BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

NEWS

Wheel Types

We understand that there have been a couple of rather dramatic wheel failures over in the USA recently. We advise all members to read the Berkeley Wheel article in the Spring 2012 BEC Magazine in order to familiarise yourself with the four different types of wheels originally fitted to Berkeleys. It is particulary vital to understand that the early thin rim wheels accept flat faced nuts not taper nuts and that the studs must be appropriate for the hole on the wheel tab. At all times, and on all wheels, the wheel nuts must be tight in order to fully hold the wheel in location. If there is any slackness or movement between the wheel and stud/nut (and the wheel trim spiders, where fitted) the wheel lugs may well fail.

Nigel Halliday

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SPARES

Back in stock this month:-

- Gasket sets for 328cc Excelsior engine at £12.00 plus £1.00 p&p.
- All bearings and oil seals for Excelsior engines.

Wheel Studs and Nuts

We realise that there are several of you waiting for the later type stepped wheel studs and taper faced nuts. Our engineer now has all the necessary materials and we hope to receive fresh stock during February. Please accept our apologies for the delay.

Outer Drive Shafts.

We are conscious that finding good condition used outer splined driveshafts is becoming more difficult; usually there is wear or damage to the splines, the thread (for the hub nut) or the section of shaft which takes the bearings (as per the unexpected failures experienced by some cars during the L-B-L Rally in 2008).

The manufacturers were Hardy-Spicer and we know that the shafts were basically a standard 'blank' casting/stamping which came from their mid-fifties range of drive and universal-joint products for light vehicles. We are therefore hopeful that the basic unmachined Berkeley driveshaft shape and dimensions can be matched to another popular car of the 1950s. It is very likely that the propshaft U-J and journal yoke from such a car (together with say the top end of a propshaft) may be a good donor part from which we can create new Berkeley outer driveshafts. A common application such as an MG or Triumph sportscar of the period, or

perhaps even a Morris or Ford application would be good, as parts are now being manufactured for these collectable classic cars and are readily available.

Could any members with knowledge of these parts on other classics please let us know if you believe a component from another car may be a suitable basis for a BEC stub axle re-manufacture project.
Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

BEC Jubilee & AGM Saturday/Sunday 17th/18th May 2014-01-23

This will be the biggest BEC event since our marque Golden Jubilee gathering in 2006 and we are hoping to be able to attract 50 Berkeleys, whether they be running, on a trailer or even just a pile of bits(!), so please start planning your weekend now!

As indicated previously, we have confirmation of our booking at Quainton (near Aylesbury) for the weekend of 17th/18th May and have already met with the Buckinghamshire Railway Society in order to begin filling in the event details. We have been given exclusive use of the Rally Field adjacent to the railway centre from the afternoon of Friday 16th through to the evening of Sunday 18th. There will therefore be plenty of room for tents, caravans & motorhomes and we will also have access to the site toilets & showers which are located a few minutes away by foot.

The provisional pitching cost for campers, caravanners, etc. for the whole weekend (regardless of whether you stay for 1 or 2 nights) will be around £25 to £30 per pitch, which includes full access to the operating railway on the Sunday.

There will be a provisional charge to all day visitors (including all persons driving or trailering a Berkeley entering onto the BEC rally field) of £10 to £15 per person. In addition to covering the weekend BEC celebrations (including the Saturday evening gathering) this fee will also cover entry into the operating steam rally on the Sunday, as above.

The BEC AGM will be held late Saturday afternoon at a nearby venue and entry will be free of charge.

Those members planning to stay in the area may care to start researching your hotel or bed & breakfast locations; there are a few B&Bs in the immediate area, with a choice of budget hotels (Premier Inn 6 miles away at Aylesbury or Travelodge 8 miles away at Bicester) and even luxury hotels not far away.

More details to follow, but please put those dates in your diary now and start getting your Berkeleys ready.
Nigel Halliday

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1976 McLaren MP26, the type driven by James Hunt

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Silverstone Classic 25th, 26th and 27th July 2014

Members will have seen pictures in our magazine of the Bond Formula Junior racing car sitting alongside JON 355 (the B105 racer) behind the pits at this annual historic race event held every July at the historic Silverstone circuit. Both cars were of course piloted by Berkeley works driver Jon Goddard-Watts and the Bond racer is essentially a single seater development of the Berkeley concept, with many common design features.

Well, this year we were offered the chance to have a free BEC stand at this huge festival, and have therefore booked a space capable of holding 6 to 10 Berkeleys. Because this is our 50th aniversary, it is also likely that the display cars will be able to take part in a parade lap of the full grand Prix circuit - further details to follow next month (hopefully).

As many members will know, this event is second only to Goodwood in terms of classic car racing prestige, and the size is such that it is impossible to see the classic racing, look around all the display cars and visit all the stands selling classic parts, etc. in a single day.

The special BEC booking code is C14113 and the Club Display Package includes the infield vehicle pass for your Berkeley plus 2 tickets, effectively giving members a 50% saving over the normal cost of two adult tickets.

Car club display package tickets will be on sale until May 31st, but you can make a further saving of up to £10 by ordering before April 1st, dropping the cost per person to less than £50 for the whole weekend - an overall saving of 57% (plus the chance to drive around the circuit IF the organisers consider our 50th 'birthday' worthy of recognition):-

Car Club Display Package	Early Bird (until 31st March)	Advance (1st April – 31st May)
Friday	£39	£45
Saturday	£60	£65
Sunday	£55	£60
2-Day Fri/Sat	£70	£80
2-Day Sat/Sun	£80	£90
3-Day Weekend	£95	£110

If you would like to display your Berkeley on the club stand for the whole weekend (or just one or two days) then, please contact Nigel Halliday (see *Club Contacts* page) or e-mail Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) before booking your tickets, as we are limited to 10 cars and we have no idea how many members will be interested.

NOTES

1. It is only possible to buy tickets in advance (i.e. no tickets will be on sale during the 3-day event).

2. All ticket prices include booking fee, but a further single charge of £1.95 will be levied against each transaction; this covers collection of your tickets from the Box Office or delivery by Standard Post (delivery by Secure Post is also available for £6.50).

3. Bookings can be made online (*http://www.silverstoneclassic.com*) or by phone (0871-231-0849) charged at 10p per minute plus network extras.

4. When booking to display your Berkeley on the club stand, in addition to stating the C14113 BEC booking code, you will need to provide the car registration and model (these details can be changed if you decide to bring a different Berkeley, but you must contact the organisers in advance, rather than just turning up on the day with a different car).

5. For Health & Safety reasons, display cars must be in place on the club stand by 10:00 each day and cannot be moved until 17:00 (other than to take part in the track event if this comes to fruition).

6. Opening hours for the Silverstone Circuit are:-

Friday 25th July	07:30 - 23:00
Saturday 26th July	07:30 - 23:00
Sunday 27th July	07:30 - 18:30

7. Details of camping facilities and costs are available on the Silverstone website at *http://www.silverstoneclassic.com/Content/Classic-Camping* .

Details

The Silverstone Classic website is currently listing the following 'family' attractions:-

- Over 1,000 exotic, rare, and valuable race cars competing, more than you'll see anywhere else in the world in one place.
- Over 20 exciting races over the weekend.
- Live rock music on a grand scale.
- Around 9,000 beautiful classic cars on display over the course of the weekend.
- Lunchtime and evening track parades for major motoring anniversaries.
- Silverstone Auctions latest Sale of classic cars, modern sports cars, motorcycles and automobilia items.
- High class aerobatic displays.
- Motorfair with manufacturers showcasing brand new models alongside cult classics.
- Super Shopping Village area with art, antiques, books, models, clothing, accessories, automobilia & more.
- Vintage funfair rides, a 40m giant wheel and many other interactive activities.
- Live demonstrations such as streetcar shootouts and passenger experiences in the Off Road Zone.
- Village green with big screen and outdoor seating & catering.
- Period buses running infield transfers.

Standard tickets (for general attendees not displaying a car) will be on sale until 5pm on 24th

July and the 'early-bird' discount also applies:-

Visitor Tickets	Early Bird (until 31st March)	Advance (1st April - 24th July)	Children (aged 6 to 16)
Friday	£33	£39	£5.50
Saturday	£50	£57	£5.50
Sunday	£45	£50	£5.50
2 Day Fri/Sat	£70	£80	£8.50
2 Day Sat/Sun	£80	£90	£8.50
3 Day Weekend	£95	£110	£11

Tickets for Children under 6 are FREE.

Again, please put the date in your diary.

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Wheel Nuts

I have just received a letter from the Organising Committee of the **Stroud Wheel Nuts Show** for **2014**. The event is to be held on Sunday 27th April 2014 from 11:00 am till 4:00 pm and is organised by St. Roses School, Stroud.

This invite is for the club rather than individuals and can potentially accommodate up to 16 cars (exhibitors must be there by 10:00 am). I have been exhibiting my motor cycles there now for several years and always find it an enjoyable day, even on the odd occasion that it has rained cats and dogs.

They work on a first come, first served basis and would obviously like to know as soon as possible if, and how many we hope will attend. I am quite happy to do the paper work, but obviously need to have an indication of the level of attendance.

The cars tend to be mostly "Classic" the oldest is usually a 1919 two speed Morgan. I suppose the "newest" are cars from the "80's". There are also usually quite a few American cars there.

Further details will be included with the next newsletter mailing and in the February Bulletin.
Dave Rich

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The January 2014 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin