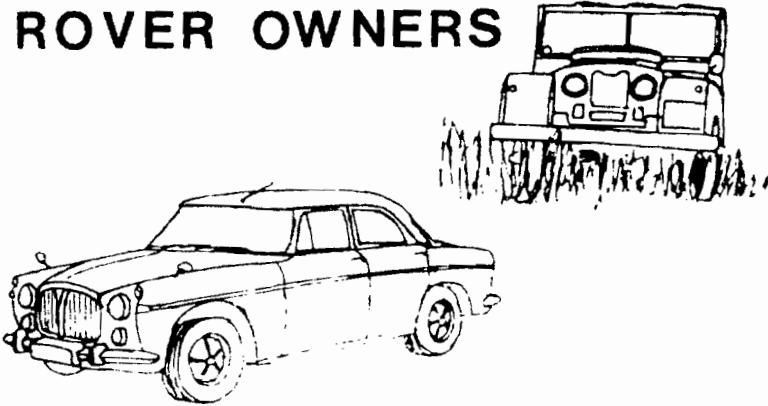


HANTS & BERKS ROVER OWNERS



June 1984.

JUNE NEWSLETTER - CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

To start this month's ramblings, there is something that has come to my notice. THAT IS - LEYLAND'S LATEST COCK UP. If what follows happens, we will have a Triumph Acclaim badged as a Rover. Leyland say the Acclaim was successful, yet walk round any public car park and try and find one. I take this argument further, remember how the Acclaim comes from Honda in Japan. So now we have a Japanese built Triumph and very soon it looks like a Japanese Rover. Apparently, the plan is to produce a Rover 1300 now and launch a Rover 1600 in the autumn using the 1.6 engine from the Montego. Then, due in 1986 is a new car called PROJECT XX (double cross?) to be a joint Honda-Rover Project. The Acclaim-Rover will fit into the existing range of Rovers until XX arrives.

The point from all this is why do Leyland have to turn to Japanese sources, and seem unable to do their own job. Also, if this happens will this mean we have seen the last of the trysty V8s. I agree that we must move with the times to compete with the opposition, yet SD1 is enjoying more success with the Vitesse, including winning races in Europe, making it clear that this is not only a comfortably luxurious car but also a fast competitive car.

Remember when the SD 1 was regarded as a non-Rover at its launch. I have driven these cars and it became obvious to me that the SD 1 was a much better car than its predecessor. So why can't we do the same again and produce yet another market winner that stands for what Rover is, a safe comfortable luxury car. In my view, I never thought Rover would become a foreign car, and it looks as if Rover is going the same way as Morris, Riley, Wolesley etc. If this has to happen then privatise the company and let the Rover name have a fighting chance.

I hope to get a reply from Cowley to find out what is exactly going on, so how about writing to our Secretary with your views for the newsletter.

PETERSFIELD NATIONAL

You've all probably got the message by now so it only remains to say the basics. The trophies for this year are better than ever with classes for everything from the oldest to the latest, including for the first time a long distance award, so I think that if our continental friends turn up they will probably win this.

As our friend Hughie won the Rolling Disaster last year, he has agreed to donate this to the deserving entrant this year.

As a special treat we have a formula Atlantic single seater racing car on the Club Stand, plus DAK Autos will be in attendance. DAK are official Heritage Restorers of P1 to P6 Rovers.

At the time of writing I am trying to track down the Sanyo Racing Rovers. We will also be filming the Nationals on VHS video and will be able to reproduce the copies for members. We also intend as already mentioned, to have a Club Stand, hopefully enabling us to help the members and answer any queries on the Club etc.

There will be a small group of us there on the Saturday from the afternoon onwards, so if you wish to join us please do so. I shall be taking a bar-b-que with me so I hope you will join in on this. Camping is also available. For directions refer to the programme of events.

It only remains for me to say that I hope you can all come and enjoy this day out and also make it a weekend event. So, see you all for the weekend of 21/22 July.

SYON PARK

Just a small piece to say many thanks to those who turned up for this run to the P6 day. Yet again the HBRO caused havoc at a motoring event, firstly by turning up with Howard's P5B saloon, which caused more interest than any of the Concours cars in attendance. Also, the Chairman decided he wanted to park with the crowd and promptly shot off down this concrete path to find himself balanced on a 3 foot precipice.....

Upon leaving, our friend and yours, namely Bob Chapman, found a car identical to his and promptly started swapping parts with its owner. Perhaps Bob would like to tell us what that was all about. Anyway, many thanks again and perhaps we can get better weather on our next run. Oh yes, if our friend from Caversham is reading this .. WHERE ARE MY HEADRESTS ??? I don't particularly like head-banging.

MONEY GRABBERS REPORT

It has been left to me to report on Breamore Motorcade 84. Five of us assembled at Kingsclere and had a liesurely run down past Salisbury. Has anyone tried to follow Pete in a convoy? He overtakes a caravan at bout 60 mph followed by Ian Stewart, then Masher then Andy Smiff, and then Pete turns LEFT, talk about cursing. Nice one, Pete, nearly got you a Wally Award.

There were some very nice cars and bikes at the rally including a 3½ litre Coupe which won the Concours and he is going to join our Club. The funniest sight was the MICRO CARS - these two Messerschmidts arrived, and the driver and passengers all wore leather flying helmets. We just fell about laughing and when I said to the owner that "they are like go-karts" he got a bit uptight. I wonder why?

We asked the organiser if we could parade our Rovers as a Club and be announced as the HBRO and we all gave personal details of our cars to him. DES BARNES with his 3 litre, then ANDY with his 3½ and the dozy announcer waffles on about the fact that his car must be a manual because it didn't have AUTOMATIC on the boot lid. My car was next and I gave details about mashing MERCS but not a word, and then when he saw Ian's SD 1 he nearly choked and went on about the P4 behind him, who wasn't in our Club. The only thing he said about Pete's P6 was "and here we have another beige Rover" and Alf Nightingale's car only got a mention that Maggie Thatcher might have been in it.

It is nice that Tim Gardener has elected himself **WALLY OF THE MONTH**. Maybe other members might like to contribute. (Sorry, Tim, but the photo will not reproduce clearly).

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As a new member to the Hants and Berks Rover Owner's Club and a reader of the monthly newsletter, I feel I must nominate myself for 'Wally of the Month' due to my antics earlier this month.

As some of your members may remember from the recent Petersfield and Ridgeway outings I drive a Green and White LWB Land Rover. However, due to my adventurous nature I unfortunately got my vehicle stuck in the mud on the sea shore in Langstone Harbour, near Portsmouth. The time now was 2130 and high tide was at 0200 the next morning, so I ran to a friends' house, who owns a similar Land Rover (6 Cyl), he agreed to pull me out, however, he too got stuck. Then we contacted two other Land Rover owners for assistance one with a Capstan winch, which proved ineffective as did two vehicles pulling on two tow lines. Having abandoned their attempts, and seeing the tide was near high, we enlisted the services of a 15-ton Michigan 75 Digger from the gravel dock along the shore.

This pulled the first Land Rover out with little difficulty. Unfortunately, when it came my turn to be pulled out the digger got stuck in the previous Rovers' tracks, (impossible to believe?). So the situation now was one Land Rover stuck, and one digger costing £70,000 in the same position. Upon the advice of several onlookers and with the assistance of the local (amused) policemen we decided to call a crane at 0100 hrs, this arrived an hour later - by this time my Land Rover was submerged except for a few inches of the hard-top visible. The crane lifted the diggers' axle out and it managed to drive to the nearby slip way.

Then I had to connect a chain to mine so the crane could lift it out over the sea wall and on the track above. Connecting a chain to the rear PTO hole of a submerged Land Rover at 0300 on a cold morning, does not come highly recommended.

Luckily the crane had little trouble lifting it out and I was then towed by another Land Rover to the nearby gravel works where I thoroughly washed as much of the mud and salt water of it as I could.

After 9 days I am glad to say that it is back on the road with only a few minor electrical problems - indicators, fan and wipers. For the clubs' record I have enclosed a photograph that I took during the night. If any members could help with any of the electrical spares it would be much appreciated - any advice too would be welcomed on Havant 471340.

Hope to see everyone at the Nationals, Petersfield.

Regards,

Tim Gardener

Timothy Gardener.

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MOAN OF THE MONTH

We only had two members turn up for the Navigational Scatter arranged by Pete. (Pete and Me). It is a pity because apart from the hard work, the person running the event gets very disheartened. We have already asked what the members want from the club and not had a single reply. (correct Andy?) The only reason we could find was that it was a Bank Holiday.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE NOTES

The main event since I last wrote was the ARC National Rally at Leighton Buzzard. A party of around ten members, families and hangers on went up and I met several other members there with other Rover clubs. I had hoped to write a full blow by blow report but I was too busy practising survival techniques to make notes at the time. It rained a bit, then a bit more, then it poured, not really camping weather, although we didn't get a repeat of last year's conditions in the campsite (I got bogged down in the mud on the way in), just a layer of liquid mud (a good foot deep in places) flowing through the site (and some of the tents) but solid underneath.

Saturday saw the team recovery followed in the afternoon by the Road Trim Vehicle trial. I was able to watch club members Simon Slater, Peter Bland and Malcolm Knight going round, none of whom disgraced themselves. Unfortunately as we are not yet RAC affiliated they had to enter under the Southern ROC banner. A very wet and cold day was followed by a good night down at a local hostelry, only spoilt by RL disgracing himself in the car park afterwards (no, no, not that!!).

Sunday was less wet, but conditions in the trial area were getting bad. It was the day of the main National Trial and there were an awful lot of high scores (to win in a trial you need the lowest score). Sunday night saw down the pub again, (a different one, we could hardly go back) purely in the interest of getting warm and dry (outside) of course.

Monday was the day of the Comp Safari. By now conditions were getting atrocious and we were amazed they were able to lay out a driveable course. As it was, there was so much chaos in the Team Recovery area that the first lap had to be abandoned but some hard work by the marshals saw a bank built up to provide a detour. Despite the conditions most of the drivers managed to struggle round, and it even stopped raining at times.

For me the week-end ended down at the Hampshire Bowman, after a tense trip back, the result of Toby burning out his dynamo, with RL again demonstrating his skills at finding country pubs. This time I was at least told the right village. I just forgot to write it down.

The following Sunday a group of us went Green Laning around Basingstoke. For a change we knew roughly where we were going (most of the time) and I proved I can find pubs, at the right time, if I want to.

Future Events .

1st July. Green Laning. Meet at "Wheel Game" Tadley 9.30. Wheelgame is on the Basingstoke to Aldermastone road A3400, in the middle of Tadley, opposite the Police Station.

22nd July. National Rally, Petersfield

6227

5th Aug. Green Roding. Details next newsletter, or phone me Hackwood

NEW MEETING

RED LEADER.

In future an extra meeting will take place in the Bishop's Waltham area on the fourth Wednesday of each month from about 8 pm. Whilst it is intended to be convenient for the increasing number of members from the south of our area, it is hoped that those from the north will make the trip.

Location. The Hampshire Bowman, Dundridge (OS Sht 185 GR 578184). From the A333 (Winchester to Fareham) roundabout at Bishop's Waltham take the B3035 towards Corhampton. Take the 3rd right (about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile) to Dundridge. The village is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The Hampshire Bowman is on the right.
Date 4th Wednesday, 27th June, 29th July, 22nd Aug. etc. at 8 pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Just a note about membership renewal for those of you who have recently joined us. Membership expires 31 October, therefore the recent members will pay a reduced subscription according to the month of joining. Please see the treasurer nearer the 31 October.

We are pleased to welcome the Canadian members to our Club, who call themselves the "B.C. Rover Register". They will, of course, be receiving our newsletters, and I hope that they will reciprocate. If they have any queries about anything, we will try and do our best to answer them.

Also, if anyone is interested in meeting our Danish member (saloon owner), he is holidaying in England in July. He will be staying with me for one or two nights. So on Wednesday, 4 July evening, I will take him to the Hinds Head Aldermaston and hopefully some of you will come along and meet him and his wife.

FRENCH RUN

As promised we shall be making a run to the Continent this year. Well, somebody remind Howard to keep away from any Mercedes if he is coming.

Itinerary for the weekend starts on a Friday. Its important that we must be in Portsmouth by 8 am as the ferry company require us to be there at least 45 minutes before sailing at 9 am. The weekend involved is 2/3/4 November. This is what we will book subject to confirmation.

From Portsmouth we land at Cherbourg at about 1 o'clock our time. From there we travel to Bayeux and the Hotel. Then we travel to See Lou then on to Le Mont St Michel. From here depending on time we go to Aravanch, then return to the hotel. We visit Bayeux tapestry then on to Alaurauch. From here we go to the beaches then to St Mar Englise, finally arriving at Cherbourg for an 18.30 hours sailing, arriving at Portsmouth about 10.30 a.m. These are only suggestions. However, if our Danish and German members would like to join us they would be most welcome. We will also be contacting the French motoring mags to tell any French Rover owners we are coming and would like to meet them.

Points to watch are the following :

- 1) If you don't have a passport, then apply now, forms from local P.O.
- 2) It is advisable to have extra insurance and carry a green card. Approach your Insurance company or arrange this with someone like the AA.
- 3) Before leaving our shores, if you intend to drive at night on the Continent, headlights must dip the opposite way. That is, to the right, and preferably have yellow lenses.
- 4) Display your GB sticker. If you don't like sticking things on your paintwork then try the rear screen.
- 5) It is advisable to have a full tank of fuel as French petrol tends to be of poor quality. But if you have to fill up, don't worry.

The cost for this trip will be approximately £89. This is for two people to take their car across and back, 2 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, and ferry tickets. The only thing we have to supply ourselves are the petrol, evening meal and spending money. Don't forget such things as phrase book, and essential liquid refreshments.

ONE THING.. the closing date is Sept. 9th and we require a £30 non-returnable deposit.

EVENTS

NEXT CLUB MEETINGS. Wed. 11th July 8 - 10.30 pm Sunday 29th Noon - 2
Wed. 8th August Sunday 26th August

EASTHAMPSTEAD

1st JULY. Easthampstead Auto Sunday. Anybody who is going, if you would like to let Andy or myself know so that we can form a group.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY. Rover Rally at Quainton Railway for all Rovers of all types.

SEPTEMBER. Regent's Park to Margate run. All Rovers in giant convoy - similar to Brighton run. More details as we get them.

FILMING

Ah group, do you want to be really famous, I mean really famous? Be a hero and have women throw themselves at you? Be recognised for all your talents? Show your manly body? Of course you do. You always wanted to be a film star, and nows your big chance. Well, Its nearly true.

After having a chat with a BBC friend of mine, who usually does a lot of the documentaries and reports on BBC 2, he has a friend who may be interested in doing a documentary.

The idea at the moment is to do a report on the XXand Acclaim Rovers and show the heritage they inherit. Where we fit in is providing most of the vehicles for this documentary and history of Rover along with other sources such as fellow motor clubs, museums, etc.

I know we have some very nice vehicles amongst us, but even ~~though~~ those who have their cars in bits can join in. What the film will also show is cars being restored and various runs and activities we go on. Of course, our Piece de Resistance will be the Green Roding., so those with Land and Range Rovers-thinking caps on, please