BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

Sadly, last month saw the passing of Ann Riley, née Ann Wisdom (see the obituary below issued by the MSA). For many of us in the BEC's *Team Berkeley*, Ann will always be associated with Pat Moss, her co-driver in TBM 11 on the original 1958 Liege-Brescia-Liege Rally for sub-500cc cars. Those of you who have seen the 'Home Movie Footage of Bert Westwood' video posted on You Tube by the ECMC, will have seen the dynamic pair in action with the car forever preserved for posterity. Earlier this year, after the movie footage had been found, I was in written correspondence with Peter and Ann Riley, by way of sending them a copy of the film, with the hope of obtaining an audience with them. Alas, due to Ann's illness and subsequent passing, this was not to be and sadly another tangible link with the past is now lost.

Classic Rally Press are proposing to hold a 60th Anniversary L-B-L re-run in 2018 (see *http://www.classicrallypress.co.uk/* for further details). This would be an excellent (and appropriate) time to honour 'Pat' and 'Wiz' and the ten other drivers who formed the six-car Berkeley factory entry, and what better way to do that than to have a 'two-girl' pairing in one of the cars? The early announcement of this rally, gives us no excuse to make the best effort possible, so come on and start preparing now!

Some little known facts about Ann Wisdom are that: she was always fastidious about her dress, she constantly suffered from travel sickness (not good for a rally navigator!), in later life she became a successful breeder of show winning cattle and, finally/sadly, she died seven years to the day after her old motorsport partner Pat Moss passed away.

Condolences have been sent to the family.

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

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NEWS

Berkeleys On Screen

We have previously mentioned the You Tube 'News Flashes Cross Channel Scooter, Miss America Contest and New Sports Car "Berkeley" (1956)' Pathé news reel with 'Sports' SA322 launch feature (*www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZmwCKmiNZY)*. However, the moving images from the equivalent British MovieTone launch feature are now also on You Tube under the title 'New Berkley Car - No Sound' (see *www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5uuWYb0NgA*). The missing dialogue is included in the details text box below the video window.

Nigel Halliday

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Obituary: Ann Riley, 1934-2015

On behalf of the UK motorsport community, the Motor Sport Association (MSA) has paid tribute to Ann Riley (long-time co-driver to Pat Moss) who passed away recently following an illness. She was 81.

Rob Jones, MSA Chief Executive, said: "Ann and Pat became a famous pairing in rallying and achieved great things together, notably including fourth place on the RAC Rally in 1958 and victory on the Tulip Rally in '68. Ann earned a reputation as a fierce competitor and a pioneer within her sport. She will be missed by all those she inspired and we send our sincere condolences to her family and friends at this difficult time."

Ann Riley (known as 'Wiz') was born into a motor sporting family in May 1934. She later befriended fellow motorsport enthusiast Moss, and the pair contested their first international rally together in 1956. They also finished fourth on the Liege-Rome-Liege rally in '58, and were crowned European Ladies' Champions that year. Pat passed away in 2008. Ann is survived by her husband, Peter, and her children Jenny and Tim.

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2016 Excelsior Factory Visit - YOUR FEEDBACK REQUIRED

As mentioned last month, we are planning to organise a Saturday morning gathering outside the old Excelsior factory in Kings Norton, Birmingham for Excelsior motorcycles/scooters, Berkeleys and any other Excelsior powered vehicles. Following a look around the building and 'bacon butty' in the café opposite, we will head off for a tour of the nearby Tyseley steam railway workshops and a talk by an expert in the Birmingham motorcycle industry with strong family links to Excelsior and a particular interest in their pre-war OHC four stroke singles.

We already have quite a busy May schedule with the BEC AGM and Prescott Hill climb, so, if this event is to go ahead, we need to know whether members would be able to attend during April or perhaps prefer an alternative date later in the year. Please write to me or e-mail Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) to give us your opinion or express interest in attending.
Nigel Halliday

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Drive It Day, 24th April 2016

The FBHVC (Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs) exists to protect owners' rights to use their historic vehicles on the UK's roads. It has over 530 member clubs (including the BEC) and is estimated to represent over 255,000 individual owners.

On 23rd April 1900, a group of 64 cars left London on the Royal Automobile Club 'Thousand Mile Trial'. The tour passed through Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, travelled through Scotland and then passed back through more English locations, returning to London on 12th May. 46 of the starting cars made it to the finish line, which is quite an achievement considering the nature and reliability of those early vehicles.

Drive It Day was devised by the FBHVC in commemoration of this historic event and is always held on the Sunday nearest to 23rd April. The idea is that historic vehicles of all sorts are

'rescued' from their winter hibernation, thoroughly checked and cleaned, and taken out on the road. The upshot being a pleasant 'season opener' drive for the owners and good publicity for the classic vehicle movement in general. Many clubs hold meetings and 'scenic runs', selecting routes and venues to suit their particular requirements, and it has been estimated that something like a quarter of a million historic vehicles take to the roads.

All types of vehicles at least 30 years old are eligible: four, two and three wheelers, trucks, buses, tractors and even former military vehicles.

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Wheel Nuts (Drive It Day), Sunday 24th April 2016

There has been a Berkeley presence at this charity Classic Vehicle Show for the last 2 years, with three cars in 2014 and the number doubling for 2015. The venue is the well maintained grounds of St. Rose's School (Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AP) and it regularly attracts well over 400 cars and 50 or more motorcycles, plus a few commercial vehicles. The vehicle ages generally range from the early-1920s up to around 1980.

The event is organised by the school, which provides both day and residential care for children and young people (aged from 2 to 19 years) with severe physical disabilities. The profits from this and other school events/activities are invested in various projects; their specially converted minibus and hydrotherapy unit being prime examples.

Awards are usually given for *Best Car* and *Best Bike* in show. Exhibitors must be on site by 10am (entry is by a voluntary donation) and the show is open to the public from 11am to 4pm. Refreshments are available in the form of hot dogs (from the barbecue) and home made tea and cakes (from the tea tent). Chips can also be purchased between 12 noon and 2pm.

We have been provisionally allocated ten spaces and it would be great if we could improve on the six Berkeleys which attended in 2015, but the organisers work on a 'first come, first served' basis, so please contact me as soon as possible if you want to book a place (or for further information).

Dave Rich *2kats@tiscali.co.uk*

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Classic Car Run (Drive It Day), Sunday 24th April 2016

This anual charity event is organised by the Croydon Rotary Club. The 2016 run will be from Dorking (Surrey) to the Military Aviation Museum at Tangmere near Chichester. The route will take you over the Surrey Hills and down through the country lanes of West Sussex (incorporating some of the most beautiful Villages and Hamlets of 'Old England'), with a display line up at the museum for all the participants. They promise plenty of enjoyable sights along the way, with a choice of pubs for a lunchtime break.

Closing date for entries is 20th April, but the event is limited to 250 cars (entires received before the end of December will be listed in the event programme). The fee of £30 covers car entry (including driver and one passenger, additional passengers charged at £10 each), run pack, route guide, finisher's plaque and entry to the museum. Contact Dave Perrin for further details and application form (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

Local BEC Gatherings: Southern Area

Please note that, as usual, there will be no January meeting of the BEC Surrey 'chapter' during January, but we will back to our normal second Tuesday of the month on 9th February.

The venue is The Saddler's Arms, Send Marsh, Woking (just off the A3 a few miles North of Guildford, postcode GU23 6JQ), but if you are planning to join us, please contact the organiser Club President Mike Rounsville-Smith or regular attendee Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) beforehand to confirm the date of any future gatherings, as we occasionally switch to an alternative Tuesday to suit availablility of the regular attendees. Alternatively, check the club website, where any changes to the normal routine will be posted in the relevant section of the Forum.

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WARNING: ROGUE BERKELEY BUYER

Further to previous warnings about morally bankrupt ex-member Edwin 'Ted' Hardy (e-Bay seller '126fiat126', telephone area code 01623), he is definitely still phoning around BEC members trying to buy our cars and/or spares 'on the cheap' with the sole intention of reselling them at a profit on e-Bay.

Presumably having discovered that members are aware of what he is up to, it would appear that he has now convinced a friend or relative to help out, and recently gave the name Eric Newton and a phone number with 01773 area code (he claimed to be calling from a friend's house, but a quick 1471 'caller's number' check revealed that it was actually his 01623 number). Please treat any call (whether unsolicited or in response to an advert) with extreme caution, as he comes across as a genuine enthusiast and will play on the good nature of real enthusiasts wanting their car to go to a good home.

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T60 Chassis Members & Sills

Somewhat later than originally hoped, but at a MUCH better price than we ever felt possible, we expect to have ten sets of T60 steel chassis sections in stock at the beginning of December. They are being manufactured from 'Zintec' (mild steel with a protective layer of electro-plated zinc) and are suitable for all later T60s with bucket seats and floor mounted handbrake lever (chassis number 600 onwards). The parts in this set are all fully compatible with the rarer T60/4 3-wheelers, but T60/4 owners will also need to fabricate the extra steel sections which brace the rear end. If there is sufficient interest, it might be possible to get a smaller batch of the T60/4-specific parts made, but they are relatively simple forms compared to the sills (with their seat cutouts), so less daunting for an enterprising enthusiast.

We know that there are a lot of stalled T60 restoration projects out there in need of new metalwork, so please don't wait too long before contacting us - if there is sufficient demand in future years, then it *may* be possible to produce another batch, but for the time being we are viewing this as very much a one-off project.

The associated document detailing installation options and suggested assembly sequence is also nearing completion. Price and further details will be included next month, but in the meantime please e-mail Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) for further details of the parts comprising this set and/or to register interest in possible manufacture of the extra T60/4 parts.

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HINGES

Here are descriptions of the hinges fitted to the most common Berkeley models:-

Bonnet Hinges: 'Sports' SA322, SE328, SE492 and early-T60

These were originally manufactured by Wilmot Breeden in cast Mazak (a zinc-based alloy), usually with a chrome finish, but unchromed painted and plain grey Mazak finish have been seen. These hinges are handed to match the transverse contour of the bonnet. The longer 'leg' has two inline threaded studs mounted on the underside and fastens onto the bonnet, whereas the shorter 'leg' (which fastens onto the body) has two studs mounted across the hinge. The threads usually accept 7/16" dia. nuts. These hinges were also fitted on the 1947 to 1953 MG YA, YB or YT saloon cars as boot hinges. Currently, they are listed as available from MG specialist NTG Services in Ipswich, UK and KIP Motors in Texas, USA. In our experience, the KIP versions have a better crisper line finish although we also understand that the NTG moulds are being re-formed. The cost from both suppliers works out at approx. £175 a pair set.

These hinges were also fitted to some Bond Minicars as bonnet hinges, so occasionally turn up on the microcar autojumble circuit.

Bonnet Hinges: Later T60

These are unique to Berkeleys. They are of polished cast aluminium with steel hinge pins and the 'legs' have holes to accept slotted flat-head countersunk screws. The longer 'leg' takes two inline screws, whereas the shorter 'leg' has a single screw and they are handed as above.

These hinges are manufactured by BEC Spares and are available at £35.00 a pair, plus £1.50 UK p&p.

Door Hinges: 'Sports' SA322, SE328, early-SE492

Originally manufactured by Wilmot Breeden, these are cast Mazak alloy with a polished chromed finish. They are unusual, in that the hinge pin is not only mounted at an angle to the mounting face (to match the vertical contour of the body and doors), but also on a skew to match the sloping leading edge of the doors. They are further handed, in that one of the four locations requires the underside corner of the hinge tongue to be filed to a radius, to prevent it carving into the fibreglass as you open the door! Both 'legs' have two threaded studs cast into the underside; they accept 7/16" nuts and large washers to spread the load on the fibreglass of the body and door mouldings.

These hinges were also used in 1948 on the bonnets of very early Morris Minors, however, these cars are even rarer than Berkeleys, so you are unlikely to find them at autojumbles!

BEC Spares re-manufactured these hinges in the mid-1980s and are currently awaiting delivery of a new stock batch. Price is likely to be between £75 and £100 a pair upon delivery in early 2016.

Concealed Door Hinges: later 'Sports' SE492, B95/105 and early-T60

These hinges are fitted to all the later four wheeler models with vertical leading edge to the doors, but also on early T60s. They are of a quite complicated fabricated steel design, compromising of a bracket which mounts on the 'A' post reveal of the body and long cranked arms which attach to extension strips fastened to the door moulding (allowing the door alignment to be adjusted). Additionally, an end-stop metal strip (with rod welded across the end) is held to the upper hinge by the adjustment screws. The hinge pin even has a small grease nipple on the original design. They were made specifically for Berkeleys and are therefore very hard to find secondhand (both in the UK and North America) and, being of complicated construction, they are not cheap to reproduce. At present, no one can supply these hinges new.

Door Hinges: later-T60

Of a very similar polished cast aluminium design to the T60 bonnet hinges, both 'legs' of these hinges have two inline holes to accept countersunk set screws (with slotted head) and are handed to take account of the contour of the body and door profiles.

BEC Spares re-manufactured these hinges some years ago and are currently awaiting delivery of a new stock batch. Price is likely to be at least £75 a pair upon delivery in early 2016.
Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

2016 Events Listing

April 24th: FBHVC Drive It Day, events across UK promoting awareness of historic vehicles.

April 24th: 'Wheel Nuts' Classic Car & Bike Show, Stroud, GL5 4AP. See above.

April 24th: Croydon Rotary Club 'Classic Car Run' (Dorking to Tangmere). See above.

May 14th/15th: Prescott Hill Climb, Cheltenham. See October bulletin. *www.cleevevale.org.uk*

May 20th-22nd: **BEC Rally & AGM**, Copt Oak Memorial Hall, Leicester.
See July bulletin for advance details.

July 1st - 3rd: Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, Keynsham Rugby Club, BS31 2BE.
www.bristolmicrocarclub.com

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MARKETPLACE

For Sale/Wanted

NOTE: If you wish to place an advertisement or news item in the BEC Bulletin, please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

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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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'Berkeley-USA' Yahoo Group: *https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Berkeley-USA/info*

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'BerkeleyCarOwners' Facebook page: *https://www.facebook.com/groups/berkeleycarowners/*

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The November 2015 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin