BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

Since the last Bulletin most of my spare time has been taken up with various projects that the club is involved in, concerning spares re-manufacture, identification of variants, etc.. I do not intend to go into most of these aspects in this report, as I'm sure that Nigel will be covering them in the rightful place of this organ. There is, however, one aspect worth mentioning that would be of benefit and note to you all, especially if you're involved in the restoration side of Berkeleys:

For some years now I have been perplexed by the differences between the TR and VR 4-speed gearboxes used in Berkeley cars. This came about when, after the 2008 LBL Rally, I decided to upgrade my old SE 328 109 CPF from its original HJR 3-speed 'box to a TR unit, using the mixture of floor change parts that I had available at that time (most of which were clearly of T60 lineage). Most of you will already know the fundamental differences between this early 4-speed and the later, much more common VR 'box, but I am talking about variations in the system of operating linkages/arms between the gear knob and the gearbox selector drop arm.

At the time, in ignorance, I simply assumed that most TR parts would be common to the VR, with perhaps a subtle difference in the length of the drop arm or similar, but 'obviously' the gear stick and selector quadrant would be identical .... however, it soon became apparent that there was some 'alchemy' afoot here, because despite trying various lever lengths I could not get the gear stick to match up to all the gate positions in the T60 quadrant, no matter what I tried! The final solution back then (having achieved full span of the quadrant between Top and Reverse), was for me to file back the 3rd gear stop in the quadrant, to accommodate this unsoluble disparity. At the end of the day, the car worked, so "job done, all's well" ... apart for that constant niggle in my head over not having solved the real problem!

Fast forward a few years and the whole conundrum re-emerged with Graham Higgs latest restoration project, a drastically modified early SE492, which would originally have been fitted with a TR Type 4 speed gear box, so in actuality the exact same problem confronted him as it had me! However, Graham (being Graham) approached it in an entirely different manner, by constructing a test rig on his workbench, with the exact same spacing as the car installation. The result being that he could drop in each gearbox in turn and change linkage mechanisms to simulate the actual car set-up - clever stuff here! It wasn't long before he discovered that, by using various components from his copious secondhand stores, there were differences in the two systems. The conclusion being that, although the gate positions cut in the gear change quadrants are essentially the same, the geometry of the linkages is quite different, so the two systems cannot be mixed and matched without a little 'surgery' to get the gate positions in the selector quadrant to align.

Okay, by now you must be getting bored, but for those who haven't already skipped on from this diatribe, there is a simple and obvious lesson to be learnt here. After all my frustration and Graham's time in making his jig - trying all possible combinations of parts, with emails exchanged between knowledgeable members in the UK, USA and Europe, components posted back and forth, and even visits - the plain simple expedient missed by all, other than our Technical Editor and Bulletin Producer Dave Perrin, is of course ALWAYS CHECK THE PARTS BOOK! In this case, it would have been obvious that, despite the components looking essentially the same, each system has its own part numbers! Prompting the simple question WHY? from anyone with the forethought to check first - lesson learnt, don't do the same!

Keep Berkeleying, the season will soon be upon us, check the Events column in this and subsequent issues!

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

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UPDATE: Classic Motor Show, Old Warden, Sunday 3rd April

Re. feature in the December 2015 and January bulletins, there has been a great response from members wishing to display their cars at Old Warden Aerodrome, Bedfordshire (home County of the Berkeley):-

- Geoff Dabrowa: SA322.
- Guy Lachlan: SA322.
- Graham Higgs: SE492 Coupé (factory prototype).
- Alex Ferrada: B95.
- Mick Griffiths: B95
- Barry Jones: T60 (soft top).
- Derek McLintock: T60 (soft top).
- Colin Pears T60 (hard top).
- Charlie Jeffreys T60 (soft top, Mini powered).
- Dave Richardson T60 (soft top, Mini powered).

There is still time for more of you to join us, but bookings must be in by 1st March, so please contact me as soon as possible. MOT/Road Tax are not required, but vehicles must be insured, complete and driveable. Exhibitors are allowed on site from 8am and cars must be in place by 10am. The cost is only £3.50, but I'm paying up front, so entrants can just pay me on the day.

Geoff Dabrowa *BECMembership@gmail.com*

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

Re. feature in the November 2015 and January bulletins, I have checked with the organisers, and the final date for entries is March 20th. So if anyone else wants to join us (Neil Barber, Ray Bell, Geoff Dabrowa, Graham Higgs, Barry Jones, Dave Rich & Geoff Toyer) please make sure that you contact me by the 19th.

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

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UPDATE: Goodwood Breakfast Club Meeting, Sunday 1st May

Re. feature in the December 2015 and January bulletins, we have now confirmed with Goodwood Motor Circuit that open top Berkeleys will be eligible for their season opening 'Soft Top Sunday' Breakfast Meeting.

Owners must pre-register their cars in order to be allocated a parking space on the circuit grid, so you need to act now. If you aren't already registered with the Goodwood website, you will need to create an account. Enter address *https://grrc.goodwood.com/breakfast-club-event-pre-registration/* and you will be redirected to the relevant page. First, it is necessary to enter your name and e-mail address; this allows you to enter the car's registration, which in turn allows you to request a slot for it in the 'Soft Top Sunday' event. Acceptance/rejection of your application should then follow by e-mail.

Entry is free for exhibitors and spectators, but exhibitors need to arrive by 07:30. Even if you cannot get a pass to park on the track, you can still drive your Berkeley and park in the general car parks which are a sight in themselves with many of the visitors also turning up in unusual machinery.

The BEC will be considering an additional get-together on the Sunday lunchtime and, if there is enough demand, on the Saturday night beforehand. As before, please contact Dave Perrin with any ideas and/or to register interest in being part of a group BEC presence (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) - all suggestions welcome!

Nigel Halliday

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Chiltern Hills Vintage Vehicle Rally, Bucks, Sunday 15th May

This well established event is organised by 'The Game Club' to raise money for local charitable causes, and is held at Weedon Park, Weedon Hill, Buckinghamshire, which is next to The Bucks County Show Site between Aylesbury and Whitchurch on the A413 Buckingham Road (postcode HP22 4NN).

The rally has grown year by year and these days, with circa 1,000 vehicles on show, the field is divided into separate areas for Cars (1900 to 1995, divided into six age groups), Motorcycles, Scooters, American Cars, Emergency Vehicles, Military Vehicles, Commercials, Buses & Coaches and Tractors & Stationary Engines. There is also a variety of entertainments, etc., these include Children's Rides & Slides, Autojumble Stalls and approx. 50 Trade Stands, Beer Tent, Specialist Teas & Coffees, Pig Roast, Burgers, Ice Creams, etc..

Trailers accommodated on site and Saturday night camping available at no extra cost. Optional breakfast at café in Aylesbury followed by early morning road run through the local countryside to the rally site.

Entry: Exhibitors: £5 + SAE, Visitors: £6.00, Children: Free. Gates: 10:00 to 17:00.

See website *www.chilternhillsrally.org.uk*. for further details and application form.

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UPDATE: BEC Rally/AGM, 20th-22nd May

As indicated back in July last year, the 2016 BEC Rally & AGM weekend will be held at the Copt Oak Memorial Hall, near Markfield, Leicester (postcode LE67 9QB) and we are hoping for a good turnout of members and cars, to help us celebrate the Sixty years since the original 'Sports' Anzani SA322 model was launched.

Detail plans are still coming together at the moment, but we definitely have the hall and rally field booked from Friday afternoon through to Sunday afternoon. Val & I plan to be at the site from mid-afternoon on the Friday, but on top of our notorious inability to meet planned departure deadlines, we will also be at the mercy of traffic and road conditions on the day (and the gates will be locked until we arrive!), so those travelling on the Friday should aim for early evening arrival to be on the safe side.

The weekend will take the standard proven form of Saturday morning/afternoon road run followed by group meal in the Copt Oak pub adjacent to the hall and a Berkeley film show to round the evening off. There will be a car line-up display on Sunday morning, with AGM soon after mid-day, concluding with awards for the cars judged as best in the different categories.

We have used the site before, but for the benefit of those unfamiliar with it, the kitchen is at our disposal, so there should be 'bacon butties', etc. for breakfast and hot & cold drinks 'on tap' whenever required (with the possibility of other warm snacks throughout the day, if required). There is a large rally field behind the hall, so plenty of room for tents, caravans, motorhomes, trailers, etc.. The hall has toilets and basic wash facilities (basins, but no showers) and the Tent/Caravan/Motorhome charge is £5 per plot per night, to be paid upon arrival.

For the benefit of those members not interested in staying at the site, there are no doubt numerous other local Hotel or Bed & Breakfast options, but the Markfield Travelodge is just a few minutes drive away from the rally site (postcode LE67 9PP), so is an easy option. The prices have risen slightly since our announcement last year, but they still charge a standard rate for Double rooms (1 or 2 adults) or Family rooms (up to 3 adults or 2 adults & 2 children), with the choice of 'Saver' pre-booking (non-refundable) or 'Flexible' booking (which allows you to cancel the booking at zero cost, up to noon on the planned date of arrival):-

Rate	Friday 20th	Saturday 21st	Total
Saver	£30	£40	£70
Flexible	£40	£53	£93

For further details, go to webpage *https://www.travelodge.co.uk* , select 'Search and Book', enter 'Leicester Markfield Travelodge' in the Location box and add the required dates.

The event is now only about twelve weeks away, so it is definitely time to start making plans! Further details will be included here in the bulletin each month until the event, but in the meantime if you have any queries about the Copt Oak venue, facilities or location, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Dave Perrin *dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*

Classic Transport Picnic, Hertfordshire, Saturday 18th June

The annual Letchworth Garden City Classic & Vintage Car Club event will take place at Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston, Herts. (postcode SG4 7DP). The organisers are expecting well over 500 vehicles to attend, including, veteran, vintage, classic and modern thoroughbred cars along with classic motorbikes and vintage bicycles. There will also be children's entertainment, selected trade stalls and attractions, a Car of the Show award, a real-ale bar, and live music.

Refreshments are available, but everyone is encouraged to bring their own picnics and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of "a wonderful and entertaining day out in the countryside".

Gates open at 11am and the event ends at 5pm. Entry: £5 per vehicle on the gate. Pedestrians/Bikes/Scooters: £2. See website *www.lgccvcc.co.uk* for further details.

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UPDATE: Ace Café

In response to last month's article, Charlie Jeffreys of Hemel Hempstead has contacted us to advise that 'Classic & Sports Car' night at the Ace is the second Tuesday of each month. Charlie is the active owner of 'Bugs' a Mini-powered 1960 T60, and those of you who frequent the 'BerkeleyCarOwners' Facebook page may have seen pictures of his car at their October 2015 gathering.

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UPDATE: Nametab Engineering

Re. the December 2015 bulletin article, Simon has contacted us to advise that the postcode he gave us for his new workshop was wrong. The correct contact details for Nametab Engineering are Unit 7 Walkers Road, Manorside Industrial Estate, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 9HE. Tel: 01527-522266 and e-mail: *simon@isdm.co.uk* .

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MK Classic Car Club Meet

This is really outside our usual remit, but I thought perhaps this may be of interest to the 'Bucks' faction of the BEC:-

The Milton Keynes Classic Car Club would like to invite BEC members to an open day on Sunday 6th March at 'Lift Off Ramps', 48 Barton Road, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire (postcode MK2 3HU). The company hire out ramps to enable you to work on your car without having to grovel underneath and the idea is to promote their services to as many classic car owners as possible.

A few local clubs have also been invited, so there should be a few interesting cars in attendance. If anyone wants to go along and get their car up on the ramp for free and have a coffee and cake, just let 'Dave' the club organiser know (*yellowmidgetdave@talktalk.net*), so that they have an idea of numbers.

Geoff (Bill) Toyer

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SPARES

T60 Chassis Members & Sills

Response to this long needed spares item continue to come in - all ten sets in the original batch are now spoken for, with only one set still to be collected and another three names already on the list! In response to another bargain quote from the fabricators (while they are still familiar with the build detail), we have taken the plunge and commissioned a further batch of ten sets, which should be available in early March.

However, once these are gone, we are unlikely to consider further manufacture for quite a few years, so please make contact with Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk)* or Nigel Halliday to reserve a set and avoid disappointment.

Manufacture of the aluminium crossmembers and plain sills for the earlier bench seat T60s is likely to follow later in the year (the earliest T60s also having aluminium sills, but with an intermediate change to steel sills, before introduction of the all-steel bucket seat models at chassis number 600). Please make contact to express an interest in this project, as we need to gauge demand for both types and will only be going ahead if there is confirmed interest.

Alongside this batch, we are also intend getting a limited number of right angle strips bent up to fit under the outer flanges, as per later factory builds. These provide stronger fastening of the upper sections to the punt (spreading the load on the fibreglass flanges) and add slightly to the overall rigidity of the assembled bodyshell. Although not a standard feature, slightly shorter versions suitable for four-wheelers could also be made if there is sufficient demand. Alternatively, these items will be quite cheap, so T60 strips could shortened by those rebuilding four-wheelers, but we still need to know quantities required.

UPDATE: SA322/SE328/early-SE492 Windscreen Glass

Further to our last update in the August 2015 bulletin (and as already indicated on the Berkeley-USA Yahoo Group forum), Glenn Roberts has recently advised that Pilkington Classics in the USA expect the long awaited batch of new 'SE328' Windshields to arrive from the UK during March. Glenn is currently confirming final ship-to addresses with the 12 owners who ordered screens, but a further 3 screens are also available, so any USA members who missed out on the original order should contact him now if you would like to reserve one of these (see message #15998 'Sports SE 328 windscreens' posted on 16th February).

Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

2016 Events Listing

April 3rd: Classic Motor Show, Old Warden. See Dec '15 bulletin and 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 Jan bulletin and above.

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

May 1st: 'Soft Top' Breakfast Club, Goodwood Motor Circuit, West Sussex.
See Dec '15 and Jan bulletins.

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

May 15th: Vintage Car Show & Hill Climb, Westerham, Kent. See Jan bulletin.
www.friendsofvalence.com

May 15th: Vintage Vehicle Rally, Weedon Park, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 4NN.
See above. *www.chilternhillsrally.org.uk*

May 20th-22nd: **BEC Rally & AGM**, Copt Oak Memorial Hall, Leicester.
See above.

June 5th: SHVPS Classic Vehicle Show & Autojumble, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hants.
See Jan bulletin. *www.shvps.org.uk*

June 18th: Classic Transport Picnic, Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green,
Weston, North Hertfordshire, SG4 7DP. See above. *www.lgccvcc.co.uk*

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

Sept 8th - 11th: National MicroCar Rally, Lower Lacon Caravan Park,
Wem, Shropshire, SY4 5RP. *www.national-microcar-rally.co.uk/*

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MARKETPLACE

For Sale: Tyres

Five 135x12 tubeless radial tyres available in two lots (can arrange MyHermes delivery at cost, as indicated below, or collection from near Newmarket):-

- One unused (7mm tread), plus two VGC (5mm tread). ..... £40, plus £10 delivery.
- Two VGC (5mm tread). ..... £20, plus £8 delivery.

Contact: Geoff Dabrowa, Tel: 01638-780500, e-mail: *geoffdabrowa@hotmail.co.uk*

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Event News, For Sale/Wanted, etc.

NOTE: If you wish to place a News Item or an Advertisement 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 February 2016 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin