BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

You will no doubt remember my request for input on the Saturday evening meal idea for the club rally in a few weeks time at the Bubble Car Museum? I have received NO feedback whatsoever as yet, so please get those e-mails flying!

Meanwhile, jumping ahead of ourselves somewhat, Martin Allsop (the Founder Member of the International Berkeley Enthusiasts Club) has confirmed that 2014 will be the 50th Anniversary of the (I)BEC, so we would like to make it a special year.

Since the February Bulletin, we have had one response to my call for a venue to hold the 2014 BEC AGM, this being the 'Slimbridge Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust', which is a wildlife park in the Gloucestershire/Bristol area. I thank Dave Rich for submitting this and making further enquiries on our behalf. Buckinghamshire Railway Centre at Quainton (a regular haunt of the club a few decades ago) is also under consideration, but thus far these are the only two suggestions, so please come on and get your thinking caps on!

As a side project for BEC Spares, I've been investigating the possibility of getting pistons manufactured for the British Anzani engines fitted to the original 'Sports' SA322 models. Those of you actively restoring one of these rarities will be well aware that supplies of the original Hepolite pistons were exhausted many years ago. I have already contacted JP Pistons in Australia and sent them a sample, but unfortunately they were unable to help. However, I am currently going through the same process with a company in Hungary; all seems to be going well thus far, but response time to my queries is rather slow (I gather that they only have one English-speaking employee). At present, they are indicating a cost of around £80 per piston and it would be helpful if those of you who are interested could contact me, stating what oversize(s) you require. As with Graham Higgs' wheel manufacture project, when I get a positive response and all the 'ground work' has been done, it'll be handed over to Nigel at BEC Spares for future orders.

Lastly, I've started going through the MSA literature that Jeff Payne kindly provided last year, following AGM discussions regarding club affiliation, so no doubt the subject will be cropping up again this year. More to follow!

Well, that's all for this month,

GWT. *geedadtee@ntlworld.com*

NEWS

IMMR (Biggleswade)

We have decided to run the 2013 Ian Mantle Memorial Run on Sunday the 21st of July. Most of us will be camping overnight on the Saturday, in order to facilitate the necessary early start for the Sunday driving event and, as in previous years, we will be booking the local pub for a Saturday evening meal.

If you intend joining us in your Berkeley, but are lacking a navigator, please drop me a line. Likewise, if you don't currently have a Berkeley on the road, but would like to navigate for a lonesome driver, please let me know and we'll do our best to match everyone up.

Daren *DarenJeff@hotmail.com*

Newsletter

The Spring 2013 Newsletters is currently being printed, so they should be with you around mid-April, along with the new Membership List - this was actually compiled late last year, but we will be including an update insert with the Summer newsletter, to bring it right up to date.

We still have a few sets of old newsletters left covering the period Oct 2000 to Nov 2003, but we are now down to sets of 18 (and fewer) issues. 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

❙ Brooklands Books 'Road Test' compilation - As mentioned in the February BEC Bulletin, this essential Berkeleley owners reference book is now out of print (it was a limited edition of less than 1000 copies), however, we have been able to locate a stock of 10 copies which are available from Nigel as a BEC Spares item at £12.00 plus P&P £1.60 to UK members.

Interested overseas members should contact 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.

If you don't already own a copy, we recommend that you purchase one of these final few, as the publisher's planned revised edition is bound to be many months away.

Mike Rounsville-Smith

Berkeley Models

A few years ago a specialist microcar model maker 'Sams' offered both 3 and 4 wheeled 1/43 scale white metal models of Berkeleys at approx £50 built, or £35 in kit form. Sadly, these are no longer available and the only other one we are aware of is a pewter resin 1/92 scale T60. This is often advertised on e-Bay UK as a Buy It Now item at £6.39 (plus postage).

If you are aware of any other model Berkeleys, please let us know.



EVENTS

- 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 and have a picnic. Hill Climb bookings are now closed, but 'Orchard' static display entry to the event costs £18 per vehicle and 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, (Tyseley, Birmingham).....

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.

NOTE We are now planning to make this event part of the 2014 BEC 50th Anniversary celebrations, but would still like to hear from those likely to be interested in attending.

- SHVPS Classic Vehicle Show & Autojumble, 2nd June, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Petersfield, Hampshire, PO8 0QE. Over 300 vehicles and over 160 autojumble stalls.
Website: www.shvps.org.uk Adults: £5, Under-16s: Free.

- 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 (Biggleswade).

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

- Classic Car Summer Picnic, 31st July, (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).

V V V

Meet the Member: Geoff Dabrowa

I am non-exec comittee member elected at the 2012 AGM.

I bought my first Berkeley in the early 1970s and was a BEC member at that time, which seems ... and is "a lifetime ago"! Having owned a few T60s during the Seventies, I have fond memories of the annual MicroCar Rallies held at Burford Wild Life Park.

Since rejoining the club a few years ago, I have totally rebuilt and restored our presidents first Berkeley (a T60 which had been off road for over 30 yrs) and sold on another T60 which I used for around a year. I have also restored an Isetta in recent years, which is still tucked away in the corner of the garage.

I was 63 in the spring, but took early retirement last year and recently finished restoring another T60; it took longer than I had hoped, but I am now finally making progress with work on my early SA322. When that is done, I still have two more T60 basket cases to completely rebuild!

My aim is to keep the SA322 and one T60 - it will be great to be able to pass the completed cars on to other enthusiasts who can enjoy the thrills of driving them ... and the inevitable tinkering when something goes wrong!

I really enjoy the annual IMMR (which is held only 30 miles away from me) and attend as many BEC events as I can, as well as going to local shows. I have a trailer which is shaped for three wheelers, so if anyone needs some urgent transporting in a 75 mile radius of Newmarket, Suffolk (or if you think I can help in any other way), please contact me at *geoffdabrowa@hotmail.co.uk* or or give me a ring on 01638-780500.



New Berkeley Wheels - We are pleased to report that the order for a batch of 100 brand new Berkeley wheels was placed with the UK manufacturer in mid-March. We are hoping that the 17 subscribers will be able take delivery in late May; details of delivery arrangements and costs will be included in the May bulletin. Receipts for the £80 per wheel deposits will be sent out shortly.

BEC Spares is extremely grateful to member Graham Higgs from Worcester for his hard work in researching and setting up this significant remanufacturing project.

Seat Covers

Graham has also helped to organise our remanufacture of new covers for the bench seat models of the Sports SE492, B95, B105 and T60. These new seat squab and seat back 'hides' are in the original non stretch Vynide material and are embossed with the original style mock stitching seams. Available colours: Black, Tan or Red.

We have recently taken delivery of four prototype/test sets:-

- SE492/B95/T60 Bench Seat & Back Covers (£70.00 plus £7.50 UK p&p). Overseas members should contact BEC Spares via Dave Perrin and we will advise Airmail costs.

There is only one other item of new spares stock to mention this month:-

- MB 1120/6 SE492/B95 Rear Fuel Tank Filler Hose, with clips (£3.00 plus £3.00 p&p).

Nigel Halliday

BEC Website

We are delighted to report that our new BEC Committee member Peter Smythe has been doing sterling work setting up the basics for a brand new website for the BEC.

More details to follow next month.

BEC Interactive

Whilst we wait for the new BEC website to go live and interactive later this year, those few members not already aware of it may be interested to know that there is a very active 'Berkeley USA' Yahoo Group. Although, as the name suggests, this was forum was initiated in the USA, there are many Berkeley Enthusiasts worldwide contributing to it (including most of the BEC Committee!).

The site contains photo files as well as a now very long archive of postings about Berkeleys, in particular technical queries. The link is http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/Berkeley-USA/ or just type "Berkeley USA Yahoo" into any search engine and it should come straight up.

MARKETPLACE





T60 (1275cc Mini conversion)
Registered ODY 935 May 1960.
Red, with bench seat., soft top and sidescreens.
Converted in 2007 by former BEC club member in Yorkshire.
12" alloy wheels, disc brakes, roll over bar.
Rear trailing arm suspension is a mini arm conversion.
Comes complete with A frame for towing.
On the road, with current MoT certificate.
£ 6,000 ono
Contact: Roger Green, Margate, Kent.
Tel: 01843-844989
Email: 644G@live.co.uk

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The March 2013 BEC Bulletin was compiled by Dave Perrin