DORSET AUSTIN SEVEN CLUB NOVEMBER 1980

THIS MONTHS MEETING

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19th AT THE 'NAGS HEAD', RINGWOOD. TOM NEWSOME OF THE PRE-WAR AUSTIN 7 CLUB HAS KINDLY AGREED TO COME ALONG AND SHOW SOME SLIDES. SO A GOOD TURN OUT PLEASE.

DECEMBER MEETING

THURS 17th DECEMBER AT THE NAGS HEAD RINGWOOD. PHIL WHITTER WILL BE GIVING A TALK ON OVERHAULING AN AUSTIN 7 DYNAMO.

EDITORIAL

Brrrr, I hope you have got your Anti-Freeze in, if you are keeping your 'Seven' on the road this winter. Quite a few of our members use their cars throughout the year, so I have decided to lay up the

Morris for the winter, and keep the Ruby on the road. (Anyone got an Austin Seven heater?)

The events committee have organised some winter events this year, so please try and come, modern cars welcome during the winter if you haven’t a 'Seven on the road.

You will have noticed the different (and I hope improved) printing of the newsletter this month. New Milton member, Murray Pacey, has lent us his ink duplicator, which is a big improvement on our old one; you will have to forgive the quality of the cover this month, should have it right by December.

Due to our receiving the 1980C Austin 7 Clubs Association magazine late, you will find the 1980D mag with this newsletter, only a month after receiving 1980C.

AGM 1980

The meeting was attended by 22 members including wives. Our Chairman Derek Munn opened the proceedings with a brief resume of the past year, this was followed by the Secretaries report. Bernard
reminded us of our earlier efforts to become a limited company, and explained that it had proved financially impractical for such a small club, and that we had taken out public liability insurance at a premium of about £30 per annum with Cornhill Assurance, which gives us a reasonable measure of protection.

The Treasurers turn next, and Lawrence stated that we were in a better financial position than at this time last year. This was mainly due to none of our events having lost money as in past years. Lawrence reported that we had about £110 in the bank at this time.

There followed a short discussion on club subscriptions which were increased to £4 per year or £5-75 per year if the Association Magazine is required.

Gary Munn gave the events committee report, stating that we had organised nine runs, most of which had been reasonably well attended with the exception of one, when only three people turned up. He also stated that the Bar-b-Que at John Bramwell’s was poorly attended by 'Dorset' members. He said that there were almost as many Solent members as our own, which was a shame, as it was enjoyed by all those who did go. Gary thanked John Bramwell for all his work and the use of his field.

Next was the Social Secretaries report. John Stone explained that due to unforeseen circumstances he had not been very active in the past few months, but that this was now settled and he would have more time. The Chairman expressed our thanks for John's efforts in organising the Barn Dance, and hoped that the one to be held in February would be as good.

Phil Whitter, our spares secretary was the next to report. He said that though slow to get going, he had recently paid in the first contribution to the club. He also reported that he was now able to supply more sweatshirts, with or without the club emblem, and that they are of better quality than the last batch.

Newsletter Editor next, I thanked my usual half dozen contributors for their real help in filling the newsletter and said that it would be nice if some other members contributed. There followed a fairly long discussion about the duplicator which has started to give trouble. Murray Pacey then kindly offered to let the club have his ink duplicator on long loan, this should mean an improvement in the quality of the printing.

At this point the committee resigned, and were immediately voted in again 'en block' with the addition of George Mooney as Membership Secretary.

Under 'Any other business' John Page suggested that perhaps a woman committee member might be an advantage. It was decided however that we had a complete committee, and that any member male or female were always welcome at committee meetings and could make suggestions.

Finally, it was unanimously decided to make our most senior member, Murray Pacey, an honorary member. Derek then thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.

Glyn

EDITORS SNIPPETS

Highcliffe member Jim Clenaghan suffered a heart attack recently and was in Boscombe hospital for a time. He is now recovering at home at 2, Stuart Road, Highcliffe. Get well soon Jim.

Member Phil Whitter was not too keen about his wife Hilary driving their recently restored Ruby. One morning after Phil had left for work, Hilary decided to 'have a go', and telephoned Phil at work, to find out where the ignition key was kept. Phil replied, smugly, that he had it in his pocket. Undaunted however, Hilary sorted out all the spare keys she could find and managed to make one fit, after which she and a friend went for a trip around the surrounding countryside. When Phil returned home that evening, Hilary informed him that she would be driving to the Club meeting at the Nags Head the same night. They set off that evening for the Nags Head, gears crashing, car lurching, Phil bellowing instructions. Well I can't see what my feet are doing, shine the torch on them. said Hilary. So next time you see a Ruby weaving down the road, with beams of light pouring through the floor, don't worry, it’s only Twinkle Toes Whitter out practicing.

The earliest known Mini was sold at Beaulieu Autojumble this year. It was offered for sale by the National Motor Museum at £100. Surprisingly no interest was shown and the price was lowered progress­ively through the day, until the car was eventually sold to one of the museum staff for £70. The car was registered pre-August 1959 had a sound body and was quite original apart from a Cooper engine. Must have been the bargain of the day.

There are a couple of interesting evening meetings coming at the National Motor Museum Beaulieu. The first, on 31st January, is a talk on conservation and restoration. Guest speakers will be Dick
Crossthwaite, a well-known restorer of racing cars, to talk from the angle of the commercial restorer, and Barry Clarke (club member) speaking on behalf of the enthusiast.

The second meeting, on the 28th February, is a-classic film evening. A very popular meeting last year, comprising of some unusual clips of film on all motoring and motor cycling matters, from the museum’s sound and film archives. The Museum will be open each of these evenings from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30

and the meetings will start in the Brabazon promptly at 7.45 p.m. It is expected that they will end between 10 and 10-15 p.m. The admission charge is £1 per head. Friends of the National Motor Museum Trust free. What about a Club run there?

The A7 Clubs Association now has a new Editor and assistant Editor. They are: Editor John Bateman, assistant Editor Ken Warren.

Dear D.A.7.C. Members

Thank you for the two greetings Telegrams. The wedding was a great success, the sun shone all day despite the weather forecast. We went to Crete for our honeymoon. The weather was just right and we hired a car for a few days. The roads are terrible and would ruin even an Austin 7 in a short time.

We hope to see you all at the December meeting.

Best Wishes,

Rosemary & Roger Ballard

BERNARD RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER RECENTLY:

AN AUSTIN CALENDAR FOR 1981

Dear Bernard,

During the period I have been drawing cartoons for the Bristol Club Newsletter and more recently for the A7CA quarterly magazine, many fellow enthusiasts have asked about the possibility of producing

an Austin Seven Calendar. Well, this year I have decided to take the plunge and am having printed a limited run of 12 new cartoons in 1981 Calendar form.

As soon as the printing is completed I will be sending you a copy. In the meantime, perhaps you would like to advise your members of the calendar's availability? It will cost £2.50p. which includes post
and packing.

Best Regards and Happy Austin Sevening

Barry Mills

19, Primrose Lane Yeovil, Somerset.

If anybody is interested, please let Bernard know.

RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Only fifteen members took the trouble to complete the forms. However, I have worked out the following findings.

Only 2 people preferred to go to Static rallies and 3 preferred runs. The remainder stated that they liked both. Almost everyone said they preferred a run to a place of interest, rather than a circular tour, and the average answer to the question on distance of runs was 94 miles. Eight members said they would attend camping weekends, the remaining seven said they couldn't or wouldn't.

As far as criticism is concerned, two members said they felt rather left out and that we were a bit 'cliquey'. One said he did not like being out after dark, due to poor lights, one complained of not enough advanced notice of events, and another asked why we always go uphill and not down.

Two people deplored the apathy of the majority of the club. One male member said he had other commitments, in the form of a wife! and two people stated that the rule of always keeping the person

behind in view on runs was often not adhered to. The remainder had no criticism. Everyone said they enjoyed the socials, though one stated that he lived too far away to attend, all bar two said they would come to more socials if they were organised.

In answer to the request for suggestions on events, two members suggested taking part in the Peking-Paris rally, and three suggested more treasure hunts, one member suggested a day run to the Isle of Skye, and two people suggested a run to the Isle of Wight. There were suggestions of destinations such as Portsmouth, Brownsea Island, North Dorset area, and Marwell Zoo.

EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23rd Lunchtime, run to the High Corner Inn, Lynwood, meet at Ringwood Cattle Market car park 11 a.m.

THURSDAY 1st JANUARY DA7 Club New Years Day run to Lepe, meet at the Cat & Fiddle, Hinton, Nr. Christchurch at 10.30 a.m.

SATURDAY 10th JANUARY DA7 Club Skittles evening at the Monmouth Ash, Verwood 8 p.m.

SATURDAY 31st JANUARY Evening meeting at National Motor Museum Beaulieu. Talk on restoration & renovation in the 'Brabazon' bar 7.45p.m. admission £1 each, members of Friends of Beaulieu Free.

SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY DA7 Club Valentines Barn Dance at the Scout Hall, Redcotts Lane, Wimborne.

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY Film Evening at National Motor Museum Beaulieu, showing some Rare motoring films. 7.45p.m. 'Brabazon' bar £1 each members of Friends of Beaulieu free.

SUNDAY 15th MARCH DA7C club March Hare run to Swanage area meet Wimborne square 10.30 a.m.

SUNDAY 12th APRIL DA7C Pre-France meeting at the Nags Head, Ringwood 12.30 p.m.

APRIL 16th Solent 17 Club French Trip.

APRIL 26th Daffodil run (Provisional)

SUNDAY MAY 3rd DA7C May Day run to Brownsea Island, bring a picnic, meet at View Point, Parkstone 10.30 a.m.

MAY 16th & 17th DA7 Club Camping weekend at Beer,Devon.

MAY 25th Ferndown Rotary/DA7 club Rally & Country Fair (Provisional)

MAY 31st Dorset A7 Club run to Cheddar, leave Wimborne square 10 a.m.

JUNE 6th & 7th Caldicot Castle Rally S.W.A.7.C.

JUNE 13th DA7 Club evening run to the Wagon & Horses, Lymington, Meet at the Cat & Fiddle, Hinton 8 p.m.

JUNE 20th 21st Berkley Castle Rally B.A.7.C.

JUNE 24th Evening Rally at Little Gore Farm, New Milton. H.C.V.C.

JUNE 27th SOLENT 17 Club Bar-b-que

JUNE 28th Beaulieu A7 Rally 750MC.

JULY 4th DA7 Club evening Boat Trip to I.O.W. Meet at 'The Gun' Keyhaven for a 7,30 p.m. departure.

JULY 11th & 12th Combined D.A.7.C./S.A.7.C. Camping Weekend Crofton Beam Engine (details later)

JULY 25th DA7 Club evening run to somewhere west of Wimborne (details later)

JULY 25th/26th Netley Marsh Rally. S.A.7.C.

AUGUST lst/2nd Alderholt Steam Rally (Provisional)

AUGUST 9th DA7 Club run to H.M.S. Victory, Portsmouth (details later)

AUGUST 23rd Longbridge Rally M.A.7.C.

AUGUST 29th DA7 Club afternoon run to Rhinefield House (Brockenhurst) for tea, then on to the Sir Walter Tyrol for the evening.

AUGUST 31st DA7 Club run to the Littlewick Show A.7.0.C.

SEPTEMBER 6th Dorset A7 Club North Dorset Run (details later)

SEPTEMBER llth/12th/13th Beaulieu Autojumble (Provisional)

SEPTEMBER 18th/19th/20th Stourpaine Bushes Steam Rally (Provisional)

AROUND EUROPE IN AN AUSTIN 7 PART 2

Well, we made it to Southampton Channel ferry terminal at 10.15 p.m. after a stop for petrol and to check tyre pressures. Already we got priority treatment, the loading attendant beckoned us to the front of the queue to be loaded down in the hold with the lorries to save a steep climb up top! We did feel rather small parked between two posts surrounded by lorries. In fact all we could see, whilst we
sat in the car was lorry wheels. Once parked we hurried up top to find a decent seat near the bar

(where else!) Armed with a whisky each we settled down for the long night ahead, but an hour later after a snack we decided to sleep upstairs in the reclining seats of the observation lounge.

After a reasonable night’s rest, and a good breakfast we docked at Le Havre at 7.15 a.m. French time (6.15 a.m. English time and prepared to set forth to meet the maniac drivers of France. After passing
straight through customs, we decided to try and reach the Swiss border in two days which meant we had to try and achieve about 250 miles each day which seemed a hell of a lot in an Austin 7.

We spent a trouble-free day driving almost solidly except for meals and calls of nature. We arrived at Vitry le Francois at 6.00 having travelled some 300 miles of remarkably easy driving. We found a state-run camp site in Vitry le Francois, which, although rather austere, cost a mere 80p. for the night and was the only camp site on the whole trip with free hot water. Whilst Peter put up the tent, I had a quick check round the car, adjusting the dynamo, which was charging rather high after I had replaced a bush before we left. I also put in a pint of oil. I worked out that we had averaged 32 m.p.g. during the day which wasn't very good, but the terrain had been very hilly and we were rather heavily laden. After a meal and a bottle of wine, we retired early to prepare for the long drive ahead, hopefully to reach Switzerland by dark. We left next day about 10.30 a.m. and immediately took the wrong road. Three hours later, we stopped by the side of the road to cook a tin of curry, and we almost had the passenger door ripped off when a French juggernaut tore past and swung the door back with the gale that followed it, but luckily it still shut OK.

About 5 p.m. as we approached the Swiss border the road became distinctly more hilly, then we got flagged down by two policemen who had a good look round the car and waved us on. We had no idea why they were stopping people but they seemed to do the same to every car that passed.

By 7 p.m. we had finally reached the border, and both sets of customs men seemed more interested in the car than its contents. By now I was feeling rather weary and so I was very glad when we found a campsite five miles further on, having covered 220 miles.

Compared with France it was immediately obvious how much dearer Switzerland was and how the people drove all makes of car, whereas in France nearly everyone drove a French car.

For supper, we had sweetcorn obtained from a roadside field in France - Ravioli and a tin of potatoes and the usual bottle of wine – lovely.

We spent the evening in the campsite bar, in the warm, drinking beer and chatting - or trying to chat in French with the owners. After a couple of glasses of our duty-free Whisky, which we shared with the owners who swapped us for some cigarettes, we went to bed, rather the worse for drink (as usual Ed.) It was a bitterly cold night, but in our state, we did not notice it.

We rose at 8.30 next morning to find it was 7.30 in Switzerland so we got off to an early start to venture into the mountains of Switzerland.

Gary

Many thanks to Dave Kenny for supplying the labels for the newsletter envelopes.

SUBS ARE NOW DUE SUBS ARE NOW DUE

YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE, PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY USING THE FORM AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER, AND RETURN TO GEORGE MOONEY.

FOR SALE

1954 AUSTIN A40 VAN, RUNNING BUT NEEDS RESTORING TELEPHONE John on Highcliffe 77717

 DORSET AUSTIN 7 CLUB SKITTLES EVENING

OUR ANNUAL SKITTLES EVENING WILL ONCE AGAIN BE HELD AT THE MONMOUTH ASH, VERWOOD, DORSET, ON SATURDAY JANUARY 10th STARTING AT 8 p.m.

PRICES ARE FOR CHICKEN IN BASKET £1.80p each or PLOUGHMAN’S SUPPER £1.00p each

NAME

ADDRESS

I enclose £ for Chicken in Basket/

 Ploughman’s Supper

Cheques/P.O. Made out to Dorset Austin Seven Club

Please return as soon as possible to:-

Mike Wragg,

239, Station Road, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset.

DORSET AUSTIN SEVEN CLUB RENEWAL/APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Dorset Austin Seven Club is, as its name implies, a club for Austin Seven owners and people with an interest in Austin Sevens.

We meet at the Nags Head, Ringwood on the third Thursday of every month, at 8.30 p.m. During the summer we arrange runs on clubnights and also on some Sundays. We also attend various rallies and

sometimes camp over a weekend. We try to cater not only for the enthusiast, but also for his family. A newsletter is sent to each member every month.

NAME

ADDRESS ........... ....... TEL.NO.

 …………………………………..

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DETAILS OF CAR/S MODEL …………………. YEAR ………………

CHASSIS NO……………………………. HOW LONG OWNED……………...

IS THE CAR/S RESTORED/TO BE RESTORED/IN ORIGINAL CONDITION.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION £4 per year or £5.75p per year if you require the Austin Seven Clubs Association Magazine as well.

Cheques/P.O.'s made out to Dorset Austin Seven Club and send to the Membership secretary Mr. George Mooney,

22, Southwood Ave.,

Southbourne, Bournemouth,

Dorset. Tel. No 425989