BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

The Pistons & Props event at Sywell, Northants on the 22nd-23rd September effectively saw the coming to an end of this year's BEC Rally Season. I thank those who supported the event, they were: Colin Pears, T60 Hard Top 24 FKF; Charlie Jefferies, 'Buggs' T60 (Mini Conversion) NSV 116; Mike Griffiths, B95 Sports UWN 785; Graham Higgs, SE492 Sports, 902 EBO; Di Stringer, SA322 Sports (Excelsior 328 Conversion) 485 UXP; Mike Stringer, SE492 Hard Top 2968 UR and myself with SE492 Foursome 2243 HJ. Along with those bringing their cars, we were supported by visits over the course of the weekend from BEC members Neil Barber, Dave & Racine Dolman, Anthony Clayton and, all the way from 'Oz', Kip McIntyre - nice to see them all and talk Berkeley!

I was most pleased yet again this year with the attendance of those bringing cars to the BEC supported events. On average we managed to display six to eight cars per event, which, as a constant over the season, I do not think at all bad!

We now enter our winter 'off season period', where traditionally most of us concentrate on fettling up our cars, or restoring them in preparation for next year's rally and show season and oh, what a season that is going to be! Obviously the main event for many in July will be the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the 1958 Liege Brescia Liege Rally but, as in previous years, May is looking to be another busy month event wise with what should be of most importance to us all, our own BEC AGM & Rally.

Other prime events to consider are of course Prescott Classic Hill Climb and Wheel Nuts, Stroud, although as yet the date for the latter has not been released and this year saw it being put back from late April into early May. We are also trying to raise an event at the ex-Excelsior Works in Tyesley, Birmingham, in conjunction with the Excelsior Talisman Motorcycle group, which should be very interesting. See 'Events' in future issues for updates on that.

So, get those spanners out, get busy and get that Berkeley roadworthy for 2018!

Keep Berkeleying!

Geoff (Bill) Toyer *geedadtee@ntlworld.com*

NEWS

Prescott Hill Climb Classic Car Event 12th and 13th May 2018

Cleeve Vale rotary club are once again organising the 2018 Classic car event at Prescott. An entry form with all event details accompanies this bulletin. This is a charity event which this year raised £18,000 for charityof which £10,000 has been given to the Sue Ryder hospice at Leckhampton Court . Entrants can take part in the Saturday road run and up to two runs up the hill on Sunday. Alternatively entrants can enter just for the static display on Sunday. This popular event has limited places and bookings fill up quickly. At least 3 to 4 Berkeleys usually run the hill each year! For more information see accompanying entry form or see the events section of *www.cleevevale.org.uk*

Graham Higgs

Berkeley T60 Model Car

The specialist German model company Autocult (website: *autocult-models.de*) has just launched a model of a 1960 Berkeley T60 in 1/43rd scale as part of its increasing range of microcar models.





Cast in resin and supplied fully built in its convertible hood down mode, the model looks very well detailed and accurate from the photos seen at the product launch. It is finished in a light blue colour.





The model has been based on the T60 once in the Bruce Weiner museum in the USA, originally UK registration 109 NHA, once resident in the West Midlands with ex BEC member, Brian Sinar.



Images from *http://www.microcarmuseum.com/tour/berkeley-t60*

The model is, like most high quality limited edition models, not cheap at approximately £90. The models will be available via UK model car collector shops in due course or see the website of *www.Diecastlegends.com*, or their London shop. Tel 08448 878888.

Let's hope they produce some other Berkeley models soon as it has been some years since the white metal TW collection Berkeley model kits were available.

Nigel Halliday

UPDATE Birmingham 2018

This is a reminder of the announcement made in the July BEC Bulletin about the proposal for a Birmingham based joint rally with the Excelsior Talisman motorcycle club in the spring or early summer of 2018. We are looking for any suggestions and ideas that any member may have.

Nigel Halliday

Refurbishment of Berkeley Speedometers

As well as the alloy AC Fuel Sending units - that I can now repair, I want to collect some old AC 120 MPH speedometers for bits - to keep me busy over winter!

I find that all AC speedometers have transfers on the number counter drums, and they all peel off over time (unlike Smiths which are engraved and easy to restore). The later Vauxhall (I guess) AC speedometer drums will transfer over, having good drums as they were mostly kept in the dry. The trip meter control is very different, but can be retro fitted.

The gear ratios are incorrect and not to be used (*The reason I keep getting speeding tickets!*).

From my investigations I have found that the Berkeley speedometers have a particular unique set of gear shafts. The face is also incorrect as it has no provision for the ignition light.

I am interested in finding a contact who can Silk Screen Print perhaps, or make a transfer to restore the faces. This is potentially difficult as the face is not flat, but has a raised centre. This has to be on small scale and not expensive - ideally done by an enthusiast.
Anyone able to help please contact me.

Graham Higgs *higgs.graham@googlemail.com*

UPDATE: L-B-L European MicroCar Rally, 11th-22nd July 2018

Malcolm McKay reports that Berkeley interest in next July's Liège-Brescia-Liège rally is at an all-time high. Berkeleys were the second most popular car on the original 1958 rally, when a works team of three SE328 and three SE492 competed against the might of Europe (mostly Fiat 500, but including such delights as FMR Tg500 (Tiger), Zundapp Janus, Citroen 2CV and UMAP). They were the third most popular make in 2008, when nine Berkeleys (one SE328, three SE492, two T60 and three B95/105) competed against an even wider range of cars, the most popular being Fiat (12) and BMW (11 - Isetta, 600 & 700). For 2018, Berkeley are currently number one with 10 on the provisional list (three SE328, six SE492 and one B95), just ahead of Fiat (9 - unless you add the three Steyr-Puchs!).

A recent addition has been Andrew Isherwood's SE492, which was advertised in the Bulletin recently. Malcolm has also just collected Kevin Kalman's B95, which has been in Norway for the last 10 years, and is busy fettling it (and Kevin's SE492) for the rally.





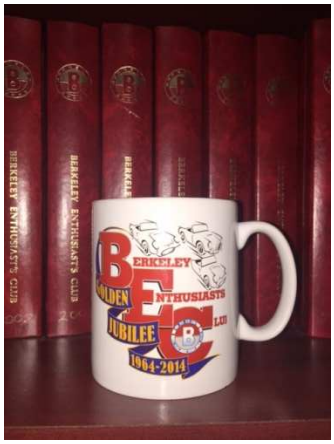
Kevin Kalman's B95 arriving from Norway and heading back to Malcolm's home ready for rally preparation.

There is still time for more Berkeleys to join in the fun - get your entry in before the end of November though to avoid a price rise!

Details from *LBLRally@aol.com, classicrallypress@yahoo.co.uk, facebook.com/LBLRallies or tel 07711 901811.*

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BEC Regalia



Plans are well advanced to issue an extensive range of new Berkeley Enthusiasts Club Clothing in time for Christmas 2017. More details next month.

We have a few 2014 BEC jubilee mugs left in stock. Price is £6.00p plus £3.50p Post and packing from BEC Spares

SPARES

Bearings

Whilst recently investigating replenishing BEC Spares stock of bearings, it has become painfully obvious that the rarity and lack of demand from industry of Imperial sized bearings is beginning to bite hard when it comes to the price of the bearings used on our cars. Some of the bearings from the well-known quality makes such as RHP, Skefco,etc have gone from £20 to over £50 in two years and some are very hard to find.

Whilst we consider that the quality of bearings used for any engine rebuild is paramount, we are seriously considering that in the case of the wheel bearings it may be time to consider fitting lower quality and hence lower priced bearings. It is, after all easier to change defective wheel bearings than rebuild an engine or worse still damage beyond repair a rare engine or its components.

We would be pleased to learn of member's experiences with the sourcing of bearings in recent times.

Please note that there will be no BEC Spares service available for the last two weeks of October and the first week of November due to the spares officer's personal holiday.

Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

12th 13th May 2018 : Prescott Hill Climb Classic Car Event
Prebooked entries only for hillclimb and static exhibition. See details above and accompanying entry form for more details.

www.cleevevale.org.uk

OTHER EVENTS

If you know of any worthwhile events which you feel other members would be interested in, please contact Ian & Mel Danaford (*m.danaford@gmail.com*) with the details, so that they can be included in the bulletin.

MARKETPLACE

For Sale

No club adverts this month but some interesting adverts seen on UK ebay recently:



A T60 hardtop
Unfortunately with a cut away bottom front rail and at a high price of £300.
Ebay Item No 15270951838



A Berkeley 3 wheel hard top, 2 doors left and right.
Also included; 2 windscreens, one with chrome surround believed to be from a 1960 model - auction starting at £0.99.
Ebay Item No 182830653493



Barrie Holding's Berkeley SE 328
New pistons with rebore, + bearings, gearbox bearings (3 speed), shocks all round, steering box rebuilt by ICS in Birmingham, clutch plates, diff. bearings, all steering bushes, track rod ends, tyres and tubes, brake pipes, brake linings, flexible brake pipes, brake seals, rear brake cylinders, battery, SU fuel pump, fuel tap + filter, car seat.

The car also has LED lighting all round, cylinder head temp gauge, clock, battery cut off switch, a good hood and tonneau.

Ebay Item No 162711249095
At the time of press this item appears to have sold

A restored Berkeley Caravette caravan
For sale in the North East at £3,250.00p.
Ebay Item No1527307862316



Wanted
Old AC 120mph speedometer units to help with repairs and refurbishment.
Also anyone with the means to help restore the speedometer faces either silk screen printing or producing transfers. Small scale and low cost ideally. Contact *higgs.graham@googlemail.com*

Graham Higgs

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NOTE: Event News, For Sale/Wanted, etc.
Please contact Ian & Mel Danaford (*m.danaford@gmail.com*) if you wish to place a News Item or an Advertisement in the BEC Bulletin, or have any queries about an item or advertisment that has already appeared.

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NOTE: Membership Details
Please contact Geoff Dabrowa (*BECMembership @gmail.com*) in order to update club records and ensure that you continue to receive BEC bulletins and publications when changing e-mail address, moving house, etc.

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'Berkeley-USA' Yahoo Group: *https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Berkeley-USA/info*

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'BerkeleyCarOwners' Facebook page: *https://www.facebook.com/groups/berkeleycarowners/*

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Berkeley Enthusiasts Club

www.berkeleycarclub.com

Webmaster: Peter Smyth

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The October 2017 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Ian & Melanie Danaford