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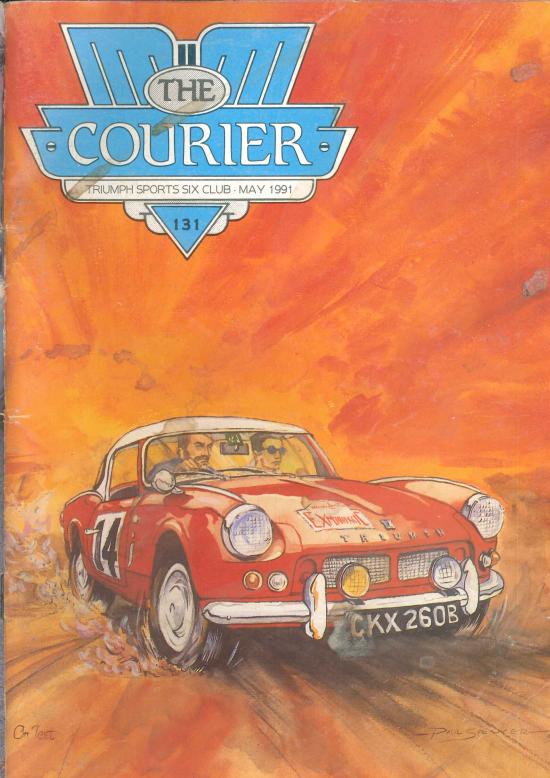
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THE COURIER

The Official Monthly Magazine of The Triumph Sports Six Club No. 131 VOL.11 MAY 1991

Price £1.25 Free to Club Members

PRESIDENT John Griffiths

Somerford House, Fairleigh Rise, Kington Langley, nr Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5QF Tel: 024975 8807

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10 Chesham Rise, Cherry Lodge, Northampton NN3 4XP Tel: 0604 405416

> CLUB MANAGER **Bill Sunderland**

CLUB OFFICE Main Street, Lubenham, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 9TF TEL: O858 434424 FAX: O858 431936 Office open between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday OFFICE MANAGER

Trudi Squibbs MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATOR Angie Hill

ISSC OFFERS MANAGER John Muggleton

COURIER MAGAZINE **E**DITOR Bernard Robinson

TYPESETTERS.

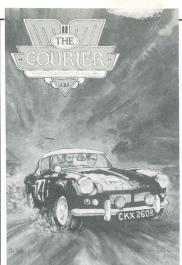
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1991

John Griffiths, Roland Drew, Brian Waters, Glyn Ridgewell, John Cudmore, Peter Williams, Mike Costigan, Leon Guyot, Nick Lord, Trudi Squibbs, Dennis Benson, Bill Sunderland, Mike Crewes, John Thorpe, Mark Hugall, Andy Higgins.

For a full list of TSSC Officials see page 82

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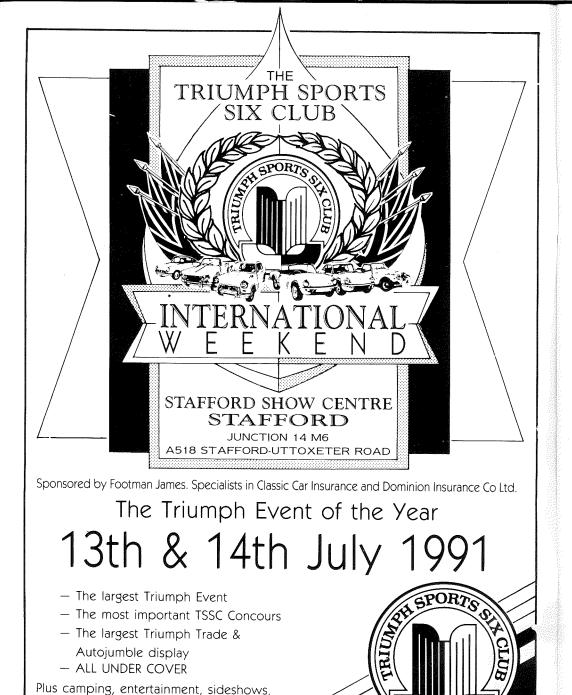
Cover Illustration by Paul Spencer

Contents

Comment	5
Introduction	6
Calendar	10
News Review	11
TSSC Teng Offer	14
Cop Shop	19
Recruitment	23
Herald Register	25
Spitfire IV/1500 Register	26
Bond Equipe Register	31
Technical 4/6 Cylinder	33
Vitesse Register	38
Competition News	44
Nightmare	46
Herald/Vitesse Restoration	51
International Liaison Register	59
Pen to Paper	63
Technical Tips	70
Honeymoon Spitfire	74
Essex go Karting	19
Officers	82

Plus Area News Review/Classified Newspaper

Whereas every care is taken to publish a information, the Editor and the Const TSSC do not necessarily agree with expressed within THE COURIER OR TO and cannot accept any liability for error misleading information found therein.



Comment

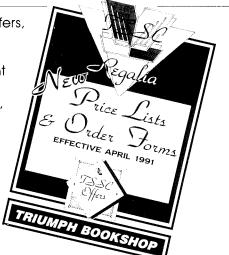
What a bumper month!

Have you received your Courier, Area News, Review, Spitfire MkIV/1500 Turning Circle, new 1991 Offers/Regalia/Bookshop price list, RAC Application Form and 1991 Recruitment Drive cards — yes, great, well have a feast of a read.

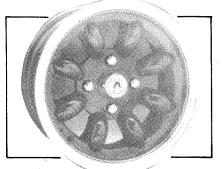
After a very inflation based 1990 our membership fees go up from 1st May 1991. Both new membership and renewals are increased by £2.00 per vear, this also includes the new 2½% increase in VAT. This increase represents an average 6% increase

excluding VAT, well below inflation keeping the TSSC 'Value for Money', hopefully reflecting our increases and Governments VAT increase we can now help to get inflation down by taking the low road on our pricing policy.

The new TSSC Price List for Regalia Offers, Books, has quite a few new lines and all prices are current, including the new VAT rate. As our offer department expands with new and well proven products, we hope you, the members, will support the club when buying for your cars as this revenue helps to keep down TSSC subs plus gives us the cash flow to invest in more ambitious plans which we have for the 90s — take a look and support YOUR Club.



PS. Ref Special Offers TSSC WHEELS —



CHECK IT OUT!

Yes, we do sell MX wheels in silver, an oversight on our part!!

PPS. If members get a quote from Lancaster Insurance cheaper than TSSC Insurance (Footman James) — tell Footman James this and get them to try and beat the Lancaster auote, we want TSSC members in the TSSC Scheme.

Bill Sunderland

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PRESIDENTS



Last Intro...124 on INTRO the trot and out!

N the 31st May 1991 I will have been the Club's President for ten years.

Whilst the decision hasn't been easy, I have decided to stand down both as President and Club Director from that date.

The Club started on Sunday 31st July 1977 in the Conference Room of the Travelodge Motel, Newport Pagnell Service Area. The room only held 12 people so the first ones to respond to Paul Swanson's "Temporary Newsletter" dated 29th June 1977 attended. I was one of those and quickly found myself appointed the National Events Secretary. In those days we didn't have a President although Paul took the key role as General Secretary. One of the first things we had to do was think of a name for the Club. I put forward the name "Super Six" Club, thinking this was the name given to the Vitesse when exported to America. It also seemed to make sense as the Club catered for six models. Someone put me right on the name of the export Vitesse and that's how the Club became known as the Triumph "Sports Six" Club.

By March 1978 Paul Swanson had been elected President and I became Vice President and Competition Secretary. When Paul stood down at the end of 1980 (officially from May 1981), I was elected by the Council of Management on 31st May 1981 to take over and have stayed in that role ever since.

Over those ten years the Club has changed enormously.....and we have achieved a great deal as a dedicated membership team. The growth of the Club, the growth of traders, the improving spares situation, the improving stock of cars, the strength of enthusiasm, the profile of the Club and our cars, the competition successes and the establishment of a permanent home for Standard Triumph has brought me much personal pride.



Griffiths

My excitement and enthusiasm for the Vitesse 6 way back in 1966 was enormous. But I had no idea what was to follow. Before the Club even started, I was a regular writer to the National Car magazines extolling the virtues of the Vitesse. No one in those days seemed to listen, even Classic Car (as it was known in 1973) couldn't see the attraction. But the Herald chassis cars all have great character, great individualism, great personality. They need lots of love and attention. But because of that, and because of their unique "feel" people with kindred spirits were bound to go on loving them. All it needed was a catalyst, someone with the Vision to get the whole thing going. Paul Swanson did that and the people that have followed both at the Centre and out in the Areas have promoted the virtues, the fun and the satisfaction to the thousands who today enjoy these cars at a higher level than perhaps ever in their history.



The Club is the cars...and the people. It is in great heart and will go on from strength to strength. The new home at Main Street Lubenham will mean a great deal to the future unification and success of the Club and everything it is trying to do. There is a great Team of enthusiastic people there, all keen to help you enjoy your car even more. They are the ones who carry the responsibility, guided where necessary by the Council and you the members. I shall remain an avid enthusiastic supporter of the Triumph Sports Six Club but will let others take over the role that I have performed on your behalf.

As this is my last INTRODUCTION, may I say that it has been a great pleasure to serve you the membership, hopefully in the way and the direction that you would have wished.

I have received support from so many people

over the years. It would be impossible to mention them all, but if I may I would like to mention a few special names: Matt Maudsley, Eddie Evans, Lesley Shooter, Bob Notley, Michael Hancock, Chris Sauibbs, John Cudmore, Dave Bayliss, Sue Bayliss, Mike Long, Glyn Ridgewell, John Thorpe, Bernard Robinson, Peter Williams.

But a particular special thank you goes to Bill and Jo Sunderland and Trudi Squibbs who to my mind have worked as a driving force to make the Club what it is today. Trudi likewise celebrates 10 years in Office this year. Very well done.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PAM AND I WILL CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER THE CLUB'S EXCLUSIVE AGREED VALUE INSURANCE SCHEME AND VALUATION SERVICE.

WE ALSO HOPE TO INTRODUCE VERY SHORTLY AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE RAC BREAKDOWN COVER. THIS WILL BE EXCLUSIVELY FOR TSSC MEMBERS LINKED TO THE CLUB'S INSURANCE SCHEME. THIS MEANS MEMBERS WHO ARE INSURED THROUGH THE CLUB

SCHEMES WILL GET DISCOUNTS ON THE BREAKDOWN COVER, EVEN WITHOUT THIS DISCOUNT COVER. IT WILL BE CHEAPER THAN THE RAC. WHEN "WHICH" MAGAZINE IN-VESTIGATED BREAKDOWN SER-VICES A FEW YEARS AGO, THEY FOUND SUCH INDEPENDENT OPERATORS TENDED TO BE QUICKER GETTING TO CUSTOMERS IN TROUBLE, IT WILL BE A GOOD ADDED VALUE SCHEME WITH THE BACKING OF THE CLUB AND DOMINION INSURANCE. PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE.

VITESSE REPLACEMENT OF THE NINETIES

It is perhaps fitting, that my last words should be about a car of the 90's, which in many ways is

equivalent, in concept terms to the Vitesse in the 60's. In Courier No. 62 (August 1985), I wrote about the new Rover 216 Vitesse which again in many ways carried on the theme of small car with true sporting ability. It was a quality package which, whilst lacking the character of the real Vitesse, nevertheless heralded the upturn for Rover after a period of mis-direction.

The car I am now talking about is the Rover 216

BRITISH CAR RENTALS, who only hire Rovers, very kindly let me test such a car over a recent weekend.

The car was very efficiently delivered to my place of work ready for me to drive home on the Friday evening. With great excitement I entered the Office car park to find my new black, 2 door sports saloon eagerly awaiting my attentions!

The first thing you notice is the absolute superb



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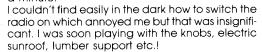
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visibility. The front screen is taken very low indeed. Driving along the motorway, Pam and I felt as though we were sitting on two seats with nothing in front of us. That may seem a silly statement, but after my Carlton which has a very high dash, the difference was very noticeable.

But back to Friday evening. The next thing that impressed me was the driving position and the knobs! I love lots of nice knobs, and things that light up. The Rover pleased me. The red tint of the dashboard display was very BMW. Well let's get going. Power steering made manoeuvring easy. I was late leaving the office so I needed the lights on. They are very powerful, although did have a

rather strange switch.

Once on the road, everything was very exciting. The engine has a deliahtful roar which sounds very sophisticated. It is of course a highly tuned unit with 24 valves and double overhead camshaft. Rover have not wasted it. They have managed to let the driver hear just enough when he winds it up that this is a thoroughbred unit. But more of the engine in a minute.



The seats are very sporty and suited me. The steering wheel is just where you want and all the dials are fully visible. By the time I had reached Kington Langley, I felt very much in love!

The kids came out to see the weekend dream and auickly demanded that I go straight out and buy one! For some reason, they thought it was just the ticket. I think it was the sporty wheels, the rear spoiler (top of rearhatch) the super interior and of course the electric sunroof!

On the Saturday we had planned to go to Chelmsford to collect the Vitesse. There was great excitement in the camp. Off we set down the M4. All the pleasure of the night before was still there. The thing really did go. I am told they will do around 130 and whilst I won't say how fast we did (because Mike...."lets drive on the left" Crewes reads this!) it certainly seemed to me as if it could do that easily. How do they do it with such a tractable engine and just 1600 cc?

The only criticism was the noise. It was a lot noisier than the Carlton due to road/tyre feedback which made if difficult to talk to the kids in the back or listen to the radio, admittedly a little over 5000

rpm! Do you know it didn't go into the red until 7000 rpm! A real buzz box.

We reached Chelmsford in very good time. The journey is normally regarded by the family as a real bore. This time it was a real deliaht. It's next job was to help start the Vitesse after 6 months lay up. Jump leads to the rescue and away she went. The noise and the feel of the Vitesse is quite different. Even more character, even more noise, even less comfort! But it was great to have it back on the road. It drove back to Wiltshire without a single miss of a beat. The cars are very close in concept terms, yet the Vitesse with it's lovely torauey 6 cylinder and rear wheel drive predicta-

bility, suit me much better. So the one thing I did not like about the Rover, was the front wheel drive Everyone keeps telling me how good it is now. Yes this car is a great stride forward. No longer do you get the sideways crab effect under power (solved apparently by fitting equal length drive shafts) but what you do aet is torque steer. In other words with the power hard on, you feel the steering being

interfered with. I do not like this and no amount of talking or grauments will convince me. As I said to British Car Rentals when I handed it back, I am probably an old reactionary, but rear wheel drive is what I like. So apart from that, I think the Rover 216 GTi is a superb car. If a member is looking for an everyday car which is partly British and has the Vitesse type of approach to motoring, this is not a bad choice.

Given the choice and a bit more money, I have to say I would go for the 3 Series BMW with rear wheel drive, but that's another story.

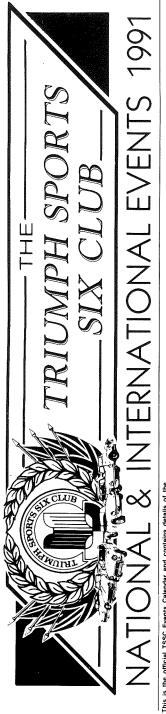
Anyway many thanks to BRITISH CAR RENTALS. It has certainly made me realise how boring my Carlton is! Still I have the Vitesse back with me now, and once we have done a few little jobs it will be ready for the Summer runs to work, to Club events etc.

Well that's it. Get those cars out. If yours is a convertible, get the roof down. Enjoy it. Life is too short to just pamper it in the garage. You'll probably say, I'm a fine one to talk, but my resolution is to get mine out as soon as possible. I might have time now as well!

THANKS AGAIN TO ALL. PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS GREAT CLUB OF OURS.

JOHN GRIFFITHS, CLUB PRESIDENT 6 APRIL 1991





NEWS

On Saturday 25th of May, Southern Triumph Services are holding their own autojumble. Mark tells me the parts range from new to good secondhand, and include panels, engines, etc. all at 'silly prices'. So get along and get yourself a bargain! Contact Mark on 0202 423687 for details.

TSSC International Weekend

July 13/14 1991

Some 20 Triumph Clubs have now shown interest in the above event, with members coming from far away. The Spitfire Club of Holland are organising a crossing to see us at this event. Please book early for this event for your reduced price tickets. Remember, £4.00 in advance or £5.00 on the gate for a weekend ticket - BOOK NOW!

STOLEN CAR

White 13/60 convertible (hardtop fitted) with red interior was stolen between 9am and 5pm on Wednesday 3rd April 1991 from Middlesbrough. If you have any information as to this cars whereabouts, please contact Mike or Kim on Guisborough (0287) 632526.

STOLEN CAR 2

A white Herald saloon 1200. Registration no. PHW 292F, chassis no. GA239078DL, Engine no. GA11106HE, Cylinder capacity 1147cc. This car stolen from Broadmead Shopping area, Bristol on Friday 5th April 91. Please find my car, it answers to the name of 'Teddy'. Keep your eyes open, members!

NEWS BULLETIN



FOOTMAN.JAMES

When you get your Insurance Renewal Invitation, remember:-

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Also the innovations continue and as the schemes continue to grow, we are able to adopt a more sympathetic approach where the second driver is aged below 25 years. Not in every case, but again worth a conversation. Regards

Peter James

10 The COURIER

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Looking forward to a long hot summer so get those cars fixed up and on the road where they belong. Bye for now

and the second of the second o	
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'B.L.' type pedal rubbers £1.4	0
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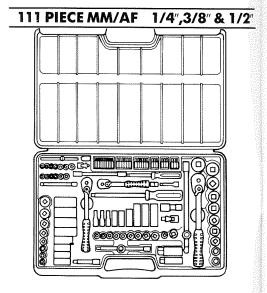
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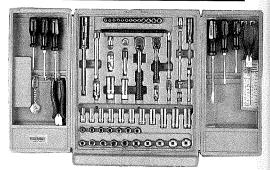
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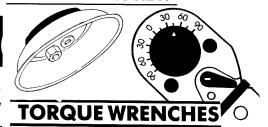


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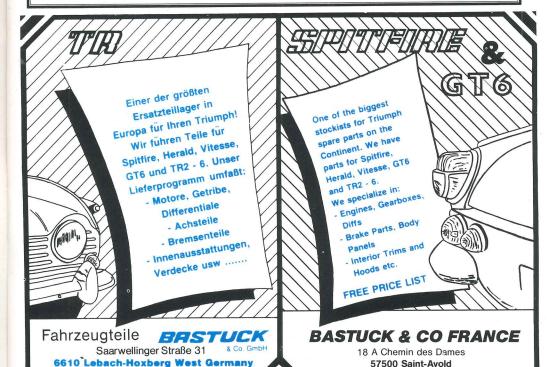
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To Race and Class Winners

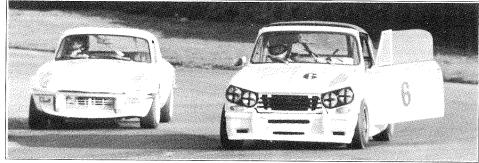
LYDDEN 10th MARCH

Winner 7 Marc Amschwand 2nd 4 Adrian Boyle (Class B) 3rd 2 Kevin Ginger (Class A)

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COP SHOP

Mike Crewes

ACH year, more and more motorists join the thousands of caravanners and campers who take to the roads for their holidays or for weekend trips to the coast or countryside.

For many it will be the first time they have towed a caravan or trailer. If you are one of those vou will find it takes considerable care and skill to make it easy for yourself and safe for other road users. The RAC offers towing guidelines which should ensure that vour trips will be safe and trouble-free under all normal circumstances.

Experience of towing is not essential when setting out on the road with a caravan or trailer, but drivers without experience should take areat care when manouvering. Speed should be built up gradually to get used to different handling characteristics.

Training is available and details can be obtained from the specialist Clubs. It is important to remember that extra weight makes a big difference to braking distances. Allow a much greater distance between yourself and the vehicle in front than you would normally. It helps to let others overtake you safely, saving time and temper. Make allowances for others when you are overtaking, or someone is passing you. When cornering, pull the car out further to prevent the trailer or

cyclist. Starting needs care, effects should be loaded to can; the greatest strain on the down near the floor and mainly car is when you are pulling away. If the trailer has been standing on soggy ground, try not to tow it straight off as this could put great stress on the car's transmission. You can sometimes avoid this situation by putting two boards under the trailer's wheels when parking it, or manhandle the trailer on to harder ground before towing. The smoother the start, the better.

that will help keep the speed mended that: consistent and will save wear by cutting down the loading on both engine and transdamage them.

'Trailers are also subject to special speed limits. On single carriageway roads where a lower speed limit is not in force, they are restricted to a maximum of 50mph. On dual carriageways and motorways where a lower speed limit is not in force. caravans may be towed at up to 60mph.'

caravan from swinging in and Effective loading of your trailer clipping the kerb — or a is important. Equipment and Avoid starting on a hill if you that any heavy items are low over or in the front of the axle(s) The remainder should be distributed to give a positive load at the towing coupling Incorrect trailer loading can cause overloading or the towing vehicle's rear suspension or trailer tail heaviness.

In either case, poor stability will result. The weight should be distributed so that each trailer wheel carries the same load Manufacturers auote a aross weight beyond which it illegal Keeping an even speed is very to load the trailer being towed important when towing, es- The trailer/towing vehicle pecially on a hill. Engage a weight ratio has a major influlower gear at the bottom - ence on stability. It is recom-

- The actual laden weight of the trailer should always be kept as los as possible. The mission. Excessive loading can lower it is when the trailer is being towed on a road, the safer the trailer/towing vehicle combination will be.

> - As a general rule, the actual laden weight of a trailer should not exceed the kerb weight of the towing vehicle, particularly if the latter is a conventional

- The greater the actual laden weight of the trailer is in relation to the kerb weight of the towing vehicle, the more careful and experienced the driver needs to be.

 For the newcomer to trailing a trailer/towing vehicle

18 The COURIER

The COURIER 19

weight ratio of 85% is a good starting point, providing the trailer and towing vehicle are properly maintained, fully serviceable and other towing guidelines are followed.

 Care is always taken not to exceed the towing vehicle's loading limits.

The power to weight ratio of towing vehicle and trailer have to be considered. No hard and fast rules can be stated, but as a general guide, conventional petrol engines with a capacity of up to about 1500cc should be adequate for towing a trailer weighing about 85% of the towing vehicle's kerb weight (as stated in the manufacturer's data). Above 1500cc. such engines should be able to manage a trailer weighing up to 100% of the kerb weight of the towing vehicle and still give an adequate performance, but the towing vehicle may state a lower limit.

mission may need additional cooling for the gearbox when towing. Advice should be manufacturer, Remember, excess speed and poorly distributed load can lead to dangerous 'tail-wagging' or 'snaking' by the trailer — and that's not a pleasant expermotorists.

POINTS TO NOTE

 Tyres specified by the trailer manufacturer should be satis-Kingdom and should be rated for a minumum of 62mph important to check the an expert. suitability of your tyres with a trailer dealer.

- Trailer and towing vehicle tyres must be at the pressures recommended for towing or heavy loading. otherwise towing stability may be affected. Pressures should be given in trailer and vehicle handbooks.

— The load at the towing Vehicles with automatic trans- coupling should be between 50kg and 75kg. This can be adjusted by the distribution of the load in the trailer. The sought from the vehicle noseweight may be measured able at caravan and trailer dealers. It is possible to use bathroom scales under the coupling head with a piece of wood fitted between the ience for you or other coupling head and the scales ensuring that the wood is of

the right length to keep the trailer floor horizontal.

- It is important that the towing factory for towing in the United vehicle's rear suspension is not deflected excessively by the noseweight on the tow ball.

(100kph) at the maximum If it is excessive, towing stability laden weight of the trailer. If will be affected and the you are considering visiting headlamps will require overseas countries, it is realignment If in doubt, consult

> A good stabiliser can make an acceptable trailer/towing vehicle combination more stable and safer to handle.

It should not be used to .improve a combination which has poor stability because instability will reappear at a higher speed. A good stabiliser is no substitute for good driving

- Because a trailer is a road vehicle, it will need regular servicing — in particular for its braking system, wheels and tyres and road lighting.
- Mirrors are important because the driver of a towing vehicle must have an adequate view to the rear.
- Trailers may not be towed in by using an indicator obtain- the outside lane of a three or four lane motorway.
 - The law requires that trailers and their towing vehicles and the loads they carry, must be in such condition that no danger or nuisance is caused.

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Bonnet inner strengthening plate, Spit I/II/III/GT6 I/II	
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Radius arm (complete), Vitesse Roto	£25.05
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Bracket radius arm to body, GT6 Roto	£2.50
Bracket radius arm to chassis, Vitesse Roto	£8.45
Bracket rear lower wishbone, GT6/Vitesse Roto	
Banjo bolt (rear of manifold) GT6/Vitesse	£11.50
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MOST members will be well aware of this important drive to recruit new members, but for our new members, a short resumé follows:

The Idea To increase membership of the club via this card being placed on a non members windscreen (a club car without a current windscreen sticker) — better still if you can chat to the owner personally. giving them the card.

The Reason effectively to keep 'our cars' on the road. Their chances of survival are greater if surrounded with the club and all its services. The cars are the backbone of the club — the club progresses with the increased number of cars - a magic circle.

The Reward Members and their cars win prizes, although the emphasis must be on helping the cars and TSSC survive.

So, please use these cards effectively (packed in this months Courier and Review), place them in your everyday car ready to meet the challenge of recruiting new members to the TSSC, More cards can be obtained by ringing 0858-434424. The recruitment drive will last until next April, but the main prizes will be awarded in November of this year, in the form of Club Vouchers, which can be used for purchasing anything the TSSC offers, from Regalia to Insurance.

First prize - £100 of TSSC Vouchers

Second prize - £75 of TSSC Vouchers

Third prize - £50 of TSSC Vouchers

Runners-up prizes (10) £25 of TSSC Vouchers

Area prize – £100 of TSSC Vouchers (Most members recruited within an area)

Remember when placing these cards to put your membership and local Area Code on the card so we can register your success for one of the above prizes. We will also award some mystery monthly prizes from key fobs to full TSSC stainless steel exhausts. Watch this space.

Recruitment Drive - 'Our cars survival'

The COURIER 28

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STEERING RACKS

Inner Ball Joint

Rack removal was covered in the March 1991 Courier (129, p55).

If there is a great deal of play/looseness in the inner ball joint, the joint needs re-shimming or

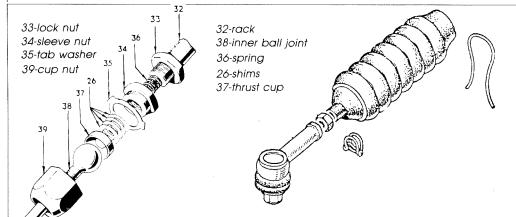
If the joint is rusty or pitted it should be replaced as a matter of course. The replacement or original ball joint can be shimmed to reduce play/ looseness.

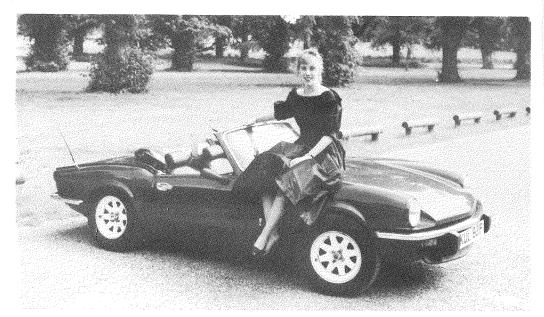
It will be useful to have 2 x 1-5/16" AF spanners or large adjustables and a fisherman's spring balance, weighing up to at least 2kg

First remove the rubber gaiter and knock back the spring tabs on the lock washer (Pt No 120957) before undoing the cup nut. Renew the spring (120953) and thrust cup (120955) as a matter of Both the spring and the thrust cup should be areased before refitting.

If replacing an old ball joint, add one or two extra 0.002" shims (130031) to the shims already present before replacing the cup nut. Tighten the cup nut and see if the inner ball joint will move when a load of 1.5lb (0.7kg) is applied to the end of the joint via the spring balance. If it is not stiff, remove shims; if loose add more shims. Larger 0.10" shims (130032) are also available.

It is important that the inner ball joint should articulate freely - 1.5lb is not a great deal of force. Do not over tighten it in the hope of an easier MoT, the joint might seize or fracture. When the adjustment is satisfactory, knock down the lock tabs over the cup nuts. Before replacing the bellows, pack them with grease. Rather then use jubilee clips or similar to secure the inner end of the bellows, use a plastic electrical tie which is easier to secure and less likely to cut into the rubber. Use the adjustable metal clip for the outer end — this may need releasing to adjust the tracking.





John Thomason

touch of glamour in this month's heading photo, sent in by Julie Wilson of Stowmarket, shown here proudly displaying her 1976 Pimento Red Spitfire and matching petticoat!



PART 2

As promised this month we'll look at the body and interior differences of the American 1500 Spitfires compared to the UK Spitfire 1500.

INTERIOR

Changes were introduced to the US Spitfire 1500 interior, eg cloth seats, TR7 style steering column etc., generally in line with the UK cars (see Courier 117). However, there were a few differences. Starting with the dashboard, it followed a similar layout to UK cars except it was obviously left-hand

'Catalyst' warning light, to the left of the fuel gauge. The warning light illuminated every 50,000 miles to inform the driver that a catalytic converter change was required.

A small mechanical counter, driven by the speedo cable was used to count the 50,000 miles and then illuminate the warning light. On early Cars with catalytic converters were fitted with a Federal Spitfires not fitted with catalytic converters,

an 'Emission Service' warning light was fitted instead, advising when an EGR service was reauired.

A 'Brake' warning light was also fitted, which not only illuminated when the brake pressure differential valve was not centralised (as on UK cars), but also when the *handbrake was ON* . A small micro switch on the handbrake was used to illuminate the warning light.

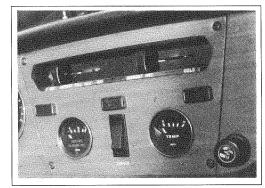


Figure 1. The 3 central warning lights.

A 'Seat Belt' warning light made up the three central warning lights shown in Figure 1. The seat belt warning light was backed up by a warning buzzer mounted under the dash. On early cars, the seat belt warning system was interlocked with the starter solenoid, such that unless you had your seat belt on, the starter motor would not crank the engine over!

A rectangular warning light marked 'Hazard' was mounted vertically and below the hazard warning switch.

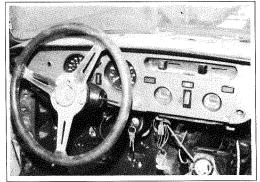


Figure 2. Note the 'Hazard' warning light between the speedo and the rev-counter.

Apparently the switch does not illuminate as in the case of UK cars. It is interesting to note that in the USA, the master light switch convention is reversed, ie UP in the USA, and as such the light switch is installed upside down!

Californian and later Federal cars that ran on unleaded petrol had 'Unleaded Gasoline Only' marked in large red letters on the fuel gauge.

Californian cars and those Federal cars fitted with a carburettor auto choke. did not have a cutout in the dash for the manual choke knob. A brass commemorative plague mounted on the dash in front of the passenger, recorded the Spitfire's success at motor racing in the Sports Car Club America (SCCA). A bit of a cheek when you consider that the

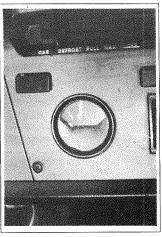


Figure 3. The 'Unleaded Gasoline' fuel gauge and catalyst warning light.

1500 didn't contribute to any of the successes commemorated.



Figure 4. The SCCA Commemorative plaque.

An addition not found on UK cars is a Keys Warning System. A buzzer mounted under the dash is activated if the driver's door is opened with the keys left in the ignition.

Another addition is a dash illumination dimmer

switch located on the left side of the windscreen wiper switch. The switch is the same as that found on the larger Triumph saloons.

Figure 5. The additional commission plate pop-rivetted to the LH windscreen pillar.



A peculiarity found on US cars is a small commission number plate pop-rivetted to the left-hand it was fitted with rear extensions under the boot windscreen pillar (previous page). This is in addition to the normal commission plate, which incidentally is not located on the side of the front also considerably reinforced. bulkhead, as on UK cars, but is mounted on the driver's B post. Note the Emission Control Information plate fitted below.

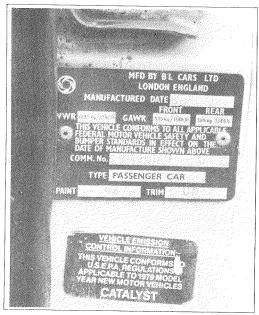
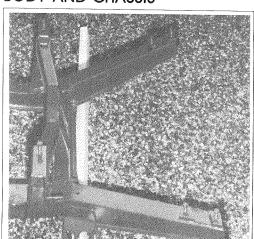


Figure 6. The position of the Commission Plate on the LH door pillar on US cars. Note the Emission Control Information plate.

BODY AND CHASSIS



The chassis was the same as the UK except that similar to those found on the Herald and Vitesse chassis. The bonnet hinge/overrider brackets were

The bonnet incorporated additional bracing bars and hooks, which mated with two catches fitted to the front bulkhead to prevent the bonnet 'popping' open in the event of a collision.

The front bulkhead itself was obviously different with the battery well and pedal brackets transposed. The doors carried different part numbers as they were fitted with 'side intrusion bars' to help protect the occupants in the event of a side collision.

Probably the most noticeable body difference is the large high energy absorbent front and rear bumpers that were fitted to US cars.



Figure 8. The resilient rubber overriders fitted to early US Spitfire 1500s, larger and more pointed than UK ones.

Spitfires up to 1979 had chrome front bumpers as found on UK cars, although they were fitted with larger, more pointed overriders, made from a hard resilient rubber compound. The number plate, more squarer on US cars, was mounted in a special chrome plinth beneath the bumper.

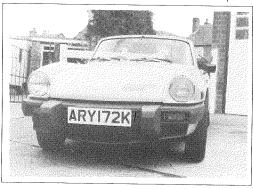


Figure 7. The rear extensions fitted to the US chassis. Figure 9. The later all-in-one rubber front bumper.

After 1979, the chrome bumper was replaced with In 1979, to coincide with the front, a large one the infamous LARGE all-in-one wrap round black rubber bumper designed to meet tougher US legislation. The bumper also neatly accommodated the side lights. At the same time, the front spoiler also changed to a more angular version. Which incorporated an air cowel feeding more air to the angled radiator (see last month)



Figure 10. Cutouts in the front bumper to accommodate front side lights/flashers.



Figure 11. The more angular front spoiler and air cowel fitted to later US Spitfire 1500s

At the rear, up to the end of 1974, a UK type chrome bumper was fitted, although it did have resilient black rubber overriders similar to those found at the front.

In 1975, a larger chrome centre section was added to the bumper, together with larger overriders.



Figure 12. The large chrome bumper centre section and rear overriders fitted to Spitfire 1500s colour range as UK cars. after 1975.

piece black rubber bumper with high energy aborbency was fitted to the rear.



Figure 13. The large one piece black rubber rear bumper fitted to later US Spitfires. N.B. The red marker lamp on the rear wing.

All the car bumpers were an chored back to the rear chassis extensions via substantial brackets in the boot. The brackets incorporated sliding impact joints to help absorb any rear impacts and minimise chassis distortion.

Wheels were the same as those fitted to UK cars, except between 1976

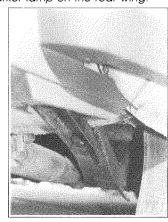


Figure 14. The rear bumper anchored to the rear chassis via sliding joints.

and 1977 when a Marina style wheel, with rectangular holes was fitted. Wire wheels were an optional extra in the USA. It would appear that boot luggage racks were a dealer installed option on US cars.

Two types were available, the arched type apparently also being available for MG cars? US Spitfire 1500s were available in the same

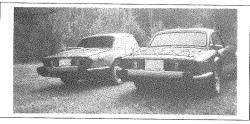


Figure 15. The 2 types of luggage rack installed as dealer options. Looks as though they fit them back to front in the US as well!

ELECTRICAL

Another noticeable difference was the lighting equipment fitted to American cars. An amber light and reflector was fitted to each front wing. These were NOT repeater lamps for the indicators, but were side market lights and came on when the side lights were switched on. Market lights were also fitted to the rear wings, except these were coloured RED.



Figure 16. Amber marker light on the front wing. At the front, the side light and indicator lamp were combined in so much that the whole lens was amber (as opposed to amber and white on UK cars) with a single dual filament bulb). Even the headlights were different, fitted with 40/55 watt bulbs as opposed to 45/60W bulbs as on UK cars.

At the rear, up to 1975, the number plate light was mounted on the bumper as on UK cars. However, with the introduction of the energy absorbent bumpers in 1975, two chrome number plate lamps were fitted to the body.



Figure 17. The rear number plate lamps.

Another American anomaly is, unlike UK cars, the rear brake lights will operate with the ignition off. BADGES

The Spitfire 1500 was introduced in the US in 1973. As a result, 'Spitfire 1500' badges were fitted to the rear winas instead of the 'Spitfire IV' badges stainless steel extractor manifold.

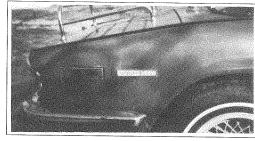


Figure 18. 'Spitfire 1500' rear wing badge fitted to early Spitfire 1500s.

found on Uk cars. After 1975, these badges were replaced with the black or aluminium Spitfire 1500 decals as found on UK Spitfire 1500s. The small rectangular BL badges were fitted to the bonnet catches up until 1977, when they were phased

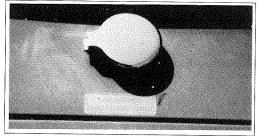


Figure 19. The 'Unleaded Gasoline' decal below the petrol cap.

MECHANICAL

Apart from the engine, the mechanics of the US Spitfire were much the same as the UK cars. Obviously the steering rack is left hand drivel The gearbox was the same as the UK Spitfire with the same ratios, although a 3.89:1 ratio (3.63:1 on UK 1500s) differential was fitted in an attempt to restore some of the acceleration lost as a result of the emission control equip, fitted to the engine. The engine and gearbox incorporated a safety feature in the form of a steel braided restraining cable between the suspension turrets and gearbox which prevented it moving back into the passenger compartment in the event of a headon collision.

The braking system was the same as the UK and dual circuit brake system, although it would appear that after 1978 different thread sizes were adopted for all the pipe connectors?! Finally, many thanks to the following members for their help in compiling this article: Peter Amendola. Andrew Deacon, James Deacon, Reg and Maureen Lowe, Dan Stewart, Bob Sykes.

Next month will conclude this short series by finding out what it's like owning and driving an American Specification Spitfire.

COMING SOON. Extractor manifolds and the BHP results from Rolling Road tests with the new TSSC



HIS months photograph shows an unusual 2+2 owned and being restored by Frank Peacock of Hemingford Grey in Cambridgeshire.

This example was fitted with a six cylinder engine sometime in the past, surprisingly the power unit fits under the bonnet without modification and a description of its' performance was relaved to me as 'it goes like ****'. The body and chassis require a considerable amount of restoration which has been started on by Frank.

Arrangements are now well in hand for this years Bond Equipe Weekend, so make a note in your diary, Sat/Sun 8th & 9th June at the Three Horseshoes, Yaxley, nr Peterborough. See separate advert for further details.

If you are interested in purchasing any of the following reproduced items, please contact me either by phone or letter as soon as possible: boot hinges for 2L convertibles, door glass for all models, seat diaphragms for 2L type seats. I cannot make any arrangements with suppliers without being fairly certain that the items will sell within a reasonably short timescale, some of these parts will only be available in a limited quantity, so act now or lose the chance.



heard recently from Mike Morley who is arranging the restoration of the LH drive 2L convertible owned since new by Pat Smythe (renowned horsewoman of the recent past). The restoration has been commissioned by Pat Smythe's daughter.

That's all for this month as I must now put in some time on my own Equipes or else I shall be forced to attend this years events in a certain Japanese motor vehicle!



The SIXTH BOND EQUIPE WEEKEND will take place at The Three Horseshoes, Yaxley, nr Peterborough, Cambs, on Sat/Sun 8th & 9th June.

Choice EQUIPE Award, Distance Award, Scenic Convoy Run, Raffle and surprise competitions to keep you on your toes! Bring and Buy Spares, Club Regalia Sales, Equipe Register Sales. Commemorative Plague for all EQUIPES attending, but all Club members most welcome.

Further details, location plan, accommodation information etc. from Peter Jacklin, 76 Five Arches, Orton Wistow, Peterborough, PE2 OFQ (SAE please) or 733 232818



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ı	for it is	eacn	1.00

TECHNICAL 4/6 CYLINDER

Carl Heinlein

'Our Car' Braking

Over the last few Couriers there have been several tips / articles on 'our car' braking. This article ellaborates a bit further on some areas and points out a few problems. Lets first consider some general points about brake system upkeep, servicing and modifications.

I.O. BRAKE FLUIDS I.I. DOT 3 & DOT 4

Our cars use vegetable brake fluid. There are very few cars that use mineral fluid (namely Rolls Royce, some Citroen) and the rubber seals and boots are a different type of rubber to cater for this. Engine oils, gearbox oils, Waxovl, petrol etc are all mineral fluids and will swell and distort vegetable seals. Page 34 of February's Courier suggests covering the wheel cylinder and handbrake linkage in a 'Waxoyl cocktail'. This will mean the rubber boot n the back of the brake will disintegrate. I recommend that you do NOT do this.

DOT 3 brake fluid was the only brake fluid used for 'our cars'. This was for two reasons, firstly DOT 3 fluid has significantly better lubrication properties than DOT 4 and secondly, the higher boiling point of DOT 4 was not required. A clutch system filled with DOT 3 will last longer than one filled with DOT 4 and unless you are truly racing (not just to the shops) your brake fluid temperature won't be too high for DOT 3. Only if you are sure that you have had fluid vapourise on you (pedal sinks to the floor when you apply the brakes AFTER you have previously been braking hard) should you change to DOT 4.

0.90

1.2. Silicone Brake out brakes. This is very unlikely Fluid (DOT 5)

This fluid now seems to be the favourite for restorers. However, it does have its problems:

1) All brake fluid types have 'swell agents' to make seals swell in the fluid. These are a requirement for a fluid. However, not all 'swell agents' are the same and a seal that has previously been used in DOT 3 or 4 fluids and is then used in DOT 5 is likely to have been required to swell twice, firstly by the agent in the DOT 3/4 and then secondly, bu the DOT 5. It is unlikely that the agents will be the same. The consequences are not nearly as disastrous as using a mineral based fluid but seal life will be

I recommend that new seals are fitted if you make the change to DOT 5 (remember to rebuild cylinders in DOT 5 tool)

2) DOT 5 does not absorb water Water is in the air and on a cold day water will condense inside your reservoir. So where does this water ao? It can sit in blobs in the system and can freeze into a lump of ice on a very cold morning. In the very worst case this could, theoretically, block a brake pipe and leave you withbut it can happen. Cant't it?

As another thought why don't Castrol (a larae. responsible fluid manufacturer) produce a DOT 5? Food for thought. DOT5's biggest advantage has to be that it doesn't strip paint and this must be significant when you have just resprayed your bulkhead.

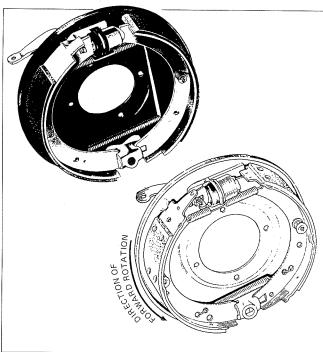
2.O REAR BRAKES 2.1 Brake Shoes

The leading and trailing shoes on our cars are the same. The amount and type of lining material and it's position on the show will significantly change the brake performance and your car's brake balance. If you look at Figure 1. you will notice how the lining does not cover all of the rim of the shoe and that the linings are disposed on each shoe as if they have been dragged to the end of the rim as the drum rotates in a forward direction. Always fit brake shoes so that this is the case. It is possible

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Plugs, all models

Condenser, all models



to fit the trailing shoe upside down. This will cause uneven wear across that shoe and the brake may judder, grab and perform erractically. Fitting incorrectly changes the geometry of the brake. This is not very well covered in many service handbooks. When buying new shoes do not always go for shoes with the most lining. Clearly, from the above, this can ruin the brake's performance and, if it very badly positioned, the lining can break. Referring to Figure 2, the Herald and Spitfire 7 inch brake had a lining arc of 110° with original fitment linings. This equates to the length of the lining being 169mm from one end to the other end of the lining. The 8 inch GT6 / Vitesse brake had an arc of 110° equating to a lining length of 195mm (measured in an arc). Check for these lengths when buying new shoes, + or - 5mm will not cause major problems.

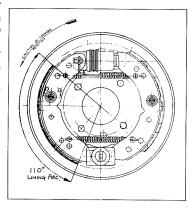
2.2. Wheel Cylinders

\M/haal aylinder diameters are

wheel cylinder diameters are as follows:			
	Lucas	Lucas	
Car Model	Part No.	Serice Kit	Dia.
Herald — all	6463476	SP2027	0.75"
Spiffire, I,II,III	64673476	SP2027	0.75"
Spitfire IV	390402W	SP2074	0.625"
Spitfire 1500 up to			
FH80000	390402W	SP2074	0.625"
Spitfire 1500 from			
FH80000	64673049	SP2087	0.7"
Vitesse 6	64673049	SP2087	0.7"
Vitesse 2L, I, II	64673476	SP2027	0.75"
GT6 up to KC7278	64673476	SP2027	0.75"
GT6 I, II from			
KC7278	390402W	SP2074	0.625"
GT6 III to KE 20000	64673049	SP2087	0.7"
GT6 III Auto adjust	64676011	SP2358	9.875"

All but the GT6 auto adjust cylinders are interchangeable. Very often the wrong cylinders are fitted and sometimes worse, they are fitted to one side only. A 0.7" cylinder fitted instead of a 0.625" will give 25% more brake force. Too little rear braking is considered safer than too much. If rear wheels lock before fronts under hard braking on a dry road, this will cause unstable dangerous braking. The back of the car will tend to swing round and the car will spin.

Brake modifications to a vehicle need to be considered very carefully. Fitting GT6 brakes directly to a Spitfire is a relatively simple swop (and is described in March's Courier). The lighter rear end of the Spitfire is compensated for by the lighter front end and 0.7" rear wheel cylinders seem to work well. Once the car is converted, it is simple enough to find a nice stretch of dry road where you can check the rear brakes do not lock before the fronts.



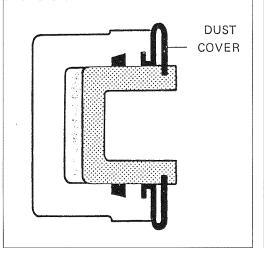
The reason for the very large rear wheel cylinder on the later GT6 III is because these cars were fitted with a 1.5:1 boost ratio servo on the front wheels only. Do not remove the servo without changing the rear wheel cylinder size down to 0.7", say. When fitting a servo to a car not previously fitted with one, I recommend that is is piped to servo assist both front and rear brakes. In this way it does not affect the brake balance but simply lowers pedal force.

3.O Front Disc Brakes

Several different types of calipers have been fitted to our cars:

Car	Туре	Dia.
Herald (up to 1966)	12	9.0"
Spitfire I, II	12	.,
Herald (from 1966) Vit 1600	14	,,
Spitfire II (and on)	14	,,
Vitesse I, II to HC53393	16P	9.7"
GT6 1, II to KC56077	16P	- ,,
Vitesse II from HC53394	16PB	. ,,
GT6 II, III from KC56078	16PB	,,
GT6 III from KE12390	16PB (* see below)	.,,

The type 14 brakes are interchangeable on their fixing bolts with the type 12 design and, whilst you will get more braking with the type 14 than a type 12, Triumph did not change the rear wheel cylinder sizes to compensate. Upgrading the earlier type 12 cars to type 14's will give improved braking (and the parts are still obtainable too!).



Early design.

Figure 3 shows the change in the sealing design. Type 12's and 16P's used the earlier design of sealing. Type 16P's are interchangeable with 16PB's and vice versa. The later GT6 III had a modified pad retaining pin diameter and pad shape. Nominal piston diameters are as follows: Piston Diameter (nominal)

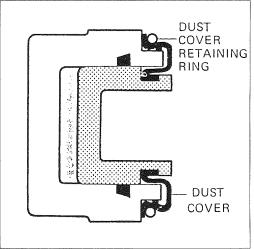
iype	1 131011 1210
12	1.688"
14	1.895"
16	2.127"

4.0 Master Cylinders

There were so many master cylinder variations for different models and markets that I'm no going to list them all here but only for the UK market.

Model	Туре	Size
Herald 1200, 12/50	Single, CV	0.625"
Herald 13/60	Single, CV	0.625"
Vitesse 6	Single, CV	0.625"
Vitesse 2L, I, II	Single, CV	0.7"
Spiffire I, II, III	Single, CV	0.625"
Spitfire IV	Single, CV	0.625"
Spitfire 1500 (to		
FH80000)	Single, CV	0.625"
Spitfire 1500 (1976, FH80000 on)	Tandem, ASAS	0.7"
GT6 I, II, III (to		
KE20000)	Single, CV	0.7"
GT6 III (KE20000 on)	Single, CV	0.75" with servo
		WHILL SELVO

All the single circuit cylinders are interchangeable. By changing from a 0.625" cylinder to a 0.7" you will increase pedal effort by 25% and reduce pedal travel. BEWARE. You cannot simply fit a 01625" in place of a 0,7" to reduce pedal effort because you may run out of stroke and bottom your master cylinder, preventing you from applying the brakes harder.



Later design.

The diameter of the master cylinder bore is normally written on the cast reservoir models. Lastly, if you have problems with your brakes or brake modifications, please give me a rina rather than writing because your letter will have to take its place in the queue and it is so much easier over the phone.

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Dain beater disease to the U.O. of the Co.o.	

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)	Name
t	Address
	Daytime tel No
	Type of car
	Year of manufacture

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Front wing (original)	

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I! This months feature is a very nice example of a 1969 Mkl 2 Litre saloon owned by Julie Sleeman of Marshgate in Cornwall. Finished in Damson with a tan interior, the car is in very good order throughout (having had some body restoration and a respray). Chassis number HC11985DL, registration number MWV 930G, unfortunately due to the 'arowing' commitments of a young son, the car is reluctantly being offered for sale, so if anyone is interested (price £1700 ono), contact Julie on 08406-525 . . .

Now, as I'm new to this position, I still have to sort through all the conglomeration of stuff that Andy had passed on to me. As you can see from the article above lintend to continue the monthly feature car (information permitting) so if I could take this opportunity to remind and ask you all to send me details/photos of your cars (sorry, unable to return photos). to feature in this column, it will indeed make my job easier with so much more material to draw from, it will also give me

Lets keep in trim . . .

own files . . . thanks . . .

perience since I wrote last, tra-



the opportunity to build up my £1700 ono. Contact reluctant Julie for more details.

shire to visit an aunt, just this side of Honiton, there was a sudden, unnanouced, but very very familiar clatter clatter/ I have suffered a traumatic ex-rattle a quick glance in the rear view mirror confirmed my worst suspicions a fleeting glimpse of an airborne, velling from Cornwall to Wilt-spinning, gathering speed wheel trim as it disappeared

from view . . . (it did actually look quite pretty!)... deep trouble, heavy traffic. I was unable to stop for about half a mile, when a very handily placed lav-by appeared . . . stopped safely, I legged it back up the road on the nearside, climbing on hedges and all the normal antics of acting the lunatic! Back down the road on the offside... nothing! all to no avail! So a part of my Vitesse will lie forever in the corner of some foreign field (well, Devon actually). It's amazing how somethina can disappear . . . anyway . . . this was followed a week later (to the day) when returning in the dark from a shopping trip to Exeter, I hit a rather bad ramp on some ongoing roadworks... again that familiar sound that makes your heart drop... but worse this time. I couldn't see a thing, no indication of where it went... and again cars right up my B**! I eventually stopped, depressed, fed up... but determined I was definintely not going to loose another trim. I spent the next 45 minutes searching every inch of road, verge, hedge and field with a torch no brighter than a candle (another lesson to be learnt here). Relief and a happy ending this time, trim located in a patch of brambles, undamaged and reunited.

So, by a very strange set of circumstances | can now answer the auestion asked by Chris

'Because I also have come to live in the fear of loosing wheel trims. not to mention the sudden panic when it becomes airborne. Where is it going to land. PLEASE don't let it come to rest through that fast approaching Mercedes windscreen!!

the following two ideas . . .

- 1. This is just to bend in with This method is also a good which clips onto the wheel, solution
- Triumph 2000 trims which original do you wish to keep (expensive?) trims . . . What I the centre of the wheel, drilled space for new/events. and tapped so that the the trim, when the trim has cheers... Apostolids in the Feb. Courier. been knocked on in the nor-

mal way you then pass the screw through the trim into the tapped hole and tighten, as an alternative to tapping the steel bar you could spot weld a nut on over a suitably drilled hole (to allow for clearance of the screw/bolt, either screw or bolt can be used, again it's just a matter of choice, what you feel is most visually acceptable. This method is also a slightly improved deterrent against theft, the thief needing either So; I have experimented with screwdriver or pliers to remove vour wheel trim . . .

pliers the spring retaining ring opportunity to give those wheels a well earned coat of The three spots are quite easy paint! Keeping in the imto find, you can see clearly mediate area of wheels I have where the ring rubs/vibrates on already received one enquiry the wheel — this method also regarding the recommending stops them rattling, as yet I of tyres... (from David Shuter have to loose another trim, but of Moseley, Birmingham) I for a more long-term thought this would be a good opening to do a mini survey . . . let's hear your views on tyres for 2. Idea number two may only roadholding (wet/dry), and be possible if you have GT6 or wear, who out there has got the most miles from a set of rubber? already have a central hole. Results to be published in a or, B, you are actually later edition of the Courier... prepared to drill a hole, it has Last month I mentioned Guy to be a matter of choice, how Bragg (of Truro), you can good your trims are? How contact Guy for spares or whatever, on Penryn 0209 the car? And how desperate 860727 (works) or 0872 862530 you are not to loose any more (Truro) home. Guy is currently assisting Rob Woodhouse and have experimented with here Mark Hellier with their race is to weld a strip of steel across GT6/Spitfire . . . watch this

threaded hole is directly in line Look forward to hearing from with the hole in the centre of you.. thanks.. take care...

WELL! The coming of sunshine (a little) has certainly brought out more Club Cars. Quite a few have been arriving at the Club HQ in Lubenham for parts etc. and to look around the new premises. Let's see more of you here looking AND buying! 8 miles from Junction 20 of the M1. If intending to purchase goodies, please ring to confirm that they are available.



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7
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Cover clips for inserts
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GT6 III
GT6 III
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CT/ "
GT6 III
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GT6 1
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and C Pox locks
and C Box locks £17.00 Full lock set as above with paired bonnet locks £25.00
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Front wing, Spitfire IV, GT6 III
Front wing, Spitfire IV, GT6 III
Front wing, Spitfire IV, GT6 III £38.50 Front wing, ORIGINAL, Spitfire IIIIIII, GT6 I £49.95 Front wing, ORIGINAL, GT6 II £72.00 Sill, all Spitfire I GT6, ORIGINAL £25.00 Sill, all Spitfire, GT6 quality pattern £12.00 Rear wing, ORIGINAL, Spitfire IIIIIII, GT6 III £49.50 Rear valance, Spitfire III, GT6 I £39.00 Rear valance, Spitfire III, GT6 I, II pattern £30.00 Rear valance, Spitfire IV, GT6 III £28.00 Boot floor, all models £37.50 Door skin, Spitfire IV, GT6 III £15.50 Door skin, Spitfire IV, GT6 III £16.50 Full floor £29.50 Rar light panel, Spit IV/1500 £59.90 Battery box £11.00 ALL OTHER PANELS FOR SPITFIRE & GT6 STOCKED — PLEASE RING MECHANICAL / SUSPENSION / STEERING Front trunnion / swivel, ORIGINAL STANPART £11.00 Steering rack, EXCHANGE £26.00 Driveshaft, all models non rotoflex £45.00 New propshafts from £65.00 Front vertical link, Vitesse/GT6 £33.00 Front vertical link, Herald/Spitfire £35.00 Front wheel bearing kit inc. hub felt (state model) £9.75 Top ball joint, all models £4.50 Universal joint, all models £4.50 Universal joint, all models, with grease nipple £4.50 Front shock absorbers, all models £15.75
Front wing, Spitfire IV, GT6 III
Front wing, Spitfire IV, GT6 III £38.50 Front wing, ORIGINAL, Spitfire IIIIIII, GT6 I £49.95 Front wing, ORIGINAL, GT6 II £72.00 Sill, all Spitfire I GT6, ORIGINAL £25.00 Sill, all Spitfire, GT6 quality pattern £12.00 Rear wing, ORIGINAL, Spitfire IIIIIII, GT6 III £49.50 Rear valance, Spitfire III, GT6 I £39.00 Rear valance, Spitfire III, GT6 I, II pattern £30.00 Rear valance, Spitfire IV, GT6 III £28.00 Boot floor, all models £37.50 Door skin, Spitfire IV, GT6 III £15.50 Door skin, Spitfire IV, GT6 III £16.50 Full floor £29.50 Rar light panel, Spit IV/1500 £59.90 Battery box £11.00 ALL OTHER PANELS FOR SPITFIRE & GT6 STOCKED — PLEASE RING MECHANICAL / SUSPENSION / STEERING Front trunnion / swivel, ORIGINAL STANPART £11.00 Steering rack, EXCHANGE £26.00 Driveshaft, all models non rotoflex £45.00 New propshafts from £65.00 Front vertical link, Vitesse/GT6 £33.00 Front vertical link, Herald/Spitfire £35.00 Front wheel bearing kit inc. hub felt (state model) £9.75 Top ball joint, all models £4.50 Universal joint, all models £4.50 Universal joint, all models, with grease nipple £4.50 Front shock absorbers, all models £15.75

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1991 RACING NEWS

KIM PEARSON

LYDDEN HILL 10th MARCH 91 ROUND 1

ELL, here we are again, the start of another racing season, after a five month break that to me only feels like a couple of weeks.

We arrived at Lydden Hill at about 9.30am to be greeted by yet more rain. And rain it certainly did, it did not stop once. Spirits were low between the drivers, well, the majority anyway. If the weather were to be a little better I'm sure the spirit would be too

There were to be 12 cars entering the race, all of which were looking very clean and tidy. Guy St John had a new and very lairy paint job, of bright pink and yellow, Tony Lindsey Dean's Vitesse was still white, but it was a new coat of paint, and it was still looking very mean!!!!!

There were no other cars that actually looked any different, but you could certainly hear the ones that had new engines in them.

they sounded very raunchy! (if the right sort of word is raunchy, of course).

Practice was at 1.30pm, which no-one the crowds. Because it was so obviously put in very quick times. wet, everyone was slipsliding around, and at one point Mark Levy (first time out was this race), collided with the tyre wall, his bonnet flipped up, and he was out of the days racing. Never mind Mark, better luck next time. There were two About half way through the race, Lawrence Ball spun his car other near misses in practice as well, that of Jeff Eatough and Dave Barnes who both skidded in the wet and very luckily missed the tyre wall and a grass bank. These were seperate occasions though, not together.



'What a nice day for it!'

was looking forward to, but still they kept almost a waste of time doing the session because they could a stiff upper lip and went out and faced hardly see anything anyway, therefor they were unable to

By the time it came to race, the rain had hardly eased off, and so the track was still really wet, and more rain was still to come, the green light went on and off they all drove, some racing, some just amiously driving around, after all, you still got points for finishing

at the top of the hairpin in front of Kevin Williams, causing Kevin to drive into the side of him, this did a bit of damage to both cars, they both kept going for a lap or so, but eventually both ended up retiring. The winner of the race was Marc Amschwand, Adrian Boyle was second and Jeff Eatough was third, 8 cars finished the race at the end, and At the end of the session a lot of the 1 think they are all hoping that the weather clears up in time drivers were complaining that it was for the next race at Snetterton on Good Friday.....

SNETTERTON, 29th MARCH 91 ROUND 2

Guv St. John

IM wasn't able to make it to Snetterton for Round 2, so I am going to take over as reporter for the day.

When we arrived at the circuit, the weather couldn't have been much better than the pouring rain at Lydden Hill, 2 weeks ago, it was bright March sunshine. We all went to practice at about 11.30am and had about 20 minutes track time. The times came out about an hour later.

There were a couple of retirements after practice and a few cars threw a 'wobbly'. but would start the race. We all then had a long wait until our race, which was scheduled for about 4,30.

As the race time approached we all assembled in the collecting area and then gridded up for the race. The grid was Tony Dean (class C) on pole, with a time of 1.33:5. I was next on the front row with Kevin Ginger (class A), Jeffrey Eatough (class D) behind me and bringing up the rear was Mike Read

The green light went on and I managed to get a really good start, with Kevin following me and Tony (not making the best of starts) behind him, Nick Barry stormed from 11th 'Ooh, shut that door! on the grid to 4th within the first couple of

laps. On the first corner Marc Amschwand spun think came off worst. Then I had this big white

After a couple of laps, I was still leading with Kevin still glued firmly to my number plate. I think if he got any closer, he could have changed gear for me, right behind Kevin was Tony, who by now was having a distinct problem of trying to keep his passenger door shut!!!!!what with Nick knew what to concentrate the most on.

By now (from what I've been told, bearing in mind I'm writing this from the front!) the rest of the field was getting fairly strung out, but there was a little tussle going on between Laurence Ball and Dave Barnes, Spitfire and Vitesse respectfully.

About lap 6, Tony was still having problems with his door, which was acting as a quite good airbrake from where I was sitting, and Nick had lost some of his aear box!

But all this didn't deter Tony, who was just starting to make his charge, he caught up with Kevin (who was still changing gear for me) but was having a problem getting past him round Corram and Russell bend, but just powered past him down the straight, they actually past him down the straight, Pembrey 23rd June they actually had a bit of a coming-together at Lydden Hill 10/11th August Russell, resulting in a dented sill for Kevin, who I



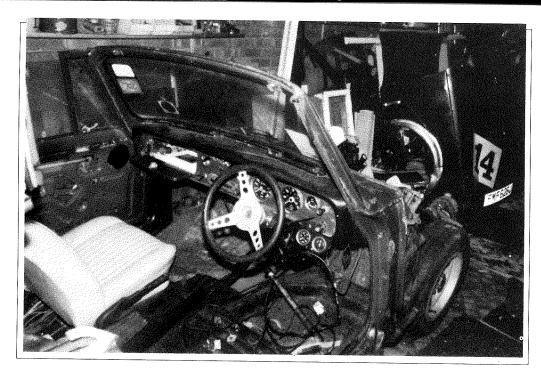
in the middle of the field and was unfortunately. Vitesse right behind me, which would stay behind hit by Keith Parkes' TR7, putting them both out of me on the corners, but would drive past me like the race, bad luck to both, better luck next time. I was going backwards down the back straight! I was now in second place, but on Jap 8 Tony slowed down going into the back straight, because he was still trying to shut his door, which flung open every time he went round a corner, it was a little off-putting to say the least, and I don't mean just for Tony.

(Vitesse) all over his back bumper, I don't think he Well I didn't need any more inviting, so I took the opportunity and slid by him with Kevin firmly stuck behind me, now I was back at the front and wondering if I could win the race, but all was not to be, as Tony managed to sort himself out (I still don't think his door was shut), and passed me and Kevin again down the straight, and he took the flag, with me 1.5 seconds behind. Kevin was 3rd and Nick was 4th. Setting the fastest lap of the race was Mike Read in his TR7, with a time of 1.33:6. All in all it was a cracking race for the spectators, and if you want to see us do it again, we would love to see you at some of the other races, so why don't you come and watch a car like yours do silly things around a race track. See you there.

> Pembrev 27th April Snetterton 27th May Lydden Hill 29th September

Mallory 19th May Oulton Park 15th June Brands Hatch 21st July Cadwell Park 18th August

44 The COURIER



NIGHTMARE!!!!!

Tall started when the December edition of the Courier arrived on the doormat at my house in Macclesfield, Cheshire. As usual I immediately started to read it and noticed a Vitesse convertible requiring restoration for sale.

I rang Wendy in Chelmsford and verbally agreed to buy the car. Before a business trip to Salisbury, I saw the car (RDG 585G) and although the engine, gearbox, bonnet, drivers door and chassis outriggers had been removed from the British Racing Green Vitesse, I happily confirmed I would take it for a European four (we travelled 2800 miles to Italy restoration project.

I have at home a superbly restored Herald chassis brought from my T.S.S.C. friend Jim Lavary of Stockport. The Vitesse could easily be rebuilt onto this, with body repairs and new mechanics and with most other parts being readily available through the club.

" PART EXCHANGE "

Originally the chassis was brought to restore my Bond Equipe 2L but with a recent company car and my wife Louise not keen to drive it, the motivation deserted me. During this conversation, Wendy and her friend Steve Willis

agreed to take the Bond in part exchange. It was agreed for me to take the Bond to Chelmsford the next weekend and collect the Vitesse. After convincing my wife the Vitesse would be a good family convertible and my restored Spitfire 1500 too small for another in 1988), I organised the hire of a car transporter from Altrincham, Manchester.

" SNOW! "

On the morning of December 8th, I peered out of the window to four inches of snow! Undeterred I drove to Altrincham, a distance of 15 miles to the hire company. I was very relieved to see no sign of snow and, after recovering when a large 3 ton transporter truck was handed over, drove to my house to pick up the Bond. This was duly done after working out how to operate the controls to raise, lower, and move the back loader backwards and

and forwards. So, at 9.00am I set off down the M6 feeling quite like a real trucker at the maximum speed of 56mph with the Bond on the backloader. Little was I to know what was in store!

" COLOUR TELEVISION "

As I approached Birmingham, the countryside was covered in snow and the motorway narrowed to two lanes. became concerned with radio reports of severe snow drifts ahead. At junction 7 the motorway traffic stopped and in the next six hours I must have moved for about 1 hour. During our lengthy stoppages I met similarly frustrated people with their first question being 'What on earth is that car on your lorry mate!" I must have answered this question at least 20 times, but it certainly was a talking point. Most of the time however was spent in my cab trying to keep warm. I exchanged my lorry for an hour for a friendly articulated driver's cab with colour television, air conditioning and a kettle!

By 7pm I reached junction 5. Cars were abandoned all around, in front and behind cars and lorries with freezing occupants were like me, trapped on the motorway. On my own it was turning out lonely, but I managed to phone my wife on a car phone to tell Steve Willis not to wait any longer. At 12.30am two local women walked along the motorway and gave me a very welcome hot cup of tea. It was superb, I was very cold and I was very thankful.

" NOISEY DIESEL "

I huddled in the cab and slept for two hours - at 5.30 my wet feet were so cold I had to move them, so I walked 2 miles up the motorway! I noticed a route through the cars and started up the noisey diesel engine in the quiet night and drove through the hardened snow around numerous obstructions! Eventually I arrived at a police road block at junction 4 and was told to queue up behind a single haphazard file of lorries, the cars reaching this point were directed into the NEC for warmth and refreshments. At 8.00am the motorway was opened and we drove in single file in convoy along a route carved out by the snow ploughs during the night. I finally reached the M1 which was snow free and eventually arrived at Chelmsford at 11.00am in the morning. 26 hours after setting off!

Steve and his wife kindly made me a superb breakfast and after a shower and a fresh pair of socks (donated by Steve), I felt much bet-



ter. I dropped the Bond into Steves garage and picked Wendy's Vitesse up from a set of lockup garages. A local neighbour was rather concerned about the truck squeezing down the approach alley, but I succeeded without mishap. Steve and I loaded the Vitesse, boxes of parts onto the car and after tying the bonnet to the chassis, got off at 1pm to Macclesfield with some trepidation. The car looked quite a sight with a green body, a maroon bonnet, white soft top and missing driver's doorl

SLOW BUT CONTINUOUS "

The M6 was still blocked north bound, so I drove up the M1 from the M25 to the M62 at Leeds. I eventually arrived at Macclesfield at 8.30pm, a slow but continuous 7½ hour return journey! My wife Louise's face when she saw the Vitesse was a picture and after recovering helped me to unload it from the lorry and pushed it into the garage. The end of a nightmare weekend but at least I had the car. What a start for a car restoration. I certainly had plenty of time to think about how I was going to rebuild it.



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Herald **Vitesse** Restoration

Part Four

Peter Williams

All you ever wanted to know about Tread Plates.

he door tread area consists of a double skin of floor edge and welded on tread panel and is a common area for rot.

Both the top panel and the floor edge can rust as the double skin is a natural rust trap. As was the case, both tread plates on our restoration Vitesse were in need of replacement with the floor edge fine on one side but completely rotten on the other so I think it's useful to show the procedures used for both here.

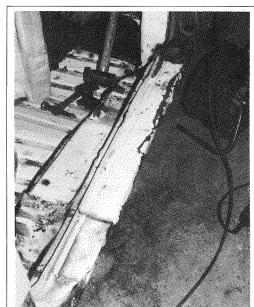


Figure 60. The near side tread plate wasn't par- Figure 62. Prise up the front end with a wedge (old ticularly bad but was certainly due for screwdriver)... replacement.

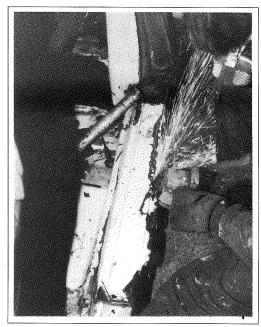
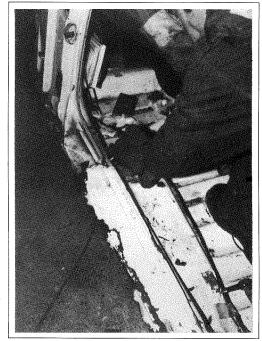
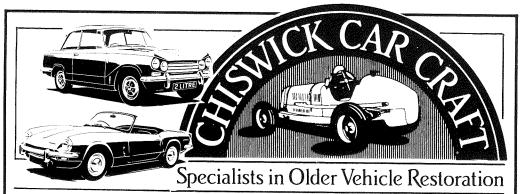


Figure 61. To remove, weaken the spot welds along the vertical edge and on the top of the plate at the front and rear ends.





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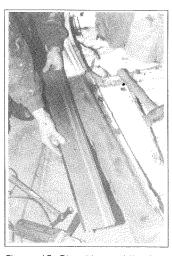
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along to the rear, levering up the of the floor beneath the near side the new panel as obtained from panel as you go.



Figure 63. ...and work your way Figure 64. As seen, the condition Figure 65. Checking out the fit of tread plate was fine so it was John Kipping - no problem. cleaned up with the grinder.



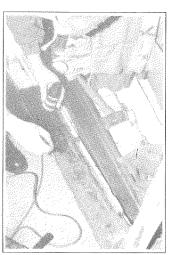
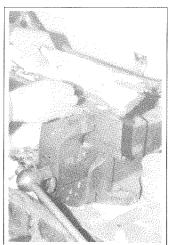


Figure 66. Treat the surface rust with your favourite anti rust agent. As you'll see this was later also given a coat of paint.



was then used to mark out the exact positions of the sill mounting holes...

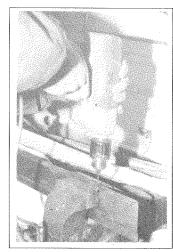
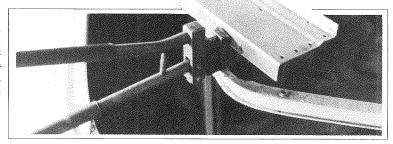


Figure 67. The old tread plate Figure 68. ...and the new drilled

Figure 69. Further holes for plua weldina can then be either drilled or as here, punched out along the return edge and front and rear top



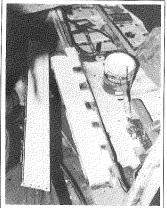


Figure 70. Give both inner surfaces a good coat of paint leaving the areas to be welded as clear shiny metal.

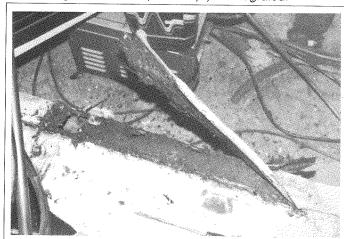
Figure 71. Clamp on the new

tread plate (I did this with the

paint still wet) and with a few



Figure 73. Drill out the pop rivets securing the alloy finisher and lift off. The edge of the tread plate simply disintegrated.



simple plug welds complete the Figure 74. As might have be expected, very little effort was required job. These can be ground back to separate the top panel from the main floor which was itself in cobweb condition.

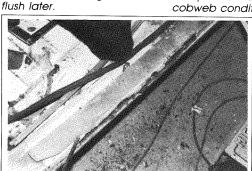


Figure 72. The driver's side tread plate was in much worse condition as is very apparent here.

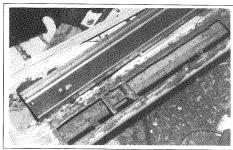


Figure 75. With all the grot cut out the chassis side raii and floor mounting bracket are revealed. Ensure that the mounting bracket is in good condition - if not it needs to be replaced.

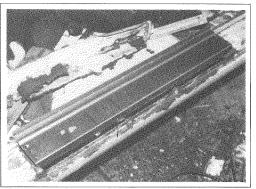


Figure 76. Given a little modification, another tread plate is an ideal basis for the replacement floor edge. Start by carefully marking out the mounting bracket postion on the repair panel.

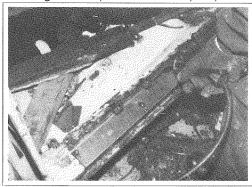


Figure 77. Trim the inner edge of the tread plate to match the floor edge and tack...

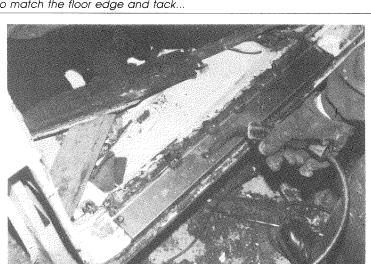


Figure 78. ...and plug weld in place.

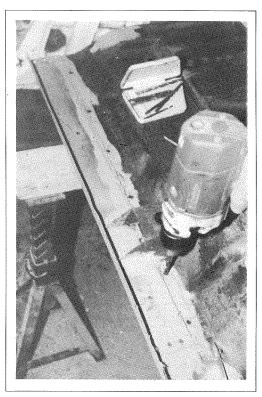


Figure 79. Jumping ahead a few weeks (when the body had been removed and turned upside down), the replacement floor edge was seam welded and then drilled for plug welding. This could just as easily have been done from the top before removing the body but a little more effort in dressing back the weld would have been required before fitting the top panel.



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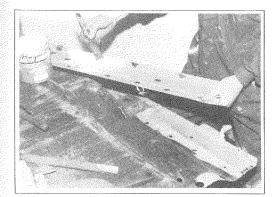
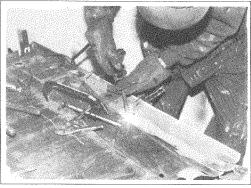


Figure 80. As for the near side, an unadulterated Figure 81. ...clamped up, and welded in place. tread plate was prepared...



Next month: Back to the rear wings.

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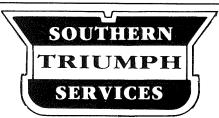
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NTERNATIONAL

I IAISON SECRETARY



Leon F Guvot

INTER is passing in the northern hemisphere, and with it the salt-laden roads that have such a destructive effect on our precious cars.

As spring and summer come to mind, our thoughts turn to Triumph Club meetings, and touring holidays, especially by our European membership. Personally, bank manager willing, I intend to take my Herald around Europe/Scandinavia this year, naturally, this will involve plenty of forward planning, preventative maintenance, and breakdown insurance.

The Boy Scouts motto 'Be Prepared' seems appropriate when considering this type of undertakina.

A word now for our British readers about RAC Breakdown Insurance, or how to save your TSSC membership fee for over three years!

RAC Reflex Membership: Normal member pays £8 more than TSSC member joining through the Club.

To update from RAC Reflex to RAC Reflex-Europe: Normal member pays £25 whereas TSSC member pays £22.

To obtain RAC Eurocover on your over 10 year old vehicle: Normal member pays £40 whereas TSSC member pays NIL.

To obtain RAC Eurocover on your car trailer: Normal member pays £25 whereas TSSC member pays NIL.

So, as you can see, a TSSC member who takes his ten year + old car, with camping trailer to Europe after joining the RAC Reflex Europe service with RAC Eurocover, through the TSSC can save up to

One day, as Mike Crewes points out, many European Motoring Laws will be very similar, if not the same right across Europe, but for now, we have to rely on the Motoring organisations to keep us informed of anomalies, for example speed limits.

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Belgium	37mph/60kmh	56mph/90kmh	74mph/120kmh
Bulgaria	37mph/60kmh	50mph/90kmh	74mph/120kmh
Cyprus	31mph/50kmh	37-62mph/60-100	n/a
Czech'	37mph/60kmh*	56mph/90kmh	68mph/110kmh
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Denmark	31mph/50kmh	50mph/80kmh	62mph/100kmh
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France (On Paris Ring	31mph/50kmh g Road/Peripheriqu	56-68mph/90-110 ue: 49mph/80kmh)	81mph/130kmhkmh (toll M/ways)
E Germany	31mph/50kmh	50mph/80kmh	62mph/100kmh
W Germany	31mph/50kmh	62-81mph/100-130 (81mph/130kmh recommended max)
Gibraltar	25mph/40kmh	n/a	n/a
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Frank Goppel's Vitesse at STIR 14, Rennesse, NL, May 1988.



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Pen to Paper



SPEEDO PROBLEMS!

M Y problem (or one of them anyway), is speedos. Maybe it's just me or maybe there is actually a common fault that someone out there could advise me about.

For two years I owned a Herald 1200 until the able to fix this fault but it was no longer my urge to travel forced me to cash in my assets, problem . . . or was it? During my ownership the speedo ceased to function after a traumatic period of screeching and eratic behaviour. I bought a new cable and fitted this with no effect whatsoever. So, off to an autojumble where luckily I managed to get a second hand speed (even better, there were only 20,000 miles on the clock!). This was duly put into place and everything went well for couple of hundred miles when this new speedo seized as well. At the time when I sold the car I still hadn't been

This year I moved on to a MkII Vitesse which had had a new speedo fitted 8,000 miles previously. Well, after a month of my ownership the speedo gave up with a clunk on the motorway and the symptoms seem similar to those my Herald suffered from. The cable seems alright and the speedo is relatively new. Is there anyone out there who can throw some light on this strange phenomenom?

Jo Torrens.

P.S. At least I have a rev counter in the Vitesse!

WHERE ARE THEY?

COULD you please publish details of two Heralds I owned many years ago, in case they are still in existence and known to any members.

1. 1965 Herald 1200 convertible in Royal Blue. 2. 1970 Herald 13/60 saloon in Damson, Reg. belts, underseal, delivery charge and number months with a milegae of 25,000. plates. Sold after three years with a mileage of 36,000.

Reg no. DOD 267C. Bought new by me for no REL 721H. Bought by me in 1972 with 7000 £704.?s.?d including extras - heater, seat miles on the clock and sold after about 18

> Jon Snook 2 Brook Way, Christchurch Dorset BH23 4HA. O425 274193

OVERDRIVES

I was pleased to read Jasper Bacon's excellent article on overdrive servicing, but a couple of points from my own experience might be useful.

They relate to the solenoid adjustment. The until you just feel the valve opening. If you are initial setting of the plunger bolt as described is auite correct, but how many of us possess an finger or a short rod against the ball (i.e. in ammeter which will read 20amps? A simpler test is to push the plunger by hand to check feel this point more easily. There should now it will not go any further, and check that the lever will. If the rubber boot can easily be pulled back from the solenoid, then the a millimetre or 25 thous, is usually enough but holding coil switch is visible for a further quick err on the generous side. On a MkIII GT6 I know, check. The second, more important point a half turn of the blanking plug made the relates to the blanking plug. This should be set difference between working properly and the after the plunger nut as follows: With the overdrive engaging by itself at around 15 mph solenoid off, push the plunger as far as the (in second). Happy motoring. plua will allow. Now pull the operating lever

servicing the valve at the same time, rest one place of the spring and plunger) and you can be a small clearance between the operating lever and the nut on the plunger. About half

Robert Pearce

62 The COURIER

ANSWERED PLEA!

As a club member with a Vitesse convertible undergoing major restoration, I would bring to the attention of club members, R.J. Beeby (Auto. Engineer), Gold St., March, Cambridgeshire, Tel 0354 53755.

Mr Beeby is carrying out my restoration work. I am pleased to say that he is happy to inwhich includes a complete body-off chassis restoration, a colour change and engine rebuild. His prices for the various jobs are very competitive. Prior to writing this letter I have spoken to Mr Beeby with regard to offering club members a discount on restoration work.

troduce such a scheme and will talk to individual members when they contact him for an estimate. For members with immobile cars, Mr. Beeby has quite a nice recovery vehicle. So in my case, Mr Beeby is the man who can! Happy motoring to one and all!

Jim Sachwell

'RETREADS!!!!!'

THE letter from B Hamilton, Much Hoole, Preston, in the latest Courier Magazine, caught my eye, he may rest assured he is not the only 50 year old with a Spitfire in his stable! 50 years old (going on 35) my latest sports car presently under restoration is my 3rd owned during a police career in UK and Canada

Being a police trained driver at Hutton, holding a First Class ticket and still maintaining my membership of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, British cars give me the opportunity to continue with my driving skills which are lost on the 2 In closing may I say how pleased I am with the Camaros owned by my wife and myself, both automatic of course, although in the sports car class. The car presently at hand is a 1974 Spitfire 1500 undergoing quite extensive renewal in certain areas with the added addition of twin carbs and sports exhaust system coupled to new 4 branch headers.

Well known down at my local Police Headquarters for my loyalty to things British, it is of no surprise to my Canuck colleagues that a pristine white sports car of British origin is due on the parking

lot. In summing up Mr Hamiltons query, I would hazard a guess that there are quite a few, dare I use the phrase 'Retreads' around.

quality of your publication and the access it affords me, from so far a distance, to the availability of spares and advice, something I never had at the time I owned my MGBs in Canada, Keep it up.

> R. C. Pickering Pirbright, Rural Route, Belmont, Ontario. NOL 1BO Canada.

ANDY ROSE



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we had to go. Off to Gateshead we went. No problems encountered apart from the idiot in the Escort who decided to pull out in front of me while was going at a very illegal speed! After much sian lanauage, he realised that I was slightly displeased and moved.

Sunday morning at 8.30 saw many bug eyed neighbours looking for the lunatic who was disturbing their beauty sleep. Stopping only for lunch, we got the engine rebuilt and in place. Oh yes sir, we have no bananas, we have no rocker cover gasket either! Monday lunchtime saw us

ready to go. After a few minor problems my Spitty was running as good as new.

Thank you time. Thanks to my dad for the rescue and help with the rebuild. Thanks to my neighbour Pete Wood (a fellow TSSC member) for general help and advice and thanks to my mum and Maureen for providing us with gallons of steaming

Finally, thanks to Andy of Sports Car Supplies for his assistance, sorry we dragged you off the golf

> Dean Carr. South Yorkshire Area

THE FINAL WORDS!

I read with interest April Courier regarding 54 years young SPITFIRE drivers.

They are mere 'whipper snappers'. I joined the TSSC in 1988 and purchased my Spitfire 1500 in 1988 and have used this car in the summer months since then. Covering up to 600 miles some weekends (weather permitting) and enjoying every mile. What is my age, 72.

AND MORE...

F T Kimberlin

JUDGING by the white haired ladies and gentlemen scorching around Edinburgh in old but immaculate open sports cars, Spitfires included.

I suspect there are more veterans around than your recent correspondents think. I am a 54 year old member who heartily enjoys driving my wife's 77 1500 Spiffire, originally our second car. We could not bear to part with this car which we use from May to October but **NEVER** in wet weather.

The youthful orientation of Club functions dissuades us, too, from taking part. A veterans section might be a very good idea.



D J Hollingdale

AND FINALLY ...

N reply to Graham Watts letter in Courier 130, April 1991, I'm sorry that vou are put off from attending Area Meets by reading Area News, but often interesting points are left out due to space.

As we are all aware, any society caters in the main for the majority, but also respects the wishes of the minority.

Whilst statistics show that 'veterans' are in the minority I can say categorically that their wishes are definitely catered for in Areas. Having visited, on a regular basis, many Areas over the years, I have yet to come across any Area that has a 'no veterans' policy. Their maturity has been through the mad keen youthful phase to more sedate enjoyment. Perhaps they do not take part in some of the events, but their support is always valued. Their experiences are highly thought of, I would ask you or any other of our mature members, have you ever been to an Area meeting or spoken to the Area Organiser? You should certainly do so. We

can all stay at home and say that elements of the Club are not entirely to our liking, but getting involved means you can change things, mos areas will respond enthusiastically to fresh ideas.

One final point, I gather from your letter that you are probably in the prime of life, in your 50s. Spare a thought for just one of our Area Organisers, he's almost old enough to be your father!

Mike Crewes

Area Liaison Officer.

l hope Mike's comments will be taken on board by our 'seniors' and hopefully, this should be the last word. Remember, it's YOUR club whoever you Editor



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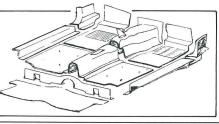
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TECHNICAL TIPS

A SCREW LOOSE IN YOUR DIAPHRAGM?

Dear Editor.

Stromberg CD carbs is to periodically check the condition of the rubber diaphragm that maintains the seal between the carb body and the piston that rises and falls controlling the needle in the main jet. The rubber perishes with age and the diaphraams develop holes and cracks resulting in very poor performance and uneven running.

My Vitesse had started to run a bit unevenly, especially at lower revs. Sure enough, the diaphragm on the front carb was perished and cracked. You can see the diaphraam as soon as you lift off the top cover of the carb (held by four crosshead screws). Lift out the spring and then the piston, keeping this vertical if you don't want to spill the dashpot oil. Gently stretch the diaphragm and check it all round for holes or cracks. This is also a good chance to check the condition of the needle. Look for wear especially at its broadest point where it runs in the jet hole. Condition is critical as it is very accurately machined.

A nice easy job for owners of our cars with If you need to renew the diaphragm, undo the four screws holding the alloy retaining ring that secures it to the piston and then the diaphraam lifts out. When replacing it, note that there are rubber pips on the diaphragm's edges corresponding with locating holes both where it seats in the piston and in the carb body.

> Now I was doing this job and was alarmed to find that most of the screws in the piston locking rings were already loose! Some were standing about 1mm proud of the ring itself! So I don't see how, regardless of diaphragm condition, there could have been a good seal. So I then checked the rear carb too, and again most of the screws were loose, though the diaprhagm was fine.

> Gently tightening down the screws put matters right. Don't overdo this as the steel screw will strip the alloy thread for sure.

> So it might pay other owners to see whether they have a screw loose in their diaphragm!

> > Clive Forder

QUARTER INCH SQUARE HOLE Dear Editor.

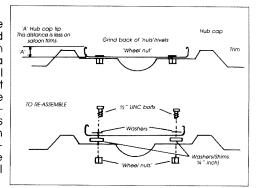
In John Thomason's article on brakes in the Feb. issue, he suggests that to adjust the rear drum brakes, that a proper spanner is purchased, or that a quarter inch square hole is filed in a piece of flat bar. I use the following slightly simpler method. My socket set has a quarter inch square drive, so I select any socket and fit into the end an appropriately sized Allen key. This leaves the quarter inch drive hole to fit the brake adjuster. Have fun,

Ricardo Hetherington

MKII GT6/MkII VITESSE WHEEL TRIMS

Dear Editor.

Have you ever gone out and purchased a nice shiny set of MkII GT6/Vitesse MkII wheel trims and found out that they came from a Triumph saloon and will not fit? Yet! Well, I have come up with a method of modifying these trims so that they will do for our cars. The reason that the trims will not fit is because the Hub Cap which is riveted to the back (by means of the five 'wheel nuts'), has a narrower lip on it than the correct item. Which means it does not protrude out far enough to locate on the wheel lugs. In order to get around this problem it is first of all necessary to grind away the back of the 'wheel nuts' on the trims, this will release the hub cap from the trim.



You will notice that the 'wheel nuts' have a hole in the back, this hole is just large enough to take a UNF half inch bolt, and is soft enough alloy to easily cut a thread. (The bolts which I used were the same type as the ones used to hold the doors on).

By re-assembling the trims and hub caps with washers (shims) between the two, you can raise the level of the hub cap far enough to locate on the wheel lugs. This was a quarter inch on my trims, see diagram.

Care should be taken when reassembling to ensure that the 'Hub Cap' is centered correctly on the trim, otherwise it will run out of true when the road wheel is rotated

Chris Bradley

WAXOYLED ROOF EDGES ON GT6

Dear Editor.

A tip I would recommend to GT6 owners is to Waxoyl the front edge at the roof. I first drilled must have had really bad wind! an ½ inch hole through the top right corner at the door aperture, which will allow access to the inside of the front roof section.

then inserted a small diameter plastic tube long enough to reach the far side of the roof. this was then fixed into a larger tube and then connected it to my oil spray gun, which was then filled with warmed Waxoyl, thinned with 40-50% parafin, applying air pressure, then withdrawing the tube very slowly, every area was covered with Waxoyl. You can of course make as many applications as you like.

I have done the sides and wheelarches top and bottom this way, you can use a small rubber plug of the type used around the floor for plugging against ingress and it won't be

In answer to B Hamilton, Preston, I have just had my 59th birthday, having restored my GT6 III. I am now on a MkIV Spiffire, previously, an A35 was a restoration project. I have had a few cars, my delight was a Morgan 3 wheeler, sold in 1961 which I still see ground.

I take a lot of pride and joy in my present car. know it's a young mans area, these cars, but l always say you don't have to be young to enjoy TRIUMPH motoring. Yours Sincerely,

A Hudson

HEDGEHOGS REVENGE?



Chris enclosed this cutting from a local paper, as you will see, one of 'our cars' has come to grief. ludging by the editors heading, this hedgehog

K & R REPLICAS

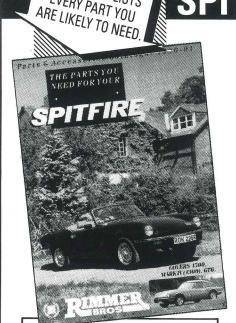
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T was in 1989 and coming up to Christmas when a friend of mine mentioned that a garage in Putney where he worked had a Triumph Spitfire 1500 which they wanted cleared out of the way. The car was a one lady owner which was always serviced by this garage.

Honeymoon Spitfire

An almost basket case Spifire, Wedding in sight,

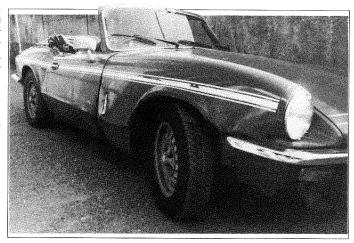
Alan Lacev

Restoration

After being towed in as a non starter, the garage carried out a number of repairs whereapon it was pointed out by the owner that the car required an MOT. As the nearside sill and rear floor by the radius arms had rotted away, it would need vet more money spent on it. The owner decided to cut her losses and told the garage to keep the vehicle to cover the original repair costs. The garage proprieter put the vehicle under cover (almost) with the intention of restoring the car for himself at a later date. Two years later I came onto the scene to 'rescue' TRE 156R. I parted with my money and drove the Spitfire home on trade plates.

'I was to marry my long suffering airl friend. Carole, on the 9th August 1990.

the South of France courtesy of my French speaking brother-inlaw who had already booked a farmhouse which had lots of no. TRE 156R to Brittany Ferries and committed myself to a restoration within a time limit.



A somewhat blemished lady-in-waiting?

(a very long term project) after which I had a really good look at the Spit...Oh Dear. It looked a bit like one of those exploding cigars. Nearly every lower panel was in tatters. The headlight support panels, front wings, quarter valences, wheelarches, sill (outer, inner and strengthener), rear wings lower panel and wheelarches, inner B posts, boot floor corners, front footwell edges and rear radius followed by two weeks touring in arm bracket mountings were all disintegrating rapidly.

The suspension bushes front and rear were worn out, two shocks were seized and the other two could be operated with your little finger. The brake master cylinder had been leaking for a long time and had removed the paint from the whole of the bulkhead which room, so I gave the registration in turn had rusted. The wheel cylinders had also leaked, ruining the rear shoes and the front calipers were seized. Luckily, the hood had been up and windows closed whilst it was laid up, so the interior was relatively unscathed.

TRE 156R then spent the next The rebuild started at Easter '90 during evenings and weekends and three months being trailered all the aforemontioned panels were replaced. Also, the entire brakaround various lock-ups until I ing system was renewed, including copper brake pipes. The front was able move my Mk. Il Zephyr and rear suspension had to be rebuilt.

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My father had an unused Sparkrite electronic ignition that had been in his shed for a number of years, listed for the Spitfire, so I decided to fit it. I installed new ignition leads, rotor arm and distributor cap, turned the key.....nothing. After half an hour of fiddling I noticed that the timina chain cover had fairly recent sealant around it....Yes, the distributor was 180 degrees out. After moving all the leads around it fired immediately and positively purred. I took it for its MOT one Saturday and then on down the M4 to try it out. It went beautifully until I decelerated to pull off at Reading, whereupon it spluttered and jerked and continued to do so all the way home. I thought it might be dirt in the carbs so I spent the weekday evenings setting them up, cleaning out the float chambers and installing a fuel filter. I then checked everything again!

The following weekend was the last before our trip to the South of France, a journey of 600 miles so I took a drive to Hastinas and once again it was fine until I reached Hastings and decelerated whereupon it spluttered and coughed. It was a hot day so I thought it could be the old Spitfire problem of fuel evaporation. I therefore detoured to SOC Spares near Maidstone and bought a new carburettor heat shield as the original had all but disintegrated. With the new shield fitted, all seemed well

The wedding preparations then took over so I would have to keep my fingers crossed about the car's problems. I had rushed photographs of the semi finished car to the TSSC for agreed value insurance, then pleaded for my green card. I was told it would take a week but I told them I was getting married and didn't have a week. I received it back within 36 hours together with congratulations for the wedding day.

After the wedding celebrations (I'd been up until 2 am. the night before fitting the spare wheel to the boot rack to make more room for our luagage), I was up very early the following day yellowing the headlights and blanking off the left dip. We loaded up the car and were away by 11.30 am. By the time we reached the ferry at Portsmouth (it was a very hot day), the car was spluttering and very hot. We then had a six hour crossing on a very old ferry which shuddered and shook so much that we couldn't sleep. We arrived in Caen, France at 10.45 pm. and started our 500 mile drive. We were kna ered. For the first time we had the hood up and this showed up a terrible noise from the diff., like it was breaking up on overun. I did the only thing I could. Being miles from home, I put the hood down and turned up the radio. Luckily, we were following my brotherin-law's car so we had some tail lights to follow otherwise I'm sure I'd have fallen asleep at the wheel. At least being night time it was cooler for the engine. We drove all through the night with only a two hour stop to sleep at 4 am, when we could stay awake no longer. By lunch time the following day the temperature was already 90. By two o'clock it was 115! The car all but stopped

every time I decelerated. We managed to splutter to the farm where we were to stay, breathed a sigh of relief and looked forward to a relaxing two weeks. The next day after spending a very



Transformed Honeymoon car.

easy morning, it was too tempting not to take the Spitfire for a spin along the quiet country lanes to a medieval town close by. We made it there but the Spitfire would not move without stalling. checked all the electrics as the petrol flow seemed fine. I happened to touch the electronic ignition and was promptly thrown from the car. The problem it would seem was with them 'Sparkrite'. I switched it to the 'normal' position from the electronic one and from that moment on it ran perfectly including a non-stop 485 mile, 75 mph drive stopping only for petrol in order to reach Caen in time for an earlier ferry than the one on which we were booked. We arrived back home, a round trip of two thousand and fifteen miles - thoroughly enjoyable even with initial teething troubles.

After recouping we decided to attend our first 'Triumph' rally, the XVth STIR RALLY at Lamport Hall. On the way, the steering felt a little heavy so after filling up on the M1, I checked the tyre pressures, something I had not done since before leaving for France, They were all around 10lb/sa in. Linflated them to 21 front and 26 rear and shot off again down the motorway. The ride was horrendous. Every deviation in the road surface jarred the whole car so I decided to stop and let some air out of the tyres as they were obviously over inflated. No sooner had I stopped when a very smart Spitfire4 stopped to offer assistance. The driver had a tyre gauge which would take the guessing out of the deflation. The fronts were showing 50lb/sa in and the rears 56. I'm lucky they didn't explode as the maximum pressure stamped on the tyres was 36lb/sa in. The aquae at the service area was wildly wrong but what a PLONKER I must be for not realising that it was taking such a long time to inflate the tyres. The fact that the car was a foot taller should have given it away! Anyway, we had a great time looking around at the other Triumphs gathered at Lamport Hall. The last time we were there was on the Norwich Union Classic Rally in our 1958 Vauxhall PA Cresta

PS. Whilst in France, I saw three other Spitfires, one a Mk.IV and the other two both Mk.3's. All French reaistered and all just as surprised to see me as I was to see them.

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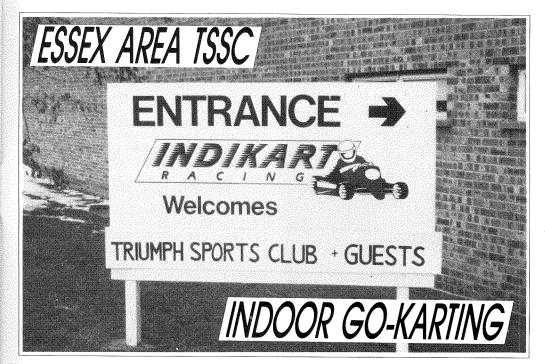
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By Andy Cook

T was a cold winters day in February, what better way can you think of spending your time than roaring round a race track indoors rather then risking your Triumph on the icy roads?

Several Triumphs convoyed from a pub near Chelmsford to Indikart racing in Colchester, the bravest of the drivers even had their soft tops down in the arctic conditions.

There were 37 drivers for this, the 1st TSSC indoor karting Championship. We were all briefed on the technicalities of the 45mph karts and were walked round the tight indoor track and shown the ideal racing line. Then everyone had a practice session and the theory went out of the window!

No 22, Neil Thorne, drove like a man possessed in practice forcing people off the track and eventually crashing in to the tyre wall having collected a market cone.

indoors on the tight circuit and with the adrenalin running high, the 45mph karts felt like they were doing 90mph! The slick tyres were struggling for grip on the shiny track in the cold conditions and the driving technique became more like rally driving with loads of opposite lock turns.

Then the racing started, everyone had 4 separate races starting at different grid positions with between 4 & 5 drivers in each race. Points were awarded as follows, 1st 6 pts, 2nd 4pts, 3rd 3 pts, 4th 2 pts and 5th 1pt, no points would be scored if you crashed or failed to finish.



Derek Damant No1, leads the pack in one of the heats.

The edited highlights and winners of the heats were as follows:

Race 1 winner: Paul Day No. 9, nice easy win but he fell over walking out of the pits. Drunk again

Race 2 winner: John English No. 18.

Race 3 winner: Orlando Sargent No.3. Race 4 winner: Richard Walbourn No.4.

Race 5 winner: John Good No. 5., Ron Doolin No.37 tried to short cut the hairpin by crashing

through the tyre wall!

Race 6 winner: Chris Twigg No.14, closely pursued by nutty driver Niel Thorne No.22.

Race 7: easy win by your's truly Andy Cook No.7.



No.14 Chris Twigg, the champion in action.

Race 8 winner: Bob Hyde No.8. Race 9 winner: Geoff Hinds No.35.

Race 10 winner: nutty No.22, Niel Thorne.

Race 11 winner: Liz Jackman No.23, Ron Doolin

No.37 crashes yet again!

Race 12 winner: Paul Day No.9 after a fierce battle all the way from Richard Walbourn No.4.

Race 13 winner: John Good No.5. Race 14 winner: Ian Anderson No.6. Race 15 winner: Chris Hoyle No.33. Race 16 winner: Collin Geer No.27.

Race 17: stopped due to a multiple pile up caused by nutty No.22 Niel Thorne and involving Ron Doolin No.37 yet again. Winner are the restart was Derek Damant No.1, Ron and Niel crashed for the 2nd time in 1 race!

Race 18 winner: Paul Day No.9.

Race 19 winner: Tony Lacey No.10 closely

followed by Orlando Sargent No.3.

Race 20 winner: Chris Twigg No.4, No.17 Steve Henderson was black flagged for forcing another kart into the tyre wall.

Race 21 winner: John English No.18.

Race 22 winner; Eddie Tee although Ian Anderson No.6 nearly passed him on the finish line.

Race 23 winner: lan Brightman.

Race 24 winner: Chris Twigg No14., I got a telling off by the Marshalls for entering the pits full bore Final 8 winner: Bryan Perry No.32, 2nd Chris Hoyle at the end of the day.

Race 28 winner: Chris Hoyle No.33 after barging past No. 15 Graham Willcocks on the last corner. Race 29 winner: Colin Geer No.27.

Race 30: Paul Day No.9 had an easy win streaks ahead of Ian Brightman No.28.

Race 31 winner: Tony Lacey No.10. Race 32 winner: No.33 Dave Tallon.

Points awarded were then worked out, everyone took part in a final against people of their own standard with the lowest points winners racing in the first final. The 1st 2 out of each final were awarded a place on the back of the grid for the next final up. The top 4 drivers, Chris Twigg, Paul Day, myself and Colin Greer were automatically through to the 20 lap 'Grand Prix final.

' Results of the Finals '

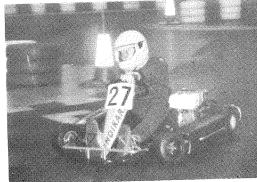
Final 1 winner: Jackie Hoyle No.34 (the lowest points scorer) who beat John Smearden No.20 after he stopped whilst in the lead, he thought he had finished!

Final 2 winner: Steve Henderson No.17, Jackie Hoyle still hanging in there in 2nd place.

Final 3 winner: Martin Gordin No.2, Jackie Hoyle fights up from 6th to 2nd to remain in contention! Final 4 winner No.22 nutty Niel Thorne, 2nd No.26 Guy Smeardon.

Final 4 winner: No.8 Bob Hyde, 2nd No.21 Clive Smeardon, nutty Niel No.22 black flagged at last for his attrocious driving.

Final 6: not sure who won this one. No.28 lan Brightman broke down whilst leading Nigel Mansell style (probably due to his Nigel Mansell style moustachel).



3rd placed Colin Geer in action, the man who sneaked 3rd place on the last lap in the 'Grand Prix' final.

Final 7 winner: Tony Lacey No.10, 2nd Richard Walbourn No.4.

No.33, John English No.18 black flagged after causing a 5 car pile up.

There was then a Ladies Final for the girlies, won by Shirley O'Reilly No.25.

Then on to the 'Grand Prix' final to be run over a gruelling 20 laps. Tension on the grid as the theme from BBC's Grand Prix (The Chain, by Fleetwood Mac) blared out over the Tannoy. A fierce battle up front between Paul Day in pole position and Chris Twigg in 2nd, Chris took the lead on lap 5. Until the last lap the leaderboard was, 1st Chris Twigg, 2nd Paul Day and 3rd your's truly, then on the last lap I ran wide on the entry to the esses letting Colin Geer steal 3rd place, I'll get you back next time. Colin!

The final results were:-1st: Chris Twig (Essex) 2nd: Paul Day (Essex) 3rd: Colin Géer (Sevénoaks)

Ladies Winner: Shirley O'Reilly (East Kent)

Bent Axle award to the most unlucky driver presented to Jackie Hoyle (Essex).

There was a prize giving ceremony with trophies for the winners, Chris Twigg was also presented with a winners hat (look out for it at future club meetings).

Everyone who took part agreed the event was a great success and the Essex Area intend to run another one after the summer, maybe repeating It as an annual TSSC event. Watch out in the Courier for details, numbers will be limited to a maximum of 40 drivers.

Thanks to everyone who supported the event and to Indikart racing who ran a slick and professional operation.

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