

## Club Spring Run to Powfoot

24 – 26 May 2014

Report by Douglas Arthur, photographs by Mike Menzies

At the crack of 9.00am, 10 cars began to congregate at the Drymen car park to receive our instructions from our tour "Guide and Organiser" Mike Gastall. The weather was set fair and those of us with soft tops had them stowed as we set off for Powfoot on the Solway Firth.

Our route was designed to avoid motorways as much as possible so we avoided Glasgow by passing through Kirkintilloch then, through Wishaw and Carluke, to the Inn on the Lake at Lanark where we stopped for coffee and bacon rolls. Here we were joined by our 11th car, Dennis Garnett in his 1987 Mercedes 300 SL.

The majority, who managed the navigation correctly, continued south to Crawfordjohn then to the highest village in Scotland, Wanlockhead, where a gold panning contest was being held. The World championship had been held there in 1992.

Passing through Leadhills to the A76, our route took us to Drumlanrig Castle, from where the Leonardo da Vinci painting "Madonna and the Yarnwinder" had been stolen, but was eventually returned. There we stopped for lunch - being careful to take the car keys with us!



Lunch stop at Drumlanrig Castle

The final part of our journey passed to the North East of Dumfries, down toward Annan, and then to our stop for two nights at the Powfoot Golf Hotel.

After dinner, some retired for a peaceful night's rest, while others listened to an apparently endless dance band for one of the two weddings held there that Saturday.

The prize for the quiz set by Mike, to be solved along the route, was won by the observant Richard and Christine Hunter in their "Out of the Box" Triumph Stag.

An award was made for "The Spirit of the Tour" to Eddie and Ilene Redman. Their Jaguar v12 E- Type made it all the way through Croftamie but then subsided to silence. After rescue and return to home, they then took off in their modern Mercedes to join us for dinner and the remainder of the weekend. This was a commendable achievement considering Ilene's disability.



Some of the cars outside The Powfoot Golf Hotel

The forecast for Sunday was very mixed, as were the weather experiences of differing groups on the Tour. Some experienced monsoon-like rain, others just ordinary rain, while we had the hood down most of the day with lots of sunshine.

Mike had prepared a short route to Threave Gardens. Richard and Christine Hunter achieved a clean sheet in the quiz before taking off for home in their Triumph Stag for a family engagement. Robin and Helen Morris also produced a full score but there were no further prizes!

Many took the opportunity to visit various sites while this far south, such as Hadrian's Wall in England! Others went to Wigton to buy books, while our Treasurer took off in his recently acquired Jaguar XK8 to a munitions factory of World War One.

We all assembled for dinner once again at our own table. Everybody seemed to have enjoyed the event thus far. That was about to change!

The forecast for the run home was not good, with rain most of the way. For us in our MG TF1500 the rain started at Moffat, but we had taken the precaution of putting the hood up. Phillip and Gail Pain in their MG TC had their hood down but were appropriately clad. They put the hood up at Abington where they stopped for coffee.

We had passed Roger and Mary Short putting the hood up on their MGB. They too stopped in Abington, and when asked if that was for coffee, the somewhat grumpy reply was "No!" The stop was for a complete change of clothes down to underwear as the erection of the hood had not gone quite as expected.

We were a little damp but it appears that all made it home in one piece, even if a little moist.

Our thanks must go to Mike and Christine Gastall for their hard work in preparing the route, which had to be changed late on, and also for preparing the quiz.

We hope to have a good turnout for our Club Run on Sunday 3 August.

We also look forward to next year's Spring Run which we hope will venture northwards again, around the last week in May, and possibly mid-week, to reduce costs.

Douglas Arthur  
Chairman