Traction Owners Club Ltd

Monthly Newsletter **Issue 8 May 2009**

The feedback from virtually everyone was that they preferred this layout to the previous one - sorry Jon but most people like the logo and the committee approved its use for e-FP at its April meeting.

A number of you had problems opening the PDF file last month after you downloaded it from the TOC website so the plan this month is to try to deliver it directly to your email accounts so you won't have to download anything.

So - if you are reading this - it probably worked!!

TOC News

May/June edition of Floating Power

The move to Canada didn't go entirely to plan in that we have been having problems connecting to the internet since our arrival here. Consequently a week was lost in the production of the May/June edition of *Floating Power* and of course the bank holiday has also impacted upon delivery.

The printers expected to have the magazines ready to post out to you all on Friday 1st May so, provided that John Oates supplied the renewal letters in time, your copy should be arriving in the post tomorrow or the next day (if you are in the UK) - or a few days later if you are in more distant parts.

TOC Parts list

Because of the internet connection problems, and also because the list that was supplied to me has still not been updated with the new descriptions and original Citroën parts number cross references, I decided not to send out the list that I have with the May/June magazine.

I'll check again with Tony Hodgekiss as to whether he really wants this one issuing to Members and if so will attempt to get it out with the next edition.

TOCTech - the book

Last month I mentioned the possibility of my producing a 'TOCTech book' using all the original input from members and colour photographs.

About 10 members emailed me to say that they would be interested in purchasing a TOCTech book should one be available - thank you for getting in touch.

Unfortunately with such a small number of potential sales the project would not be financially viable so I'll have another think about the possibilities and see if there is anything that can be done on a relatively small scale.

Watch this space as they say.

Ouch!!!

Talking about space - clearly there wasn't enough for Gordon Smith when he took his Traction YSL 723 to Castle Drogo in Devon last Summer. Thanks for the picture Gordon [and sorry - I know you didn't hit the fence, but I just couldn't resist it.]

Other News

Am I wasting my time?

In this section of the newsletter I normally try to input some topical non-Traction news that I've researched on the internet or that I've been provided with via a daily motoring news update service that I subscribe to.

I had prepared for this section in this months newsletter a summary of some of the well argued responses - both for and against - that have appeared in print since the announcement, a couple of weeks ago, of a 'scrappage' scheme by the government.

However a couple of days ago I received the minutes of the last TOC committee meeting in which I read that Peter Riggs (interestingly not a recipient of *e-FP*) stated that he *"felt that much of the*

content of e-FP was not specifically relevant to Tractions and could be obtained elsewhere; Steve Reed also said that a member had made similar comments to him about both *e-FP* and FP" and Alec Bilney has requested that he receive no more copies of *e-FP* for the same reason.

Apparently, having debated the matter the committee felt that, "*although there is some justification for this viewpoint, the additional material does not detract from other content*".

At the same meeting John Reynolds reported on the question of whether colour should be introduced into *Floating Power* that "*to improve the visual appeal of the magazine, it would be better (and far less expensive) to have the layout and typography redesigned than to go to colour*."

Whilst some TOC Members can undoubtedly afford to purchase 'glossy' car magazines each month and will therefore be able to read all of the latest motoring news I work on the basis that not all TOC Members (like myself for instance) can afford to do so and therefore I try to find articles for the 'other news' section that interest me and that I think may well therefore interest other Members.

As for the layout and typography - the TOC currently pays nearly £6,000 per annum LESS than a couple of years ago because I do the design and layout of the magazine rather than it being done professionally by graphic designers. I freely admit that I've had no training either in magazine design or in the use of the software - and I'm sure that it could be done differently (better?). But the costs of having the magazine professionally designed and laid out DO NOT in any way compare with the modest cost of introducing colour photographs to TOCTech to aid comprehension.

So am I wasting my time? If you don't want to see 'other' news in *e-FP* or *Floating Power* let me know - I won't be offended and I can save myself an awful lot of time if you don't want to read it.

You write

Your favourite film containing Tractions

Tom Evans writes "*Hi John, Sorry for the delay but the April news letter reminded me that I had forgot to email you last month.*

Hitchcock's ***To Catch a Thief*** *has a great scene set in the south of France, with a Traction and I think a Sunbeam Talbot in a chase around the hills, must watch again. Good old Hitch.*

Also at the beginning of ***A Quite American*** *a decap can be spotted, also Tractions within the film - great film even without the Tractions.*

There is another French gem that I got from the local library last year, ***L'Armée Des Ombres*** *by Jean-Pierre Melville which is a war-time resistance film made in the 60's, starts of with a Citroën truck and lots of Tractions including a gas powered one. A cracking good film, but a bit sombre. Great cars*

Colour vs Black & White

Jonathan Howard says "*John, many thanks for the alternative link to E-FP which worked. No doubt the difficulty with the first PDF was because of my fossil of a computer. With regard to the B/W colour debate, I think I have become a colour man. I wonder how Alec Bilney writing in the last FP knew that the majority of respondents were in favour of remaining B/W?*"

Dante wrote "*I have to say I much prefer this layout (e-FP) as well. The consensus of opinion seems to be shifting towards colour for the magazine on reading the correspondence. Do you think you could possibly send me the colour comparison referred to as I don't remember opening it (although that could just be my memory!)*".

and then "*Thank you for that – although you haven't done me any favours; I was so convinced Colour was wrong, but having seen a example, I'm not nearly as sure!*"

Ian Harvey says "*... and I must admit the colour version of FP is particularly good, may be stick to b&w for the cover?*"

and from deepest France Martin Nicholson writes "*Magazine in colour..... NEVER!!!!!*"

May Events

London Section - 8pm on **26th May** 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.

South Midlands Section - LA VIE EN BLEU - **23th & 24th MAY**, 2009 - This is an annual event organised by the Bugatti Owners Club at the famous Prescott Hill Climb near Cheltenham and is a celebration of the French Automobile. The TOC, Citroën Car Club and 2CVGB will have our own designated display area and Citroën UK have kindly agreed to supply one of their mobile exhibition units which provides a very welcome facility and a substantial focal point for the stand.

On the Saturday of the "La Vie en Bleu" weekend there will be a flying display by the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight - three aircraft will take part - the Avro Lancaster, a Supermarine Spitfire and a Hawker Hurricane ..... should be good !

On Sunday there will be a display by a vintage biplane - a Stompe, they were made in Belgium so it is nearly French!

Hampshire & Sussex Borders Section - Sunday **17th May** meeting at the Fairmaile, Cobham from 12 noon onwards.

On the evening of **Wednesday, 10th June**, from 6pm to 10pm, there will be a Classic Car Evening Meet at Mallory Park Race Circuit, Leicestershire as part of the "Charity 24 Hour Buzzathon" when a couple of people plan to drive a 48cc Piaggio Ape van for 24 hours non-stop around the circuit, to raise funds for charity. A dedicated classic car parking area will be provided in the centre of the circuit and will be open to all classic cars of whatever age. Admission will be free although the organisers will ask for a donation to their charitable fundraising – how much is up to you.

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