BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Welcome to the first monthly BEC Bulletin. This is one of the main initiatives to come out of the 2012 AGM and is intended to keep members more up to date with club events and other Berkeley related activities as they are finalised/announced (now that we've reluctantly had to settle into the newsletter being a quarterly publication). The aim of the bulletin is that each club officer will submit a piece every month covering his sector of the club - if you have any questions or suggestions for topics that could be addressed in future issues, please drop a line to Dave Perrin and (whenever possible) he will arrange for the relevant committee member(s) to respond in the next edition.

As already mentioned in the Autumn newsletter, we will be returning to the Bubble Car Museum in Lincolnshire for the 2013 club AGM on the weekend of 18th-19th May. The owners have offered to open their canteen facilities on the Saturday for a formal evening meal. Perhaps it could be a retro Fifties/Sixties evening, in the style of the 'end of rally' or 'car club' dinners so popular in that era? This is your club, so please let me know your feelings on this concept or advise any alternative ideas. All suggestions gratefully received.

Geoff Bill Toyer

NEWS

We have had very limited response to the Autumn newsletter request for members to provide their e-mail addresses, so this first edition has been printed and included with the Winter 2012 newsletter for all UK members (we already have e-mail addresses for all overseas members).

The 2012 AGM vote, however, dictates that **future editions will only be distributed by e-mail**, so please advise Ron of your e-mail address (or that of a friend or relative) immediately if you do not want to miss out on these monthly updates.

SPARES

Thanks to the diligent efforts of Graham Higgs, we have the opportunity to commission a limited batch of new Berkeley wheels. This is effectively a one-off chance as there is a minimum order quantity of 50 wheels and we understand that European production of 12" rims is due to cease this year.

The wheels will have standard 12" rims with centres based on the final stronger factory variant (as fitted to the late-SE492s, B95/105s and T60s), but using slightly thicker material than original. The wheels will be finished in a primer undercoat and we currently expect them to be available in April or May.

Regretably, due to the limitations of the club's liability insurance, this offer is not open to North American owners. Interested UK and European members should contact BEC Spares in writing or e-mail Dave Perrin (dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk) as soon as possible, as we need to place the order by mid-February.

The cost will be approximately £80 per wheel (plus delivery or collection) and we require full payment 'up front' to allow the project to proceed. Due to limited club funds, only a small number of wheels will be held by BEC Spares and these will be priced at not less than £100 each.

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Editor

The Ed is enjoying the breathing space that comes from producing fewer newsletters, and has actually found the time to think ahead to future editions.

Lined up for the Spring 2013 issue we have a contribution from our South African member Alan Wareing, who shows us how (amongst other things) he fitted an oil cooler to the 'Constellation' specification Royal Enfield engine in his B105.

Our tuning guru Jeff Payne returns to the scene of ancient Berkeley triumphs, and batters his T60 in an effort to match the sporting achievements of our forbears.

Also, Peter Smyth, who has recklessly promised to develop the BEC website, recounts the story of his past life as a Berkeley owner during the 1960s.

And, of course, there will be a few random odds and ends to fill the remaining gaps.

We plan to have it on your doormats during March, but remember, we need your contributions!
Ray Bell



- FBHVC Drive-It-Day, 21st April, regional events nationwide.
- Prescott Hill Climb Day for Classics, 11th/12th May (Cheltenham).

A great day out. A few Berkeleys are already entered to run up the hill on the Sunday (cost £46) and have a picnic. Static display entry to the event costs £18 per vehicle which includes a slow cavalcade drive up the hill. A 60 mile Road Run is also taking place on the Saturday if you wish to make a weekend of it. A donation of £15 per car gives spectators entry on the Sunday.
Details: www.cleevevale.org.uk .

- BEC Rally & AGM, 18th/19th May at the Bubble Car Museum (Boston, Lincolnshire).
- Excelsior/Berkeley Meet, first or second Saturday of June (Tyseley, Birmingham).

Still in the planning stages, but we are hoping to be able to arrange a combined Berkeley and Excelsior motorcycle vehicle gathering. The idea is to meet up mid-morning for a look around the old Excelsior factory, followed by a meal at a local cafe and an afternoon 'Excelsior' talk at the Steam Railway workshops over the road. Please let us know if you are interested in attending and whether you would be taking/driving a Berkeley.

- Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, normally first weekend of July (Keynsham, Bristol).
- Ian Mantle Memorial Run, ?? July ?? - date yet to be fixed (Biggleswade, Bedfordshire).
- Hammond Collection (RUMCars) Open Day, normally last weekend of July (Hawkenbury, Kent).
- National MicroCar Rally, 29th August - 1st September (Three Counties Show Ground, Great Malvern).



In recent months a few members have received unsolicited phone calls from someone trying to buy their Berkeley - we suspect with the intention of breaking it for parts, selling the registration and/or simply re-selling the car at a profit. Members are advised to treat any unsolicited approaches with caution.

In addition to existing members still seeking the 'right' car, newcomers still regularly join the club hoping to find a Berkeley, so if you want your pride and joy to go to an enthusiast who will respect and cherish it, we recommend that you sell it through this monthly Bulletin, or (if you are aiming to get the best market price) perhaps through ebay (with a sensible reserve in place to avoid giving it away during a quiet period!).

The January 2013 BEC Bulletin was compiled by Dave Perrin