BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

As detailed below, the 2015 BEC AGM/Rally is only a couple of months away, so I would like to remind you that any members wishing to propose a resolution to be put before the committee during the AGM should send it to me (seconded by another member) at least 4 weeks before the event. I would also remind you that we are now two people short on the committee, since Geoff Dabrowa moved to the role of Membership Secretary and Phil Tetley left the club. Anyone expressing an interest in becoming a committee member (without portfolio) please contact me, or any other committee member before this coming AGM.

Likewise, thinking forward to our 2016 AGM/Rally, if you are aware of a venue that meets our requirements and you have the ability to organise such an event (along with fellow members in said area) please contact any committee member before this year's AGM. It does help enormously to have a plan sketched out prior to the meeting. Please bear in mind that 2016 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the launch of the 'Sports' SA322, so we may wish to mark this occasion with something a little 'extra special'.

Finally, regarding the AGM, due to time restraints at this year's meeting I intend to limit AOB to strictly essential business, so please adhere to the above requests.

As mentioned previously, the first 2015 event 'out' for me will be 'Wheel Nuts' at Stroud on Drive it Day, so if you're in the Gloucestershire area get your 'Berk' out and get there. In fact, wherever you are, get your car out and be seen! Wheel Nuts is a worthwhile charity to support and I'm told that there could be as many as six Berks there, along with their cars of course!

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

V V V

NEWS

BEC 2015 Rally & AGM, Saturday/Sunday 16th/17th May

As indicated previously, the venue for this year's BEC Rally weekend is Appleacre Caravan Park at Fowlmere, near Royston, Cambridgeshire (postcode SG8 7RU).

We have been allocated a section of their main field and the plan is that there will be a communal club tent at the entrance where new arrivals can register and we can chat between activities, etc. (tea/coffee and biscuits should also be available).

The club will be recording the number of attendees and collecting the relevant camping fees in order to make a group payment to the site owners, so please remember to register with us on arrival.

In a break from normal weekend rally schedules, this year's car line up and judging will take place on the Saturday, with a 60 mile road run on the Sunday (including a lunch/display stop in Biggleswade). The provisional programme of events is:-

Saturday

10:30-12:30 'Fun Driving Skills' competition (with trophy).

14:00-15:30 Car line-up and judging (awards in various categories).

17:30 Light refreshments in the United Reformed Church Hall, Chapel Lane, Fowlmere (postcode SG8 7SA).

18:00 AGM followed by a 15/20 minute 'Pictures from the Past' slide show presented by Martin Allsop (founder of the 'International' Berkeley Enthusiasts Club over 50 years ago).

20:00 Group evening meal at The Queen's Head in Long Lane, Fowlmere (postcode SG8 7SZ). NOTE: We need to order in advance and have a choice of individual hot meals or a group buffet (see Main Course menu at *www.thebritishqueen.com/Main%20courses.pdf* and Buffet Menu at *www.thebritishqueen.com/buffet%20selection.pdf*) - please contact Geoff Dabrowa (*BECmembership@gmail.com*) as soon as possible to book, expressing your preference for hot meal or buffet, so that the group booking decision can be made.

The rally is being held at a family camp/caravan site, so please remember to keep the noise down when we return en masse from the evening meal.

BEC SPARES: A small selection of general spares items will be available on the Saturday, but specific items can also be pre-ordered for collection on Saturday or Sunday - please contact Nigel Halliday by post (see BEC magazine *Club Contacts* page) or e-mail Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) as soon as possible to enquire about availability and/or place an order.

Sunday

10:00 Road Run Part 1 (25 miles). Including brief stop at Berkeley Close (part of the housing estate now on the site of the Berkeley factory) for photo shoot - residents will be made aware of our visit, so may well be out with their cameras too!

≈11:30 Arrival at Biggleswade Market Square. The Town Council have given permission for us to display our Berkeleys on the Square and have offered to advertise the gathering on their website, so we hope to see a few ex-employees and their families in attendance.

12:30 Road Run Part 2 (35 miles). Northerly return route via Gamlingay village.

≈14:00-14:30 Arrival back at the camp site.

For the benefit of the locals, we intend displaying a collection of photos featuring member's cars during the Sunday stop at the Market Square - the head teacher of nearby Stratton Upper School will also be encouraging students to drop by and learn about the cars, as the Berkeley factory is an important part of their local history. If you would like your car to be included, please send any photos (with captions please) to Geoff Dabrowa. NOTE: The photos will also be on show at the rally site throughout the Saturday in the club tent.

Camping

For those travelling from further afield and/or wishing to make the most of the weekend, camping will be available in the club area from late Friday afternoon until Monday morning and beyond for those interested in spending a few extra days in the locality. Local attractions include the Duxford Imperial War Museum *www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford* .

Camping fees are £4.00 per person PLUS £5.50 per caravan/motorhome or £5.00 per standard tent. Children under 5: Free. Please note that the site owners request no arrivals after 8pm without prior arrangement.

For those whose camping days are over (or never arrived!), budget accomodation is available at the Abington Travelodge, just 8 miles away.

Area map and final details will be included in the April bulletin.
Geoff Dabrowa

V V V



Watford Classic Car Show, 7th June

This new event organised by the Watford & District Classic Vehicle Club will be taking place at Bushey Sports Club, Aldenham Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23 2TR. The site boasts just over 30 acres which they hope to fill with classics, club stands, trade stalls and other attractions. No advanced booking for cars - simply turn up with your classic (entry by donation to the organiser's chosen charity for 2015).

Web: *www.watfordclassics.co.uk*

V V V

Cholmondeley Pageant of Power, 12th-14th June

As previously advised the BEC has booked a club stand at this brilliant 3-day classic car event in the beautiful grounds of Cholmondeley, between Stoke-on-Trent and Chester.

We are inviting all BEC members to attend the show and, if possible, display their Berkeley on the club stand. If you wish to display please write to Nigel Halliday or e-mail Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*). Thank you to the two members who have already volunteered (a T60 and a B105), but we hope to see a lot more of you (and your cars) there.

This year's theme is 'Power' and, in particular, the days of the 1970 super and special saloons, which will be replicated on the display hill climb track, along with other classic cars, rally cars and classic touring cars. On the Friday there is also a special parade on the hill for the Lotus marque.

Elsewhere in the grounds there will be dragster demonstrations, a concours d'elegance, American muscle cars, '80s supercars and other attractions.

There is action in the skies with a fly past of the Vulcan bomber, water action on the lake and, of course, lots of interesting trade stands and classic car club displays.

For those who want to make a complete day of it (or even a weekend) there is live

entertainment / rock bands / music on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

If you are intending to visit this event or bring your Berkeley to the show, you are recommended to act now to take advantage of the advance ticket offer.

However, because the BEC has a club stand, our members are entitled to a further discount and can also camp on site for free on the Thursday and Friday nights.
NOTE: The BEC Discount Code is **CPOPBEC**.

Ticket	Club Discount (until 30th April)	Normal Price (until 30th April)
Friday	£17.50	£25
Saturday	£20	£36
Sunday	£17.50	£26
3-Day Weekend	£50	£85

Children under 16 (accompanied): Free (no ticket required for under-5s).

All ticket prices increase substantially if booking after the 31st April, with the full price 3-day ticket going up to £105, so make sure you get in before 1st May!

If booked before 31st March, the camping fee for the Saturday and Sunday is £20. Bookings will remain open until 15th May, but at the increased rate of £25 (likewise, the caravan rate will jump from £25 to £30 on 1st April).

To order tickets, go to *www.cpop.co.uk* ; select your ticket requirements, enter the special BEC code in the 'Discount Code' box, click on the adjacent APPLY button and then press the CONTINUE bar below to proceed.
Nigel Halliday

V V V

Silverstone Classic, 24th-26th July

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.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first Christie's Historic Festival at Silverstone, this year's classic will feature a Sunday track parade for silver cars - each 'Silver Sunday' ticket costs £72 and entitles the holder to display one silver car in a dedicated infield display area on the Sunday and participate in the lunchtime track parade. Alternatively, a 'Silver Weekend' ticket (also covering normal Friday/Saturday general admission) is available for £124. There are no club discounts on Silver tickets and we are not aware of any silver Berkeleys, but any members requiring further details of Silver ticket pricing should either check out the Silverstone website or contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

The special BEC booking code is C1525104 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.


SilverstoneClassic
RockingandRacing
24 | 25 | 26 JULY 2015
The WORLD'S BIGGEST
Classic Motor Racing Festival
Celebrates its 25th Anniversary with more Flat Out Family Fun than ever
Car & Bike Club Members Display Package: 2 adult admission tickets & a vehicle display pass from only £39.
The cream of historic Grand Prix, Le Mans Prototypes, Sports, GT and Touring cars covering 80 years of racing.
Live classic rock from the legendary StatusQuo plus Paul Young accompanied by Ol&B Zucchero.
Over 10,000 classic cars & bikes on display across the weekend with many anniversary celebrations and parades including the special jubilee 'Silver Sunday'.
Mike Brewer Car Clinic, aerial displays, giant 40m wheel, vintage fun fair, huge shopping village, interactive driving activities, dynamic demonstrations and much more.
1990 - 2015
25th
ANNIVERSARY
Use the official club booking code:
C1525104
'Early Bird' ticket savings end 31st March.
Ticket Hotline: 0871 231 0849
Calls cost 10p per minute plus network charges
Tickets & Info at
www.silverstoneclassic.com
Official Partners
SILVERSTONE AUCTIONS
JET
MASERATI
HATTINGLEY VALLEY
CATERHAM CARS
CLASSIC & SPORTS CAR
MOTOR SPORT
The Daily Telegraph
PLANET ROCK

Car club display package tickets will be on sale until May 31st, but you can make a further saving of up to £15 by ordering before April 1st, dropping the cost per person to less than £50 for the whole weekend - an overall saving of 57% !! :-

Car Club Display Package	Early Bird (until 31st March)	Advance (1st April – 31st May)
Friday	£39	£46
Saturday	£65	£70
Sunday	£57	£62
2-Day Fri/Sat	£72	£82
2-Day Sat/Sun	£83	£93
3-Day Weekend	£99	£114

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 Daren Jeff (see below) as soon as possible after booking your tickets, so that we know how many cars to expect.

Standard tickets (for general attendees not displaying a car) will be on sale until 5pm on 23rd July and the 'early-bird' discount also applies:-

Visitor Tickets	Early Bird (until 31st March)	Advance (1st April - 23rd July)	Children (aged 6 to 16)
Friday	£34	£40	£5.50
Saturday	£55	£62	£5.50
Sunday	£47	£52	£5.50
2 Day Fri/Sat	£72	£82	?
2 Day Sat/Sun	£83	£93	?
3 Day Weekend	£99	£114	£11

Tickets for Children under 6 are FREE.

IMPORTANT: 'Early Bird' tickets are only available up until midnight on 31st March. Advance ticket prices will then apply, so whether displaying your Berkleley on the BEC stand or just attending as a normal visitor, you only have a few days to book at the discounted rates.

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, charged at 10p per minute plus network extras (0871-231-0849).

4. When booking to display your Berkeley on the club stand, in addition to stating the C1525104 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.

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/CAMPING* .

Details

The Silverstone Classic website lists the following Motor Racing line-up (plus many other attractions for all the family):-

- FIA Masters Historic Formula One
- The Jet Super Touring Car Trophy
- Pre '66 GT Cars
- Group C
- FIA Masters Historic Sports Cars
- Stirling Moss Trophy For Pre '61 Sports Cars
- Under Two Litre Touring Cars
- HGPCA Pre '66 Grand Prix Cars
- Royal Automobile Club Tourist Trophy For Historic Cars (Pre '63 GT)
- Royal Automobile Club Woodcote Trophy For Pre '56 Sports Cars
- Historic Formula Junior
- 90s GT Legends
- The Kidston Trophy for Pre War Sports Cars
- The Battle of Britain Trophy
- HSCC Guards Trophy

IMPORTANT: 'Early Bird' tickets are only available up until midnight on 31st March. Advance ticket prices will then apply, so whether displaying your Berkleley on the BEC stand or just attending as a normal visitor, you only have a few days to book at the discounted rates.

Daren Jeff *darenjeff@hotmail.com*

V V V

Melton Vintage & Classic Vehicle Festival, 6th September

The Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray is holding its first Vintage and Classic Vehicle Festival near the centre of the market town in the lovely parkland setting of the Play Close.

All vehicles are welcome and it is hoped this will become an annual event attracting a rich mix of vintage and classic vehicles, machinery, motorcycles and cycles. Prizes will be awarded for Best in Decade and the overall Best Vehicle in Show. Details are still being finalised, but there will also be an autojumble, stalls and other attractions.

Spectators: Free. On-line vehicle registration: £5. Open 10am to 4pm.

Web: *www.meltonvehiclefestival.org.uk* and *https://www.facebook.com/MeltonRotary*.

V V V

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.
See Oct '14 & Jan, Feb '15 Bulletins.
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 above 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 Feb '15 Bulletin.

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

June 7th: Watford Classic Car Show, Bushey Sports Club, Herts, WD23 2TR.
See above for further details.

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 Feb '15 Bulletin.

July 18th/19th: Classic Nostalgia, Shelsey Walsh Hill Climb. See Feb '15 Bulletin.

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 6th: Vintage & Classic Vehicle Festival, The Play Close, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 1GH. See above for details. *www.meltonvehiclefestival.org.uk*

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?

Further to last month's article, please keep your comments coming in – we are very keen to learn more about owners experiences (god or bad) with non-original pistons (manufactured by JP Pistons or alternative suppliers). As indicated previously, we are considering entering a dialogue with JP Pistons via their UK agent Thorntons in Shrewsbury with the idea of getting them to improve their existing Excelsior piston with a bush for the gudgeon (wrist) pin, as per the original Hepolite pistons.

Whilst writing, please note that Thorntons have recently relocated and are now at:-

F.W.Thornton
Orleton Lane,
Wellington,
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 2BG

Tel: 01952-252892
E-mail: enquiries@fwthornton.co.uk
Web: www.fwthornton.co.uk

Windscreens

Of interest to all Berkeley owners and especially our USA members involved with the manufacture of new SE 328 glass screens is a video produced by the UK classic car magazine 'Practical Classics which shows how Pilkington Classics UK went about making a one-off screen for a real rarity, the TVR Tina prototype. The video is hosted on You Tube and there is a link to it on the 'BerkeleyCarOwners' Facebook page.

USA members currently checking the prototype SE328/492 glass screen, should also note that recent investigation by UK SE328 owners has revealed a few facts about the SE328 glass and the original method of mounting it in the metal frame:-

- Modern glass is thinner than the original 1957 screens and, as a result, the rubber mounting strip must be carefully selected. Originally it was a thin rubber strip wrapped around the glass, but with the advent of thinner glass, it is suggested that a moulded U-shaped rubber channel section is probably more appropriate.
- To position the glass correctly in the vertical plane plane, the factory originally seated the glass fully in the outer top metal frame and packed out the base rail channel with bespoke solid rubber packers and dabs of putty or glazing compound to pack the glass out.
- It is very important that the glass is held tightly in the frame, as when a soft top hood is fitted, it can distort the top of the frame, tending to pull it off the glass.

T60 chassis sections

At long last, after many hours spent checking and double-checking dimensions and subtle differences between different ages of T60 metalwork, the BEC is about to order 5 or 6 sets of new steel metal chassis sections for the later type T60s with bucket seats (chassis number 600 onwards). We already have a list of interested members, but any new enquiries are welcome. We hope to have them in stock by the BEC's RallyAGM weekend in May.

Excelsior manual

A reminder that the club sells a high quality reprint of the Excelsior Running and Maintenance Instructions (with orange cover). This manual covers the 328cc twins and 492cc triple engine, all three types of Gearbox/Clutch assembly, Siba Dynastart and Amal Carburettors fitted to Berkeleys. Price £8.00 + p&p from BEC Spares.

NOTE: We are also considering a limited reprint of the Excelsior Parts Book (with red cover). We believe that two versions were originally published, dated 1st October 1958 and 1st March 1960 (in addition to the parts information included in the original 1957 R&MI which only covered 328 twins with the HJR5 gearbox/clutch), but would like to confirm this. Could any members who have come across another version therefore please contact myself or Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

Bench Seats: Frames and Covers

BEC member Neil Barber of Bath is currently fabricating a new prototype metal framed bench seat to suit the later four wheelers. A subtly different version of this seat was also fitted to the first 600 T60s, but both types are becoming increasingly rare and we are therefore very keen to offer remanufactured examples. The lightweight structure consists of a combination of folded

strip steel, wooden formers and shapers, all built up into a quite complicated one-piece back rest and seat base frame assembly.

Any members interested in this project are requested to contact us as soon as possible - there is no obligation at this stage, but we need to glean some idea of possible demand.

Whilst on the subject, you are reminded that we can already supply the 'printed/embossed/ironed' Vynide cover for these seats in Black, Red or Brown, as well as the elastics and fixing clips.

'Sports' 328/492 Sidescreens

It has long been recognised that the later SE492s and B95/B105s (with the vertical leading edges to the doors and internal door hinges) were fitted with different sized and shaped windscreen and sidescreens/side curtains to the early cars (with sloping leading edges to the doors and external door hinges). These models therefore have more room and width in the internal cabin space, although in actuality, they also benefit from the dashboard having been moved forward slightly and the steering columns are correspondingly shorter too.

However, it has recently become apparent that two different sizes of sidescreens were probably fitted to the original 'Sports' models (SA322, SE328 and early-SE492). It appears that the later 'Sports' models sold into North America in later 1957 and 1958 (the first 120 SE492s and perhaps SE328 number 800 onwards) may well have been fitted with taller hood frames/irons, higher more voluminous hoods and larger taller sidescreens. Obviously these modifications would cater for taller drivers and passengers.

This prompts the question were these larger items a common fitting or perhaps only supplied with a few cars? It is, of course, also possible that they may have been modifications carried out locally by one or two USA Berkeley dealers.

What more can USA owners and the USA 'old timers' tell us?

Period pictures of Berkeleys with their hoods up are rare, but perhaps somebody in the USA has some images beyond those of period roadtests and those published in the Brooklands Books roadtest compilation.

Nigel Halliday

V V V

MARKETPLACE

B95

A UK registered softop B95 in full running order (with MOT and in largely original condition) will soon be coming up for sale in the UK.

The price will be substantial (£6,000 to £10,000) - any members seriously interested in the car should contact BEC Spares by writing to Nigel Halliday (see BEC magazine *Club Contacts* page) or via dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

V V V

Berkeley Enthusiasts Club

www.berkeleycarclub.com

Website for BEC members and anyone interested in our cars.
Webmaster: Peter Smyth

v v v

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

v v v

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

u u u

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