



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

These are probably the last comments I shall inflict on you before the AGM. Incidentally, a video of the rally will be shown as well during the AGM. This is the time of year when we all tend to look back and reminisce. For example, the trip to Normandy in early November last year and then there was the Christmas dinner that found **The Chairman** being awarded **Wally of the Year..** then there was the Bristol Classic Car Show when the show car managed to ram the Chairman's Rover in the posterior ... funnily enough, Braemar had the same result....Our own rally produced one or two surprises. Hopefully, with great improvements, next year's should be even better. Let's hope Andy's dog doesn't run off with one of my balls as he did this year... more events of the year 1984/85 to remember, the high-light was the **Wally of the Month Award.**, but this year it changed to something like a League table with cars causing mayhem in all directions. For example, **BAM BAM** managed to claim a Datsun and another vehicle of foreign origin. Andy managed to reverse into his own car, but **Bam Bam** not to be outdone, managed to clobber the Chairman's Rover....One of the highlights of the year was to see Howard's saloon front straightened. **Ray Blac** welcome return of his P4 to the road after a lengthy rebuild and also **John Dobson's** P5 coupe. **Dave Lee** managed Runner Up for Best in Show at Bristol and promptly walked off with the member's shield for all his work....Then there was **Pete "Sleepy" Anderson** who is the only person known to fall asleep while green-roading. I dare say you all could think of much more, but the point is this if you wish to have a say about how the Club is run etc., then we need to see you at the **AGM.**

YEOVIL

For those of you who wondered, Howard and I attended this event in what was probably the worst weather ever. Having hired a caravan for the weekend we set off for a meeting with the **Torbay Rover Car Club.** Arriving at Yeovil, with no brakes and towing a caravan can prove exciting, to say the least, but having got there, we found our stand and then spent a pleasant hour with the Torbay mo supping much vino. Saturday morning proved eventful after sampling the local cider and Torbay wine. One can only say that we felt very fragile!!! Festival of Transport is certainly a show not to be missed. Every kind of vehicle, commercial, military, PSV, HGV, car, motorbike, Hot Rod and Traction vehicle were there. Highlights of the day was the Marlboro Acrobatic Team, who put on some fine displays, and a word must go to the Tractor Pulling. All 21 litres of them, or put another way, we found one with six V8 Rover engines fitted. The show itself is run on the lines of a public show, so we didn't expect to find enthusiasts as such, but nevertheless, a lot of interest was shown towards us. At one point we nearly had Roosevelt (the Club mascot) bear-knapped!! Saturday night found us in the Fish and Chip Shop with the Torbay crowd. Later we were going to return to the site, but decided after Friday night to find a local pub and catch up with the Torbay boys later. Saturday night also proved eventful, when the corner of the caravan I was asleep in collapsed at half past two in the morning. Sunday was one of those mornings when you wonder why you came, in the first place. Just because a scaffold tower blew down didn't mean the weather was bad, but when a tree branch some two foot thick crashes through a tent next door to us and the marquee collapsed, sending 6 people to hospital.....the safest place seemed to be anywhere but Yeovil. However, the weather cleared, the crowds arrived and all was well. **P.S.** Howard and I are going to do it all again next year.

MEMBER'S CARS.



"Toby" in March 1975
soon after purchase.

TOBY

This month's Member's car is the Secretary's Land Rover, Toby.

Toby is an 80" Land Rover first registered, KOM 682, on the 26 June 1950, by a company in Birmingham. A week later he was registered by a farmer in Shipston on Stour suggesting that he was originally registered by the supplying garage, leaving the first true owner to register him on the day the current owner was born!!

It had a number of owners until it appeared in a garage in Hermitage, near Newbury, in March 1975. At that time the present owner was still serving in the Army and was attending a six month course near by. He immediately checked that on completion of this course he would be returning to his permanent duty station near Andover before deciding to buy it. By then a friend(?) had done the dirty and bought it, but after a week he realised that the realities of running a 25 year old Land Rover did not match the romance of the idea (he wanted a jeep really, anyway, nobody's perfect) and it was resold to where it belonged. Those of you with experience of military ways will not be surprised that within a fortnight the new owner received a posting order to Germany in July!

As luck would have it at this time his brother was looking for something that would not be affected by tin worm as badly as his Viva was and felt that with a family of wife, two small boys and a large dog a Land Rover would be ideal. There followed five years of care and attention, coupled with some hard work. Much of the time it was used by his wife for London suburban shopping trips, school runs and such like but was used at times for commuter runs across rush hour London as well as for family weekend trips.

By 1980 the owner had developed an interest in sailing so these weekend trips were often from London to Poole carrying the owner, his wife, two not so small boys, a still large dog, all their normal weekend gear and an assortment of sails, life jackets etc. as well as towing a substantial dingby; not a bad load for an 80". It was realised that something bigger was needed, so a Range Rover was acquired.

"Toby" in March 1985 after a
trip along the Ridgeway, his
last run before the rebuild (?).



By now, your Secretary had left the Army so was in the position to become Toby's owner again, although various other commitments have prevented him doing as much work as was needed, resulting in long periods off the road, as distinct to off-road.

By the summer of 83 (just in time for Petworth ARC Nationals) he was running and enabled a trip to the Wellington Arms in answer to an advert about the H.B.R.O.

Since that time he has been used for not too gentle green roading, still with insufficient maintenance has resulted in a couple of further periods laid up, which is its current state. The list of jobs to be done is getting frighteningly long, so it has been decided that rather than patching it up again, he will get a full rebuild, sometime!!

Those of you who have been green-roading with him will know that on a good day Toby can show a lot of newer and better (?) vehicles up despite a marked lack of power (or even because of) 6.00 tyres and poor driving.

Finally, why "Toby"? Those of you familiar with the "Thomas the Tank Engine" stories will remember "Toby the Tram Engine" and will realise, those of you who are not, will not understand.....

ADVERTS

Simon Frazier Flat 4A Holnest Park House, Holnest, Nr Sherbourne
Dorset. Tel.No.Holnest 674 ..
Breaking Saloon P5B for spares.

WANTED for Rover 95 Maurice Lightfoot .. Sway (0590) 682251

Chrome strip front offside wing
Ashtray bracket for under dash
dipper switch
windscreen washer
pair of pliers

WELCOME I would like to welcome the following new members :

101	G Thrift	Wokingham	LR2
104	T Butcher	Fawley	P5B (x2)
105	C Gregory	Basingstoke	P5B
106	C Wallis	Newmarket	P4
107	T Walding	Newbury	P5B
108	P Jagers	Hayling Island	LR2 3 RR
114	L Beswick	Southsea	LR2 103

Club Calender.

Aug.31/Sept.1st	Guildford Show	Sept.11th	Hinds Head
Sept.22nd	Hinds Head	Sept. 25th	Hampshire Bowman
Oct.9th	AGM Hinds Head	Oct.25/28	Amsterdam
Nov.1/2/3rd	Brighton Classic Car Show.		

For Sale..Rover 90 1954 & 80 1960. Both off the road at present but in very good condition for their year. Any reasonable offer accepted.
M Ellis, Hawkley 381 (Nr Petersfield).
1950 Land Rover. Runner (MOT to Oct) but deserves a rebuild Only those who can offer a good home and love need apply. Red Leader B'stoke 476227
1980 Opel manta. MOT to March 86. Must sell to buy Land Rover £2,000 "
Wanted : Land Rover under £1,000. Preferably late Ser 2a or 3 but others considered. Also trailer suitable for carrying SWB Land Rover. All above:
Red Leader, Basingstoke 476227.

STOLEN - ROVER 3.5 P5B MPG 879L

First the bad news : my Rover was stolen from Calcot Hotel Reading on 19 August. (mine is the other black one in the Club). There we were, Kathy and I at 8.10 going to a disco at the Calcot Hotel; two hours later, on coming out we find the car has **GONE!!** If ever you have had a car nicked, you will know how I felt. I stared at the empty space in total amazement and then started looking around in circles, trying to see if the car had been moved, or if I had put it in another place, but no. I shouts to Kathy "The car's been nicked" "Its gone" "Its been stolen". "Stop fooling about, and go and have another look" says sympathetic wife. Back I go trying every corner of the car park like **a frantic ferret** and still not believing that it had gone. Back to the Hotel Reception desk to borrow their 'phone to ring REading cops. Even by the time I had given the details to them, they were already putting it out over the radio - Calling all cars, calling all cars ' They were very friendly and helpful. We then rang Pete the hero who came to our rescue, back home to lots of coffee and off to bed. I kept thinking : well, its gone, smashed up, spares all over the place, belonging to an Arab abroad. I couldn't imagine anyone driving it around even if they changed the Number plate : because there are not many black P5Bs around as mine was an ex-Ministry vehicle. Off I doze into a fitful sleep when **the good news :** "Ring Ring" "Ring Ring" - phone says Howard, Bloody phone says Kathy.. "Go yourself Howard" mumbling downstairs to hear a Reading Policeman saying "sorry to ring you so late (1.45 am) but we have found your car:: By now I'm awake. "Can you come over and collect it?". Sure. O.K.sir. we will remove the rotor arm and see you at the Station". Wakes son Roger : "Come on, we are going to the Police Station". At the mention of Police, Roger is wide awake, and off we go to the Station to be treated with the utmost courtesy. "If you will take a seat sir etc." Then, "Follow me, sir". This policeman is driving an Escort we are driving a Cherry 1973....VRoom he is gone, we are screaming the nuts off the Datsun. Up the hill (Langley Hill, 2 miles from the Calcot Hotel) and there is the car safe and sound in the Bear Hotel car park. **NOT A MARK**, not a scratch. Gets in, presses ignition on, press button A and Broommm, everything works. Checks contents, nothing stolen, not even the Tom Jones tapes!! "You are extremely lucky, sir". "Have you thought of fitting an anti-theft device"?. I show him the switch in the boot which isolates the electrics (ex-Ministry for cutting off the radio transmitter etc) and true as I am writing this, (and me, typing this) this was the only time I had forgotten to switch off. Which just shows you cannot leave anything to chance. **alls well that ends well.**

A.G.M 9th October 1985.

Hinds Head (snooker room) 7.30 p.m. After the proceedings, there will be a video of the 1985 rally etc.

LIBRARY

Please note as an extension to the above, I have donated my boxed P4 Rover Workshop manual, plus two tyre levers for Club use. If anyone has more equipment/books that can be of use, please contact **Roger Sutton**.

STOP PRESS. September 14/15th. Trials weekend. Double Arches Quarry, Leighton Buzzard, (Anglian Rover Owners). Details from **Dave, our Sec.**

AMSTERDAM

As promised, details of the cost etc. for this year's trip.

Park Hotel. 3 nights will cost car plus two persons : £70.00 each

- Car plus 3 persons : £65.50 each
- Car plus four persons : £63.00 each
- Car plus five persons : £61.50 each
- Car plus six persons : £60.50 each

The Parkhotel is right in the heart of it all. Overlooking one of the lovely canals, its a haven of peace in the bustling city. Almost next door is the Rijksmuseum and just across the canal is the Liedseplein. The hotel has a new restaurant and coffee shop with a wide choice of menu all day. And you'll always find a polite and friendly welcome in the Stadhouders Bar. Every bedroom has its own bath, or shower, central heating, radio, telephone and mini-bar. Under-ground car park.

SAILING : Dover 8.30 am.25th October 1985 to Zebrugge 4½ hours trip

- I must have the details of :
1. Your car length and reg. no.
 2. Driver's name
 3. Number of passengers.,

All cheques made payable to H.B.R.O.

I **must** have the **full** amount by Friday 27th September 1985, because the full amount is due 4 weeks before the sailing date. I cannot accept any further people after this date, so get in quick. Please cut along here and return with cheque to Howard Vyse 67 Long Grove Baughurst asap.

Please find enclosed cheque for £ for one car plus ... passengers.

Name and address of driver

.....

..... Car length and reg. no.....

Name of passenger

name of passenger

name of passenger

name of passenger

name of passenger

name of passenger

All the details are in the October 85 to March 86 Continental Weekenders by car Townsend Thoresen holidays brochure. They are rather supply in Toucan Travel. They would only give us the one brochure.

P.T.O.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

I have recently been contacted by a Mr Francis who is trying to dispose of a 1965 3 litre Coupe. Unlike most of the people who ring me he is not trying to get vast sums of money for it, but instead is concerned about the sort of home it goes to. Ideally, he would like to see it in a museum, but if anyone can offer it a caring home he could be interested. He wants to see it kept as it is, not broken up for spares.

A Mr Ellis is looking for a distributor for a 1934 6 cyl saloon. Can anyone help?

As I mentioned last month, the **AGM** is approaching. It is your chance to have your say about how the Club is running, and we will be discussing a possible move so if you have any views, come along and air them. In addition, we will be looking for a treasurer, and you can stand for any of the positions. (I will not be upset if you want to stand as Secretary).

If the meeting doesn't go on for too long, I hope to have a video or two for your entertainment.

P. T. O.

TOBY

An Update.

Shortly after the above article appeared (in the September 85 edition of the Hants & Berks Rover Owners newsletter) the owner decided to compensate for the lack of a 4 wheel drive vehicle for week end use, and sold his road car to buy a newer (1959) Land Rover for everyday use. This meant that time which should have been spent on the rebuild was spent trying to keep the new one going.

After a year of this it was decided that the fuel bills were too much, and a Mini was purchased for daily use. The reduced mileage of the Land Rover did not result in a similar reduction in the time needed for maintenance and repair, with more time taken by the Mini!

The current situation is that the owner has just started a new job in Wales, and has high hopes that once he, and Toby, are in residence the rebuild can, at last, begin.