TRIUMPH SELLS RECORD NUMBER OF SPORTS CARS

By Graham W. Whitehead

Retail sales of Triumph sports cars set an all-time record in 1971, it was announced by British Leyland Motors Inc.

Sales of Triumph Stags, TR-6s, GT-6s and Spitfires in 1971 hit 20,250 units compared to 17,847 in 1965, the previous high for Triumph sports models.

The 1971 Triumph sales figure eclipsed the 1970 figure of 14,588 units by 39 percent.

Total British Leyland sales in 1971 were 65,224 down slightly from the 1970 figure of 67,812, reflecting a shortage of supply of some models.

1972 sales of 75,000 British Leyland cars have been forecast by Graham W. Whitehead, President of British Leyland Motors Inc. He anticipates that Triumph sales will attain new record levels. He also bases his prediction on the expectation that the economic climate in the U.S. will improve in 1972.

Record For 1972 Forecast

On October 30, 1971, the Brandywine Motorsport Club held their second annual Braille Rallye for the benefit of the Teenage Blind P.T.A. The Braille Rallye, arranged with the co-operation of Mr. David Reese of the Delaware Bureau for the Visually Impaired, was much more than an ordinary Rallye. Navigators were blind students and adults, and route instructions were transcribed in Braille only. Drivers were permitted to use their odometer and a wrist watch. They were also given a sheet listing instruction numbers, mileages, and last-minute changes in the course. The drivers otherwise relied entirely upon their navigators for instructions. This unique situation made total co-operation and communication imperative.

British Leyland Motors of Leonia, New Jersey, again participated in the event, which was co-chaired by the

Triumph Rallyists, Renee and Jack O'Leary, Chair Braille Rallye

by Suzanne Lowenstein

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Triumph Stag Rally Team of Dr. John and Renee O'Leary. British Leyland supplied all the participation trophies (shown in the picture) and also took one of the top honors in the competition. Driver Quayton Stottlemyer and Navigator Ed Stokes placed Fifth of 24 in the contest in the O'Leary's Triumph Stag.

Following the Rallye, Toyota Town of New Castle, Delaware, treated all the participants and workers to a picnic at Camp Landis. Generous donations of time and prizes by local businesses and individuals helped make the 1971 Braille Rallye a success and a rewarding experience for everyone concerned. The Rallye was greatly enhanced by those who participated so enthusiastically, giving Brandywine Motorsport Club the pleasure of their company on a beautiful Fall day in the country.

Position  Driver          Navigator        Award Donor
1st  Bill Crouse        Tim Skipski         Jack Kelmer Co. Phila.  (Nav.)
     Fred Hurlburt        Renee O'Leary      Triumph Stag Rally Team (Driver)
2nd  Dick Jackson       Steve Burley         Royal Imports Wilm.    Royal Imports Del.
3rd  Doug Tuttle        Mel Hufnal           J. D. Jewelers Wilm.    Triumph Stag Rally Team
4th  Jim Howette        Colin Reynolds       Radio Station WDEL Wilm.
5th  Quayton Stottlemyer Ed Stokes           Taylor Auto Supply Co. Wilm., Del.
Best Triumph            Craig Davison        Fred Russe Wilm.        Motorsport Service Dept.  Owen Gillespi

(These awards are in addition to the participation trophies from British Leyland Motors Inc. that went to ALL Drivers and Navigators plus members of the press.)

Brandywine Motorsport Club/
Rose Tree Motor Club Season Climax

By: Jess Clifton

Despite the threatening forecast, the Rallymasters outfoxed the weatherman (of course!) for the running of the Inter-Club in co-sponsorship with Rose Tree Motor Club which ended their respective regular rallye seasons on Sunday, November 21st.

A 2-parter over approximately 100 miles, the morning section guided contestants over a route devised by Jim Reynolds, Chairman, BMC, in which route instructions were depicted by a stick with unwanted roads as branches. As the General Instructions described it: imagine a road map with a piece of string placed over the route you are to follow. If the string is pulled taut, unwanted roads are formed to either side of the route, etc. Simple, really, and great fun for navigators!

The afternoon session was a straight forward affair in which some devilish traps were sprung by Bill Hudson of BIMC. Example: Several check point arrival slips read: “Greetings! If you are (blank) minutes too early and (blank) miles short, you have not followed directions!” To many of us (who obviously did not follow instructions) the statement was sanguinary! (Look that up in your “Glossary of Terms for Verbal Abuse to Rallymasters!”)

The rallye was followed by cocktails, a buffet dinner, disallowed protests and finally—the prize-giving ceremony. A lively (?) discussion took place during dinner concerning an instruction which read: “R after passing public golf course. One 34” Neophyte rallyists (and others) please take note: If a public road runs through a golf course (right) before the far boundaries of the golf course are (passed) beware—It’s the next valid road to the right after passing, etc., etc., and that’s what an “after” instruction means.

The Inter-Club Rallye is always a challenging event, and, as in the past, drew contestants from New Jersey, New York and Maryland as well as guests from Pennsylvania and Delaware. Top honors went to the team of Fred Hurlburt and Renee O'Leary driving the O'Leary's "I Wanna Win" Triumph Stag. Their score was a commanding 60 points less than the score of the second place finishers.

Equipped
1. Fred Hurlburt    Renee O'Leary
2. Nancy Crouse    Bill Crouse

Unequipped
1. Walt Hessinger    Clyde Heckler
2. Jim Taylor        Bill Sommers

SOP
1. John Campbell    Pete Carter
2. Ed Ballard       Betty Ballard

Renee O'Leary calls forward the first recipients for participation trophies from the British Leyland Motors Inc. pyramid of mugs.  

Photo by Quayton R. Stottlemyer
TWO RECALLS ANNOUNCED

British Leyland Motors Inc. has announced a recall of 1969 through 1971 Triumph TR-6 models for a check of a possible ½-inch discrepancy in headlight height.

If necessary, should the headlight height be too low, spacers will be inserted in the front suspension to raise the front of the car and bring the lights up to Federal height requirements.

British Leyland stated that the headlight height does not affect normal operation of the vehicle, but owners are urged to comply with the recall.

An estimated 6,000 vehicles are affected.

A recall campaign has been announced involving 1968 TR-250, Spitfire and GT-6 models, 1969 and 1970 Spitfires, GT-6s and TR-6s and 1971 TR-6s.

The company says that there is a possibility that seat belts supplied by U.S. Safety Weave Company used on some of these models may not meet Federal strength standards. U.S. Safety Weave is one of several suppliers of seat belts for Triumph cars and only its belts are suspect.

All belts bearing the inscription “US 201” on the buckle will be replaced free of charge by Triumph dealers.

A potential 24,221 vehicles are affected.

BEST TR - EL CAMINO REAL. Marlys and John Lysaker, members of the Triumph Club of Ventura County, won the Triumph marque award at the El Camino National, held November 19-21, 1971. The Lysakers placed 15th in class in this extremely competitive event.

BRITISH BAN SEX

LONDON — Vehicle licensing chiefs in Britain have banned the registration letters SEX for car number plates. A confidential Handbook of Guidance, issued by the Government to vehicle licensing authorities throughout the country, officially omits these letters.

Normally SEX would have been issued to motorists in the seaside resort town of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, where the vehicle licensing office is at present issuing OEX number plates. But they have been ordered to jump the letter “S”.

The GT. Yarmouth vehicle licensing office said: “We are not going to use SEX because of what it stands for. We will simply not be issuing that particular combination of letters for number plates.

“SEX has had to be eliminated from the records. It does not exist as an acceptable group of letters, be it for a Jaguar or TR-6.

“Lots of people might object to it on their cars. The guidance and instructions from London are quite clear — letters which a council feels would cause embarrassment should not be used for vehicle number plates — so SEX will never be used."

In Britain car number plates currently carry three letters, like ABC, and three numbers plus a final letter. The second and third letters denote the licensing town or authority and the other letters and numbers are sequence codings.

DEVENDORF FOILED. Last issue we mentioned Don Devendorf’s almost-successful pursuit of Bob McQueen at the ARRC. This photo shows McQueen about to take the flag with Don right behind. Datsun #8 prevented Don from trying a pass on the inside coming down the hill or things might have been different.
LOCAL CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to 1972 officers elected by the Triumph Touring Club of Rochester and the Triumph Sports Car Club of New Jersey. They are listed below along with the club meeting place.

1972 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tim Mancini 315-454-3086 7554 Victor Mendon Road, Apt. 9 Victor, New York 14564
Vice-President: Michael Lissow
Secretary: Becky Taylor
Treasurer: Ralph Priebe
Activities Dir.: John Boyle
Asst. Activ. Dir.: John Ketwig
Member at Lge/GMSC Rep.: Lindsay Cooper

The TRIUMPH TOURING CLUB OF ROCHESTER, INC. holds a general meeting the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to all interested persons and are called to order at 8:00 P.M. at the Colonial Hotel, 1129 Empire Boulevard, Rochester, New York. Please contact the President for the date of next meeting.

Triumph SPORTS CAR CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bill Paschick 6 West Lake Drive, Montville, N. J. 07042
VICE-PRES.: Bill Mendello
TREASURER: Helen Barnett
CORRESPONDING SEC.: Betsy Amlicke 51 Brunswick Lane, Willingboro, N. J. 08046
RECORDING SEC.: Barbara McGiffin
DIRECTORS: Anna Marie Andrews
Jim Bailey
Ralph Lancaster
Paul Seugling
John White

MONTHLY MEETING

The regular meeting of the Triumph Sports Car Club will be held at Giovanni's Restaurant, Orchard and Elm Sts., East Paterson, N. J. at 8:15 pm.

TR Register

Most American TSOA members have heard of the TR Register, a group formed in England to act as a center for information about Triumph sports cars of the "TR" variety. We have just heard from Darryl Uprichard who points out that social activities are a part of the group's interest as well. Again, TSOA members wishing to join the Register should write to:

Terry Simpson
100 High St.
Redburn, N. J.
St. Albans
Herts, England

Darryl tells us that membership is nearing 800 with about 20 members from the USA. For technical data and news about old Triumphs, there is no better group to join.

ITEMS FOR SALE:

Almost perfect black tonneau (missing one snap) and rear bumpers (2 pieces) for Spitfire Mk II. Clint Spevak, 439 Sunset, Toledo, Ohio 43612. Any reasonable offer plus shipping costs will be accepted.


1969 F Production National Champion. '69 Spitfire Mark 3 number 3 driven to victory at Daytona by Lee Mueller. Still the equal of any Spitfire in the country. Now painted silver gray with black pin-stripping. Ready to race with fresh engine, good tires, fuel cell, all the goodies. With some spares $3,000.00 firm. Trailer negotiable. Will deliver 500 miles. Mike Cook, 201-7300 (days) 201-838-7734 (nites) 15 Birch Rd., Bloomington, Ill. 61704.

Need "Surrey top" for '65 TR-4A. Need all parts including rear glass and frame, tubular frame, etc. Ken Fowler, 8104 Rider Ave., Balt., Md. 21204. 301-823-5615 (home) or 301-866-1900 (office).

TOURING CLUB OF RALEIGH

TSOA SUPERMARKET

OFFICIAL TRIUMPH JACKET

Brilliant blue water-repellent nylon zipper jacket with two white racing stripes. Mandarin collar style with side pockets, elasticized waist. Order direct from: Louisville Manufacturing Company

P. O. Box 1436, Louisville, Kentucky 40201

Specify: small, medium, large, extra-large $4.75
Ladies' sizes, specify small, medium or large $4.75
Jacket with button-in red acrylic pile liner $9.00

The following items are to be ordered from TSOA Leonia.

Local TSOA Club “Calling Cards” FREE
List of Triumph Dealers and Distributors FREE
Replacement TSOA Badge $1.00
Triumph Automobile Association badge $1.50
GT-6/2000 Competition Preparation Manual $2.00
TR-4 TR-4A Competition Preparation Manual $2.00
SPITFIRE Competition Preparation Manual $2.00
TR-250/TR-6 Competition Preparation Manual $2.00
GT-6+ Competition Preparation Manual $2.00
Complete list of Competition Parts for all Triumphs FREE
TSOA Jacket Emblem $1.00
Club Emblem $1.00
Official Triumph Jacket Emblem $1.00
Triumph Competition Stickers, Mylar $3.50

Send Check or Money Order. No. C.O.D.’s please.

Please make checks payable to Triumph Sports Owners Association.

The TSOA NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Triumph Sports Owners Association, 600 Willow Tree Road, Leonia, N. J. 07605 TSOA is a national organization of American sports car enthusiasts who own a Triumph or are interested in the purposes of the Association. Subscription is included with a $5.00 membership in the club.

EDITOR, MICHAEL L. COOK