Traction Owners Club Ltd

Traction Owners Club Limited
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Monthly Newsletter Issue 16 January 2010

A happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all our readers from the directors and committee of the TOC and from Barb and myself.

I hope that you have received your copy of the January/February 2010 issue of ***Floating Power*** and that you enjoyed reading it. I know that a number of Members received theirs before Christmas (much to my surprise - as the original plan was that they wouldn't be posted until Christmas Eve) which was an excellent piece of work by the new printers we used for the first time for this edition. Not only did they beat their promises on the delivery but they also produced the magazine - including the four TOCTech section colour pages - at considerably less cost to the TOC than the previous printers had been charging for the all black & white version.

Whilst on the subject of the Jan/Feb issue I should like to apologise for the fact that I made a mistake in the editorial and inadvertently referred to the late Cliff Richards' wife as Den and not Glen. My sincere apologies go to Glen and her family for this error on my part and for any additional pain that it might have caused.

Looking ahead. As far as I am aware no one has yet expressed an interest to the committee in taking over as editor of the magazine so I am currently planning the March/April edition and working on the principle that I shall be producing it in the middle of February. Being incredibly short of input a good deal of my time over the past couple of weeks has been spent reading through early copies of ***Floating Power*** in order to try to find articles that could be repeated so - unless you come up trumps with input for your magazine - you will either be seeing some repeated articles or the magazine becoming smaller again.

Also, as far as I know, no one has yet expressed an interest in the other roles that need to be filled within the Club so I'm repeating the following plea from the last newsletter:

Your Club needs YOU

If it is to continue functioning properly the TOC is urgently in need of volunteers to take an active part in the running of various aspects of its operations.

General Secretary

John Ogborne has been the General Secretary for a number of years and at the 2008 AGM he indicated that he would step down from the role at the 2009 AGM. As no one came forward to take on the job John has agreed to continue doing the job until the 2010 AGM but has stated very clearly that he will not continue in the role after that date.

The Club therefore urgently needs a volunteer to take over from John asap. If you are interested in possibly taking on this very important role within the Club to find out what is involved please contact John on 01749 675312 or by email at secretary@traction-owners.co.uk.

Stand organiser - NEC Classic Motor Show

Mick & Moira Holmes, after twelve years service, have now stepped down as the organisers of the Club stand at the NEC each November. Although they will assist who ever takes over from them wherever possible they can no longer manage the stand themselves.

So if you want the TOC to have a stand at the NEC Classic Motor Show next November you need to do something about it by volunteering to organise or help organise the event.

TOC 2010 Calendar

Thank you to the Members who purchased copies of the 2010 Calendar for friends and family. Thanks to your generosity I was able to post off cheques to the value of £116+ yesterday to Tony Malyon our treasurer. There are just two copies left now if anyone has been meaning to order one but hasn't yet gotten round to it.

TOC 2010 Annual Rally

As you now know Graham & Wendy Handley are organising the 2010 Annual Rally in the North East - at Alnwick - which to many TOC members may seem a long way to go just for the weekend. Andrew York has pointed out that the week following the TOC Annual Rally (7th - 13th August) the

Scotland Section are planning a week-long holiday event in Royal Deeside. This holiday extravaganza will be centred on the Aboyne-Ballater region of Aberdeenshire and will include attendance at events such as the Aboyne Highland Games, the Ballater Highland Games and the Ballater Victoria Games. So why not make 2010 a Tractioning holiday in the UK by exploring the North East of England and some of Scotland en Traction?

To find out more about the TOC 2010 Annual Rally email Graham Handley at grahamhandleyhandley@btinternet.com. To find out more about the Scotland Section week-long holiday event email Ian Smith at smithy_stonewood@btinternet.com

19th Swiss Classic British Car Meeting

Members thinking of holidays a bit further afield in 2010 may want to make a note of the 19th Swiss Classic British Car Meeting which will take place on Saturday 2 October 2010 from 10am to 5pm in Morges, Switzerland on Lake Geneva.

For the 2010 edition of the Swiss Classic British Car Meeting the organisers are planning great weather and no less than two anniversary celebrations - for the **Riley** (celebrating its 111th anniversary) and the **Triumph (**celebrating the 80th anniversary of the "Triumph Motor Company").

There is free entrance, with no prior booking, for participants and public. To find out more contact Keith and Mary Wynn via their website www.british-cars.ch

Proposed visit to the Citroën Conservatoire - June 2010

As you will have read in TOCNews in ***Floating Power*** David Conway of the Citroën Car Club is organising a visit to the Citroën Conservatoire in Paris for June 2010. David has emailed in the last few days to say that there are now enough members to make it worth while organising a visit, but there are still places left. He will have more information after he meets the director of the conservatoire on January 22/23 at Retromobile in Paris. He also says that if anyone is thinking of going to Retromobile, he had, as of the date of his email, a spare seat in his car and a bed in an apartment within walking distance of the show. TOC Members interested in joining the visit should contact David Conway asap at cv2@uktoy.com

One last 'Hurrah' for Citroën - 20th December 2009

You can see the photos taken for the 'One last Hurrah for Citroën' at the following website:
http://leveque.jeanluc.free.fr/images/Un_dernier_Hourrah/album/contact.htm

If you have photographs that you took for the event that you haven't copied to me please send them in as I would like to do a collage of 'Hurrah' photographs in the March/April edition of ***Floating Power***.

Wedding Hire

Do you hire your Traction out for Weddings? If so (assuming that you have the appropriate insurance cover) you are not required to hold a licence issued by your Local Authority.

If however you hire (or offer) your Traction for any other types of event (other than funerals) such as anniversaries, tours etc three levels of licence are required - operator (the person who handles the bookings); driver and vehicle.

See ***Floating Power*** (volume 32 issue 6) Nov/Dec 2008 page 7 for further details.

Other News

Beware of this credit card Scam

The following alert was issued recently by the Fraud Department in Wiltshire Constabulary who asked for this information to be disseminated as widely as possible because this is a very sophisticated scam in which the scammers provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want and they do not ask for your card number as they already have it.

How the 'VISA' & 'MasterCard' Telephone Credit Card Scam works

You receive a phone call in which the person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA (or MasterCard). My badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA/MasterCard card which was issued by (name of bank) did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for £497.99 from a Marketing company based in London?"

When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from £297 to £497, just under the £500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

When you say "yes" the caller continues - "I will be starting a fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 0800 number listed on the back of your card (0800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card." He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers." There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card.

The caller asks you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say, "No," the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and caller never asks for, or tells you, the Card number.

Should you receive a call like this DO NOT give the caller your 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Instead, tell him/her that you'll call VISA or MasterCard directly for verification of the conversation.

VISA and MasterCard will never ask you for anything on the card as they already know the information (they issued it!) If you do give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number when you get your next statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

You write

Classic Number Plates

Den Hewitt writes to say that the classic number plate company only do the rectangular French plates and that for his car he bought a number plate for a classic motorcycle (which have smaller letters) cut out the letters and numbers and bonded them onto a moustache front plate.

My other cars

David Boyd wrote to say that besides the two 1955 and 1956 Normale's and Emily our 1939 Light Fifteen Roadster we also have the 1929 Austin Seven Ulster Rep which I rebuilt some 15 years ago so that my son Marc could have something to play with in VSCC events. Sadly he is now into boats so the poor thing is rarely out of the garage these days. However when it is, it is a cracking good little car to drive and is good for 70mph (if you are daft enough to try it because the cable brakes would need at least half a mile to stop!) Fozzie, as she is know, has done most of the important UK Hill climbs including Prescott and Shelsey Walsh and has put up some quite respectable times.

The latest addition is the 1925 Citroen 5CV Cloverleaf acquired as a ' bag of bits ' in April 08 and just finished in yellow and Black. Nowhere near as quick as the Austin she is never the less a delight to drive and attracts many an admiring glance as most French ladies do! She had one previous owner and still has only 13000 miles on the clock in all of her 85 years! We adore her.

The two Normale's shown are part of our fleet of Four identical cars and are kept very busy throughout the year delivering happy couples to the Alter so to speak. Like most Tractions they are utterly reliable and it is our proud boast that we have never had a breakdown in over 900 'deliveries'. I shouldn't say that because next week…….!!!

Emily, our dear old Roadster, just seems to go better than ever and is a delight to drive furiously on those wonderful long straight French N routes on hot summer days.

January Events

London Section - 26th January at 8.00pm at Rose of York, Petersham Road, London TW10. Please ring Peter Simper on 0208 560 3267 (days) or 0208 891 1093 (eve) for further information.

Surrey, Hampshire & Sussex Borders Section - **17th January** lunch time meeting at The Fairmile at Cobham. Please ring Helen Shelley on 0208 330 7216 for further information.

West of England Section - 10th January at The Tunnel House, Coates near Cirencester. 2010 event planning meeting. Please ring Jane or Terence McAuley on 01225 466939 for further information.

The 5th Malvern Bits N' Pieces Classic Car & Bike Autojumble & British Motorcycle Restoration Show - **Sunday 3rd January.** The Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire

The 10th International Classic Japanese Motorcycle Show & Jumble - Sat/Sun 23/24 January. Stoneleigh Park, Near Coventry, Warwickshire

TOC Classifieds

Wanted. Wanted one wheel for a Light 15, Rubery-Owen Easy Clean type. Julian Taylor. 01278 691152, j1416@fordgateorchard.orangehome.co.uk

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
video of RN7 with holiday traffic:	http://www.ina.fr/economie-et-societe/environnement-et-urbanisme/video/AFE03006780/departs-en-vacances-sur-la-nationale-7.fr.html

Tailpiece

And to finish, an Obituary first printed in The Times and sent to me from Canada.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement. Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, and I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone.