



Jaguar Drivers' Club, Area 17 Bedfordshire

News 17

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'Basil' lives..... at the Lake Hotel Bonchurch IOW!

Before revealing the hilarious events of the IOW weekend, I must say how much we enjoyed what was a good break, good company and, overall a most enjoyable weekend. Our sincere thanks to Colin, Trevor and their respective partners from all the members who attended.

We anticipated some trouble from 'Basil' when he reacted badly to changes in our ferry bookings but the unfortunate and unavoidable late cancellation of two rooms meant that our reception was less than friendly.... 'you Jaguar people are giving me a lot of problems'.

Robin and Betty were equally unlucky when they were quickly sent to the lower car park when they tried to unload at the front entrance. Our nickname for the proprietor was inevitable as he ungraciously pointed us in the direction of our rooms.

This was all as nothing when we looked at our 'house rules' - No Credit or Debit cards - cash only. Pay for dinner wine 'on the spot'. No drinks tab for the weekend - if you insisted, a 10% surcharge would be incurred. Should an incoming mobile phone call occur in the dining room or lounge, there would be a £1.00 fine. A request for more tea bags for the room, £1.00 extra. Tea instead of coffee after dinner, £1.00 extra. The toilet was not to be used for anything 'not previously eaten'. Dinner was served between the hours of 6.30 and 7.30pm.

Each room was allocated a slim box of single ply 5x5 inch toilet sheets.....beware long or sharp finger nails! To make our weekend complete, the hotel ran out of beer on day two. Some of us could enjoy a superb tropical garden below our windows and all around the hotel, clearly unusual, well laid out and maintained.

The hotel was based in an old Victorian

building, decorated and furnished in the period style with comfortable lounges. Unfortunately it was difficult to see whether the elderly guests in the armchairs, were alive - or dead. This didn't help the atmosphere or encourage too much levity from the Area 17 guests - especially as we were out of the dining room so early.

Food at 'Fawley Towers' was good and plentiful to suit their regular clientele (none of that foreign muck!), although the menu was somewhat restricted. The cooking was typically English, plain and unadventurous - it would have made the landlady of a Blackpool 'B&B' proud.

I would stress at this point that it was a great weekend, in spite of 'Basil'. From a personal point of view however, four hours from home would see us well into France - empty well surfaced roads, good and varied food at low cost and well appointed friendly accommodation. Comparisons are supposed to be odious but this one had to be made.

Highlights of the weekend - walks along the promenade. Coffee and brandy on Sunday morning. Meeting the IOW J.E.C. at The Barns at Arreton, they were good company with some fine cars and we shared a pleasant meal. Bonchurch was pretty too.

Lowlights of the weekend - Difficult parking on the island, too much traffic even in September, on poor, narrow roads. Drab, or brash resorts, typical of Britain in the 60's/70's. Poor hotel parking.....and 'Basil'. There are some more photographs over the page.





.....and then there were three...

Due to a number of unforeseen circumstances, the time of the year, the two members living farthest away being absent etc., our September Evening Tour and meal took place with ever diminishing numbers. Those who took part enjoyed the tour, those absent have expressed a wish to repeat the event next May in the lighter evenings.

The run ended at the Dog and Badger near Maulden, the winners were Steve Pollard and Richard Pearman with Mick Duffy in second place closely followed by Roger Gage in third and last place. Well done everyone and thanks to Trevor and Colin for an interesting and well planned run. I promise we'll do better next time!

A return visit from Leslie Thurston

Exactly a year has gone by since the unfortunate meeting at The White Horse at Broom. The circumstances made for a highly embarrassing evening for the Area, for Leslie and for all concerned. We made our apologies to Leslie at the time and now we are really appreciative that he is prepared to return and give another talk. I am not sure what subject he will speak on other than to say that it will involve Jaguar and will certainly be interesting.

Please try to attend, provide a good audience for Leslie and enjoy the buffet from the Waggon and Horses. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday, 11th October at the usual time.



Area 17 Christmas Dinner 2004

Saturday, 11th December at The Waggon & Horses
£23.00 per person

A number of choices including a traditional Christmas menu.

Please return the slip enclosed in this issue, with a £10.00 per person deposit.

The Annual General Meeting of Area 17 will take place on Monday 8th November, 2004 at The Waggon and Horses, Barton-le Clay. Please submit any nominations for the Committee to a Committee member before the end of October. If there are any volunteers without a nominator just let me know. I'm sure we can always find a job for you!

