DORSET AUSTIN 7 CLUB NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 1983

THURSDAY DEC. 15th

CLUB NIGHT - A short festive Quiz chaired by our illustrious treasurer Lawrence Rideal, followed by a Noggin and Natter.

SATURDAY 17th 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. Club Christmas Dinner and raffle at The Dormers.

EDITORIAL

Hi Gang,

The Auction at the Dormers last club night was well attended, and there were quite a few goodies on offer including a very strong steel Chastity Belt, only one previous owner, which for some reason did not sell!

Many other items did go under the hammer however, including a big Teddy Bear, a trouser press?? Gaz lights, and a pair of fiberglass running board covers for a Ruby, bought by yours truly, plus the usual grease guns and motor manuals. One member brought a large amount of bulky goods including quite a few tyres, unfortunately he ended up loading most of it back into his car, as no one put in a bid. Some of them were brand new; they were not A7 size needless to say. I understand that £52.50 was taken of which £5.25 was commission for the Club.

The December club run to the High Corner Inn was also well supported for a winter run. 11 cars met at Wimborne Square, 5 Rubies, 1 Tickford, 1 Chummy, 1 Box, 2 moderns, and Neil Mitchener's newly restored Big 7, good to see you Neil. Gary led the way, the weather was perfect, cold but dry and sunny. We passed through countless country lanes and very pretty villages. The run lasted about an hour and we all arrived just as the pub was opening. We were made very welcome and were soon tucking into good food and real ale. We enjoyed the morning run and the meal very much, after which we made our separate ways home.

—May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Glyn

EVENTS CALENDAR

SATURDAY DEC. 17th CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE DORMERS 7:30 p.m. for 8 o’clock.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 22nd COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE DORMERS WIMBORNE

SUNDAY JANUARY 1st NEW YEARS DAY RUN. LEAVE RINGWOOD CATTLE MARKET CAR PARK 11 a.m. (NEW VENUE THIS YEAR)

THURSDAY 19th JANUARY CLUB NIGHT

SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY BARN DANCE AND SUPPER AT POULNER SCOUT HALL (NEW VENUE) MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH

SATURDAY 24th MARCH SKITTLES AT THE MONMOUTH ASH VERWOOD. MORE DETAILS LATER

WEYMOUTH RUN

On Sunday 13th November Glyn and I went for our first club run-in our newly built 'Special'. The weather was not too bad for the time of the year and after putting on as many clothes as possible we set out for Wimborne to meet the others.

Unfortunately, George and Joy our organisers for the day, were unable to come as George had had an argument with a garden rake the day before!! Bernard took us on a very enjoyable run through the Dorset countryside towards Weymouth. After a very good lunch at a pub we set off for North Fort, Where George had arranged a guided tour. We split into two groups and were taken around the Fort by the guides who told us of the Fort’s history.

It was very interesting and the children present seemed to enjoy chasing around the ramparts. One of our newest members Emily found the whole thing very boring and cried most of the time.

It was a very enjoyable day and it was nice to see Mary & Jim, John & Cyn, Phil & Hilary, Dusty & Jane, Richard & Margaret, Mike & Pam and Gary.

Pat Llewellyn (Akela)

WELSH HOLIDAY

I met Glyn and Pat and Tufty the dog in their box at Ringwood on Saturday morning and we set off for Birmingham stopping for a pub lunch at Midday. We arrived at Longbridge without incident. Phil and family had already arrived and set up camp. We pitched our tents and after a very heavy shower, we went to a nearby Chinese takeaway and bought some food to eat back at camp.

On Sunday there was the Longbridge Austin 7 rally. The usual cars etc. and autojumble. Gary won a prize with his Chummy. It was decided to set off to North Wales at 4 o’clock, Gary in his Chummy, Pat and Glyn in a Box & Dusty, Jane and family with their box plus trailer and myself in a Vauxhall. After a good trip we arrived at a camp site near Dolgellau at 8 p.m.

We set up camp and by 9 o'clock we were really hungry, so we went into Dolgellau to find a pub but found no food was served after 7.30 p.m. on a Sunday. We had to make do with a few pints and packets of crisps.

On Monday we went shopping in Dolgellau and lost Glyn and Pat. We went on to Barmouth to see if they were there but could not find them. We had already decided to go to Snowdon. So, we went on to Snowdon and found Glyn' s car in the car park for the Llanberis Lake Railway. The cost of the train up Snowdon was very high and you had to book up in the morning, so we went on the Llanberis Lake Railway instead. The next few days we went driving round country lanes where we had to keep opening and shutting gates and we went swimming in the sea in between pub lunches and picnics. We went out in the evenings to pubs and found a good one by a toll bridge over the river made of old railway sleepers which was for sale.

On Friday, Bernard and family arrived a Mazda, and after a pub lunch we drove to Towyn by the coast to see the Talyllyn narrow gauge railway, which was built in 1865 to carry slate. It is now maintained by a Preservation Society. We were too late to go on the train, so we decided to go back the next day. So, we went to the beach for a swim instead. When we arrived back at camp we found Keith, Lesley and Helen had arrived from the Midlands. We all went down to the pub by the river in the evening.

The next day we went back to the Talyllyn Railway and caught the train up to Dolgoch falls where we went for a walk and had a picnic overlooking the falls. We then walked down and caught the train back to Towyn and went swimming again.

We moved on to the Forest of Dean on Sunday to break the journey home. Modern cars left first and we met at a pub for lunch. We arrived at the Forest of Dean and set up camp. Keith took us up a track he knew through the forest to the pub and on the way back to the camp in the dark we almost got lost.

On the bank holiday Monday, we walked by the River Wye to Symonds Yat for a pub lunch at a very picturesque spot by the rivet. After lunch we crossed the river by punt and walked back down by the river to a suspension bridge which crossed over the river and walked back through the forest to the camp site. We prepared a barbecue and after a long wait the bangers were ready. After we had eaten all the food and drunk all the beer, Keith started sputnik spotting and we all joined in, we saw at least six during the evening.

In the morning we took our tents down and packed up. We said goodbye to Keith, Lesley and Helen and set off on the homeward journey. We stopped at a pub by Bathampton bridge and went our own way home. A very enjoyable holiday.

Mike Wragg

TWIDDLE'S TIP No. 8

Winter's coming again so here are three little tips for all the winter Austin Seven drivers.

Firstly, to keep your windscreen clear in frosty weather and to help your windscreen wiper in the snow, lift the offside of your bonnet and using a wedge (a nut or a piece of cardboard will do) between the bonnet and the scuttle, close your bonnet again. You will now have a small gap which will let the hot air from your engine keep your windscreen warm.

Secondly, as well as carrying a spade, a candle and a box of matches (as recommended by the various motoring associations) it is as well to carry a couple of lengths of rope. You can use these as snow chains by wrapping them around your tyres and rims and you will find them quite effective.

Thirdly, my wife keeps her legs warm in the car by filling a plastic bottle with hot water and placing it on the floor in front of the seat and behind her legs. We find that a one-gallon container stays warm for about one and a half hours. Lastly a plastic one-gallon container in the car filled with grit which can be sprinkled on snow and frosty ground - surely a must for any motorist.

Acknowledgements to Bristol A7 Club

SPARES REPORT

New additions to the spares include: -

WHEEL STUDS, DYNAMO HOUSING FIXING KITS, FRONT HUB NUTS.

WHAT ABOUT A CHRISTMAS SPARES VOUCHER AS A PRESENT?

GIVE PHIL A RING ON RINGWOOD 5558

Phil Whitter

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new member Brian Hooper of Cobham Way, Wimborne who has a 1937 Ruby which was advertised in our newsletter a couple of months ago.

John Page