BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

On behalf of myself and my fellow committee members, I'd like to wish all our members a Merry Festive Season and a Happy New Year.

I also wish to thank all those who supported the club's various activities throughout 2015. I'm sure you'll all agree that this was an extraordinary effort with regard to attendance and I hope it will continue into 2016 which, as you may have read in previous issues, happens to be the 60th Anniversary year of the launch of the SA322, so let's make sure that we celebrate that in style!

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

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NEWS

Gemini 2016 Events

The Gemini Events website *www.classicmotorshows.co.uk* lists sixteen events running in the Midlands and Southern England between March and September next year. They include the following early season opener located about as close as you can get to the home of Berkeley cars:-

Classic Motor Show, Old Warden Sunday 3rd April 2016

This event at the Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire (postcode SG18 9EP) is described by the organisers as "an enthusiast's paradise", with discounted entry to the famous Shuttleworth Collection for all pre-booked exhibitors. Times: 10am - 4pm. For further details, see website *www.classicmotorshows.co.uk* .

Admission: Adults: £8, Children (4-16 years): £4, Family (2 Adults & 3 Children): £24.

Vehicle Exhibitor Pass (includes admission for 2 Adults): £3.50 (plus 50p p&p).

NOTE: If four or more cars are registered (and sufficient volunteers are available), then it may be possible to have a club stand at this event, so please let Dave Perrin know if you intend displaying your car and/or would like to help man a club stand (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

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Goodwood Breakfast Club Meeting, Sunday 5th June 2016

UK members will no doubt be aware of the Goodwood 'Festival of Speed' and 'Revival' meetings. Indeed, in previous years some Berkeleys have even lined up on the start line (for a parade!). However, you may not be aware that during the summer there is also a series of themed breakfast meetings on the first Sunday of each month. These are free events, the idea

being that classic car enthusiasts can get up early, drive to Goodwood, park up on the circuit and grab a bacon butty and a coffee before enjoying an amble along the track looking at the fantastic cars on display. Entry is also free for those interested enthusiasts driving a non-theme car, but you have to use the normal car park.

As far as we are aware, no Berkeleys have ever attended any of these events, but since we are celebrating 60 years of the 'Sports' SA322 next year, the BEC would like to suggest that a special effort is made for a few cars to attend. The theme for June 2016 is 'soft top sports cars', which makes most Berkeleys eligible, so how about a group presence on Sunday 5th June?

The event only lasts from 7am to approx. 11am, so we would either suggest an early start or planning a long weekend in the area ... maybe a camping weekend? ... or perhaps we could follow breakfast with a barbeque meeting locally?

Spaces are limited, but are issued on a first-come first-served basis, so we will need to register sooner, rather than later. Please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) with any ideas and/or to register interest in being part of a group BEC presence. All ideas welcome!
Nigel Halliday

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Nametab Engineering

Further to the article in our September bulletin, we are pleased to be able to announce that Simon Bateman has found new premises and Nametab Engineering Ltd. will now continue trading (minus the Villiers spares side, which has been absorbed by Villiers Services, as indicated previously).

The new contact details are: Unit 7 Walkers Road, Manorside Industrial Estate, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 9DH. Tel: 01527-522266 and e-mail: *simon@isdm.co.uk* .

Simon (who is a BEC member and now owns a T60) will continue to offer all the previous Specialist Engineering Services of relevance to Berkeleys and other two strokes; cylinder reboring & resleeving, crankshaft rebuilds (with option of the well proven Nametab caged needle roller big-end conversion), etc..
Nigel Halliday

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BEC Bulletin

This is just a reminder that I can send prints of the bulletin to those UK members without computers (or those without a printer and who prefer a 'hard copy' in their hands). At present, nine members are taking advantage of this service; there is no charge for envelopes or the printing, all you need to do is send me enough 2nd class (or 1st class) stamps to cover the number of issues you would like to receive.

Just post the stamps to me at the address on BEC magazine 'Contacts' page (together with a cover note including your membership number, name, address, etc.) and I'll do the rest.
Geoff Dabrowa *becmembership@gmail.com*



Internal Door Hinges

Further to our recent article in the bulletin on hinges, it seems that there is a reasonable demand out there for the fabricated steel hinges fitted to the later Berkeley models with vertical leading edge doors (late-SE492s, Foursomes, B95s, B105s, B65s and early T60s (approx. the first 250 cars)). These hinges are concealed within the A-post and the door shell and are of reasonably complicated construction, having a cranked arm in order to allow the doors to move away from the body when opening.

They are unique to Berkeleys and, consequently, have been hard to find secondhand for some years. If anyone is interested in a new set, please advise BEC Spares (or e-mail Dave Perrin *dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) a.s.a.p. so that we can assess demand with a view to getting a batch manufactured.

Tyres

All Berkeley models were originally supplied with Michelin 'Super Comfort' 5.20x12 Cross-Ply tyres. In recent decades, with the general passing of cars using crossply tyres and non-availability of even 5.50x12 cross-ply tyres, owners have turned to 135R12, 145R12 or even 155R12 Radial tyres for their Berkeleys, but these radials alter the gearing slightly and can foul the suspension and/or look odd on the car, due to their 80% aspect ratio. The tyre situation has also worsened over the last 20 years, as other cars with 12" wheels (e.g. Fiat 126 & 127, Hillman Imp, etc.) have become much more scarce. Indeed, we understand that the only manufacturer/supplier to the UK market is Camac and even their supply has been haphazard at times, despite the small but constant demand.

We are therefore very pleased to learn that vintage and classic tyre specialists Vintage Tyres of Beaulieu, Hampshire have recently taken delivery of a fresh batch of Camac 5.20x12s cross-plys. However, supply is limited and a couple of members have already snapped up a few for their latest rebuilds (apparently against fierce Fiat opposition - shades of Italian racing and Berkeley success in 1959!).

We understand that Vintage Tyres will be restocking in 2016, but recommend that any Berkeley owner or restorer who may need tyres for their car over the coming months should place their order with Vintage Tyres as soon as possible, as we fear the waiting list may become rather long with the pent up demand from European Fiat 500 restorers.

The price is approx. £75 (including VAT) per tyre.

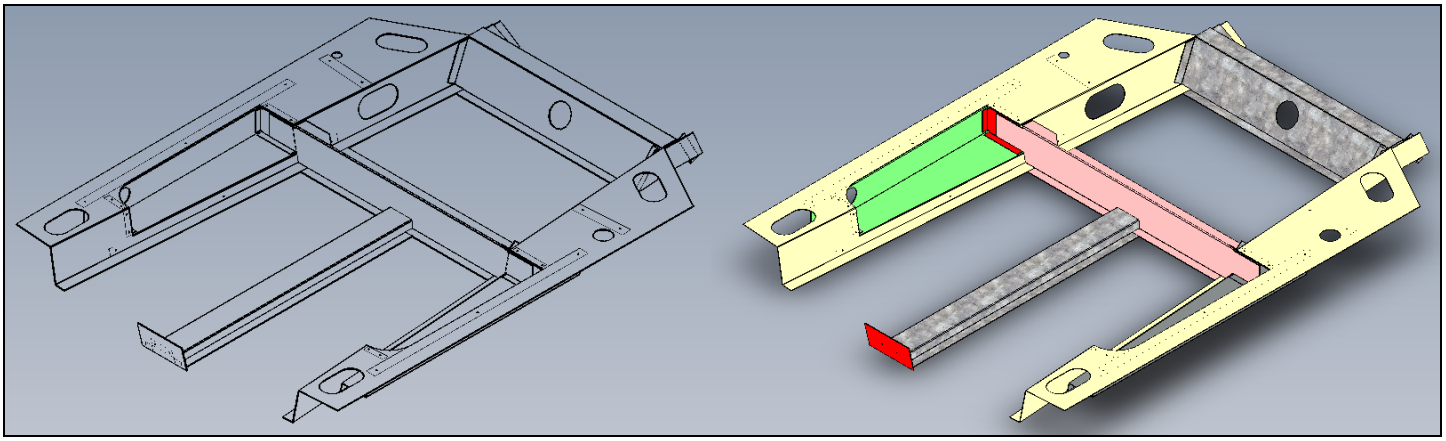
Orders can be placed via the Vintage Tyres website *www.vintagetyres.com* or by phoning 01590-612261.

T60 Chassis Members & Sills

Following an initative of 4 years standing (including 3 years of diligent research), BEC Spares is very proud to announce that new fabricated steel chassis sections for the T60 punt are finally available. The project to remanufacture these steel sections truly turned out to be one of significant research, with very careful measurement and accurate drawing. I for one, as spares officer, had never truly recognised just how complicated the chassis design was on these later

T60s; very subtle dimension changes, angles and small brackets all came to light. No less than six different original T60s have been carefully inspected, measured and referred to during this exercise, as it was essential to get the new fabrication drawings correct before they could be passed to a selection of fabricators for them to provide quotations for manufacture.

Eventually a company on the south coast was chosen. They turned our drawings into a Computer Aided Design 3D model. This was translated into programs for their automated machinery, which then punched out and bent up sets of identical component parts, the only manual intervention being to form the necessary strengthening lips on certain holes using the club's tools. These precision made parts were then spot welded together by hand. Due to the high level of automation, the BEC was able to order 10 sets of these chassis parts at half the original anticipated unit cost of £700!



The sets have been made using 'Zintec' (mild steel with a protective layer of electro-plated zinc) and, as indicated previously, are suitable for all later three-wheelers with bucket seats and floor mounted handbrake lever (T60 chassis number 600 onwards and all T60/4s). As shown above, each set is comprised of left & right sill, central seat rail, gear change cross member and footwell crossmember, plus a set of 4 seat location plates. As well as the obvious seat cutout inserts (with front & rear end plates) and 3 lipped oval holes, the right hand sills also have a lipped circular hole and strengthening bracket to accommodate the handbrake lever (to aid rigidity, this bracket has also been duplicated on the left hand sills).

Due to the subtle differences between cars (particularly in the thickness of repaired/strengthened fibreglass) it is necessary to make your own fixing holes and trim the metalwork slightly to fit each individual car. To ease the assembly process, illustrated assembly instructions will be made available shortly, detailing all areas that are likely to require fettling and listing the most efficient fitting/assembly sequence.

BEC spares would like to thank all members who assisted in this project, but particularly the following for their hard work:-

Dave Rich: for time and the loan of rusty original parts.

Peter Smyth: for time, the provision of rusty T60/4 parts, wallpaper sized tracings of rusty parts, and tea & biscuits during a trip to the wilds of Sussex.

Dave Perrin: for wielding a tape measure, measuring countless T60s and his ever present

attention to detail.

Dave's father Les: for machining a round forming tool.

Ray Bell: for producing various sets of technical drawing and CAD images.

Geoff Dabrowa: for providing valuable early dimensioned sketches.

Mike Rhodes: for taking his T60/4 to pieces and standing for hours in a cold garage with Peter (and Nigel) analysing the detail differences between their two cars, until it eventually became clear that Mike's car had been repaired following an accident in the Sixties and was no longer totally standard!

AND FINALLY, Dutch member Simon Bouwmeester, to whom we must say a very BIG thank you for producing the press tool required to swage the lip onto the large oval holes found in the sills of T60s and all other Berkeley models ... at zero cost to the BEC!

As indicated previously, unless there is significant demand, it is unlikely that another batch of sets will be produced for a number of years. It is also unlikely that individual sections will be available separately, unless a number of members request specific parts.

Members who have previously expressed an interest in these chassis parts have priority and should contact the BEC Spares Officer as soon as possible. Collection can be arranged from me in South Buckinghamshire or Dave Perrin in Hampshire. Given sufficient notice, it should also be possible to arrange collection at certain events on the BEC 2016 calendar. Please write to me or e-mail Dave (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) in order to reserve a set and/or arrange collection.

Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

2016 Events Listing

April 3rd: Classic Motor Show, Old Warden. See above. *www.classicmotorshows.co.uk*

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 Nov '15 bulletin for details.

April 24th: Croydon Rotary Club 'Classic Car Run' (Dorking to Tangmere).
See Nov '15 bulletin for details.

May 14th/15th: Prescott Hill Climb, Cheltenham. See Sept '15 bulletin for details.
www.cleevevale.org.uk

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

June 5th: 'Soft Top' Breakfast Club, Goodwood Motor Circuit, West Sussex. See above.

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

MARKETPLACE

For Sale SE328









Sound basis for restoration. Receipt for £500 engine rebuild in 2009 (new crank bearings, bores honed and new rings fitted). Standard HJR5 3-speed + reverse gearbox. Hood frame believed missing, but has soft top. No sidescreens.

Gel coat stress cracks in usual places. Engine bay sidewalls suffering from usual fatigue problems, so require repair or replacement. Original alloy sills and crossmembers had already been replaced with steel when I bought it, but the new owner may decide to redo to a higher standard and to improve alignment of upper sections on punt.

Reluctant sale; only owned for a year, but now unable to continue restoration due to illness.

£3,500 ono.

Contact: Keith Mills, Kidderminster, DY14 9TP, Tel: 01299-266742 .

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For Sale

From December issue of Old Bike Mart magazine:-
1960 T60 Special (850 Mini engine)
Needs recommissioning.
Tel: 01493-750302 (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk)
£3,800

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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-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 December 2015 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin