BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who attended our 2017 AGM in Minchinhampton on Saturday 6th May. The turnout was respectable, bearing in mind that this was a stand-alone event.

A full record of the proceedings will be released in due course, but the main item of contention was the lack of regularity in the club's production of our quarterly magazine. The Membership Secretary reported that this was having a severe effect on him persuading current members (especially overseas ones) to renew their subscriptions. It was therefore proposed that, after consultation with our current Editor, Ray Bell (apologies sent) that the post of Magazine Editor should be advertised in this edition. Ray has very kindly laid out the prospectus for any such aspirants in the hope that we get someone suitably qualified to come forward; in the event of this not happening several alternatives were discussed at the AGM and are to be considered. Whatever the outcome, you the membership can rest assured that the committee will do everything in its power to make sure that in future the BEC magazine will go out quarterly. It only leaves me to thank Ray Bell for doing such an excellent job in the past in bringing the magazine up to its present standard!

Also, thanks must go to Dave Rich for co-ordinating our presence at the 'Wheel Nuts' show in Stroud the day after the AGM. The weather held good for us and a great day was had by all, with nine cars on display.

I write this on the 'cusp' of preparing to leave for our annual BEC Rally at Wingfield, which points to being another successful event.

Other news this month is Malcolm McKay's issue of the rules & regulations, plus entry forms for the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the 1958 Liège-Brescia-Liège Rally next year. As reported in previous Bulletins, it is hoped that the club will be playing a major role in this event, as we did ten years ago in the 2008 re-run. I consider this to be of sufficient importance to justify inclusion of a regular dedicated L-B-L column in the bulletin, as much organisation will be required to ensure that we are able to present the best attempts possible (in both matching navigators to drivers, and grouping entrants together in effective class teams). So, there is much to be considered.

Keep Berkeleying!

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

NEWS

Goodwood Breakfast Club Meeting, Sunday 4th June

There was zero response to mention of this event in the March and April bulletins, so presumably (despite the success of our presence last year and the ensuing lunchtime get-together at Langstone) there will be no Berkeleys in attendance this year?

If you are going and taking your Berkeley, please let us know as soon as possible, so that meal arrangements can be made - please e-mail Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).
Nigel Halliday

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UPDATE: Bristol MicroCar Rally, 7th-9th July 2017

This year's rally may well be the last, so the organiser is asking the BEC and other clubs for our support to help make it into a big success. Despite the reduced number of attendees in recent years, it is still very much a worthwhile event, with good friendly atmosphere and a varied selection of micro cars on display on the Sunday. The venue is Keynsham Rugby Ground (postcode BS31 2BE).

Weekend campers and Sunday visitors are all welcome. Breakfast, Lunch and Evening Meals available in pub over the road. Camping is on one of the rugby fields, with 24 hour access to toilet and shower facilities in the clubhouse.

- Friday: Afternoon/evening arrival and camping setup.
- Saturday: Road run to places of interest in beautiful countryside of the Bath/Bristol area. Plus free drinks and snacks in the gazebo at 19:30.
- Sunday: Autojumble stands, display of cars (plus awards) and the usual raffle.

For further details please contact: Wynford Jones, Tel: 07541-197243.

Facebook page: *https://en-gb.facebook.com/Bristol-Microcar-Club-Rally-193855761085411*

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UPDATE: National MicroCar Rally, Grasmere, 7th - 10th September

The 2017 NMCR is being held in the Lake District at The Showfield, Grasmere Sports Show Ground, Stock Lane, Grasmere, Cumbria (postcode LA22 9SL), just 24 miles north east of M6 Jn24.

It will be a four-day event, with road runs to local places of interest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, plus the usual display line-ups of all the different marques on Sunday.

The organisers (Marilyn Bryce and Alan Prince of the Scottish Microcar Club) are making full use of their local knowledge to ensure that attendees get the best sights and attractions.

- Entry Fee (inc. Rally Pack): £6.00 per unit.
- Sunday Visitor (with MicroCar): £6.00 per car (inc. passengers).

Food

Breakfasts: Catering van on site Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings (08:00-10:00).

On-Site Evening Meals: Friday and Saturday (BYOB).

- Friday: Cold buffet, veg, meat & hot potatoes, £8.50 per head.
- Saturday: Pies, peas & chips, £8.00 per head.

Drinks: Small bar on adjacent campsite (open from 19:30 onwards).

Camping

The rally site will be available from the afternoon of Wednesday 6th through to lunchtime on Monday 11th (sorry, no electrical hook-ups are available). The site facilities include Ladies & Gents toilets and showers, kitchen (with cooker and fridge), and dining area.

- Camping Fees (per unit per night): Tents: £9.00, Motorhomes/Caravans: £11.00.

Further details will be included in the bulletin as they are released (or check the NMCR website *www.national-microcar-rally.co.uk* for updates), but if you wish to book an evening meal or have any immediate questions please contact Marilyn, e-mail: *mbryce132@gmail.com* or Tel: 07979-622580.

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UPDATE: Berkeley Castle to Berkeley Close Charity Run

As you will have read in the last bulletin, Barry Jones and I had planned to drive our T60s 1,500 miles from Berkeley Castle up to Scotland and back down to Berkeley Close in Biggleswade to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Unfortunately, Barry's T60 had a clutch failure only 60 miles into our Friday drive down to Minchinhampton for the BEC AGM and his car had to be 'recovered' back home. He was still keen to do the trip with me though (albeit in his daily driver Ford), so joined us at the campsite on Sunday in readiness for the Monday morning departure.

All started well, with an interview for Radio Gloucester and BBC local news cameras filming me driving off in style from Berkeley Castle, and the rest of that first day also went fine. However, around lunchtime on Tuesday things started to go less well! Some of you may have seen my Facebook updates, but I won't go into further detail here, as there will be a full write-up in the BEC magazine at a future date.

On a positive note, despite a couple of quite major problems, I did achieve the start, finish and quite a chunk of the middle, managing 689 miles in just over a week (thanks to some rushed repairs), and so far we have raised £1,700 plus gift aid for the charity. A huge thank you to all those members who sent cheques to me or contributed to my justgiving account (*www.Justgiving.com/fundraising/Geoffrey-Dabrowa*).

Geoff Dabrowa *becmembership@googlemail.com*

Editor's Note: If (like me) you didn't get around to making a donation before Geoff's trek, it is still possible to contribute on line or send a cheque made out to 'Macmillan Cancer Support' to him at 22 Beck Road, Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5SA.

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WANTED: BEC MAGAZINE EDITOR

For the past few AGMs, the position of magazine editor has been on offer to anyone willing to take it up. Following this year's AGM we thought it might be a good idea to set out what's involved in the job, in the hope of encouraging a would-be journalist to have a go.

The content and the presentation of the mag are equally important ingredients in its success. The title 'editor' suggests that the job is merely one of tweaking the contributions from other people, but in practice it involves writing at least an introductory column, and inventing small 'filler pieces' to occupy the odd half empty page.

Ideally, contributors would flood your inbox with emails containing interesting features in the form of a text file and a set of good quality digital images referenced into the text. This doesn't often happen, and much of your job will involve turning slightly random jottings into a coherent narrative, and hunting around for a relevant image to illuminate the words. Inevitably there will come a time when (if you want to produce a full edition) you run out of material and have to sit down and start writing.

In simple terms, the production of the mag involves:

- Reviewing the material available for variety of content, quality of images and size. The latter is important, because you need to decide on the number of pages for each edition (always in multiples of four sides).
- Edit the written content, for grammar, spelling, punctuation and structure.
- Select from the wide range of available content, to create a varied, informative and amusing edition.
- Lay out the material, to see how it fits the number of pages – ideally each feature begins on a new page and images can be sized to take up more or less space as necessary. You can adjust the text size, paragraph and line spacing etc. to make the text fill the intended space. A title or graphic header to introduce the feature can be used as a space filler.
- When the layout has been completed, create a good quality pdf file and email it to the printers with the print order. Dave Perrin will then take over and deal with the distribution, leaving you free to begin the next edition.

There are plenty of software options for laying out the mag, for example:

Microsoft Word: I used this for early editions of the mag – it has a text flow facility for creating column layouts, though the latest version seems less straightforward for positioning images and text wrapping. If you are already a skilled Word user, it might be the easiest starting point.

Microsoft Powerpoint: Another option from the Office suite, this is an easy tool that allows you to combine text and images on a page. It has similar limitations to Word when it comes to text management but the slide previews make life easier when you are switching between pages.

Adobe InDesign: This is a professional grade publishing package which I used for the last few editions. It gives you more options than you will ever need for controlling the layout and handling images but it's an expensive package and takes a lot of learning.

Adobe Photoshop: Since colour printing became ubiquitous, good quality colour images have become essential for a well turned-out mag. For sharpening, retouching and colour correction, nothing beats Photoshop, though there are free alternatives which do most of these jobs (e.g. Gimp, Pixlr or Photoshop Express).

Over the years we have attempted to create a consistent and reasonably professional 'house style' for the club, using the same fonts and colours on printed matter and any club related products. We hope to extend this to the website, and to a new range of club regalia, so ideally the magazine would evolve in a similar vein. We have digital originals of all editions of the mag, so an incoming editor would be able to take one of these as a template on which to build a layout. We also have individual files of logos, etc..

It's difficult to calculate the amount of time each edition take – it depends on the amount and quality of material you have, and how ambitious your layout is. You might be amazed at how long it can take just to think up an amusing headline!

Ray Bell *rbell@ntlworld.com*

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OTHER EVENTS

If you know of any worthwhile events which you feel other members would be interested in, please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) with the details, so that they can be included in the bulletin.

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BEC PUBLICATIONS

Following our announcement of **The Manual** and **The Maintenance Handbook** in the March bulletin, they have been selling 'like hot cakes' ... and the initial print run has now sold out. There will be a slight delay before a new batch is available, however, all other publications are currently still in stock - please refer to the BEC Publications list which was e-mailed to you with this bulletin.

WANTED

Over the 5 years or so of Berkeley producton, the factory produced Spares Lists for three major variants of cars:-

- 1956/57 4-wheelers with 322cc or 328cc engines.
- 1958-60 4-wheelers with 492cc (later expanded to include 692cc engines).
- 1959/60 3-wheelers with 328cc engines.

Because they were only intended to allow dealers to order general spares for customer's cars, these factory publications are a far cry from modern vehicle parts catalogues (which list every last nut, bolt and washer required to assemble any given model). Although later versions did

contain some illustrations, they are still essentially just written lists of component names and the factory part numbers allocated to them (and therefore of very limited use to individual owners), but they are a useful resource for the club in our efforts to understand all the production variations and enhance our ability to supply spares to help return more cars to the road and keep them there.

The lists are broken down into sections lettered A to N and each page is marked with an issue number. The BEC is currently working on a new project pulling together a comprehensive cross referenced list of all known Berkeley parts across all production models, and we are therefore very keen to be able to refer to all available editions. We are reasonably confident that we hold copies of all the SE492 and SE492/B95 variants, but we definitely don't have all issues of the earlier SA322/SE328 4-wheeler or T60/T60-4 3-wheeler volumes.

We are particularly looking for pages A to N of the T60 Spares List at anything other than Issue 3 and any four-wheeler lists (or good copies) - a few of these seem to have survived in the USA, but they are extremely rare in the UK.

If anyone can help, please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) who has a detailed list of exactly which pages we already have and which ones we would love to find in order to help ascertain when certain components were introduced and clarify a few obvious errors in those versions which we do hold.

Back In Stock

- Excelsior 328cc full Gasket set (inc. exhaust manifold) ..... £13.00 plus £1.50 UK p&p
- MB 1000/22 Excelsior 328cc exhaust gasket 3043..... £2.50 plus £1.00 UK p&p
- All control and handbrake cables.

Available Shortly

- All wiring looms.
- MB 169/1 Handbrake Return Springs (for early four-wheelers).

Non-Standard Speedometer Cable

Some time ago a member asked BEC Spares to procure a 'special' speedometer cable with fittings to suit a Smiths instrument (rather than the original Berkeley AC unit). If this was you, could you please contact myself or Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

Jun 3rd/4th: Classic Car Show & Autojumble, Tatton Park, Cheshire.
See December '16 bulletin. *www.cheshireautopromotions.co.uk*

Jun 4th: 'Soft Top' Breakfast Club, Goodwood Motor Circuit, West Sussex.
See above. *www.goodwood.com/grrc/event-coverage/breakfast-club/*

Jun 4th: SHVPS Classic Vehicle Show & Autojumble, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hants.
See February bulletin. *www.shvps.org.uk*

Jul 7th - 9th: Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, Keynsham Rugby Club, BS31 2BE.
See above. *www.bristolmicrocarclub.com*

Aug 13th: Historic Specials Day, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, OX18 4JP.
See April bulletin for details.

Aug 19th/20th: Classic Car Show & Autojumble, Tatton Park, Cheshire.
See December '16 bulletin. *www.cheshireautopromotions.co.uk*

Aug 26th: Classic & Retro Festival, Gloucester City Centre. See November '16 bulletin.

Aug 27th: Ormskirk MotorFest, West Lancs. See April bulletin. *www.ormskirkmotorfest.com*

Sep 7th-10th: NMCR, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9SL.
See above. *www.national-microcar-rally.co.uk*

Sep 23rd/24th: Pistons & Props, Sywell Aerodrome, Northamptonshire, NN6 0BN.
http://www.sywellclassic.co.uk

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MARKETPLACE

WANTED: SE328

I have recently joined the club and am looking for an SE328 to drive on the L-B-L Rally next year. Would prefer a complete runner in need of restoration, but anything considered from a major project to a fully restored car.

Contact: Xavier Kingsland, e-mail: *xavierfkingsland@gmail.com*, Tel: 01489-891482.

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NOTE: Event News, For Sale/Wanted, etc.

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, please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

Please DO NOT contact Geoff Dabrowa, as he only e-mails the bulletin to you.

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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

Website for BEC members and anyone interested in our cars.
Webmaster: Peter Smyth

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Club Contacts

President/Secretary
Mike Rounsville-Smith, Tel: 01932-560160

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The May 2017 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin