

Traction Owners Club Ltd

Traction Owners Club Limited
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Monthly Newsletter

Issue 18 March 2010

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TOC News

Editorial

Still nothing arriving in my postbox or my email in-boxes - is there anyone out there??

Hopefully you will by now have received your copy of the March/April edition of *Floating Power*, which left here for the printers about two weeks ago. Consequently this newsletter will be small.

Another appeal from me however. If you have input for the May/June edition of the magazine it would be appreciated if you could send it to me sooner rather than later as the magazine will be due at the printers around about the time we leave for Canada and I'd like to get as much completed as possible before we leave.

Royal Deeside Gathering - 7th to 13th August

Apparently the email address for Ian Smith that has been appearing in recent editions of *e-FP* and in *Floating Power* has been incorrect. So to find out more about the Royal Deeside Gathering email Ian Smith at smithy.stoneywood@btinternet.com

'PERTRAC DATTIER' tour - October 2010

TOC Member Ronald Knoth contacted me again last week to say that there is still room available on this tour for one more Traction and crew.

The "Pertrac Dattier" rally, which is the second 'Pertrac' rally to Morocco will be for about 17 days from early October 2010 (exact dates to be confirmed).

Starting from Sète (southern part of France) the cars will sail to Tangier by ferry and have about 13 days in Morocco before returning from Tangier - Sète. The ferry trip is : 36 hours, 2 nights, full

board, cabin for two and of course the Traction (2 times including return trip).

In Morocco the accommodation will be in non-tourist hotels in rooms for two with private facilities on a half board basis most of the time. The rally will cover about 250 kms per day in order to enjoy the landscape, small villages and meeting people.

As this is a family-type rally there is a maximum limit of 7 cars/teams who must have good working knowledge of car maintenance as no technical support is provided and must be able to communicate in French as the common language will be French.

The cost will be around 225 euro per day per team (to cover the above mentioned services) but it is a cost-price rally and participants will be responsible for paying their own way.

If you are interested this will be your last chance to join as Ronald must know who is going by mid-April - latest. For more details please email Ronald directly on: r.a.knoth@zonnet.nl

The Flying Scotsman 2010 Endurance Rally - 12th to 14th March

Dennis Hewitt writes to say that this rally is taking place 12th - 14th March. It runs from Brooklands Museum to Edinburgh and a 15/6 (the only Traction) from the Netherlands is taking part again. Dennis says that the same car (he thinks) came 2nd in its section but 1st in its class last year (which he thinks was the first year for this particular rally)

To find out more about the rally and where it might be possible to catch a sight of this 15/6 the website link is <http://www.endurorally.com/index.html>

Classic Car Show at the Skylark Showground, Cambridgeshire - September 4th and 5th 2010

On 4th and 5th September 2010 there will be the "Famous Skylark Vintage and Country Show" at the Skylark Showground (A141 March bypass, Cambridgeshire. PE15 0PE),

This is a major national 20,000 visitor and 2,000 exhibitor show where funds are raised for the "Mac-Millan Nurses Cancer Care organisation.

At the show there is a large Classic Car section which is free to enter.

Camping is free at the 100 acre showground and the organisers provide free Friday and Saturday night entertainment in addition to a giant fun fair, food village, all drinks bars, live bands, comedy and cabaret.

Sounds like something that could be fun for TOC Members and families as well as supporting a worthwhile cause. Full details about this show can be found at www.skylarkshowground.co.uk

Reunion of Escapers & Evaders - 24th April 2010

Chris Naylor is a new member of the TOC who lives in North Yorkshire. His day job is working for the RAF Association where he is involved in the organisation of the 'Escapers and Evaders' event at Eden Camp in Yorkshire.

'Escapers & Evaders' is an annual re-union of WW2 aircrew who bailed out over enemy territory and evaded capture, escapees from POW camps in occupied Europe and the brave civilians of the occupied countries who helped them, members of the Resistance, Safe House Keepers etc.

The 2010 event will take place on 24th April and Chris is looking for 4 - 5 Traction owners to convey some of the Resistance members from their hotel (the Best Western Monkbar Hotel in York) to Eden Camp.

Details of the event can be found at <http://www.edencamp.co.uk/> .

Members interested in helping out can contact Chris via Mick Popka (webmaster@traction-owners.co.uk) or by telephone on the number printed in ***Floating Power***.

Other News

Does the UK need to change its Winter Driving Techniques?

This is the question being posed by Manfred Scheer, Race Team Manager of British owned company Nurburgmotorsport based at the Nürburgring, Germany.

In Germany, it's so simple. To drive in the winter you must, by law, have winter tyres on your vehicles. If you are a house owner in the countryside you must also clean away the snow from the front of your property. Basically that's it!

"I do not understand all this trouble we see reported in the UK every winter," says Manfred Scheer, "Here, in Germany, we know each winter the temperature gets colder with rain and snow. We need to go to work to earn some money and we also need to be safe when driving in these bad conditions. So we check the level of anti-freeze, put extra fluid in the washer windscreen bottle and change from our summer tyres to winter ones and then life goes on".

Winter tyres are designed to provide improved performance under low temperature conditions, as well as better grip in snow. The tread compound is usually softer than that used in tyres for summer conditions, thus providing better grip on ice and snow. Tyres may have well above average numbers of sipes in the tread pattern to grip the ice. (Sipes are the small slits in the tread blocks of a tyre and are there to allow a better contact between a tyre and wet road surface).

He continues "Because everyone uses winter tyres they are much cheaper to buy here in Germany than in the UK. We have them on a cheap set of steel rims and then change back to summer tyres on aluminium rims so the vehicle is always ready for each season. Also your nice aluminium rims are also not destroyed by the salty roads. It's much better to do this than having a road accident or being in a long traffic queue because of no grip".

In the UK, however, there is no legislation and very little in the way of advice. The main authority on the subject, the Highway Code, is less than forthcoming. In fact the official guide, which describes itself as "essential reading for everyone," has nothing to say on the subject of winter tyres, and only contains three entries on the subject of tyres in general. The addition of a line or two explaining how improved grip could be attained by using winter tyres, would improve consumer perceptions of winter tyres no-end.

"I drive a cheap 4x4 as my winter car with big off-road tyres", says Nurburgmotorsport founder and British owner, Ken Harris, "but one trip in Manfred's winter car, his old MK 11 VW Golf, skipping happily in the deepest snow on his winter tyres convinced me."

"Forget the 4x4's, the snow chains or studded tyres and needing to keep cancelling your journeys. If everyone in the UK just changed to winter tyres then the normal winter misery would disappear and it would be much safer to drive; even on just wet roads."

“Even the emergency services in most parts of the UK, many of whom are duty bound to be out 24/7, drive on summer tyres in the deepest winter conditions.”

ARE SPEED CAMERA/RADAR WARNING SIGNS TO DISAPPEAR IN FRANCE?

In his contribution to the March 2010 edition of *The Citroënian* TOC member, Nicholas Greene, reports on a letter stating that from 1st January 2010 all radar warning signs are to be removed from French roads and that there will in future be no warning that ‘a camera is imminent for your safety’.

Apparently the letter goes on to say that by doing this ‘those breaking the law will be more readily caught and punished which is’, according to the ‘Chef du Cabinet du Ministre’ Monsieur G Ardeneau, ‘the only right and proper course of action’.

Following a meeting with the ‘Ministere de l’Interieur’, at which the impending removal of the signs was denied, it has been suggested that the letter is a fake.

But you have been warned!!!

UK DRIVERS’ DETAILS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT EU BY 2011

Also reported in the *The Citroënian* (February 2010 edition) is the fact that by 2011 UK drivers’ personal information such as name, address, motoring convictions and some medical information will be freely available to the authorities in up to two dozen EU countries and that access to this information by foreign officials will be totally uncontrolled.

Access to DVLA information, together with access to UK DNA and fingerprint records, was granted to other EU countries under the Prüm Convention signed by the UK government in June 2007. In return the UK will gain access to vehicle databases in other countries (although apparently a recent report by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) says that UK authorities have not yet decided how it will be used or regulated).

Also apparently the NPIA’s ‘issues and risks’ report says that ‘the DVLA databases will be accessed directly by foreign officials for minor motoring offences and parking infringements and that the data will be sold to commercial interests such as marketing firms and private investigators’.

Dominic Grieve, the shadow justice minister, said that the NPIA report showed ministers had misled the public when they signed the Convention.

So if you do commit a speeding or parking offence in France (or anywhere else in the EU for that matter) don’t think you will get away with it in the future just because you are driving a UK-registered car or because you have a UK-issued driving licence.

The Citroënian states that its article first appeared at www.theregister.co.uk

You write

As my email in box is still empty there is again nothing for this section this month. Sorry folks!!!!

March Events

London Section - 30th March 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.

Scotland Section - 26th to 28th March Spring Weekend Break and AGM at the Royal Dunkeld Hotel, Dunkeld, Perthshire, PH8 0AR (tel 01350 727322 email : reservations@2royaldunkeld.co.uk). A special rate of £42 per person per night for Dinner, Bed & Breakfast for the Friday and Saturday nights with the option of the same rate for Sunday night has been negotiated. To book please telephone Janet Murray at the hotel quoting 'Citroën Club Deal'.

Surrey, Hampshire & Sussex Borders Section - 21st March lunch time meeting at The Fairmile at Cobham. Please ring Helen Shelley on 0208 330 7216 for further information.

TOC Classifieds

Donation wanted. A Traction enthusiast has sent Barry Curtis a 1958 reprint of a 12 & 15 repair manual which he would like a donation for. If anyone is interested in making a donation for this reprint repair manual would they please contact Barry on : bcurtis@btinternet.com.

DISPOSABLE FUEL FILTERS. Don't come grinding to a halt with blocked carb jets, fit a modern fuel filter to "catch the crud" from the bottom of your 50+year old fuel tank. Fits all models - Available now to TOC members at £1.75 each (+p&p). Discount available for orders of 10+. Email: Mick@popka.co.uk or Tel: 01904 701 005. Next day dispatch [Note - Sales adverts are not normally carried in **e-FP** but because this advert is not for a single or unique item I have decided to include it here and to repeat it in the next edition of *Floating Power*.]

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

Talepiece

HEALTH WARNING: reading the following whilst recovering from surgery could be painful and could delay your recovery.

To finish this month - some Irish jokes and a question from Mick & Moira Holmes:

Paddy was sitting next to a Muslim on a plane and, when asked by the stewardess, he ordered a whisky. The stewardess then asked the Muslim if he'd like a drink. He replied in disgust "I'd rather be raped by a dozen whores than let liquor touch my lips!" At this Paddy handed his drink back and said "Me too, I didn't know we had a choice!"

Paddy called Easyjet to book a flight. The operator said "How many people are flying with you?" to which Paddy replied "How would I know!? It's your plane!"

Paddy and Murphy are working on a building site when Paddy says to Murphy "I'm gonna have the day off. I'm gonna pretend I'm mad!" So he climbs up the rafters, hangs upside down and shouts "I'M A LIGHTBULB! I'M A LIGHTBULB!" Murphy watches in amazement as the Foreman shouts "Paddy you're mad, go home" and Paddy leaves the site. A few minutes later Murphy starts packing his kit up to leave as well. "Where the hell are you going?" asks the Foreman. "Home" says Murphy "I can't work in the friggin' dark!"

Paddy takes his new wife to bed on their wedding night. She undresses, lies on the bed spread-eagled and says "You know what I want, don't you?" "Yeah," says Paddy. "The whole feckin' bed by the looks of it!"

Paddy, the electrician, got sacked from the U.S. prison service for not servicing the electric chair. He said in his professional opinion it was a death trap!

Paddy, the Irish boyfriend of the woman whose head was found on Arbroath beach, was asked to identify her. A detective held up the head at which point Paddy said "I don't think that's her, she wasn't that tall!"

Paddy and his wife were lying in bed with the neighbours' dog barking like mad in the garden. After a while Paddy said "To hell with this!" and stormed off. He came back upstairs 5 minutes later and his wife asked "What did you do?" to which Paddy replied "I've put the dog in our garden. Let's see how they like it!"

Paddy was said to be shocked at finding out all his cows had Bluetongue. "Be Jeysus!" he said, "I didn't even know they had mobile phones!"

Mick and Paddy were reading head stones in a nearby cemetery. Mick suddenly said "Crikey! There's a bloke here who was 152!" Paddy said "What's his name?" to which Mick replied "Miles, from London!"

And finally

Looking at the pictures of the U.S. house removal on page 7 - do you think the owner should submit a claim on his home insurance, his car insurance or should he just call the AA?

