

# Traction Owners Club Ltd

Traction Owners Club Limited  
Registered Office: 58 St Augustine Road,  
Griffithstown, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 5EZ



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 10 July 2009

The photograph of our 1968 New Yorker in last month's e-FP prompted Chris Bailey to send me the photograph below of his 1959 New Yorker - which he says 'fitted in very well in California when he bought it in 2002 but is a little OTT for West Sussex and therefore not now getting much use'.

Sight of Chris's car prompted me to wonder what other cars share the garages of TOC members with their Tractions. As regular readers will know my own Traction shares it's garage with a 1934 Austin 7, a 1965 2CV van, a 1966 Morgan +4, a 1971 VW Beetle, 1972 2CV van and a 1988 2CV car so hopefully it isn't too lonely at the moment. So come on everyone - whats in your garage?

With temperatures predicted to reach the high 30s this week here in the Shuswap travelling in a car without air conditioning can be interesting - but much more seriously we are living with the very real risk of forest fires and everyone around is worried about the prolonged dry spell that we have had this year.

Just as an example of how dangerous fire can be and how quickly they can spread - in our little bay this week two helicopters were deployed for two hours water bombing the forest when sparks from a grinder being used by a welder in his yard caused a fire that very rapidly spread through the tinder dry woodland.



Fortunately no lives were placed in danger and no properties were destroyed - but with operating costs of \$10,000 per hour for each helicopter a couple of minutes of carelessness caused the loss of nearly eight acres of forest and cost \$70,000 in fire fighting costs.

Speaking to one of the fire crews yesterday apparently the decision hasn't yet been taken as to whether the welder will be billed for the costs of fighting the fire but he may very well be.

# TOC News

## July/August edition of *Floating Power*

The July/August edition of *Floating Power* went to the printers on-time around about the 20th June but at it's meeting on 14th June the TOC committee decided that it wanted the Parts & Price List for the Club's Spares operation to be circulated to all Members with the magazine. Distribution of the magazine has therefore been held up whilst I produced the new parts list for the printers and whilst the new lists were printed.

Hopefully this process should now be completed and you should be seeing your July/August magazine within the next few days.

In producing the magazine I used virtually everything I have in the editorial 'bottom drawer' (I now only have one story unprinted about a rally in India that a TOC Member undertook - unfortunately not en-Traction).

This means that unless you send me more material to use in the magazine I shall have no option but to reduce the number of pages in future editions - which is not something that I want to do.

So come on everybody please commit fingers to keyboards or even pen to paper and send me some news, an article on your Traction or an account of a journey you have made en-Traction.

## NEC - Classic Motor Show 2009

Just a reminder that John Reynolds and Mick & Moira Holmes are looking for about 10/12 cars to celebrate the 75 years of the Traction Avant by displaying the 'oldest to the newest' with as wide and varied a selection of cars as possible at the Classic Motor Show at the NEC in November, and they are also looking for volunteers to man the stand during the show.

If you have a car you would like to offer for the stand or if you would like to see the show and are prepared to help man the Club stand on Friday 13th, Saturday 14th or Sunday 15th November please contact either Mick and Moira on [helpline@traction-owners.co.uk](mailto:helpline@traction-owners.co.uk) or John Reynolds on [john.reynolds53@btinternet.com](mailto:john.reynolds53@btinternet.com).

## 75 for 75 - Arras July 2009

Within 8 hours of the last e-FP being mailed to Members the remaining 12 places at the alternative Saturday evening dinner being organised by Walter and Noëlla Callens were booked. Walter & Noëlla sent me a message later that day to say "We think the E-FP is very effective !" so another satisfied customer.

I've subsequently heard from Walter & Noëlla that the restaurant has been able to increase the size of the TOC party that it can cater for slightly so if you still haven't contacted them you may just be lucky if you do so immediately by e-mail: [rest-of-the-world@traction-owners.co.uk](mailto:rest-of-the-world@traction-owners.co.uk) or phone (week-end only) 0032/50 42 58 36.

If you are still looking for accommodation in Arras next weekend Bernie Shaw has informed me that a new "B&B Hotel" has opened in Arras so it has vacancies for the 75th Weekend at the moment

Hôtel B&B ARRAS ZAC des Bonnettes

Avenue du Maréchal Koenig  
62022 ARRAS  
Tél 08 92 70 22 13  
Fax 03 21 07 55 30  
www.hotelbb.com

Price approx. 40 € for a twin room.

Apparently Bernie has used them for Retromobile in Paris (twice) and his experience is that it is an excellent no-frills, value-for-money hotel chain.

Bernie would also like to remind TOC Members that the TOC has a stand in the exhibition which we need to man (the exhibition hall is open from 11am to 7pm on the Friday and 9am to 7 pm on Saturday and Sunday) so volunteers are needed to help for an hour or so at different times throughout the opening hours.

If you can help at any time(s), please let Bernie know when will be convenient - he says "If you will kindly give me as long a list of times as possible I promise I shall not take advantage and ask you to work them all but it will allow me flexibility in collating the info and drawing up a working rota".

The TOC is also responsible for providing the cars and drivers for the Baptême en Traction.

Bernie won't know until the last minute exactly how many "rides" the TOC will be expected to offer (over a route that will depend on traffic but is envisaged to be about a 10 to 15 minute circuit, starting and finishing at the Belfroi, and probably going little further than the Expo Hall).

Bernie is still looking for as many "volunteers" as possible to agree to stand by to make themselves and their cars available outside the Belfroi on the Sunday morning between 10 and 1 o'clock, (immediately after the TOC Group Photo).

The Baptême en Traction is the main TOC contribution to the public events of the weekend so, If you are possibly able to help please contact Bernie asap so that he can draw up a list.

Bernie can be contacted on : [bernie-pearl@lineone.net](mailto:bernie-pearl@lineone.net)

And finally on the 75-for-75 event there is going to be a Photo Competition. Photos of Tractions sent to the organisers by email will be displayed on TV monitors at Arras and there will be small prizes for the best photos.

You can send up to 50 photos if you are attending, or up to 10 if you are not. Each photo should be in .jpg format and not exceed 2 Mb. You can attach more than 1 photo to an email, but the total size of your email should not exceed 8 Mb. You can of course send lots of emails.

The closing date for the Photo Competition is midnight on 3rd July - so you have to act today if you want to enter.

Your emails should be sent to : [concours-photos@75heurespour75ans.com](mailto:concours-photos@75heurespour75ans.com) and you need to put your name and attendance number in the title line and text of each email. If possible it would also be appreciated if you could give titles to your photos and the organisers have asked that you include the following statement in your email -

J'accepte sans réserve et dans sa totalité le règlement du concours tirage au sort photos organisé par l'association <<75 heures pour 75 ans>>.

And talking about photographs - don't forget that the TOC 2010 calendar competition is still running and that Malcolm Bobbitt would very much appreciate your sending him images from the 75-for-75 event that he can use in the Citroënian as he will not be able to attend Arras himself.

Photographs for Malcolm should be sent to him at [mbjavel@hotmail.com](mailto:mbjavel@hotmail.com) with a note of your name, details on the subject, where the photograph was taken and your authorisation for him to be able to use the photographs in the Citroënian. Photographs for the TOC 2010 calendar should as always be sent to me.

## Other News

### Manufacture and Sale of vehicle Parts

Steve Shinebroom has been surfing the net and would like to bring to TOC Members' attention the website of the Right to Repair Campaign ([www.r2rc.co.uk](http://www.r2rc.co.uk)), which says -

"The car service and repair industry is about to change forever. And change for the worse.

That's because, at the moment, you have the right to service or repair your car wherever you wish. You might take it back to the manufacturer. Or maybe you prefer to take your vehicle to an independent repairer.

But, in 2010, when key European legislation is due to disappear, so will your freedom of choice. Unless we work together now to stop this happening.

So, what's it to you if independent car garages are about to be driven out of business? Well, there's the cost – to you, the vehicle owner – for starters.

Put simply, if the only place you're able to service or repair your car is at a manufacturer dealership or manufacturer approved franchise, prepare to be hit hard in the pocket. In fact, research shows that you can expect your car service and repair costs to be double\*.

The Right to Repair Campaign would like you to sign their petition which you can find by logging on to their website.

As you will see when you receive your copy of the July/August edition of *Floating Power* what the FBHVC has to say on the subject is:

### Manufacture and sale of vehicle parts

"A member club has expressed concern that vehicle parts would no longer be available except from vehicle manufacturers and franchises. This rumour had started as legislation forcing manufacturers to share information on service and repair specifications was due to expire in 2010. The Right to Repair campaign gave details of the 'Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on type-approval of motor vehicles and engines with respect to emissions from heavy duty vehicles (Euro VI) and on access to vehicle repair and maintenance information' - however as this could only apply to modern vehicles (and commercial vehicles first) it was not considered to be within the scope of the Federation at present, although it was accepted that these more modern vehicles would become historic eventually.

We will continue to monitor this situation both in the UK and Europe."

So whilst the FBHVC does not see an imminent threat to our classic vehicles there may well be a threat to our more modern transport so Steve would like all Members to consider signing the on-line petition at [www.r2rc.co.uk](http://www.r2rc.co.uk).

## You write

### Your favourite film containing Tractions

Dennis Hewitt writes "*One of my favourite films featuring Tractions is House of Secrets.*"

### Colour vs Black & White

Derek Ford says "*Thanks John...I've been looking for a supplier of French number plates for many years and you just send me a website link for one...from Canada, superb! I love the colour shots and YouTube links but would always want the paper mag in 'period' b&w.*"

### Spark Plugs

Clive Hardy recently wrote to me about a problem he was experiencing with his Traction following a routine service. He subsequently wrote to say that "*slightly desperate I decided to back-track to the beginning to see what had made the difference, I was amazed that putting the old spark plugs back in made a massive difference. I tried partial substitution, but even putting one of the new plugs in made an instant vibration effect. They are the same Champion H10C plugs as always, and from Chris, as always, so God only knows what's going on there.*"

Has anyone else encountered a similar problem with spark plugs in their Traction?

### Good Food Guide

Steve Reed writes "*Julie and I took a 10 day holiday prior to the Annual Rally and toured South Wales, North Devon, Somerset and Cornwall.*

*During this time we were very lucky and found some really nice hotels/b&bs/pubs and restaurants.*

*I thought it would be nice to be able to recommend to other TOC members, some of these establishments and thought that perhaps other TOC members can recommend some of the establishments they have visited.*

*If members could send me some details, together with a few brief notes; I would be willing to undertake the documenting of these details and perhaps, if successful, we could print another little hand book. It has also been suggested, that we ought to include those establishments that cannot be recommended ( personal opinions; not that of the Club, so avoiding litigation.)"*

Any Members with input for Steve can contact him at [Stevereed@aol.com](mailto:Stevereed@aol.com)

## July Events

**75-for-75** - Arras, Northern France **10th to 13th July.**

**Balade Galouise - 5th to 10th July.** Organised by Traction Universalle , Isle de France section, in and around Paris to include drives to see Paris by night 'en Traction' and to Versailles. Further information from Daniel.talouarn@orange.fr or a\_filliettaz@hotmail.fr

**25th Brittany Tour 9th - 14th July** The Brittany Tour will start at 9am (French time!!!) on 10th July in the car park of 'la Poterne', which is adjacent to the chateau at Fougères, and will proceed towards Normandy and the Pays de Caux region. The Tour will end on 14th July in the Mont St Michel area.

**75th anniversary event** Arras, Northern France see: [www.75heurespour75ans.com](http://www.75heurespour75ans.com)

**Paris-Moscow-Paris tour 18th July - 28th August** Tour organised by CAAR Netherlands. Details from Terence McAuley

**Classic Car Summer Picnic 26th July** - Amberley Working Museum, Amberley, nr. Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 9LT for more info email: [office@amberleymuseum.co.uk](mailto:office@amberleymuseum.co.uk) - tel: 01798 831 370

**London Section** - 8pm on **28th July** at The Rose of York, Petersham Road, Richmond, London TW10. Please ring Pete or Sue Simper before you go to check that the meeting is going ahead.

## TOC Classifieds

**Wanted:** Rear view mirror and internal light for 1949 Light 15 with sunroof. Buy or swop for a pair of locking T-handles for Slough small boot car. Sean Crowley +358 400 192271. [seancrowley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:seancrowley@hotmail.co.uk)

**Wanted:** Is there anybody out there who has a windscreen assembly for a Light 15 Roadster that I could buy or borrow to have copied. I have a contact that can cast the pillars but I need a pattern to work from, any help would be appreciated. Please contact Phil Allison 01256 761444 or 07899 658634

**Wanted:** by new member, small boot Light 15 in very good condition. Tel. Graham Eaton on 01636 893 895.

## TOC Quick Links

TOC website: [www.traction-owners.co.uk](http://www.traction-owners.co.uk)

TOC spares hotline email: [spares@traction-owners.co.uk](mailto:spares@traction-owners.co.uk)

TOC helpline email: [helpline@traction-owners.co.uk](mailto:helpline@traction-owners.co.uk)

TOCtech email: [totech@traction-owners.co.uk](mailto:totech@traction-owners.co.uk)

TOC membership email: [membership@traction-owners.co.uk](mailto:membership@traction-owners.co.uk)

TOC magazine email: [editor@traction-owners.co.uk](mailto:editor@traction-owners.co.uk)

Nicholas Greene's TA Forum: <http://tractionavant.forumcircle.com/portal.php>

Oliver de Serres' videos of the Traction: <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=nxrl-vvDMWE>

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=sNK-nfL0skE>

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=svVchPE6Zi0>

Classic French numberplates: <http://www.classic-number-plate.com/french-classic-plates.html>

GUILDE MONDIALE DES TRACTIONNISTES (GMT) <http://www.traction-avant.com/indexGB.html>

Autocollection.Org <http://www.auto-collection.org/>