BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

NEWS

Thruxton Easter Revival

Obviously not wishing to miss out on the booming classic racing scene, the owners of Thruxton Motor Circuit (near Andover in Hampshire) are holding their second Easter Revival on 19th/20th April 2014:-

"This special two-day event harks back to the famous Easter race meetings of the late Sixties and Seventies when all the top drivers of the day would compete at the superfast Hampshire airfield circuit in front of huge holiday crowds.

Back then racing legends (including world champions Graham Hill, Jackie Stewart and Jochen Rindt) would wow the packed spectator banks racing in iconic Formula 2, sports and saloon cars. Many of those historic racing machines will be back reliving that golden era.

Featuring historic classes: Formula 2, F5000, Formula Junior, 1970s Road Sports and the opening round of the Super Touring Car Championship, it promises to be a good line up.

Keen to provide fans with an evocative display of period historic cars the organisers are offering up to 6 pairs of free tickets for those car clubs that register in advance for a display stand."

At present the BEC committee members in the south are are all busy on the Easter weekend, but we would be delighted if any BEC members wish to organise a BEC stand and enjoy this classic race event (a small selection of BEC banners, etc. are available).

Please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) if the idea appeals, and we will review whether there is sufficient interest to take advantage of the offer.

V V V

Stroud 'Wheel Nuts' Classic Car Show

As indicated last month, this event will be held on Sunday 27th April from 11am until 4pm, and I am hoping to organise some BEC entries. I will be exhibiting 'Bertie' my T60 as a work in progress restoration and Neil Barber is also hoping to be there with **JON 355** (the fully restored ex-Jon Goddard-Watts B95 racer), but it would be great if we could get at least 5 cars on show. I and the event organisers would love to see you there.

Wheel Nuts is organised by St. Rose's School, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AP and is now in its tenth year. The school provides both day and residential care for children and young people (aged from 2 to 19 years) with severe physical disabilities. They do a great job under difficult

conditions and, in my opinion, deserve all the support they can get. The profits from school events/activities are invested in various projects; their specially converted minibus and hydrotherapy unit being prime examples.

The event is held in the well maintained school grounds and regularly attracts well over 400 cars and 50 or more motorcycles. The vehicle ages generally range from the early-1920s up to around 1980 (the oldest car so far was probably the 1923 Morgan M.A.G. three wheeler), but a few newer cars and bikes also make an appearance from time to time (the local Harley Davidson Chapter usually turn up around mid-day) and there are often a few commercial vehicles too.

Exhibitors are mostly private individuals (so this can be a good opportunity to make useful contacts), but one-make groups and classic car clubs also attend on a regular basis, including Mini, Morris Minor, Cortina, Jowett & Jaguar owners and the Cotswold Classic Car Club.

Awards are usually given for *Best Car* and *Best Bike* in show (I was fortunate enough to receive the Best Bike award a few years ago for my Triumph T140E Bonneville).

Refreshments are available in the form of hot dogs (from the barbecue), home made tea and cakes (from the tea tent) and chips can also be purchased between 12 noon and 2pm.

Toilet facilities are courtesy of Porta Loos, which, in my experience, are always kept clean.

For those not travelling under Berkeley power, tow-cars and trailers must be left in the adjoining car park, which is situated about a hundred yards away alongside the school, but this does fill up fairly rapidly, so an early arrival is highly recommended. As with all public car parks, I suggest that you bring some form of trailer lock (better safe than sorry!).

However, (weather permitting) for those more distant members interested in just driving 'the last bit', I can accommodate several car trailers on my drive and field at home, which is about 15 miles from the venue. You may even get a cup of tea or coffee out of me!

If you are going to make a weekend of it, there are several hotels in the area and shopping is good in both Gloucester and Cheltenham (which are not too far away), with Bristol only about 25 miles to the South.

Stroud is easily accessed from all points of the compass, as the M5 motorway passes nearby; if you are coming from London and the East, the easiest route is probably along the M4 to Junction 18 and take the A46 (north) for Stroud. If approaching from either the South-West, the Midlands or the North, then leave the M5 at Junction 13 for Stroud (about 7 miles). Alternatively, just trust your Sat-Nav!

Exhibitor entry is by a voluntary donation and display vehicles must be there by 10am.

The organisers work on a first come, first served basis and I am quite happy to do the paper work, but obviously need to know as soon as possible how many other Berkeley owners would like to attend, so that we can make our group booking.

The school website is *www.stroses.org.uk* , but if you require further information please don't hesitate to contact me (*2kats@tiscali.co.uk*).
Dave Rich

BEC Rally & AGM Update

Don't forget our Golden Jubillee rally on the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 17th/18th May at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Quainton, near Aylesbury, North Buckinghamshire (for the benefit of our overseas members, Aylesbury is not too far from Luton airport and its discount airlines).

Arrangements are underway to provide a daily early morning drive to a local cafe on both days for breakfast. On Saturday, there will be a road run via a lunch destination, returning via the nearby windmill; it is normally only open to the public on Sundays, but the plan is that they will be opening especially for us on the Saturday afternoon. The 65 feet high tower was built around 1830 (using bricks fired on site from local clay) and windmill mechanisms contain many interesting engineering features.

We have booked a local village hall for the AGM on the Saturday evening and are hoping to follow this with a slide show and discussion panel featuring long-standing BEC members.

Sunday will be the main rally day, with the cars all parked up on display, but the cafe breakfast stop will be repeated early in the morning. We have invited the Excelsior Talisman motorcycle group and the Gilbern Owners Club to publicise the event in their club magazines, so there should also be a few interesting non-Berkeleys in attendance.

V V V

Silverstone Classic

Remember that the cheap 'early-bird' visitor tickets for this huge 25th - 27th July event are only available until the end of March (£33-£45 daily and £70-£95 for multiple days), with normal 'advance' visitor tickets remaining available until July 24th (£39-£50 daily and £80-£110 for multiple days). Entry for children aged 6-16 ranges from £5.50 daily to £11 for the whole 3-day event. NOTE: Advance bookings only; no tickets will be available during the event.

We have been allocated space for 6-10 cars on the BEC stand; there are still spaces left and, as indicated last month, members can choose whether to display their Berkeley for one, two or three days. There is also the likelihood that road legal cars will be able to take part in a parade lap of the track, due to this being the club's 50th anniversary.

The car club display package will remain in place until the end of May, giving free entry for driver and passenger at around the cost of a single visitor ticket, however, if you make an 'early-bird' booking before the end of March, you will also save at least £5 on a single day booking and £10-£15 for multiple days. The 'early-bird' club display prices range from £39-£60 daily and £70-£95 for multiple days, jumping to £45-£60 and £80-£110 respectively, for bookings made during April/May (display bookings close on 31st May).

If you wish to display your car, please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) to confirm that spaces are still available (and so that we know which cars will be present each day); the special code necessary to take advantage of the BEC club display offer is C14113).

Please contact Dave Perrin if you require further clarification of pricing and/or display requirements, etc..

Nigel Halliday



SPARES

New Parts

Thanks to Geoff Dabrowa (our 'production line' T60 restorer!), BEC Spares is now able to offer new T60 Rear Axle Swinging Arm Pivot Studs. The studs come complete with nuts and washers: £20 (plus £3 p&p).

We also have new stocks of the Silentbloc metal/rubber bushes to go with this stud (specially manufactured for the BEC) and the price is now £13 (each plus £1.50 p&p).

BEC Spares Service

Please note that, due to family holidays, the BEC Spares service will not be available for one month from the third week of March through to the Easter weekend in April. So, for all those owners rushing to get their car together for the Golden Jubilee anniversary rally in mid-May, you have been warned!

Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

April 19th - 20th: Thruxton Easter Revival, historic racing event. *www.thruxtonracing.co.uk*

April 27th: FBHVC Drive It Day, events across UK promoting awareness of historic vehicles.

April 27th: 'Wheel Nuts' Classic Car & Bike Show, St. Rose's School, Stroud, GL5 4AP.

May 10th - 11th: Prescott Hill Climb, see December BEC Bulletin. *www.cleevevale.org.uk*

May 17th - 18th: BEC 50th Anniversary Rally & AGM, Quainton Railway Museum, HP22 4BY.

June 1st: SHVPS Classic Vehicle Show & Autojumble, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hants.

July 4th - 6th: Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, Keynsham Rugby Club, BS31 2BE.
www.bristolmicrocarclub.com

July 25th - 27th: Silverstone Classic, see January BEC Bulletin. *www.silverstoneclassic.com*

?July 27th?: Hammond Collection (RUMCars) Open Day
(includes an unrestored SA322), Hawkenbury, Kent.

August 10th: Historic Specials Day, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, OX18 4JP.
Annual gathering of kit cars from the Berkeley era.

September 11th - 14th: National MicroCar Rally, Wetherby Racecourse, West Yorkshire, LS22 5EJ. *www.national-microcar-rally.co.uk*

September 20th - 21st: Kop Hill Climb, Princes Risborough, HP27 0LB
(NOTE: booking commences in April). *www.kophillclimb.org.uk*

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MARKETPLACE

Mini- Powered T60

Virtually no info on this one, other than that the car is 'dismantled' and located in Hinckley, Leicestershire and 'open to offers'.

Contact: Jackie 07968-985045 for more information.

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Berkeley Enthusiasts Club

www.berkeleycarclub.com

Website for BEC members and anyone interested in our cars.

Webmaster: Peter Smyth

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