BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

As stated in last month's Bulletin, both the Borough 19 Motor Club 'Autosolo' and the IMMR are now behind us. Our editor has requested reports for the quarterly BEC magazine, so you'll be reading articles on both events in the Autumn issue.

You will no doubt recall that we had planned to decide on a venue for the 2014 BEC Rally/AGM during the 2013 AGM, however, having realised that this will be the 50th Anniversary of the BEC, it was decided that we should hold off until we had a better idea of potential suitable locations of historic relevance to the club. At present, there are a few options that the committee feel meet our requirements with respect to Camping Facilities, AGM Venue, Availability, Costings and suitable roads for a Saturday Run to local attraction(s), etc..

One is Copt Oak Village Hall in Leicestershire (a venue which has proven popular with regular BEC Rally attendees in more recent years, due to the all-day hall and kitchen access which lend themselves towards ad-hoc refreshments and weather 'complications', plus the proximity of alternative accomodation, etc.).

Another, suggested by none other than our founder member Martin Allsop, is Royston in Hertfordshire; Martin has delved deeply enough to be able to present a campsite and AGM venue 'package' in response to discussions at the AGM - more details next time.

We need to book well in advance on either of these proposed locations and generally publicise the event, so the decision needs to be made sooner rather than later, but if any of you know of a suitable venue in your area, we would welcome further suggestions over the next month or two.

Finally, I will be supporting a local event on the NMCR showday and will not be at Kop Hill either, but would like to close by wishing all those members attending these events good luck for a pair of enjoyable weekends ... lets hope the good weather holds out a little longer!

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

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Another Rally/AGM Option

A third option under consideration for our 2014 Golden Jubilee is the Rose & Crown hotel and restaurant in Tring, which was an early-Sixties venue for the (International) Berkeley Enthusiasts Club. Further to outline discussions at the 2013 AGM, the idea would be to take advantage of the Buckinghamshire Railway Society facilities at Quainton (a venue regularly frequented by the BEC during the Seventies and Eighties); the Museum and camping facilities could form the base for a full weekend of activities, including a Saturday run down to the Rose & Crown for lunch/AGM, followed by a question and answer session with some of the 'old

timers' who formed part of the club in those formative years, and rounding the day off with a group evening meal back at Quainton.

Sunday would be centred around the Quainton rally field, with the usual concours awards, club spares stand, etc..

Unfortunately, The Rose and Crown is currently closed, as the hotel is in the process of being converted into flats (a sign of the times!), but the restaurant facility will be retained - obviously, further investigation is required re. the proposed re-opening date, etc..
Nigel Halliday

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New Wheels Update

The wheel centres have now been welded to the perimeter rims and should be away for painting by the time you read this - we are expecting an imminent final update on date of availability.

SE 328 Windscreens

Although the BEC Spares service can offer new windscreen glass for the later 'Sports' SE 492 & B95/105 models, Soft Top T60s and Hard Top T60s, we have never been able to source a new stock of the glass for the early 'Sports' SA 322, SE 328 models and the early (sloping door) SE492s. Many of these early cars were exported to the USA, so this has been a particular problem for our American members and, with no traceable manufacture of these screens and seemingly no pattern mould, the prospects for remanufacture of new screens looked fairly bleak.

However, the USA arm of Pilkingtons Classic Glass recently contacted the BEC (via their UK agent) asking for assistance in identifying a Berkeley model and its screen. We were, of course, delighted to assist(!) and the outcome is that there is now a real chance that Pilkingtons UK and USA will investigate the possibility of making new screens for both the UK and USA markets.

Likely cost of the screens is not currently known, but we will keep on this trail and update members via the Bulletin. In the meantime, could all BEC members around the world who require a new SE328 screen please e-mail Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) to register interest and give us (and Pilkingtons) a feel for likely quantities (NOTE: we have a very limited stock of used screens, but they are hard to ship/post, so essentially only available to the UK).

Headlamp Covers

We are aware that there are now several members still waiting for new plastic headlamp covers and thank you for your patience. We are continuing to chase our supplier for delivery, but unfortunately they have failed to arrange quick manufacture/delivery of the new batch.

Regalia

It has just been suggested that the BEC arranges manufacture of a batch of medium to large sized cloth flags with the Berkeley bonnet badge 'B' logo. We envisage a size of approximately 2 feet or perhaps 1 metre square, although larger sizes could be sourced.

We wonder how many members may be interested in such a flag? Costs to be advised in due

course, but please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) to register interest.
Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

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

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

- 5th Revival Kop Hill Climb, 21st-22rd September, (Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 0LB). 400 bikes & cars will be going up the hill over the weekend (including Graham Higgs in his B105 on the Sunday), plus over 200 more vehicles on static display in the paddock. There will be a BEC stand on both days.
Tickets: £10/day. Advance Tickets: £8/day or £15 for the weekend (plus £1.75 per booking).
See website for further event details: *http://www.kophillclimb.org.uk* .

- Bubble Car Museum Halloween Rally, 1st-3rd November (Boston, Lincolnshire).
£15 per person (first come first served) covers Saturday/Sunday road runs, Friday/Saturday night camping, plus Museum supper, hot spiced cider & entertainment on the Saturday evening.

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

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MARKETPLACE

T60 Parts Wanted

I am now actively working on the restoration of 'Bertie' the T60 which I've owned for 45 years (see article in the Summer 2013 BEC Newsletter). The body work and punt are coming along quite nicely, but I am in desperate need of the following:-

Excelsior Engine (328cc or 492cc)
Condition not too important, so long as it is complete and not seized - I will be stripping it and doing a full rebuild. Would prefer a complete power unit, but would also consider a basic engine if the price is right

Bottom Wishbone Cross Member
Anything considered, as mine is in several pieces and therefore essentially beyond redemption!

Contact: Dave Rich, Cam, Gloucestersire.
Tel: 01453-547708
Mob: 07743-172641
e-mail: 2kats@tiscali.co.uk

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The August 2013 BEC Bulletin was compiled by Dave Perrin