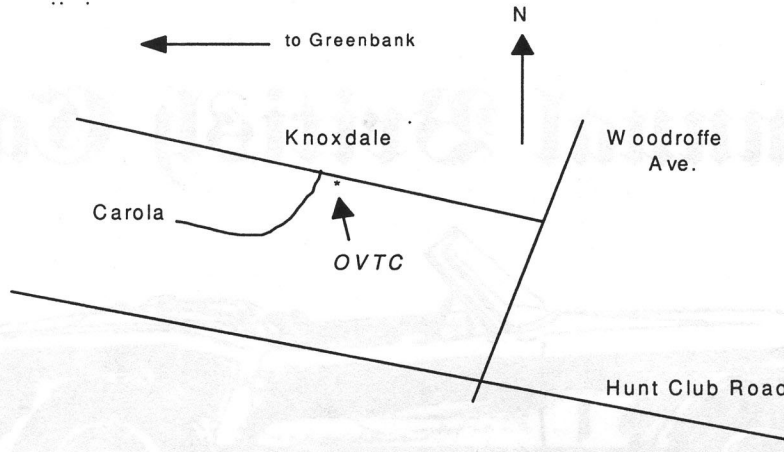
Jane Benco  
Treasurer

727-8113

Julio Benco  
Editor/Events

727-8113

Pat Mills  
Regalia  
825-1698



Membership is open to all individuals and companies interested in Triumph sports cars. Membership is \$30.00 per year (June/June) per household and \$60 per year, corporate.



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