

NEWSLETTER

April 1999



**Free Gift -
GARY FATT'S
BIG LIST
OF EVENTS**



The Motor for the Million
Built in the largest and most up-to-date Motor Works in
the British Empire

Member of the Austin Seven Clubs Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1999

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CLUB NIGHTS

are held on the third Thursday
of every month at
The Tyrrell's Ford Hotel,
Avon (on the Ringwood/
Christchurch Road)
B3347

This month's cover features our happy band on a Club holiday in Spain in 1995 - thanks to George for this fantastic picture.

EDITORIAL

Unbelievable! I had just finished ploughing my way through the proposed EUROPEAN new regulations on Historic Vehicles (e.g. End-of-Life stuff and who can and who cannot keep spares) and had decided it wasn't worth Newsletter space when I turned to our Newsletter for APRIL 1978 and found an APRIL FOOL article by Nigel Ricardo which is far more interesting - and up-to date!!!! That man certainly had vision!!! - see page 5 and be amazed.

We also have an article from our INTERNATIONAL ROVING REPORTERS describing a recent Seven-ful visit to the new colonies and, even more unbelievable, **THREE** letters!!!! The RUN REPORT has two pictures which will be of historical (if not hysterical) importance - the DA7C and Gary in particular, waiting *outside* a pub!

I am writing this having just returned from the first RACE of the season at Snetterton which was more of a shake-down cruise. (I.e. 2 DNFs and hence no Pit Stop report) This season I am not going to thrash the little red Special to an inch of its life again so I have taken on Vince's famous MOUSE SPECIAL for more serious work. WOW! - is it fast?!! I'm still trying to

get the flies out of my teeth (caused by too much grinning at very high speeds!!). The next outing will be a new experience for me and the Mouse - HILL CLIMBING at local Gurston Down with the PWA7C on April 17th. Spectators and supporters(!) welcome - flags not compulsory. This looks like the EVENTS NEWSLETTER with Gary Fatt's BIG LIST and lots and lots to do on the back page. Please note the EARLY START for the next Club Run and the PROMPT start for the Museum visit. You will notice an outbreak of BARBECUES this year - this is in response to those members who have asked for an occasional alternative to the SUNDAY PUB LUNCH STOP. So please support the organisers and, if YOU have any ideas or criticisms, see your friendly Committee Member - our aim is to please!!

Finally, an event we will all wish to support - either in person or with DONATIONS or raffle prizes - will be Marion Trimby's open day in aid of breast cancer care.

David

Deadline for the next issue is 23/4/99. Please send material to me by post, fax or E-mail or pass it over to the Editorial Team at Clubnight.

SECRETARIAL

Hi Gang

The Motorcycle identification quiz last club night, organised by Gary and Suzie Fatt certainly taxed the brain. I think I only got three correct, but that old rocker George Mooney won quite easily with, I think, twelve correct answers. Many thanks Gary and Suzie for something a bit different.

Phil Whitter's Wiltshire Wander brought out a fine selection of Austin 7's on the club run on 21st March. It was good to see Gary Munn's newly restored 1930 box back on the road after a number of years collecting dust in his garage. What about the special now Gary?

The skittles evening will have come and gone

by the time you are reading this and at the time of writing we had fifty people attending so it remains one of the more popular events in our calendar. Another event that will have been and gone is the Easter French trip which is always a super event.

I shall be in the garage this weekend giving the Tickford a good service and check over.

So for now, bon jour,

Glyn

Phil Whitter's Avon Valley Ramble

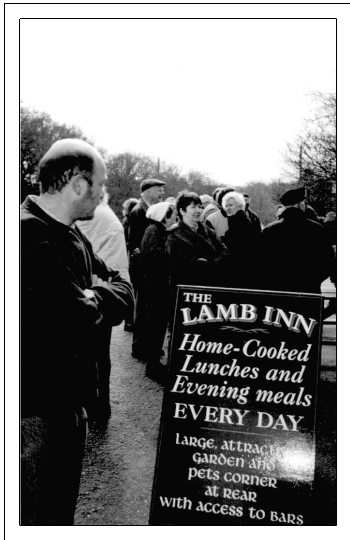
21st March 1999

One thing you need on these runs is a pen and paper so that you can make notes as Fate (in the form of the Editor) may decree that you are the one to do the write up for the magazine. Well we had no pen, so this is as we remember it.

It was raining when two Rubies and eight boxes. a post war Morris Minor and two moderns met at the car park in Ringwood, and, with David in charge, set off crossing the A31 and heading towards Moyles Court. The sun came out as we trundled along the country roads that run parallel with the A335 until we reached the B3078 where we turned right towards Cadnam, passing the Sandy Balls Holiday camp. (For some reason friends of ours who live in London thought a camp so named would be nearer the seaside).



At the Fighting Cocks pub in Godshill we turned left to Woodgreen. If you are ever that way and the village hall is open, have a look inside at the mural round the walls. It was painted during the war and shows the people of Woodgreen and the life they led at that time.



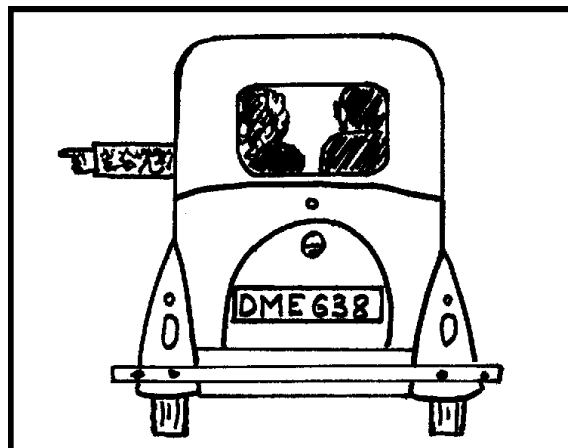
We carried on till we reached Downton where we turned onto the B3078 Cadnam road. The road is narrow with traffic lights. I think they are there to break up the traffic, only allowing about four cars through at a time, but by the time we reached the turning at Redlynch the 13 cars were back together again. We followed the road towards Landford, turning right just after The Cuckoo Inn. I remember when the lounge bar was the publican's living room!

Following the road we arrived at the Lamb at Nomansland for lunch, before it was open. - what a rush when the bolts were drawn!! After lunch a few hardy individuals went for a walk in the woods in spite of the chilly wind and we 'wimps' went home to tea and toast. Thanks to Phil it was a lovely run and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Bobbie & David Burris

and many thanks to you both for the write-up - you've a great memory. In future, pens will be provided! - Ed.

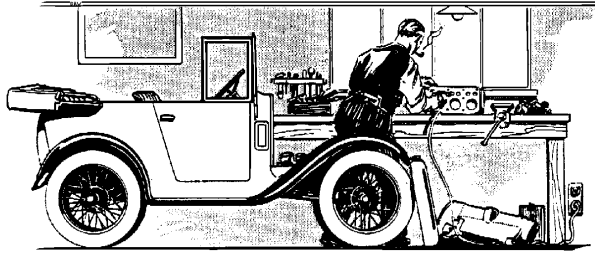
**KNOW
YOUR
HIGHWAY
CODE
3**



"I'm sure that's the answer to the next treasure hunt clue."

An original cartoon from PETER TREBILCO.

RICARDO'S APRIL 1ST
LETTER



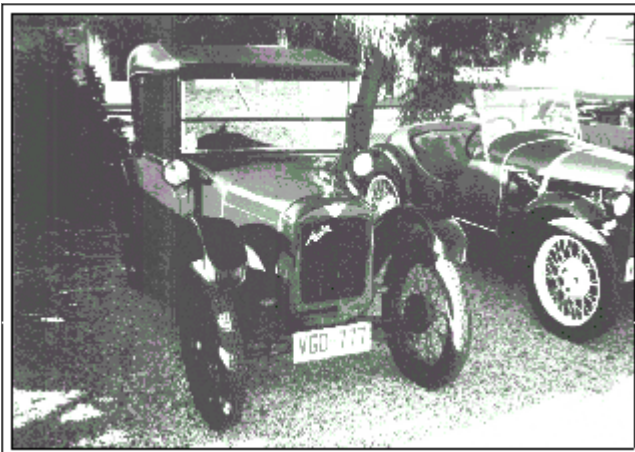
technical torque

a free wheel for austin 7s

SEVENS DOWN UNDER

Brian & I Have just returned from a visit to AUSTRALIA dividing our time between Perth in Western Australia and Adelaide in the South. Whilst there, Brian decided to track down the Austin Seven Club and, by chance, the Club was actually meeting on our last evening in Adelaide and we were cordially invited along.

This club, the AUSTIN SEVEN CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc., actually caters for all Austins, not only Sevens, and other historic cars having a membership of about 200 meeting regularly every month with additional runs and rallies in between. It has its own clubhouse in the Seaton area of Adelaide comprising a large meeting hall, kitchen, toilets, spares house, carpark and outside social area. Having its own hall means that charts,



photographs, diagrams, trophies etc. can be permanently displayed and spares don't have to be transported to and from each meeting.

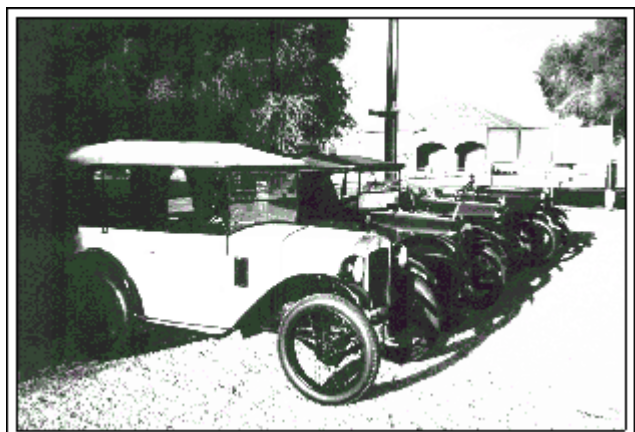
On arrival we were given a very warm welcome and then about 16 Austin 7s – Tourers, Chummies, 2-seaters, a rare (for Australia) Nippy and 2 Rubies plus a selection of later Austins including two Austin 8s – set off on a beautifully warm, sunny February evening run to a local park where a large Easter rally was being planned. We went with member Gerry Lang in his Jaguar-red, *open-top*, Ruby! The reaction of the public to the convoy was the same as it is in this country with lots of waiving and surprised expressions. After a pre-rally recce., we returned to the clubhouse to be greeted by a real Ozzie barbie organised by chairman Trevor Clarke and his wife Lynette. During the cooking, Stan

Gaffrey gave a talk on the restoration of the Nippy – started in 1976 – including a great deal of research, measurements, diagrams etc. made during various visits to the UK and New



Zealand. We were presented with a club windscreen sticker and radiator grille badge and would like to thank everyone in the club for making our visit such a memorable one. Our lift home was with Alan & Beth Weeks (still maintaining their English accent after 30 years!) in their 4-door A30 which was a great way to end a lovely evening forging links with Seven owners “down under”.

JEAN HUGHES



*and thanks to you, Jean & Brian for sharing
this amazing experience with us. - Ed
onyer folks!! - Ed*

Club Family News

WELCOME

Welcome to **Paul Azulay** who attended the March club night. Paul, who has been a member of the club for 3 years, had previously only been to an '8 til Late' (and that was a long time ago). Paul has a 1937 Ruby and still has only the old buff log book. Still, with a bit of help from Glyn, he's hoping he'll soon be V5ed!

THREE'S A CROWD?

Barry Goodman has just acquired a 1933 Box which was once owned by Reg Pickett before being sold to a gentleman in Southampton. Whilst in that metropolis, much restoration was done to the bodywork so Barry has himself a nice little motor. However, he already had a 1927 Chummy and a 1933 Cambridge so that 36' x 8' garage (nee barn) is coming in very handy.

NOW HE'S READY

You will have read in previous editions of this newsletter that **Gary Munn** had set himself a formidable task in getting his Box ready for the rally to France. Well, he completed fitting out the interior and rebuilding the engine with a fortnight to go. Well done Gary!

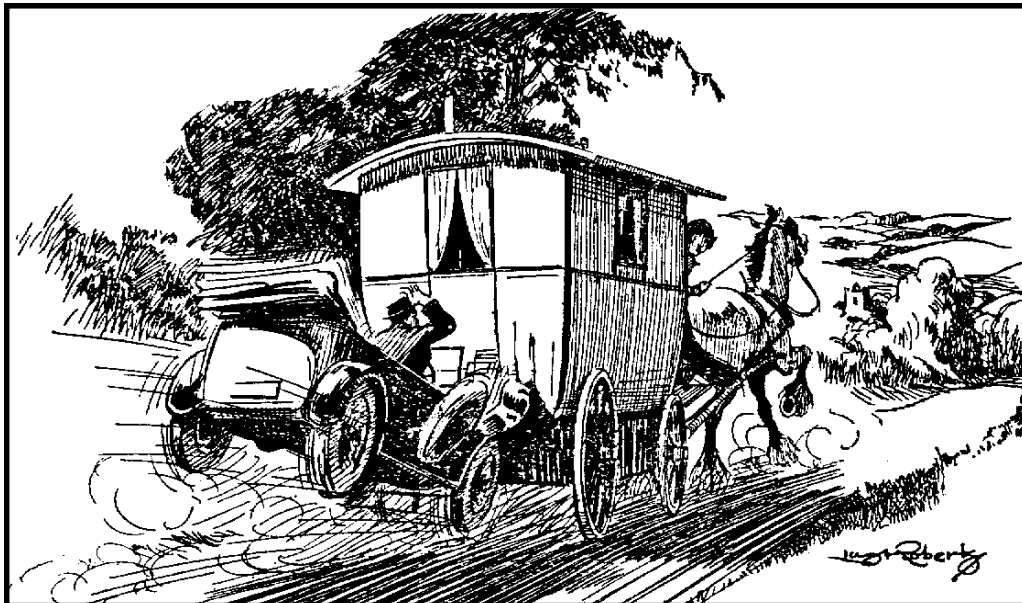
LIKE ANEW PIN

Spring does things to people. Some start cleaning the house, others make a start on the garden. But for **Gary Fatt** (who has enough of gardening in the week anyway) he's decided to overhaul his Ruby. It's having new king pins (the MOT hasn't liked the excess play for years), a new rear main bearing, and a new throttle spindle. So in the summer Gary will now be able to drive a straight(ish) line with no grumbles.

FANGS FOR THE MEMORY

Peter and Michele Trebilco have recently returned from a holiday in Transilvania. (Un) Fortunately they didn't get to meet the Count personally but we understand they had a fang-tastic good time. However they claim they wouldn't bat an eyelid if they came across

(Continued on page 11)



MRS.BROWN (during the first day in a hired caravan): "George, I think there's someone at the back door."

LETTER BOX



23rd. March 1999

Dear David,

I wonder if our members would be interested in the enclosed pic from the ChocBox era?

It was taken at the Pier Approach, Bournemouth by a professional photographer and we expected to hear no more of it. However, the photo was spotted in a small-interest magazine by an acquaintance of John Page. He passed it to John who passed it to me. The line-up at the pier was in connection with the Bournemouth 'Thirties' event in 1987(?).

See my moustache - very useful for cleaning fouled spark plugs!

Best wishes, **John Weaver**



90 Ammanford Road, Llandybie, Ammanford,
Carmarthenshire SA18 2JY

Tel: 01269 850528

Dear Editor

I am the Secretary of the South Wales Austin Seven club and as such the proud owner of a few Austins. I recently purchased an Austin Seven mark 1 Ruby, registration number AER 347 and a '33 Box registration number AMD 724. I am interested in finding out more about the history of these cars and wondered if any of your members may have possibly been a previous owner. I must admit that my curiosity has been tweaked when we did the JOGLE two years ago. We were informed by another Austineer who had followed the South Wales Austin Seven Transporter for a lot of the way that it just happened to have my Ruby on the top deck at the back with the number plate clearly visible. The car's registration was CFJ 843 which I had acquired from a fellow South Walenian who had bought it in Birmingham in pieces. I would be delighted to hear from anyone, who may have had contact with any of these cars.

Many thanks for your assistance,

Hayden & Glen Morgan (SWA7C)

The Old Vicarage, 15 Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4SG

Tel: 01795 470797



The Vintage Austin Register Ltd

Dear David,

Just a note to thank you for including the VAR on the Newsletter's mailing list and to congratulate you for maintaining a very high level of presentation.

Regarding Chris Tucker's key-ring - the Austin Motor Company *did* have a motor club and the number indicates the membership number of the owner with a reward for the finder.

(Continued on page 10)

THE WAY WE WERE - a blast from the past

From the Club magazine for April 1978

21

"April sees the start of evening club runs instead of the internal meetings at the Nag's Head. Nigel Ricardo usually manages to come from Dorchester in his Nippy so I'm sure it is worth the effort.

On the car scene, Gary Munn has passed his test - well done, Gary! Not many clubs can boast a 17 year old Events Secretary driving his own restored 1930 Box. Bernard is fitting the wings on his Chummy and I'm still trying to restore bits of the Fabric Saloon between putting tiles on the garage roof.

It's now exactly two years since we first met at the Nag's Head and we now have 40 members, have regular runs and hope to arrange a static rally tied in with a local steam rally. I would like to thank you all for your support and long may the Dorset Austin 7 Club flourish!

THIS MONTH'S MEETING - Meeting at the Nag's Head at 8.30 pm for a short run to the Red Shoot Inn

CLUB T-SHIRTS -

White - Adult £1.80 Child £1.65

Yellow & light blue - Adult £1.90 child £1.75

CLUB SWEATSHIRTS -

All colours above plus beige & grey Adults £3.70

TIP OF THE MONTH

Make life easier for yourself when you want to tap a thread. Make up a piece of blockboard or MDF with sets of 4 vertical holes. In each set place the three taps and a corresponding drill bit for each size of hole. Then whenever you want to drill and tap a thread, everything required will be easily to hand!

ALF EDWARDS

AUSTIN MOTOR COMPANY MOTOR CLUB (Continued from page 9)

Should any of your members be interested, I have a small quantity of original BMC 'Flying A' pin badges for sale at £4 each and also some superb watches depicting an early Austin 7 Chummy at £18 (both Ladies & Gents' sizes).

Sincerely, **Jim Stringer**, Editor VAR Magazine

oO CLUB DIARY Oo

Thursday 15 April CLUB NIGHT QUIZ NIGHT with Lawrence & Bernard - be early.

Early Start!



Sunday 18 April CLUB RUN - HEAVEN & HELL RUN with Richard Cressey

meet at QE school Wimborne for a **PROMPT 10.15am off** OR at Sturminster Mill for an 11am prompt departure to Plummer's Emporium, Henstridge. There will be an optional afternoon activity.

Thursday 22 April COMMITTEE MEETING - Tyrrell's Ford

Thursday 6 May VISIT to Southern Electric Museum organised by Pat Llewellyn. An evening of FUN, INTEREST, NOSTALGIA and NOVELTY for all ages. **Meet 7.30pm PROMPT** at The Old Power Station, Bargates, Christchurch. Austin 7s optional. New for '99 - BOURNEMOUTH TRAM No.85.

oO FUTURE EVENTS Oo

Thursday 20 May CLUB NIGHT - Talk by ALDERNEY PLATING

Sunday 23 May CLUB RUN - MEMBERS CHOICE with Paul Perry including a BBQ.

Sat/Sun 22/23 May Coast to Coast Run with PWA7C (01845-537318 for details)

Thursday 17 June CLUB NIGHT - Concourse:Manager's choice gets a bottle of fizz. To include a Club photo-shoot.

18/19/20 June SPYE PARK RALLY with BA7C or Copythorne Fête Run Details from Gary Fatt

Sat/Sun 3/4 July NATIONAL BEAULIEU RALLY Details from Gary Fatt in due course.

Saturday 3 July Pre-Beaulieu Run & BBQ with the Mason-Smiths

Fri/Sat/Sun 9/10/11 July SWANAGE RALLY

Sunday 18 July CLUB RUN with BBQ by Peter Treliving

Sunday 22 August CLUB RUN to Knoll Gardens with Gary Fatt

**HAPPY
MOTORING**

