BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

As you will have noted in the slightly abbreviated January 'Bulletin' (sent to UK members as a one-off hard copy version with the excellent BEC magazine) we will be returning to the Bubble Car Museum on May 18th &19th for the 2013 BEC AGM & Rally. Due to criticism over the short notice given for last year's meeting, etc., it was decided to adopt a policy of setting the date of the subsequent meeting at the present. This was an easy task last year, as we knew on the spot which dates the museum would be available, however, it was pointed out that a change of location each year would be beneficial and a more 'central' location in the country would also be prefered. I am therefore taking this opportunity to ask for suggestions of possible locations for the 2014 meeting, such that we can make a firm decision on the venue during this year's AGM. Please note the need for adequate facilities with regard to a weekend's camping (i.e. sufficient toilet and wash facilities) and, of course, a room on-site (or nearby) suitable for us to hold the AGM. Ideally, we would like to be able to present location and date options at this year's meeting, so please let me (or any other committee member) know your suggestions ASAP.

Also, as requested in the last Bulletin, we need your input on the nature of the Saturday evening activity at this year's AGM. Mike & Paula Cooper have offered to open their canteen facility for a BEC 'sit down' meal and I invite your comments on what form that should take. I've already suggested something in the style of a Fifties/Sixties car club dinner, but what do you think? Should it be something fancy or do you just want to be able to chat about Berkeleys whilst eating a simple meal? I'll finish on this subject by reminding you that the AGM & Rally should be the highlight of the year in any club's calendar, so please do all you can to support this event.

Re. the Ian Mantle Memorial Run, my co-organiser (and originator of the event concept) Daren Jeff has agreed to make all Bulletin contributions on the subject and I also urge you to contribute and help us make the 2013 IMMR an even bigger success than last year's.
GWT

Editor's Note: Due to space constraints in the first Bulletin, the following was omitted from Geoff's January contribution:-

Finally, on a personal note, I'd like to thank a few members for their continued support during 2012; Geoff & Geraldine Dabrowa for their marshalling duties on the IMMR, Jeff Payne for advice on MSA registration & rules (more on that another time), Daren Jeff, Colin Pears, Graham Higgs, Ian Parris and Dave Richardson for their constructive comments and enthusiasm. To the rest of you, Happy Yuletide, Hanukkah and any other persuasion that takes your fancy!

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NEWS

IMMR

Geoff and I are looking at holding the 2013 Ian Mantle Memorial Run on Sunday the 21st of July in Biggleswade. This is only a provisional date and we really would like to have as many Berkeleys as possible in attendance and driving the route, so please let me know whether this is suitable or if it clashes with any other events that might impact attendance.

As in previous years, due to the need for an early start on the Sunday driving event, we will be camping overnight on the Saturday, which fits in neatly with booking of the local pub for a Saturday evening meal.

One of the points that came out of the 2012 event was the distinct lack of 'navigators' to accompany the numerous intrepid Berkeley pilots. Although it is primarily a 'drivers' event, all the winners thus far have had a companion in the passenger seat and I'm sure most of our solo drivers would be more than happy for those of you whose cars are not roadworthy to 'team up' with them. The plan is that our list of Berkeley-less volunters will be included in each Bulletin, so please let me know if you are interested. Likewise, if you are considering taking part in your own Berkeley, but don't currently have a navigator, please let me know.

We welcome any feedback on the date and the event, as we are always looking for ways to make it more enjoyable for participants. We would also like to thank everyone for supporting the event thus far and look forward to seeing old and new friends this year.

Daren *DarenJeff@hotmail.com*

Newsletter: Back Issues

The Spring 2013 Newsletter is coming together nicely, but in the meantime our newer members may be interested to know that we have a reasonable number of back copies of the club magazine from the period October 2000 to November 2003 and they are available free to current club members.

There is not a continuous monthly run, but the most complete set has 28 different issues, whereas the 10th best set only has 17 issues. The magazines are mostly only black & white printed text, but a few also have black & white printed photographs.

The magazine sets are available on a first come first served basis and we just need you to cover the mailing costs. For UK members the P&P will be £3.00, please send a cheque made payable to 'The Berkeley Enthusiasts Club' to BEC Spares, 59 Orchehill Avenue, Gerrards Cross, Bucks., SL9 8QH and don't forget to include the mailing address with your payment.

Current BEC members living overseas may reserve a set by e-mailing Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*). We will then quote you the cost of Airmail postage, such that you can arrange payment by PayPal or other means.

Ray Bell

BEC Publications

I Brooklands Road Test Book - Please note that this book (previously available from Nigel as a BEC Spares item) is now out of print and the club stock has been exhausted. We are actively working with the publishers to create a slightly thicker updated volume (featuring further articles from more recent classic magazines and, hopefully, one or two period articles which escaped the first edition), but this is unlikley to be available much before 2014.

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Historically, the BEC has published a long list of publications covering sales brochures, roadtests, technical shests and do-it-yourself tools. The existing list will be included in a month or two and we are also planning to revise it during the year. The most significant new item is the BEC Berkeley Workshop Manual, a project which I began working on about 25 years ago, but had to shelve due to other committments, however, my hand written draft is currently being typed up and should finally see the light of day before the year is out.

However, for the time being BEC publications is on hold, as Zena and I are on holiday during early March and are expecting to be moving house shortly after we return - normal service will be resumed as soon as possible and our new contact details will be included in the Bulletin and subsequent Newsletters once we are settled.
Mike Rounsville-Smith



We know that there are several members out there waiting for new headlamp covers. Unfortunately, we are out of stock and (despite several reminders) are currently still waiting for our supplier to provide a quote for manufacture of a new batch. We are, however, hopeful that fresh stock will be available in March, but prices will undoubtedly be slightly higher.
We are also still trying to locate the company that made our last batch of badges, but it seems that the Inland Revenue are/were also on their trail! Hopefully we will have more news soon on an alternative supplier.

New items currently in the research/testing pipe line are a fresh batch of SE328 seat upholstery and a previously unavailable item; covers for the full frame T60 & SE492/B95/B105 bench seat (with heat embossed pattern) in black, red or tan.

- B95/105 chrome plated front grille, very limited supply (£225 each plus £7 p&p).

Don't forget that we also sell grilles for the Excelsior engined cars:-

- SA322/early-SE328 'Plain-Jane' alloy diamond mesh grille (£8 plus £4 p&p).
- SE328/492 & T60 deluxe chrome plated crinkled mesh grille (£140 plus £5 p&p).

New Berkeley Wheels: Graham Higgs' first made contact with the wheel manufacturer a year or so ago and established the costs and minimum order quantities, but the response to our announcement at that time was very limited and we were still nowhere near the minimum figure of 50 wheels, so the project faltered at that stage.

Around the beginning of this year the manufacturer contacted us to say that they were in a position to go ahead, but needed confirmation AND a large deposit VERY soon for it to happen. The response to our request in the January Bulletin has been better than expected and we are definitely going to be able to go ahead, but we have managed to extend the window by a few days, as we are keen to take the total to 100 wheels.

Any further members interested in taking advantage of this one-off venture (price £80/wheel) should make contact with Dave Perrin immediately. This offer is open to all BEC members other than those in North America (due to the limitations of the club's liability insurance).
Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

- Classic Rally & Autojumble Show, 10:00 a.m. March 31st (Easter Sunday), Old Warden (near Biggleswade), Bedfordshire.

Family event with large selection of trade & autojumble stands, plus craft stands, flying display by local Model Club and a children's play centre. Entry is £8/adult which also gives you £4 off entry to the Shuttleworth Collection (vintage cars, aeroplanes, cycles & steam engines).

- FBHVC Drive-It-Day initiative, 21st April, local/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).

- Bubble Car Museum 3rd Annual Rally/Roadrun, May/June - date yet to be fixed (Boston, Lincolnshire).

- La Locomotion en Fête, 1st/2nd June, Aérodrome de Cerny, 91590 La Ferté Alais, France.

- Excelsior/Berkeley Meet, 1st or 2nd 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 would be interested in attending.

- Bromley Pageant of Motoring, 9th June, Norman Park, Bromley, BR2 9EF.

- Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, normally first weekend of July (Keynsham, Bristol).

- Ian Mantle Memorial Run, ?? 21st July ?? <u>date yet to be fixed</u> (Biggleswade).

- Hammond Collection (RUMCars) Open Day, normally last weekend of July (Hawkenbury, Kent).

- MicroCar & Scooter Day, normally first weekend of August (Amberley Industrial Museum, Sussex).

- Hervé Caffier's 3-wheeler gathering, 1st September, Gratibus (small village in the 80500 Picardie, Somme region of northern France).

- National MicroCar Rally, 29th August - 1st September (Three Counties Show Ground, Great Malvern).

- Bubble Car Museum Halloween Event, (Boston, Lincolnshire).

- Bubble Car Museum Christmas Event, (Boston, Lincolnshire).

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MARKETPLACE

Selling your Berkeley

Further to last month's warning, an ex-member is still actively phoning around club members (and the committee!) and offering significantly less than the going rate for cars, only to put them straight onto an e-Bay auction with associated stories about how he is unfortunately unable to complete his rebuild project.

In our experience, he doesn't even introduce himself or confirm that he is actually speaking to a Berkeley owner; just an abrupt "Hello, I'm just phoning around. Do you want to sell your Berkeley"! So, if he does ring you, please treat his blunt enquiry with the disdain that it deserves.

Its only natural to think of your car as still being worth something like what you paid for it, but the years soon roll by and Berkeley prices are definitely on the rise. To our knowledge, this unscrupulous individual has made over £2,000 profit on one car and probably £1,000 or more from most of the others, so please be on guard. If you wish to sell your car and are unsure of its value please contact one of the committee and we should be able to give a reasonable estimate of what it may be worth.

On a similar note, it is also worth mentioning that your car may be worth considearbly more than the normal market value if it also has an 'interesting' transferable original registration mark. A number of cars have been stripped of their original identities by number plate dealers in recent years and returned to the market soon after with an age-related number, so if you hold such things dear, it is worth questioning a potential buyer to determine whether he seems to know much about the cars or is more interested in confirming that the V5C logbook states 'non-transferable'.

NOTE: This may not mean much to overseas members, but in the UK vehicles generally retain their registration marks (i.e. number plates) for life and, as such, the registrations are generally considered to be part of the vehicle's heritage. When an original number is transfered to another vehicle (usually because it contains a desirable letter combination, such as someones initials or a company name, etc), the replacement 'age-related' numbers issued by the licensing authorities are instantly recognisable, as they relate to a handful of low population areas where the old-style registration sequences were not exhausted back in the Fifties/Sixties.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

The bucks used to create my Mini powered 'Camarotta' GT Berkeley lookalike. These are thick free-standing body sections made from copies of original Berkeley sections which were then cut/shut/filled to create the desired shape, such that moulds could be taken from them. They are free to anyone who is prepared to collect them (otherwise they will be going to my local waste disposal facility!).

Contact: Dave Ratner, Tel: 01773-713174 or e-mail bd2k6@hotmail.co.uk .

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And Finally ...

Coming your way in the March BEC Bulletin, 'Meet the Member' an occasional feature allowing each of our committee members to give a brief rundown of their background/interests, etc. and what knowledge/skill/ability they bring to the club (first up is Geoff Dabrowa, who was so enthusiastic to contribute, that his e-mail arrived before most of the titled committee's offerings for the first issue!).

As indicated in the January Bulletin, if you have any queries re. items covered in this issue or general questions about Berkeleys and/or the club, please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) and we will do our best to respond in the next edition.

The February 2013 BEC Bulletin was compiled by Dave Perrin