

Stafford show – the set up

As Chris has mentioned in his chairman's chat and has also been mentioned elsewhere the Stafford show was a resounding success this year.

For those that attended the show this year some of what I'm about to spiel about may have been evident. However, I thought I'd give brief run-down of what had to happen to make the stand as good as it was. The weekend before the show we had a committee meeting to finalise just what was going to be there. This was really only as final check to make sure that all that had been arranged previously was actually going to take place and there weren't any last minute changes of plan or failures to achieve targets. If anything was wrong/missing it was a bit late now!

I can happily state that all was in place and going to go to plan. Costumes purchased or otherwise found in old wardrobes, vehicle permits, (too few, the show ground are a bit tight with those) wrist bands to allow entry for us all plus some for people bringing bikes, one of each model. Dave's turntable, the engine, smoke machines, seventies music, all ready. All of Steve's regalia stuff, tables and chairs all had to be delivered to the hall and setup.

I arrived about 11:15 on the Friday morning to discover Chris must have been there a little before me as he had dropped off all the floor tiles we put down in our designated area. I started to lay them out in our 15 x 40 foot designated spot, these have to go down before anything else can be positioned. Once these were down everything else could be brought in and set up. The bikes arrived at various times during the day, the turn table arrived in the back of Dave's van, under instruction from Dave we helped (?) him assemble it. Between Dave and Skid they made a final adjustment to it to ensure its smooth running. Hammies bike was loaded onto it and the lights around the base fired up, it looked magic!, both the bike and the turntable.

Various other smaller items had to be placed, banners, bunting, posters, etc. I setup the engine and fired it up, to the surprise of quite a few it was making engine noises! I had said at a previous committee meeting said that I would do this but I think it may have been forgotten?

Dave set up the smoke machines and seventies music, ably assisted by our female backing group of Linda and Claire.

At about seven on Friday evening we all departed to our various places of rest. Those that lived within reach went home, others to hotels and other establishments.

Saturday saw us all return, by 08:30 we were all in place in our 70's gear, the girls in their one piece trouser suit thingies? Chris with the most horrible looking syrup you could imagine, we even managed to get Elvis to attend, well the best we could do, Steve W. Dave H and Skid had on some of the most amazing getups and looked like a porn star and his pimp. Dave even managed to add a little 'enhancement' in the trouser region.

As people showed interest in the engine I would start it up, at the same time on many occasions Dave would start the smoke machine, engine turning, making noises and a large blue haze!

It started to thin out a bit by late afternoon and we all disappeared by about 18:00 only to return again Sunday morning for it all to start again. We heard for definite on Sunday morning that we had won a number of awards, this really made the whole effort worth it. Sunday afternoon at 17:00'ish things started to really come to an end which left us to strip down and pack everything on the stand. You have to understand that EVERYBODY there was packing up and trying to load cars, vans and trucks at the same time yet strangely enough it all goes pretty smoothly. Seeing that it took many hours to setup pulling it all down again in a couple of hours seems a little optimistic but that's what we did.

We then all disappeared in our various directions into the night – great show, great result, congratulations to everyone.

Nick Lowe - Club Secretary