BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB
BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

Apologies for missing the last 'Bulletin' issue, but the old odometer rolled over again in April and I was away celebrating!

Two UK events took place early in the month, the first being 'Prescott Classic Hill Climb'. Unfortunately, 'our Ed' had to pull out at the last minute, but it was still a respectable showing with three Berk's (and their cars!) in attendance. The weather was not as kind as last year though; the day started off sunny with light showers and turned to heavy rain in the afternoon. Guest of honour Stirling Moss looked decidedly well wrapped up, but I could not understand why he wasn't wearing a hat? Everybody knows that you loose most of your body heat through the top of your head and 'Sir Stirling' is bald on top!

The next (and most important) event was the BEC AGM & Rally weekend at the BubbleCar Museum in Langrick, Lincolnshire. Although the Sunday AGM was well attended (I can report a 100% Committee presence), alas only three Berkeleys and one BMW Isetta were to be seen on the campsite. Phil Tetley had compiled a Saturday 'road run' taking in 53 miles of the gorgeous Lincolnshire countryside, with a mid way stop at the 'Aviation Museum East Kirkby' for a 'cuppa and piece of cake'. All four cars participated and I'm pleased to report that we all returned without incident!

Next year's event will take place over the same weekend, but at a more central location (by popular demand). There are several contenders for this at the moment, all seemingly excellent sites for the AGM, but suitability of camping arrangements must be established before a final choice can be made.

I'll 'sign off' by thanking all those who made the effort to attend, with special thanks to Mike & Paula Cooper at the Bubblecar Museum for their hospitality!

Geoff Bill Toyer *geedadtee@ntlworld.com*

NEWS

Ian Mantle Memorial Run (Biggleswade)

John Mantle has once again kindly offered the use Mantles Garage as the the finish point for this year's event on Sunday 21st of July. I am currently still in discussions with Biggleswade town council regarding permission to use the market square as an afternoon meeting point.

To help publicise the IMMR, the Biggleswade History Society have been informed and the date will be going out to their members. I am also in contact with local radio station BigglesFM and we are hopeful that they will promote the event and possibly even attend the road run - last year

they ran a series of broadcasts after the event, featuring interviews with Colin, Geoff and a few ex-employees, which was apparently well received.

The camp site has been confirmed as Turnpike Farm (http://www.turnpikefarm.com/) and they are looking forward to us using their facilities again. I have provisionally booked ten places but need to give them an update on numbers closer to the date, so could those people intending to camp/caravan, etc. on the Saturday night please let me know over the next couple of weeks.

As in previous years, there will be a Saturday evening meal and a social gathering/chat at a local pub.

As far as the actual run and associated activities are concerned, a few members have already offered to be navigators and we welcome other members doing the same. Likewise, it is always nice to see Berkeley's driving around the local countryside and it would be great to have even more cars at this year's event, so 'the more the merrier'.

As indicated previously, we will be starting early on the Sunday morning and aim to finish around 2:30pm, to allow participants plenty of time to get home at a sensible hour.

Daren *DarenJeff@hotmail.com*

Berkeleys in Film

Another Berkeley has been spotted on celluloid, this time in a scene at Paris Orly airport from a 1960 black & white French film titled 'Les Distractions'. The main character is driving an Austin Healey 100-4 and we presumably have to thank a Healey enthusiast for uploading this clip onto You Tube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5QeOwKzY60 .

The car is only on screen for about 8 seconds, making its entrance at around 5 minutes and 47 seconds. As can be seen, it is a left hand drive 4-wheeler with the earlier body style and rear mounted bonnet hinges, so most likely an SE328.



The registration is not visible and the sound has been overdubbed, so there are no further clues there. Amusingly, it looks suspiciously as though the driver runs over his friend's foot as he pulls away, because the rear of the car makes a sudden jump as he drives off!

Early Thoughts for the 50th Anniversary of the BEC

At the recent AGM, there was some brief preliminary discussion about how we should celebrate the 2014 BEC 50th anniversary. Suggestions include revisiting the club's first rally location, the Crown Hotel in Tring, Hertfordshire – this is relatively local to the ever popular Quainton Railway Centre, where it may be possible to camp and hold the main part of the weekend event. Other suggestions include getting some of the original 1964 and '65 members together and asking club founder Martin Allsop to give a talk based upon his wonderful collection of photos from those early days.

If anybody has any other suggestions, please let a committee member know.

Nigel Halliday



EVENTS

- Bromley Pageant of Motoring, 9th June, Norman Park, Bromley, BR2 9EF.
- Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, 5th - 7th July (Keynsham, Bristol).
- Ian Mantle Memorial Run, 21st July (Biggleswade).
- Hammond Collection (RUMCars) Open Day, 28th 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

Autosolo

North Weald Airport (a couple of miles from Junction 7 of the M11) is the venue for the Borough 19 Motor Club Autosolo (a driving event on tarmac) on Sunday July 14th and the organiser has told me that Berkeley owners are more than welcome to take part. I know that a few members are already hoping to attend, so if you want to join us I suggest you get your entries in as soon as possible. If you are using a Berkeley with original Anzani, Excelsior or Enfield power unit, then you need 'Class A' Pre-1980 Historics. However, Mini-powered cars are eligible for 'Class F' Kit Cars and Specialist Sports Cars and, if you don't have a Berkeley on the road, you could always enter a modern car in one of the other classes.

If the idea appeals, why not search for North Weald Autosolo on YouTube to get a better idea of what it's all about - don't worry, not everyone is as fast as these people! The rules state you have to drive the competition car to the event, but you could always tow a car to a local hotel/B&B/campsite on the Saturday, stay over night and pop over to the event in the morning. The closing date for entries is Thursday July 11th and UK members should have received a pdf copy of the regulations with this Bulletin, giving further details.

NOTE: This is a 'no spectator' event, but if you contact the organising club and volunteer to marshal, you can get a very close view of the action!

Jeff Payne

V V V

Special Note

Many thanks to Dave Richardson for writing in with a number of questions and ideas for the BEC Bulletin - we will be responding in the next issue.

Dave Perrin

SPARES

Spares Update - Back in Stock

Steering Bushes - The really small metal/rubber Silentbloc bushes (Part No. 2010) that fit inside the MB 148 Steering Idler Lever ('A' bracket) and on the MB 149 Steering Idler Stud. These have been obsolete for some time now, so we have had to commission manufacture of a special batch. The price will be published shortly, but unfortunately they will be relatively expensive (most likely over £15 each).

Remember that we already sell the Silentbloc centre track rod bushes (Part No. 2063), another part which had to be specifically manufactured for the club a few years ago.

Both these items can disintegrate with age and/or fail due to oil contamination, so it was essential that we invest in re-manufacturing them to help members keep their cars on the road and safe to drive.

Rear View Mirrors - these small chrome plated mirrors are the type that mount on top of the dashboard, price £16.00 plus p&p.

Headlight Covers – we are currently still awaiting delivery of the new batch of Perspex headlamp covers and the rubber retaining strip that goes around the covers to mount them in the wing apertures.

Wheels Update

We understand that the rims for our batch of 100 wheels have now been delivered from Brescia in Italy to the West Midlands, and work is now commencing on the fabrication of the centres.

Delivery is still expected in late June/early-July and will be by independent courier or an overseas parcel delivery service. Please will all members who have ordered wheels have a think about which address they would like their wheels to be delivered to; you will be advised nearer the time with regard to the final cost of the wheels and the delivery charge.

Nigel Halliday

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MARKETPLACE

Warning to UK Members

The recent appearance of another car on e-Bay implies that the 'Budget Berkeley Buyer' is back in action phoning around owners and trying to buy their car at a bargain price, only to give it a quick polish and put it straight onto e-Bay for a quick profit.

Wanted in the UK

New or secondhand Sports SE 328 slant door front body section; must be complete, but not necessarily in perfect condition. Contact: BEC Spares Officer.

V V V

The May 2013 BEC Bulletin was compiled by Dave Perrin