

Chairman bows out at WWW with a coupé, a van and a saloon

Wicked Welsh Weekend, The Rising Sun, Pandy, near Hereford, 25th-28th September 2015

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Having decided to make the WWW the last event I attend as Chairman, I honestly say I couldn't have wished for a better event from which to step down. Our hosts, the Gurner family, were on

hand to welcome us all with large batch of Welsh cakes at the ready.

As I was travelling *incognito* in my camper with my Imp currently off the road I needed to secure a



Jim Fraser's Chamois Coupé lent a Scottish twist to the Welsh event!

Photo: Graham Anderson

ride for each of the three planned runs. I was not to be disappointed after chatting in the bar to former Chairman Jim Fraser and my first ride was secured.

So, with Friday dawning bright but rather chilly it was soon time to collect the route details and jump into Jim's tartan trimmed Chamois Coupé. After brief wait we were on our way heading north along the Welsh border for a lunch stop at Westons Cider in Much Marcle. For many, a tour of the 1880s cider mill was the order of the day but not before sampling the refreshments in the café and afterwards liberating copious amounts of cider from the shop.

Onward to journey's end in Ledbury town centre with its many timber-framed structures, in particular the imposing Market House and clock tower on the High Street. A perfect location to roam the shops in pleasant surroundings to say the least. The return route took us on to the



Keeping the wolf from the door: the café at Weston Cider Mill provided sustenance for Bob Hawes and Graham Traxson

Photo: Graham Anderson



Departing from the campsite for Saturday's run

Photo: Graham Anderson



remains of the 13th century Skenfrith Castle before returning to the Rising Sun – the less written about the slurry covered lane half a mile from the finish the better!

The trip with Jim was quite an eye-opener as *en route* he shared details of the front radiator cooling arrangement that he has ingeniously built into his Chamois. With cable-controlled bypass valves fitted into the heater pipes, the flow to the front radiator can

be turned on or off at will while driving. By keeping an eye on the temperature gauge he is readily able to adjust not only water flow but also the air flow through the front radiator. Looking totally standard the car is without any air vents cut into the bodywork. Jim is, however, able to keep the operating temperature at acceptable limits with the additional aid of an electric scissor-action window winder mechanism mounted on the bulkhead and extended bonnet hinge mounting bolts. With this arrangement Jim is able raise the back edge of the bonnet by about 2½ inches to allow warm air to escape and that's done with the flick of a switch alongside the cable control for the bypass valves. All in all some smart work by Jim that's really cool!



Top: A few of the Imps on display at Weston's Cider Mill
Above: Graham reflects on the joys of riding in a convoy!
Main picture: Chris Wittering's Chamois Coupé on Sunday's run to Hay Bluff. Wonderful views over the Wye Valley
Opposite top: A pause in Saturday's run to take in the 'Sheeptastic display' at Llandovery
Photos: Graham Anderson

The Gurners's Imp dwarfed by Ledbury's clock tower on Friday's run
Photo: Graham Anderson



Anyway, back to WWW and Saturday's run took us firstly to the Llandovery Sheep Fair after a blast along the A40. My chauffeur for the day was Dave 'The Van' Andrews in, of course, his Commer Imp Van, which was well packed with his camping paraphernalia. The extra payload didn't stop Dave giving me a very spirited and most enjoyable run on the superb roads leading up to the picturesque Llyn Brianne Reservoir. The views from the top were just brilliant as it was a beautifully clear day. There was more to come as we headed over the Abergwesyn Pass near Tregaron and down the Devil's Staircase, a very steep descent with numerous hairpin bends to negotiate.

As if that wasn't enough the *finale* was a much anticipated drive over the Epynt Ranges, a military training area that I last visited a few decades ago watching many stage rallies held there in the late 'seventies and early 'eighties. A brief stop for liquid refreshments on the outskirts of Abergavenny came all too soon then it was back to base and the evening entertainment, the now infamous 'Naffle' in which many of the raffle prizes are generally naff to say the least!

Sunday morning broke bright and clear but again with a sharp nip in the air to clear any heavy heads. The Show & Shine produced over 30 cars.

As many left to head home some of us took in a run up to nearby Hay Bluff on the tip of the Black Mountains for superb long-distance views looking northwards over the Wye Valley and the famous book town of Hay-on-Wye. My driver for this run was another former Chairman, namely Bob Hawes with his early Mk1 saloon. Having been slowed considerably by oncoming traffic on the single-track climb up to the Bluff the descent and return on wider 'A' roads enabled Bob to amply demonstrate the benefits of a nicely tuned 998. This certainly made for a good comparison with my two previous rides being a 930 coupé and an 875 van but conspired to make it virtually impossible to choose a favourite as they were all brilliant in their own ways.



Our hosts: The Gurner family
Photo: Graham Anderson

SHOW & SHINE RESULTS

BEST CHRYSLER	LESLEY SMITH	VWX 317L
BEST ROOTES	GRAHAM TRAXSON	FNT 481D
BEST SUNBEAM	GARY MATHEWS	EYU 897J
BEST VAN/HUSKY	MALCOLM ANDERSON	NAE 421F
BEST IMP-BASED	MIKE HEARNE	BRO 299B
BEST SINGER	DAVE LANE	BEY957C

With time marching on and an almost empty campsite it was time to pack the camper and head off home with happy memories of a great weekend.

As I said after the presentation of the awards, our thanks go to the Gurner family and the local members who made

Rare appearance of Malcolm Anderson's Commer Imp Van alongside Jim Fraser's Chamois Coupé

Photo: Graham Anderson



And from Gillan Hill and John Fenton...

I only really have the usual to say – what a great weekend! The Gurners impressed with their usual flawless organising, Tina even booking the sunshine and super moon for us.

And Phil & Lesley sorted an excellent trip for the Friday, to Weston's Cider, Ledbury and Skenfrith Castle.

Saturday saw us at Llandovery and over one of the “eek” runs that we all love so much.

Sunday's run turned into a mystery one – I could have sworn Neil said the Transporter Bridge, so when we got left behind, with a Husky found *en route*, we made our way to Newport to see the bridge. No Imps. Eventually we managed to contact Jason who had also got left behind and returned to the campsite. It appears the rest went to Hay's Bluff instead. Still we enjoyed our crossing!

Glad folk enjoyed the Tea Shoppe, as they did last year.

Rhydian Mason snapped his Husky on the way home from WWW. Dylife mountain road south of Machynlleth makes a spectacular backdrop

Photo: Rhydian Mason



the weekend so enjoyable. Thanks also for the good wishes, the three cheers and of course, the liquid refreshment that I received on the Sunday that was very much appreciated. I must also thank each of my drivers for putting up with me and my camera alongside them. It was a case of a coupé, a van and a saloon – and certainly not the good, the bad and the ugly!