BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

As mentioned in previous Bulletins, the BEC has the opportunity to mount club stands at several shows over the upcoming rally season; 'Wheel Nuts' (Stroud, Gloucestershire, Sunday 26th April), 'Cholmondeley Pageant of Power' (June 12th-14th), 'Silverstone Classic' (July 24th-26th), 'Kop Hill Climb' (Sept 19th/20th) and 'Pistons & Props' (Sywell, Northants, Sept 26th/27th).

At the time of writing, little or no response has been received from members re. any of these events and if insufficient response is received over the next few months, then the committee will have to decline the invitations to provide a BEC presence. I would therefore like to remind all UK members to check out the Events column to determine who is organising the events you are interested in and register your interest ASAP. We will keep you updated over the next few bulletins.

On a more sombre note, I have received a communiqué from long standing member Phil Tetley stating that he will not be renewing his BEC membership. As some of you are aware, Phil sold his immaculate late T60 last year after our Golden Jubilee rally at Quainton - this car was virtually 'stock' as it left the factory and, unsurprisingly, won many class awards at the shows. He had intended looking for an SE492, but circumstances now dictate that this will not be possible, due to future re-location to Europe.

Phil was one of our members who believed in using his car both at home and abroad; he was a participant (and finisher) in the 2008 Liege-Brescia-Liege Rally and the similar 2009 Pyrenees Microcar Rally and also attended all the major UK events, including several Ian Mantle Memorial Runs and numerous BEC AGM/Rallies and National MicroCar Rallies (in most cases driving his car to the event, thus clocking up enormous mileages, which led to the technical problems which won him the coveted BEC Excelsior Endurance Award in 2009). Phil has also served on the BEC Committee for several years and was instrumental in organising two AGM/Rally events (complete with road run instructions) at the Bubblecar Museum, Langrick, Lincolnshire. His endeavours and efforts should stand as an example to us all.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank Phil for his past service and wish him the very best of luck in his future projects.

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

NEWS

Local BEC Gatherings: Gloucestershire

So far, I have only received one response to the announcement last month of my proposed new monthly get-together for fellow Berkeley Enthusiasts in the Gloucestershire area. Obviously not a brilliant start, although this is obviously not the most accomodating time of year, particularly for those looking to actually get out and about in their Berkeleys.

Anyway, I thought it would be a good idea to clarify that the initial gathering is likely to be in April, when Spring is upon us and the weather has warmed up a little. As a reminder, the initial venue is my house in Cam, a small village about 3 miles off the A38 just outside of Dursley and conveniently placed for motorway access.

So, if any other locals are interested in popping over for a chat with myself (and hopefully Jim from Tewkesbury, who has already made contact), please contact me via e-mail (see below) or phone on 01453-547708 (if I'm not around, just leave a message on the answer phone and I'll get back to you).

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

V V V

Norfolk Microcar Auction (January 31st)

The two Berkeleys mentioned last month both sold (as did a few other microcars from the same BEC member's collection):-

- 1955 Bond Minicar Mk.C (restored): £4,620
- 1959 Bond Minicar Mk.F (project): £1,100
- 1960 Berkeley T60 (damaged/dismantled engine): £3,360.
- 1960 Berkeley T60 (with 250cc Honda engine): £6,090.
- 1962 Nobel 200 (restored): £7,140
- 1962 Scootacar Mk.2 (restored): £22,050
- 1963 Scootacar Mk.1 (restored): £28,350
- Peel P50 Replica (new, unregistered): £7,140

V V V

Berkeleys In The Press

The March 2015 edition of UK magazine Practical Classics (priced £4.30) includes a feature on 'Prototype or One-Off Cars'. Spread over eight colour pages, it covers the Zagato Zimp, Triumph TR7 Lynx, Austin Mini Beach Car, Rover P6BS and the Berkeley Coupe (owned and restored by Graham Higgs). The Berkeley Bandit also gets a brief mention (this is the model they originally wanted to feature, but sadly it was not available due to other committments).

Meanwhile, the March 2015 issue of USA specialist magazine Classic Motorsports includes a feature on 'Classic Kit Cars & Fibreglass Specials' and the first page features the period 'wishbone' Berkeley 'Sports' SE328 advert. Of course, in actuality Berkeleys were never sold as kit cars, but nevertheless the article is very interesting as it covers some famous historic kit car manufacturers (Ginetta, Lotus, TVR, Devlin, etc.), and any Berkeley coverage in magazines is

welcome. The article has been scanned and can be found in the Files section of the 'Berkeley USA' Yahoo Group (*https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Berkeley-USA/info*).
Nigel Halliday

V V V



Wheel Nuts (Drive It Day), 26th April

I now have confirmation that Neil Barber, Graham Higgs and Geoff Toyer will be joining me again for this charity vehicle show at St. Roses School, Stroud (postcode GL5 4AP), but have not heard from any other members.

At the time of writing, I am about to make a provisional booking, but this will need to be finalised by the middle of March, so if anyone else is interested in joining us as part of a group Berkeley display please contact me as soon as possible.

As a reminder, exhibitors must be on site by 10:00am and the show runs from 11:00am to 4:00pm on Sunday 26th April. St. Roses provides day and residential care for children and young people with severe physical disabilities, and the profits from this annual event are invested in various school projects.
Dave Rich *2kats@tiscali.co.uk*

V V V

Classic Transport Picnic, 6th June

This Letchworth Garden City Classic & Vintage Car Club event takes place at Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston, Hertfordshire, SG4 7DP. Well over 500 vehicles are expected to attend including, veteran, vintage, classic and modern thoroughbred cars, along with classic motorcycles, vintage bicycles and military vehicles (the date coincides with the anniversary of the 1944 D-Day landings).

The picnic is known for its relaxed atmosphere, wonderful rural surroundings, and a stunning display of vehicles. Refreshments are available, but visitors are encouraged to bring their own picnics and enjoy a quintessentially English day out in the countryside.

As well as the vehicle displays, there will be children's entertainments, selected trade stalls and attractions, a Car of the Show award, a real-ale bar, and live music.

Any locals interested in displaying their Berkeley(s) as part of a small club presence should contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) who will put you in touch with other like-minded members, such that (hopefully) a reserved BEC area can be booked.

Gates open at 11am and the event ends at 5pm.

Entry on the gate: £10 per Vehicle and Pedestrians/Bikes/Scooters £2.

Web: *www.lgccvcc.co.uk* .

Contact: *picnic@lgccvcc.co.uk* or call 01462-674347.

V V V

Isetta Owners Club Rally, 11th/12th July

All microcar enthusiasts are invited to join the IOC in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the BMW Isetta 'bubblecar' at The Bubblecar Museum, Langrick, near Boston.

The Saturday Road Run will be followed by a free evening barbeque and quiz, and there will also be a Sunday Breakfast Run to a local cafe.

Rally entry is free, but those wishing to use the campsite facilities will need to book directly with the museum (Tel: 01205-280037, Web: *http://www.bubblecarmuseum.co.uk*).

Contact: Ian Parris, Mob: 07909-514916, E-mail: *isetta@ianparris.com* .

V V V

Shelsey Walsh Hill Climb: Classic Nostalgia, 18th/19th July

The Midland Automobile Club's 'Classic Nostalgia' weekend always attracts a wide variety of competing pre-1980s cars and the paddock will also be packed with trade stands and static displays of competition cars, military vehicles and car clubs (NOTE: There will not be a BEC club presence at this event).

The weekend consists of two one day competitive 'National B' class events for pre-1980 cars. All competitors are offered two practice runs and two competitive runs each day. Practice runs start at about 9:15am with competitive runs from about 2:00pm and the event finishing around 5:30pm.

An aerobatic display will be thrilling the crowds (weather permitting) and Sunday will feature a Street Concours for cars built before 1982. The Concours is open to the first 100 entries through the gate before 12 noon (there is no charge, but cars must be driven through the entry gate, i.e. no trailers). Fifteen cars selected by the judges will have the rare opportunity to take part in a cavalcade up the famous Hill Climb course and the overall winner will receive a silver salver and be invited to display their vehicle on the Club stand at the NEC Classic Car Show in November.

The courtyard stage will be hosting non-stop entertainment throughout the weekend; the vintage-inspired performers will include Lola Lamour (often referred to as Britain's most authentic 1940s singer), 'Rat Pack' singer Roman Marek ('purveyor of cool swing') who will be performing Frank Sinatra's greatest hits and the Vegas Show Girls who will be performing high octane dance routines. Visitors are encouraged to join in the vintage theme by wearing period dress and prizes are awarded on the Sunday for the best outfits.

Entry: Saturday or Sunday: £15 on the gate (£12 in advance), Weekend: £22 in advance, Under-16s (escorted): Free.

V V V

Silverstone Classic, 24th-26th July

Full details will be included next month, but see January 2014 bulletin for basic event outline. At the time of writing, we are in the process of applying for a club stand and the resultant discount code will be included in the March bulletin. NOTE: Interested members will only have a couple of weeks in which to book 'earlybird' tickets, as the offer expires on 31st March.

Daren Jeff *darenjeff@hotmail.com*

2015 Events Listing

April 26th: FBHVC Drive It Day, events across UK promoting awareness of historic vehicles.

April 26th: **'Wheel Nuts' Classic Car & Bike Show**, St. Rose's School, Stroud, GL5 4AP.
Contact: Dave Rich (*2kats@tiscali.co.uk*).

April 26th: MK Classic Car Tour. See Dec '14 Bulletin.

May 9th/10th: Prescott Hill Climb, Cheltenham. See Dec '14 Bulletin. *www.cleevevale.org.uk*

May 16th/17th: **BEC Rally & AGM**, Fowlmere, near Royston, Herts.
See future bulletin for further details.

May 23rd: Classic Bike Show & Autojumble, Kempton Park, Sunbury-on-Thames (Jn 1 of M3).

May 30th/31st: Asparafest, Evesham, Worcestershire. See Dec '14 Bulletin.

June 6th: Classic Transport Picnic, Weston, Herts. See above for details.

June 7th: SHVPS Classic Vehicle Show & Autojumble, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hants.

June 12th - 14th: **Cholmondeley Pageant of Power**, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8AQ.
See future bulletin for further details. *www.cpop.co.uk*
Contact: Nigel Halliday via Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*)

June 13th - 20th: East Anglian MicroCar Club Rally, Great Yarmouth. All enthusiasts welcome.

July 3rd - 5th: Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, Keynsham Rugby Club, BS31 2BE.
www.bristolmicrocarclub.com

July 11th/12th: Isetta Owners Club Rally, Bubblecar Museum, Boston. See above for details.

July 18th/19th: Classic Nostalgia, Shelsey Walsh Hill Climb. See above for details.

July 24th - 26th: **Silverstone Classic**, Towcester, Northampton, NN12 8TN.
See above & March bulletin for further details. *www.silverstoneclassic.com*
Contact: Daren Jeff (*darenjeff@hotmail.com*)

July 26th?: Hammond Collection (RUMCars) Open Day
(includes an unrestored SA322), Hawkenbury, Kent.

August 8th/9th: Classic Bike Clubs Show, Donnington Park, Derby.
www.vjmc-northants.co.uk/classicclubs.htm

August 9th?: Historic Specials Day, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, OX18 4JP.
Annual gathering of kit cars from the Berkeley era.

September 3rd - 6th: **National MicroCar Rally**, Hatton Country World, Warwick, CV35 8XA.
www.national-microcar-rally.co.uk

September 6th: Rare Breeds Motor Show, Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford,
Somerset, BA22 7LH. *www.haynesmotormuseum.com*

September 13th: Classic Car Show, Aylesford Priory, Kent. *www.kentsclassiccarshow.co.uk*

September 19th: Gamlingay Show, Gamlingay Village College, Station Road, Gamlingay, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 3HD. *www.gamlingayshow.co.uk*

September 19th/20th: **Kop Hill Climb**, Princes Risborough, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP27 0LB. *www.kophillclimb.org.uk*
Contact: Nigel Halliday via Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*)

September 26th/27th: **Pistons & Props**, Sywell Aerodrome, Hall Farm, Sywell, Northampton, NN6 0BN. *www.sywellclassic.co.uk*
Contact: Geoff Toyer (*geedadtee@ntlworld.com*)

V V V

SPARES

Reproduction Excelsior Pistons: Problems?

The BEC approached UK piston specialists F.W. Thornton many years ago and they arranged manufacture of pistons for the Berkeley Excelsior engines by JP Pistons in Australia, who remain the only company currently producing Excelsior pistons.

However, we are aware that at least one user has had problems with abnormal wear of the gudgeon pin (wrist pin) holes and there have also been rumours of ovality problems. We would therefore like to hear the actual first hand experiences (good or bad) of all members who have rebuilt their engines using the JP pistons (that must be quite a few of you, since they have been available for about 20 years now). We will also be asking Simon Bateman of Nametab Engineering, who has experience of fitting JP pistons to Excelsior and other period two strokes.

Once we have a better idea of the scale of any problems, we can approach JP (through Thorntons again) and work towards addressing any shortfalls. Please e-mail all your Berkeley Excelsior JP Piston experiences to Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).
Nigel Halliday

V V V

MARKETPLACE

1959 B105 XMJ 855

A UK member is currently listing his hardtop B105 restoration project on e-Bay. The auction number is #221688239246 (concluding at 13:29 on Saturday 21st February), but.Nigel was able to view the car a few days ago and has reported the following:-

This is one of the last B95/B105s built by the factory in the late summer of 1959. It was registered in Bedfordshire and spent its life with probably no more than 4 or 5 owners. In the mid-60s it was purchased from a Mr David Cottingham by a Norfolk based RAF officer who then found himself posted to Scotland on duty. It is thought that he made modifications to the car not only to race it, but also to beat the cold Scottish weather during road use! He installed a home made hot air heater fed from air scoops under the sidelights. He also added numerous switches and dials to the dashboard, but all the originals are still there (including Speedo, Ammeter, Fuel Gauge and even the very rare Icknield mechanical Tacho). These mods are still

on the car today, but could be removed relatively easily.





He eventually sold the car locally in Scotland in 1977 and since then it has been in the same family (mostly in dry storage), but is now located in Ruislip, West London. Note that the first few auction photos (showing the car without its wheels fitted) are at least 10 years old.

The car is reasonably sound structurally, but requires a full restoration of body and wiring loom, plus a respray to return it to original spec. It is believed to have been supplied as a hardtop (a rarity) since it does not have any hood frame sockets. The hardtop itself has had an interior light added and high level map shelves, but is in poor shape and buying a new reproduction one from BEC Spares would be the easiest route to restoration (£750 plus).

Unfortunately, there are a few big drawbacks:-

1. It is missing its Royal Enfield 'Constellation' specification engine, heavy duty Albion VRA gearbox and all the Berkeley-only engine ancilliaries, which are difficult/expensive to find.

2. The windscreen frame/glass and rare hardtop type sidescreens are mising, as is the bench seat (none of these are easy to find either).

3. The differential can be seen in the old photos, but could not be located during my visit, so may also be missing.

4. Although the car comes with a selection of period papers and letters etc from the 60s, there is no logbook and no supporting paperwork to allow its original registration to be reinstated.

Most of the other original parts are with the car or in two large boxes along with other odds and ends.

V V V

Pistons Wanted

Pair of original Hepolite 'Heplex' +20 or +30 pistons required for my T60 engine rebuild. I know this is a tall order, but am hoping that another member may be able to help out with a pair of new or good condition used pistons (preferably with rings and gudgeon pin, but realise that I can't be choosy).

Contact: Dave Rich, Tel: 01453-547708, E-mail: *2kats@tiscali.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 February 2015 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin