Keeping Cool

Once it was painted, engine in and running , thoughts again turned to keeping it cool hauling up all the mountains , other drivers that were entered in the rally were having hood props made , small fans fitted , all sorts of things being talked about.

It was considered a big problem, as the Berkeley is an air cooled engine, and unlike most has no fan ducting to help cooling at all.

It relies on its movement through the air to cool it.
Don't like traffic jams at all.

I had experimented with a front grill fan, but this was like turning an electric fire on in the engine bay, hopeless. I could measure the temperature as I had fitted a capillary tube temp gauge on the dash with the sender a bit of copper tube jammed in between the head fins.

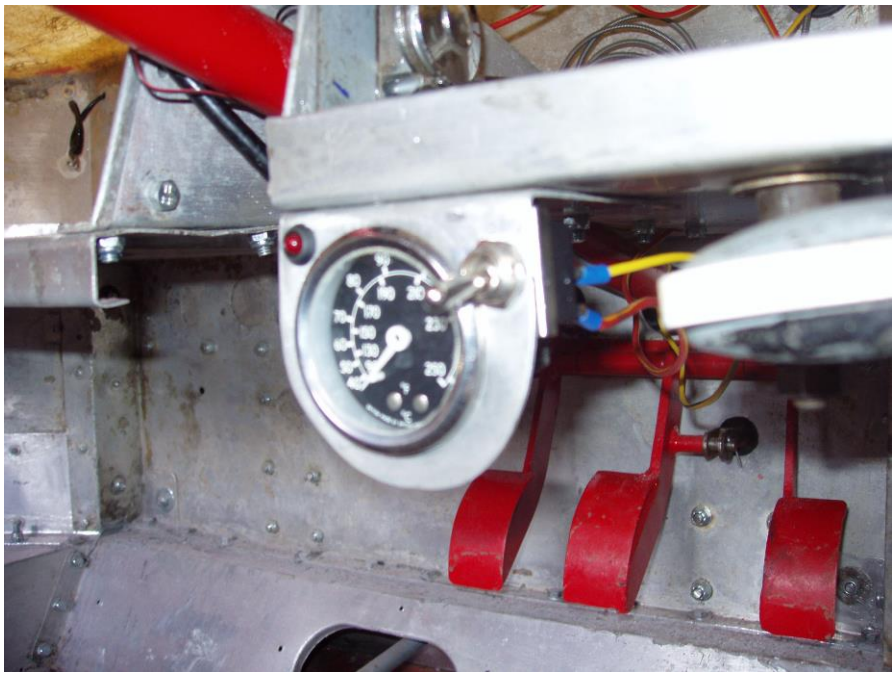
I think it was Darren Geff who gave me the idea and later fitted a BIG fan rather unconventionally , but one that pushed the air forwards from the vent in the bonnet forwards over the carbs and heads , keeping cool air going to the carbs and out the front grill or out the additional bonnet vent I built in.

After all it was only going to be switched on in an overheat situation of standing traffic or on a very long slow slog up the side of a mountain in first gear at 5 mph

Forwards facing fan and my copper pipe Temp Pick Up in between the fins



Under dash Temp Gauge on off and warning lamp



Inside the car, and almost ready to go



We are ready for the first real test drive

The most important
MOT and TAX is sorted by the 19 May 2008

That's less than 12 months from starting restoration.



First 100 mile run, was to see my old Mum



On Route up a mounting, somewhere? Ask the brilliant navigator Mike Stringer



This was just the very start at Liege, 2,500 mile to go.



We completed LBL with no faults; The car has had regular maintenance since and is still running about mostly untouched Except for tyres.

Still being used and abused, a bit, I hope, by Mike Stringer who has “Elby “on loan.

This is written around April 2016, some 8 years on from the LBL rally