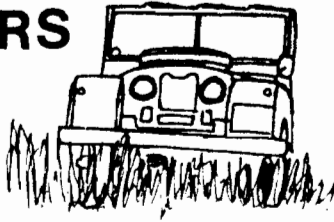
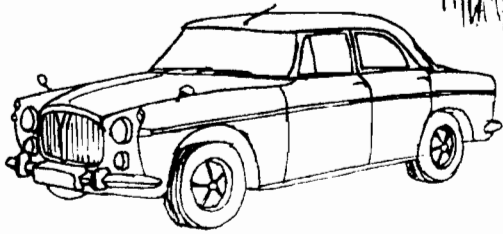


HANTS & BERKS

ROVER OWNERS



May Newsletter 1984.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

For those interested we are becoming really famous. As was explained by Money Grabber, sorry, Treasurer, we now have members in Denmark and enquiries about an affiliation from a Canadian Rover Club.

To those who have joined us in the past six weeks or so, may I welcome you to the Club and hope you will find us worthwhile.

Now that we are beginning to slowly expand we need to become more organized and disciplined, so in the next couple of months I hope we can expand on the spares side. This will expand as we have a very good possibility of some garages to start operating from.

Chairman's Birthday celebrations are around 4th May time. If anybody is interested in a knees up somewhere, then let me know.

Also in June it is intended to spend a day at the Watercress Line in co-ordination with the Railway Society on the theme of travelling in luxury or something. Basically we intend to put a display on for the public and join in with the trains etc, retiring to a suitable pub in the evening.

Finally. Wally of the Month Award goes to two of our committee members. The first is the Honorable Chairman who left his ignition on, and had to spend the best part of the following morning trying to recharge the battery to start his car. Mega-Wally, I think must be our very own Treasurer, who decided to drive with Wellington boots on (can't afford the Range Rover yet). Apparently, what happened was that he was checking his tyre pressures and found the air-line didn't reach the back of the car. So, whilst trundling it forward, he went to put his foot on the brake, foot slipped being as we was wearing wellies and promptly rammmed the accelerator to the floor. This in turn launched him at a rapid rate of knots forward to find this Mercedes had parked at the petrol pump. RESULT : ROVER 1 MERCEDEZ 0.

YEAR BOOK. The Year Book will be coming out in late June in time for the Nationals. But we still need photographs so could anybody please help. Incidentally, members will receive this monumental tablet free but I'm afraid non-members will have to pay something due to costs.

SPARES

We are at the moment beginning to collect various spares together now and hopefully can start buying as well as the manufacture of obsolete parts. So to start this month's waffle is a bit about cars. Please note that these look abandoned but may well be worth chasing up. First is a Black P4 found behind Tadley Sheet Metals. This car can be seen from the road, and if you turn towards Silchester at Lloyds bank in Tadley the car is on the right. Only the radiator grill is missing when last seen. P4 again. This time abandoned in a private garden on the A4. Site is the Marley Tile side and between the two junctions of Aldermaston and Aldermaston station. Another possible is a P5B Coupe in Brant's Yard, Tadley. Might be worth a look.

Most of you I dare say remember my dear old Coupe that became nicknamed "Roaring Rat". Having collected most of the parts to commence a rebuild this will start very soon. However, I have a donor P5B vehicle of which some vital parts will be stripped. For example, the front suspension and sub-frame assembly. During this process quite a lot of parts will be left over. If anybody's interested in anything, please contact me on Tadley 5194.

COMING EVENTS

27th May, Sunday. 10.30 a.m. Start for navigational scatter. This is for everyone, and requirements are an Ordnance Survey Map No.174. (Pete will supply copies if you have not got one).

Start from Hinds Head. Basically its finding a group of selected points, so bring suitable footwear as you may find that some clues can only be reached on foot.

13th May, Sunday. Newbury Pageant of Motoring. Group Get-together please to make a stand-up. Details from Howard.

NATIONALS PETERSFIELD

Hopefully this is what is happening at Petersfield on 20th/21 July. The event is for a full weekend with the following itinerary. Saturday night there is camping allowed for those who wish to come long distance. I know that I shall definitely be there and hopefully a couple of other members, so you will be in good company. The idea behind this is that it makes it possible for continental members and those in far away places to join us. Incidentally, the pub is dead opposite and serves something like six or so real ales.

On the exhibition side we have a Rover powered Formula 5000 coming in and Trade stands will be asked to provide a display, also the local law, (if they have a Rover spare).

Also on the Sunday will be a green roading exercise for the off roaders, and for the first time we will also try to organize an auto-jumble of some sort. Other Rover clubs will be invited and hopefully this will be the biggest get-together we have held to date.

Now for the gravel points. Please note we need marshalls etc. on the day to help in driving tests and general running of the event. This I hope will not be left to the usual three or so people. Anything would be appreciated to help lighten the load. Members in and around Petersfield : if you could help by placing handouts in shop windows and under windscreens it would be appreciated. Please could you contact either Andy or myself about this.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. This is my first report (not the last I hope, Treasurer). After a long discussion with Merc Masher, I thought it would be a good idea to compile a census concerning Your Club, so would all members please reply to this as soon as possible either by posting to me, or taking it along to the next meeting.

"Are more activities involving saloons required?
Please tick appropriate :
Treasure Hunts..... Visiting places of interest.....
Exhibiting at showsAttending other rallies
Any others.....
Are you satisfied with the present arrangement of noggin & natters....
Would you like to see a more formal type of meeting, perhaps every two/three months in a room set aside purposely for the Club ?.....
Any other constructive suggestions or criticisms
.....

Happy Rovering,
Andy Smiff (Hon.Sec).

Genuine workshop manual for Rovers 60, 70, 75, 80, 90 up to 110, 1950 onwards £18.00 Contact Howard (masher).

MONEY GRABBERS OR MERC MASHER'S REPORT

Phew, where does Pete get all his ideas from? Makes my head ache just reading it all (Keep it up!!). As you have read, I did indeed "Ding" a Merc. The owner was very surprised, especially as I backed off and all the rear lights dropped out. All he kept saying was "This will cost you a lot of money". NUFF SAID (£1,400 damage to Merc, £60 to Rover).

If anyone is going to the White Hart in Ramsdell, don't, because it is in Charter Alley. Just ask RED LEADER.

As you all know the last newsletter was late, my fault. I delayed the printing to get Pete's comments, then posted by 2nd class, resulting in everyone getting them after the 1st April. So I am really sorry, but, at our last committee meeting it was decided that all items to be included must be with me (Help, I'm the editor now) on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, and must be posted before the last week. Whilst on about editorials, perhaps our Canadian and Danish members might like to contribute something, like what sort of difficulty they may have, or what it is like to own a Rover in their respective countries.

We have heard from Brian Wheeler at last. He has moved to Cirencester. Hope to see you soon, Brian.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS :

WEDNESDAY, 9th May.

SUNDAY, 27th May.

Well, I suppose it had to happen sooner or later. During the start of restoring Roaring Rat, the saloon going in for its MOT. I seem to have acquired another Rover. Now I know this is going to sound silly but its the first time that I've owned a car that is in really nice condition. I wouldn't really mind, but within the first 7 days of ownership I already have had two people clammering to buy it, and one of those offered me cash on the spot.

Problem number 2 came when searching for a P6, preferably S, its funny that after just taking delivery of the present P6, I found the V8 I was searching for. I now have 3 Rovers and a possibility of a V8 as well. HELP !! I suppose with a couple more we could start a permanent museum, or even static reference library.

The moral of this story is, if there is one, if the car is kept in good presentable condition it certainly gets noticed. And with cars like Rovers it certainly pays off in the end. Now what about a Range Rover to add to the collection.....

WALLY OF THE MONTH AWARD

This is becoming one of the all great British past times. Perhaps we ought to make this a regular feature. Anyway, I am afraid to admit that I lay claim to this award yet again.

One Saturday night, he of the hairy legs fame and myself were coming back from Petersfield after sorting out details of our Rally. It's some years since I last went through Basingstoke and approached this crossroads on what used to be a one way system. We had followed this mini for a while when the traffic lights turned red, and as the mini wanted, it turned left, and I wanted to go straight on I decided to pull alongside the mini. The driver in the mini looked most concerned about something so Howard and I stared back at him, until Howard suddenly went a little stiff and turned pale. Not realizing why, I looked to the front to find this Volvo had come round the corner followed by a convoy of cars.

Well, I mean, nobody*****told me that they'd changed it to a two way system. It must have been hysterical to find this Rover reversing along a road at a rapid rate of knots with a Volvo chasing it, followed by a convoy behind the Volvo. O.K. O.K. now I know why Volkos have rubber bumpers.

MONEY GRABBERS REPORT

So that Pete will not be the only Wally:who set fire to his dashboard? Yep, Masher did. Easy. Just a little job of changing the washer push switch. You only have to disconnect electrics speedo etc. remove bracket (4 screws) replace switch, replace speedo cable etc. refit dash, go and reconnect power supply and I says to Pete "suppose it bursts into flames, knowing me and electrics" and POOOOF!! car is full of smoke. I had trapped a wire between the frame and screw, shorting the lot out, so had to re-wire just the dash lights (not like Richard's Rangie!!).

OCTOBER 1984 - 3 days in France, 2 nights in Hotel. Two persons per car on ferry, Paris plus sights .. total cost (less booze) approx. £50. This has been arranged by Bruce Williams, a member in Gosport, so please let Andy or me (masher) know if you are interested. The Tour? will be lead by Bruce, who is a Coach Driver by profession, so at least we won't get lost.

As the Club has joined the A.R.C. we also have to join the R.A.C. (still with me?) and to do this we will have to adopt the R.A.C. rules and constitution, so on the 13th June, Wednesday night Club night, we will be in the Club Room to discuss and adopt these regs., otherwise the Club will not be able to run events without problems, so let's have a good turn out, should only take about an hour.8pm on.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. CLASSIC CAR SHOW N.E.C. BIRMINGHAM

Howard and I left Reading station at 7.30 am on Saturday, 5th May and five stops and two hours later we arrived at Birmingham International (AHH, let the train take the strain - it certainly takes the hassle out of motoring).

Two minutes of covered walkway later we were at the Exhibition Centre queuing for our tickets. It was a good job I took Howard's collar and lead because it was all I could do to hold him back from all the dolly birds who were taking the money - I won't go into detail about them here otherwise this report won't be written...

The first part of the Exhibition contained a host of different kit car manufacturers, from A.C. Cobra replicas to Cortina and Escort cars, many of them using the trusty Rover V8 engine. The Montague Motor Museum had a very large display of motorcycles, one of which was a four cylinder Triumph''.

After all the hard work of looking at the girls - sorry, I mean the cars, we inevitably had to retire to the bar for a few brown bottles (by the way, Megawally Award of the Month goes to Howard for leaving his flashgun switched on for the duration of the train journey).

Part of the Citroen display was a convertable DS. One could just imagine driving through St Tropez with Brigitte Bardot beside you.....

Onto more mundane matters, the P6 owners club had their Zagato - bodied 2000 2 + 2 coupe on display, rumours were that the owner was looking for £10,000 plus. Phew!!

The P4 drivers guild had, I think the best stand. A lot of thought time and hard work must have gone into it. It included a wedding car complete with bride and wedding cake.

Land Rovers were well represented by both the Land Rover Register and the Series 1 Club.

Amongst the many other stands were Jaguar drivers club, Alfa Romeo Owners Club, Aston Martin Owners Club, Jensen, Allard, Vanden Plas, Wolseley, Renault, Triumph, MG, Stag and the Crayford convertable Club. This consisted of two immaculate Corsairs and a Cortina MK II.

We spent nearly two hours just looking through the Autojumble stands. There seems to be a distinct lack of Rover parts. Can anyone tell me why this is?

We left Birmingham with renewed enthusiasm for returning next year with a Hants & Berks Rover Owners Stand. From what we could ascertain it will not be expensive as there is absolutely no necessity to take the expensive facilities on offer through the Organisers. It would only be a matter of accommodation to pay out for. I am sure we could do better than some of the attending Clubs this year.

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours later, Howard now off his lead, we were back at Reading.

Contrary to what people may think, Howard does have quick reactions : I tested them by blasting the horn on his car as he was replacing the rotor arm - you should have seen his face! (removal of the rotor arm is still the best anti-theft device).

ANDY SMITH.

NATIONALS. By the time you read this we would have informed the major Rover Clubs about our event and posted invitations to the following :

3 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Litre Club (P5 P5B)
P6 Owners Club
P4 Driver's Guild
Rover Sports Register plus all Rover Clubs within the Association of Rover Clubs.

To find the site proceed along the A32 out of Alton until you come to the Petersfield Ropley Junction. Petersfield will be signed as the A272. From this junction follow the Rover Rally signs.

From the South, again approach on the A32 and follow the signs after/from the Ropley Junction.

I have confirmation of Saturday night camping at the Publican's discretion, and all day Sunday. Food will be available from the pub during Licensing hours but unfortunately will only be cold buffets etc.

If camping Saturday night, a small fee will be charged but will include admission for the Sunday. The Event proper will start at 10 am on the Sunday. Full details and programme will be submitted to each member in the July newsletter.

SPARES

Adrian Bailey of the Rover Land informs me he has a selection of P6 trim such as carpet sets plus rubber mats, various trim etc. All genuine Leyland. Tel. (0532) 741402 or write to :
Roverland, 21 Hyde Park Corner, Leeds 6, West Yorkshire for details.

Alex Thompson has numerous P6 spares. Anyone who is short of spares ring Newbury 49162.

NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday, June 13th	Wednesday, 11th July
Sunday June 24th	Sunday 29th July.

4th Sunday July clashes with Petersfield so the Club will meet on 29th July.

First the serious bit. Those of you at Bovington may have seen a white Range Rover with a smashed screen, bent roof and other damage. This was due to an accident during a snatch tow. In this case the tow hitch of the towing vehicle came adrift and was catapulted back into the Range Rover. It was deflected up by the laminated screen and passed through a gap between the screen and the roof, denting the screen top rail up by several inches to create a gap in the process, hit the passenger seat headrest, snapping it, and passed out of the rear window. Apart from showing the strength of laminated screens, it demonstrated the power involved in a snatch tow. The chief conclusion is that snatch towing is potentially very dangerous, had the passenger not alighted seconds earlier, or the tow hitch gone to the driver's side, the accident would have been extremely serious, possibly fatal. If you are not 100% certain of your towrope and the attachment points, do not attempt snatch towing.

Several members have expressed an interest in trials. Although the committee will give every help it is really up to you. The biggest problem is finding a suitable site. Here everyone can help so if anyone knows of a possible site let us know and we will follow it up.

The comp safari team mentioned last month is now formed, but if anyone wants to come and assist with spannering etc. they will be welcome. Although it will probably be carrying the club name, and I will be keeping you informed of our progress, I must make clear that it is not a club vehicle, in other words no club money is, or will be, involved.

There have been several off road events recently, starting with the Bovington 150. I met several members down there, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. As far as I know the only club member actually competing was Hugh Glossop (if anyone else was taking part there, or in offroad activities elsewhere, please let me know). Hugh was running well until the middle of the afternoon when, on lap 16 (out of 18), he picked up a stone which bent a fanblade wrecking the radiator. This dropped him back to 26th place, in an event with a large number of non-finishers. To put the whole event into perspective the distance covered was roughly the same as driving from Tadley to Exeter, all hard cross-country motoring.

The following week saw a small group of us in Newbury to set off and traverse the Ridgeway, which made a pleasant days drive. The mild winter (in our area) followed by two weeks hot sun had left it all bone dry and rock hard, for once I would have been glad to swap my 80" for a coil sprung Rangie!

A week later saw Hugh in action again at Thorns Cross (nr Exeter) this time with Red leader as co-driver. Unfortunately the sun took a day off (the wind came on as sub) but we still had a good day. My second attempt met with far more success than my debut at Slab Common. It was an interesting course, some fast bits and some very tight bits through the woods, parts of which would not have come amiss as a trials section, including some trees that must have been hiding magnets judging by the way the front bumper was attracted to them! The best thing that can be said about my times is that I have left plenty of chance for improvement, however we finished with just a broken windscreen for our troubles (our main problem that weekend being four punctures on the trailer). We finished the day 13th & 4th in class leaving us 19th in the championships.

Recent attendences on our green road trips have been down leaving me to assume it is more of a winter activity, what do you think?

FUTURE EVENTS

- 26th to 28th May. A.R.C. National rally, Leighton Buzzard, trial, team recovery, and comp safari. If you're interested phone me NOW (Hackwood 6227)
- 3rd June. Green Roding. Meet at Basingstoke at 09 30 opposite Viabes Craft Centre.
- 22nd July. National Rally. Priors Hill, Petersfield. More details later.

EVENTS

RED LEADER

Please bear with me as this is going to be a bit hectic.

- 27th May. Club meet and Navigational Scatter. Start 10.30 for 11 am outside Hind's Head.
- 9th June Run to Shuttleworth collection. This also coincides with the vehicle spectacular. Start 9.30 approx from outside Angel Inn, Woolhampton on A.4.
- 10th June Club have a stand at Braemore House for Motorcade 84. The organisers have asked me to inform those of you on display that they would like us there before 10 a.m. Those coming from Tadley etc. I suggest we meet 7.45 at the Square, Kingsclere. Leave at 8 a.m. Could those coming from Lambourn let me know if you wish to join us en route or meet at Braemore. For those coming to the show, Braemore is near Fording-bridge, on the A338. See you all there.
- 1st July. EASTHAMPSTEAD Auto Sunday. Those who have sent their entry forms in and are going (please let Andy know on Tadley 3395). The idea is so that we can all get together somewhere so as to form a group gathering.
- 7/8 July Stand for the Knebworth Park classic car spectacular. I am going to book a stand for us and need volunteers for the weekend. Everyone is welcome and we need your help urgently for this one as it is very well publicized and can be of good benefit to us. This is for a full weekend so how about keeping me company on the Saturday night?
- 21/22 July. Nationals at Petersfield.