Traction Owners Club Ltd

Traction Owners Club Limited
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Monthly Newsletter **Issue 13 October 2009**

Well here it is - at last!!! I did warn you last month that the October edition might be a little late but I didn't anticipate everything that the return to England would involve and therefore how late I would be with the newsletter. Please accept my apologies.

Specifically I didn't anticipate the fact that over 200 photographs for the 2010 calendar competition would arrive in the last couple of days of September or that I would return to find the sump of my Traction half full of water (or that my wife would come in to my office whilst I was writing this to say how funny it felt being able to put out the garbage without having to worry about bears!!).

I had expected to be able to produce this edition of ***e-FP*** before scooting off to Derbyshire on 3rd October to take part in one of my 2CVs in the Edinburgh Trial - which incidentally was an absolutely superb event - and before tootling off to Wales on 6th October in my Morgan for a week of catching up with friends. And as we are off to France today, en-Traction, to celebrate two special birthdays with the Huttons and the Marleys, it was necessary to fix the Traction as a matter of urgency - so again ***e-FP*** was delayed.

Having spent a full day replacing the head gasket I can't in all honesty say that I could see anything wrong with the old one. My theory is that the head wasn't torqued down tightly enough and that I was getting some seepage of water when the engine was hot.

I've therefore torqued the head down on my new copper gasket (supplied in double quick time by Chris Treagust from the Club Spares operation) to 45 ft lbs (instead of the 36 ft lbs in the manual) , re-torqued the bolts with the engine hot and I've run the engine with flushing oil (plus a special additive supplied by my local garage) for 40 minutes to try to flush all the water out of the oil system.

I've also added a bottle of K- Seal to the radiator to guard against another gasket failure - so its fingers crossed now that the bearings haven't been damaged and that I don't suffer a breakdown due to premature bearing failure.

Before turning to the TOC News I would just like to say a big thank you to all of the Members who responded to my appeals for input to the 2010 Calendar - I hope you'll like the photographs that have been selected for the calendar and the fact that some have been printed in colour.

Choosing just 12 photographs from the more than 240 received was really, really difficult - but at least I now have a store of superb photographs for future editions of ***Floating Power***. And talking about ***Floating Power*** - I still need more from you, so please take the time to sit down and write something for your magazine.

TOC News

November/December edition of *Floating Power*

My expectation is that the November/December issue of ***Floating Power*** will be a few days late as there are several inserts to be prepared as well as the 2010 Calendar.

At this point in time there is no way of knowing how the threatened Royal Mail strike will affect deliveries but I'm hopeful that you will get your magazine in plenty of time for you to complete and return the proxy voting form if you are not planning to attend the AGM in person on 29th November.

"Wartime Weekend"

Those of you not attending the "Wartime Weekend" in Yorkshire next weekend (16th to 18th October) which coincides with the North Yorkshire Moors Railways War Time Weekend may be interested in a brief outline of the event. You never know - those of you living in the North of England might want to visit for a few hours and join in some of the fun.

The main activity will be centred around Pickering Station, Levisham Station (or Le Visham for this weekend), Goathland Station and Grosmont station.

Activities commence on Friday 16th October at 09.30 at Pickering station and continue at all venues throughout the weekend until Pickering Station is handed back to the NYMR General Manager at 17.00 on Sunday 18th October.

There will be a parade through Pickering on Saturday 17th October starting at 10.40 with 1940's civilian vehicles, followed by marching various civilian, Veteran, and military groups, followed by military vehicles (and including, I'm informed, a few FFI Tractions).

During the weekend my understanding is that Partisans will be attacking the railway near Le Visham station (a German stronghold) to disrupt troop movements and that rail staff and German troops will move in to investigate. (But they don't know the TOC are coming!)

Other attractions will include :

Entertainment throughout the weekend
- PAUL HARPER 1940'S COMPERE AND SINGER various locations
- LOLA LAMOUR 1940's singer various locations
- PETE BAKER -1940's discs, compere top of Smiddy Hill
- EUNICE HOOLEY Accordion Player –on trains

1940's memorabilia, Many large military vehicles on display, NAAFI – Platform 2, Pickering Station, Authentic 1940s re-enactments at Lévisham all weekend where re-enactors, including station staff, live out reconstructions of second world war scenarios, Pyrotechnics, horse drawn vehicles, food, period vehicles, medical display, talk on scenarios, weapons and vehicles, Field Kitchen, Ordnance/ bomb disposal display, Freight train munitions incident, Shire Horse Display, Home Front display demonstrating Home Guard activities in the event of evasion, plus much more.

All in all - a crackin' weekend Grommit!!

Classic Motor Show 2009

NEC, Birmingham - 13th, 14th & 15th November

My understanding is that Mick Holmes is still looking for volunteers to man the Club stand on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th November so if you are able to help out please contact Mick and Moira on helpline@traction-owners.co.uk or John Reynolds on john.reynolds53@btinternet.com.

TOC AGM - 29th November

The Great Barr Hotel, Pear Tree Drive, Birmingham B43 6HS

After the debate that has been running in e-FP throughout 2009 over whether Floating Power should be produced in colour or black & white the proxy voting form will give you your opportunity to vote on the matter.

My position is quite clear. I have proposed that in future editions of Floating power I should have the option to print TOCTech in colour because I believe that it is easier to understand the photographs that accompany technical articles when they are in colour. There is no intention to print the whole magazine in colour and this isn't 'the thin edge of the wedge' as far as I'm concerned but a genuine attempt to increase the value of the magazine for TOC Members.

However the decision will be yours - so please take the opportunity to make your voice heard by completing your proxy voting form and returning it to John Ogborne by 20th November.

TOC Shop

Barry Curtis, our Club Shop manager, has the opportunity to purchase a number of pairs of Traction cuff links. Would any Members who might be interested in purchasing a pair of Traction cuff links (which I'm assured are the height of sartorial elegance and the must-have fashion accessory of 2010) please contact Barry for further information at clubshop@traction-owners.co.uk

Other News

Citroën 90th anniversary celebrations

Barry Curtis writes "I offered my Traction to the local dealer for inclusion in their birthday event, as I was away on business they had the car for 13 days. When I went to collect the car they opened the doors and said off you go - with not a word of thanks. They obviously have no interest in the history of Citroën."

A shame that Barry's local dealer should be so ungracious - but I found it bizarre that the 2CV, the DS and the Kegresse are shown as examples of Citroën innovation in their latest TV advertising campaign and that the Traction is not even mentioned.

You write

AGM

David De Saxe writes to say that as he will be unable to attend the AGM at the end of November, would I kindly convey his apologies ton the Secretary and ask the following questions of the Treasurer on his behalf:

(i) what is the explanation for the gross profit rate falling from 38% in 2008 to 22% this year?

(ii) Could we see an analysis of Distribution costs and Administrative expenses this year v. last?

(iii) what is the basis of valuing stock?

On David's behalf I've asked our Treasurer, Tony Malyon, these questions and Tony has prepared an answer which will appear in the Nov/Dec issue of ***Floating Power***.

1936 Stainless Steel Ford

Richard Gatto writes to say that "the picture of the 1936 Stainless Steel Ford in the September ***e-FP*** is amazing. I wonder what a Citroën would look like in the same style. Maybe a photoshop wizard should have a try at generating the same effect."

What's in your garage?

George Hamill says "Just a note to say that I also like the format of the monthly 'rag' and may even send some better pics of the cars that share the 11BL's garage, currently 2 Rover P4s an Alpine Renault A310/4 a BMW Z1, Saab two stroke and Porsche 928 S2 and old Mini."

October Events

Wartime Weekend, Yorkshire - 16th to 18th September. Contact Mike Popka for more information.

London Section - 8pm on **27th October** 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.

Traction Avant 75th Anniversary celebrations, Toledo - 23rd to 25th October. Alberto Albero and his fellow members of the Club Traccion Delantera Madrid would like to invite all Members of the TOC to join them in Toledo from 23rd - 25th October to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Traction Spanish style. Anyone interested in this event should contact the Club de Aficionados al Tracción Delantera de Madrid at C/ Villa de Marín, 13 C.P. 28.029 Madrid, by phone at 659 995 099 / 647 715 180 or by email at 75aniversario@clubcitroen.es .

TOC Classifieds

TOC Quick Links

TOC website:	www.traction-owners.co.uk
TOC spares hotline email:	spares@traction-owners.co.uk
TOC helpline email:	helpline@traction-owners.co.uk
TOCtech email:	toctech@traction-owners.co.uk
TOC membership email:	membership@traction-owners.co.uk
TOC magazine email:	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=nxrI-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
Cliff Sykes' video of the 2009 TOC Annual Rally :	http://www.traction-owners.co.uk/social/2009/Float-In-Power/2009AnnualRallyvideo.htm
Club Belge des Anciennes Citroën:	www.cbac.be

Tailpiece

And to finish - a few reports furnished by my next door neighbour in Canada which show we do not have the monopoly of 'intellectually challenged' individuals here in the UK:

SEARS

We had to have the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener.

I thought for a minute and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time, a ½ horsepower.

He shook his head and said, ‘Lady, you need a 1/4 Horsepower.’

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, ‘NO, it’s not. Four is larger than two.’

We haven’t used Sears repair since.

MCDONALDS, SURREY

My daughter and I went through the McDonald’s take-out window and I gave the clerk a $5 bill.

Our total was $4.25, so I also handed her a quarter. She said, ‘you gave me too much money.’

I said, ‘Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a loonie ($1) back.’

She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said, ‘We’re sorry but they could not do that kind of thing.’

The clerk then proceeded to give me back $1 and 75 cents in change. Do not confuse the clerks at McD’s in Surrey , B.C.

BURNABY

We recently had a Burnaby taxpayer call the city’s Traffic Dept. to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on the Barnet Highway. The reason?

“Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don’t think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.”

VANCOUVER MALL

My daughter went to Pacific Center mall food court and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for ‘minimal’ lettuce.’ He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

VANCOUVER AIRPORT

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, ‘Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?’ I replied, ‘If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?’

He smiled knowingly and nodded, ‘That’s why we ask.’

PORT MOODY

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it’s safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged co-worker of mine who asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red.

Appalled, she responded, “What on earth are blind people doing driving?!” She was a probation officer in Port Moody, BC

COQUITLAM

The following happened at a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear co-worker who was leaving the

company due to ‘downsizing.’

Our Manager commented cheerfully, “This is fun! We should do this more often.”

Not another word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare.

SURREY

I work with an individual (a clerk at the City of Surrey ‘s Court House, no less) who plugged her power strip back into Itself and for the sake of her life, couldn’t understand why her computer System would not turn on.

BURNABY

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it.

We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver’s side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

‘Hey,’ I announced to the technician, ‘its open!’ His reply, ‘I know. I already got that side.’