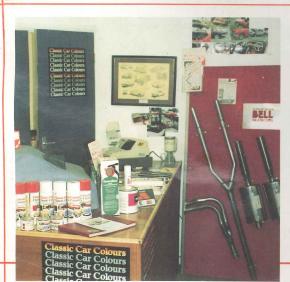


COME AND VISIT THE.

Triumph Sports Six Club



NEW HEADQUARTERS Special Offers Counter



OPEN

9-5 Monday - Friday 9-1 Saturdays

> phone first for offer availability

HOW TO FIND US

Leave M1 at Junction 20, take A427 to Market Harborough. We are situated on right side of road just before leaving the village of Lubenham.

> Telephone (0858) 434424

THE COURIER

The Official Monthly Magazine of The Triumph Sports Six Club VOL.12 No. 143 MAY 1992 Price £1.50 Free to Club Members

CLUB HEADQUARTERS Main Street, Lubenham, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 9TF TEL: O858 434424 FAX: O858 431936

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1992

Brian Waters, Peter Williams, Mike Costigan, Leon Guyot, Trudi Squibbs, Bill Sunderland, Mike Crewes, John Thorpe, Mark Hugall, Andy Higgins, Annis Green, Simon Roberts, David Aspinall, Tom Longlev.

For a full list of TSSC Officials see page 82

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Cover Illustration Hakan Gulbrandsen.

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Whereas every care is taken to publish accurate information, the Editor and the Committee of the TSSC do not necessarily agree with all the views expressed within THE COURIER OR TURNING CIRCLE and cannot accept any liability for erroneous or misleading information found therein.

Comment

The Roundabout Revolves!!

May starts the show season in earnest. We will be at the South of England Meet on 9/10 May and NEC for the Classic Sportscars International on 23/24 May, both events deemed to be very successful.

Take a good look at this months Events Calendar as there is much to do apart from the above.

Having just completed mv GT6 Restoration and aetting the MoT, it is now licensed to drive and I am enjoying Spring in the most sporting way, I suspect many members have just wheeled their Club cars out for the summer season.

Having not driven my

GT6 for some 4 years, the feeling of sheer enjoyment came back within minutes of being behind the wheel and of all the fun I have missed in having the car off the road. Club cars are for DRIVING.

Enjoy yours this summer.

TSSC Insurance

March sets a record month for TSSC Insurance with more and more members benefiting from the Club Scheme, Insurance rates in general have shot up and many with very limited cover. TSSC Insurance offers the complete range all agreed value and rates more comprehensive than ever before.

We have many calls every month from members in dispute with their insurance companies regarding Agreed Value Cover.

DO NOT MAKE THEIR MISTAKE.

TSSC INSURANCE 021 561 4196 Ask for TSSC Insurance

VALUATIONS 0858 434424



CLUB HEADQUARTERS

Saturday mornings are becoming very busy affairs at Club HQ — We will be CLOSED on May 9th and 23rd as we are at Club events.

We have had very large deliveries of Club Offers into our warehouse at H/Q including our biggest exhaust stock holding. It is still best to ring first to check stock levels but in the main we have stock of all Club Offers from Brake Pipes to Alloy Wheels.

Work has commenced on Phase two of the Clubs H/Q - hopefully will have much for you to see by late May.

International Weekend

Only 2 months away from the Club's major event at Stafford on 18th & 19th July, see booking form in this months Review. Help is still reauired and any further ideas, on making this a weekend to remember are most welcome. TSSC Traders have completely booked the main hall. Also see concours Rules and Prep guide in this Review. SEE YOU THERE.



Sponsored by Footman James, Specialists in Classic Car Insurance and Dominion Insurance Co Ltd.

The Triumph Event of the Year

JULY 18th/19th 1992

- The largest Triumph Event
- The most important TSSC Concours
- The largest Triumph Trade & Autojumble display
- ALL UNDER COVER

Plus camping, entertainment, sideshows Gymkhana & MUCH MUCH MORE. Full information and booking form 0858 - 434424



NEW DIRECTORS

Welcome this month to our 4 new directors elected at the Club's AGM Annis Green, Simon Roberts, Tom Longley and David Aspinall.

CLASSIC AND SPORTSCARS INTERNATIONAL NEC BIRMINGHAM, 23rd-25th MAY 1992 DICTATING A GREAT SHOW

The ghosts of Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Juan and Eva Peron could be descending on Bimingham's National Exhibition Centre in May, For cars they once owned form part of a special display at Classic and Sportscars International, the country's leading classic car show. The theme of the show, which runs over the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend (23-25th May 1992) is Cars of State.

Cars of State, however, is only one aspect of Classic and Sportscars International, which promises a feast of action for the classic car enthusiast. As well as those roval runabouts and dictator's droshkies, Classic and Sportscars International plays host to the UK's top onemake car clubs, which will be mounting their own special displays. See Club display there and save money by using the coupon.

Other attractions include a huge Autojumble, 22. T Day housed inside the NEC, a top Auction, Cavalcades and Trade Stands. Don't forget, come and see YOUR club on stand C33B.

KITSON COLLEGE, LEEDS

FULL TIME VEHICLE RESTORATION COURSE (C&G) Your Club members may be interested to learn of a course running within the College. This is a full time vehicle restoration course suited to anvone with an interest in old vehicles. The course lasts for TWO YEARS, at the end of which the students sit a City & Guilds Examination for a Diploma in Vehicle Restoration, For further details please telephone:

LEEDS 0532 774433.

NEWS REVIEW

TOP TRADERS

The following traders have provided satisfactory service to various members:

	Consider Con Committee	Turn and also	04-
	Sports Car Supplies	Tyneside	Parts
	John Kipping	Coventry	Parts
	Cambr. Triumph Spares	Chatteris	Parts
	Six Spares	Twickenham	Parts :
5.	Herald Motor Company	Hockley	Repairs
6.	Spit Bits	Reading	Parts
7.	Clive Manvers	Bury St Edmunds	Parts
8.	Andrew Stone	Darley Abbey, Derby	
9.	Chiswick Car Craff	W. London	
10.	Mac Wallace	Eastleigh	Parts
11.	Blair Engineering	Tayside Machining/	engine parts
12.	G.B. Sports Cars	Leighton Buzzard	Used/Parts
13.	Yeovil Triumphs Spares	Yeovil	Parts
14.	Swindon Classics	Swindon	
15.	S.W. Classics	Totnes	Restoration
16.	Triumph Tune	Richmond	Parts/Tuning
17.	Newton Commercial	Leiston	Trim
18.	John Hill	Redditch	Parts
19.	Motorsport Engineering	Slough	Work
	Prime and Cowles	Halesworth	
21.	Classicar Automotive	Middlewich	Fittings
٠.	T 0		

Send your Top Trader forms to Eddie Evans. 4 Bank Top, Cark in Cartmel, Cumbria LA11.

10TH INTERNATIONAL SPITFIRE WEEKEND, 5TH-6TH SEPT, 1992.

Change of venue for this popular event. Instead of Klein Vink, this year you have some 60 miles less to travel as the venue is Beekse Beraen, Hilvarenbeek, near Tilbura

Committee member Brian Waters has volunteered to co-ordinate the TSSC involvement this year so contact him for more details on (O525) 713448 and watch out for more information next month.

TOTALLY TRIUMPH HAVE MOVED

By the time you read this Totally Triumph will have moved premises. They are now based at Fir Tree Farm, just a mile from the old premises. We apologise to customers for any inconvenience and some # delays in restoration completions. Chris, Paul, Neil, Dave and Phil welcome visits from customers old and new . . .

... put the kettle on Phill



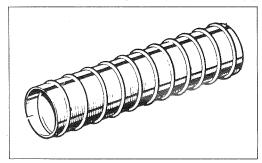
tutorama

IN AND AROUND THE TRADE SCENE

Latest news of Remanufactured panels, parts or other related products of interest.

ARE YOUR CARBS GASPING FOR AIR?

New Line Now Available from Rimmer Brothers



Flexible Air Intake Tubing

Pt No. 616011, suit Spitfire and 1500 models. 2 per car. Priced very reasonably at £2.95. Telephone Rimmer Bros. Hotline on (0522) 568000

SOFT OPTION FOR TRIUMPH'S

As Original BL Equipment Hoods now available. Long awaited additions to the range of soft tops for Classic Triumph sports cars are now available from Rimmer Brothers Ltd. the Lincoln based Triumph parts specialists. The hoods are manufactured by hand, on the original production jigs to ensure a perfect fit. Rimmer Brothers are

offering these new original hoods in black only at:-Spitfire MkIV and 1500 (no. XKC1781) £109.79 + VAT. Ring for other hood prices etc on 0522 568000 or by FAX on 0522 567600 or write to:-Rimmer Bros. Ltd. Triumph House, Sleaford Road. Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln, LN4 2NA.

STANFORD BATTERY SERVICE (est. 1935)

4A & 5A STANFORD ROAD, NORBURY, LONDON SW16 4PY (Phone & Fax O81-679-3962)

am writing to you to introduce our company 'Stanford Battery Service'. We are a small family firm that has been manufacturing batteries since 1935 and we pride ourselves in the quality of our service and being able to supply a battery to the correct specification for almost any vehicle, using our large range of reference material. As a vintage and classic car owner myself I am aware that many genuine parts pass through middle men before coming available to the real enthusiast, Indeed, I am regularly approached by such parties who want to purchase black rubber batteries direct from a manufacturer and sell to the public adding on a considerable margin. We however, will not entertain such customers, we supply direct to the public at our manufacturers prices which tend to range from £22.50 to £44.50 plus VAT. Each battery is made to order and to the customers specification. In many cases we can increase the amperage of the battery by a substantial margin. Delivery of dry batteries is available at a rate of £7.95 plus VAT to anywhere in mainland Britain. We would be pleased to assist any of your members with problems that they

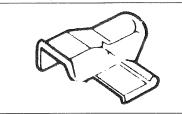
might be having in finding a battery for their car. Additionally we also offer all Club members full trade discount on any modern battery purchased from us whether for a car, motorcycle, lorry, etc.

K M Cluney (Stanford Battery Service).

B POST CAPPINGS

Many members may have found these an elusive part lately. Sportscar Supplies now have plenty in stock at a special offer price of £12,00 inc. VAT & P&P. Telephone:-

O91 496 O522



SPOTLIGHT

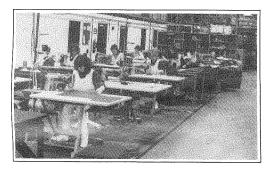
Newton Commercial

Pete Williams

OLLOWING the launch of their exciting new Herald/Vitesse trim range, Richard _____

and Vera Newton were kind enough to invite us down to their headquarters in Leiston, Suffolk, and a very interesting and informative day was spent touring the development and production areas.

Herald/Vitesse trim for saloons and convertibles for all models apart from 948s & 1200 coupés, includes front and rear seat covering kits, door and side panels, mill boards and much more, and now, moulded carpets.



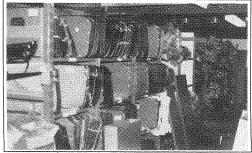
Sewing machine area.



Door panels, map bins, trim boards galore.



The driving force behind Newton Commercial, Richard and Vera Newton.



One of the many stock racks.

Newton Commercial has been established for over 13 years producing high quality trim for classic marques such as MGs, Morris Minors, Austin Healeys, Minis and of course Triumphs. Richard and Vera's approach is of total professionalism which is certainly borne out in the excellent quality of the finished article. Trim brochures detailing the full range available may be obtained from Newton Commercial, Eastlands Industrial Estate, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4LL. Once decided upon, trim can be obtained direct or from the increasing number of Triumph Specialists marketing the range. See adverts in the Courier for further details.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

See further in this Courier for first exclusive article on DIY seat refurbishment using Newton Commercial Herald/Vitesse seat recovering kits.



Mike Crewes

EHICLES registered before 1 January 1973 may have registration marks of white, silver, or light grey letters and figures on a black plate (Regulation 6 of Part II of Schedule 2 of Road-Vehicles (Licensing and Registration) Regulations), or black letters and figures on a reflex-reflecting plate that conforms with BS AG145:1967.

Vehicles registered after 1st January 1973 must display the reflex-reflecting plates Rea. 8). There are exemptions but cars are not among them. A registration plate fixed to the rear of a trailer must conform with the requirements of the vehicle towing it; the same type of plate must be displayed (Reg 8b). It is also worth noting here that if you tow a trailer, the vehicle towing it need not display a rear number mark whilst the trailer is towed. This is so that, the rear reaistration plate may be taken off the towing vehicle and fixed to the trailer. The registration number displayed on the trailer MUST be the same as that displayed on the towing vehicle. The registration number must be displayed on flat, rectangular plates or on a flat, rectangular unbroken area on the surface of the vehicle (Reg 9). This means that

COP SHOP

REGISTRATION MARKS

strictly speaking, sticking it to a bonnet is out. Yes, I know E-type Jaguars fit them in this way, but they do occasionally get prosecuted.

Each letter and figure shall be three and a half inches high and five eighths of an inch broad. The total width taken up by each letter or figure shall be two and a half inches except figure '1' (Reg 10). All letters and figures shall be of the prescribed type.

There must be an upper and lower margin of at least half an inch and a side margin of at least one inch. The space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and adjoining figures shall be half an inch, except figure '4', where it shall not be less then half an inch nor more than one and seven sixteenths inches. Between two '1' digits must be more than half an inch but less than 2 inches (Reg 11).

If the registration mark is in two or three lines the distance between the lines must be three quarters of an inch. The distance between letters and figures must be one and a half inches (Reg 12). Embossed or pressed plates do have more tolerance in the spaces, but I think that if you buy these plates they will normally conform.

Motorcycles have different measurements which are available on request. There are also regulations for letters and figures that are only three and one eight inches high, but these plates are rare. Specifications available on request. This is also the smallest size characters that you may display.

That, briefly, is the regulations regarding Registration Plates. ALL registration numbers MUST comply with these regulations, even if they are personalised or cherished numbers. If your registration mark is incorrectly displayed, you face prosecution.

Many spares shops will tell you that stick-on number plates will not pass the MoT test. This is incorrect, providing that they conform to the regulations there will be no problem. Many trailers are fitted with stick-on registration plates that have been made by their owners and which conform to the regulations. They are perfectly lead.

If you have a query or topic on Road Traffic Legislation, why not write to Mike Crewes:-

112 Blackmoor Wood, North Ascot, Berks. SL5 8EN. Always enclose a S.A.E. please.

The COURIER 9





IGHT, time for a quick experiment, close your eyes and read these words. Er . . . OK so it's a bit difficult reading with your eyes closed, so read them first then close your eyes and think about what images they conjure up: Countach . . . Testarossa . . . Diablo Carrera . . .

Now I suppose it is possible that some of you may have filled your minds with images of dodgy Italian restaurants or designer clothes lables, but, if you're like me, it's more likely that you became momentarily lost in a fantasy world of wastrel elegance, of fast cars, loose women and bulging wallets, a world which few of us ever experience outside the cinema or away from our TV sets. It just goes to show how easily our brains can be controlled by those oh-so-clever and oh-so highly paid people who's job it is to think up names for cars, and it also makes me wonder where on earth these people get their ideas from. Is it really possible that the Hyundai Stella was named after a famous French lager, or that the Volkswagen Polo is the namesake of the mint with the hole? And what ever possessed Ford to name their smallest car after a pornographic magazine and their largest one after an independent television company? I seem to recall Jasper Carrot once suggesting that car manufacturers should give their products titles that better suggested the true characteristics of the vehicles concerned.

Mr Carrot thought this could well result in the launch of such stunning and memorable vehicles as the Vauxhall 'INCIPID' and the Mercedes 'GROSSENPRICEN'. Perhaps we would also see the birth of the Yugo 'BARGEPOLE' and the Cosworth 'BROWN TROUSER'. I suppose it's quite unlikely that we shall ever see such cars in the showrooms, but it is a nice thought non the less!

I should at this stage point out that not all car manufacturers direct a large chunk of their revenue into the important job of christening their latest creations. For example, Volvo prefer to direct a large chunk of their revenue into deciding which company director gets half of his phone number stuck on the boot lid of their newest arrival. A rather interesting approach and one I believe they picked up from Boeina! You may be wondering what has sparked off this sudden interest in car names. Well, those of you who like to keep abreast of what's happening in the world of new cars, may have noticed the recent launch of two vehicles bearing some rather familiar sounding names. I am referring to the Ford 'Courier' and the Seat 'Toledo'. Now I wonder why these manufacturers should decide to resurrect the names of two Triumphs for their vehicles, not that their is anything wrong with this as I assume any copyright that may have been held had since expired, but it does make me wonder. Perhaps Ford are hoping that their Fiesta based van will one day become as collectable as its Herald based namesake is today, although I somehow doubt that it will be. I personally DON'T feel that the Fiesta has quite as much character as the Herald, but then again I suppose I am a little biased as I own a Herald.

As far as the 'Toledo' inconcerned, I must admit I am a little confused as to exactly what aspects of the Triumph model Seat hope their car will develop, although I'm sure that Toledo owners across the country would be able to furnish me with an endless list of attributes that their cars boast and which any Seat would be glad to have. As interesting as this list would be, I must ask any Toledo owners reading this article to restrain themselves from submitting such an item as the Post Office

SPIKE SPEAK COLUMN

is already overworked and would probably collapse completely under the sudden increase in mail! I wonder if this sudden interest in bygone cars names could possibly mark the beginning of a new trend. resulting in the resurrection of all the old classics in the guise of modern cars. Perhaps Peugeot will soon be taking our breath (and cash) away with a sleek, fast two door coupe called a 'Prefect' or maybe Vauxhall will be telling us that their all new 'Cresta' is every car we'll ever need. Will Nissan be dropping 'XK120 GTi's' out of cargo planes to make their latest contribution to the world of vehicle advertising? Or will Skoda decide to bring their range of new cars upmarket with the unveiling of a aleamina new 'Messerschmitt' three wheeler at next vears Geneva Motor Show? I could go on forever with these wild and uncontrolled ramblinas but you would probably all get rather bored (assuming you aren't already) so I shall sian off now and leave you with one final thought. Could there possibly be any truth in the rumour that next summer will see the launch of the elegant and stunning new Lambourahini 'Dolomite'?



TRIUMPH HERALD TOWN & **COUNTRY** SALOON

N the U.K. a twin carb version of the 948cc saloon was launched in late 1959. This was basically a saloon fitted with a coupé enaine and transmission.

In Australia the twin carb saloon was sold as the Triumph Herald 51 Town & Country saloon. The 51 in the title came from the power output of 50.5 (51) bhp at 6000rpm. Externally the Town & Country Saloon was distinguished from the single carb saloon by a pointed side flash below the chrome strip/above the swage line.

The twin carb saloon was an

improvement over the rather the Town & Country Saloon underpowered standard saloon. Performance figures the Australian Motor Industries showed that it could nearly single carb variant. match the 948 coupé in per- 1 have 20 U.K. twin carb formance (Table 1). It could saloons on the TSSC Register not quite match the coupé because of a weight penalty (extra glass, etc) and poor The commission number is aerodynamics. The coupés prefixed GY (Y denoting twin steeply sloping back window carbs), and the body numbers probably helped to smooth GC. The 'oldest' car is GY440 out the air flow around the tail end. The (twin carb convertible suffered similar 'aerodynamic constraints and had a The body number sequence performance closer to the T.C. (GC) was shared with the Saloon than the coupé.

In the U.K. the twin carb saloon the normal saloon and £6

was £29 more expensive than

(compared with 68 U.K. single carb saloons).

(body GC7922) and the 'youngest' GY9973 (body number not recorded).

single carb saloon.

was £33 more expensive than (Source for Australian 51 Town & Country saloon - Modern more expensive than the Motor, 12/1960, p.32-33, supcoupé at launch. In Australia plied by Mr A. Barton.) 🚙

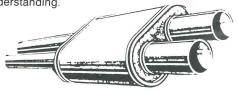
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TABLE 1: COMPARA	TIVE PERFORMA	NCE OF SALOON, T	C SALOON, COU	IPE, CONVERTIBLE.
	948	948	948	948 (TC)
	SALOON	TC SALOON	COUPE TC	CONVERTIBLE
Top speed (best)	71.5mph	79.6	80.0	79.0
Stand. ¼ mile	24.3 sec	23.2	22.4	23.0
Max speed 1st	18mph	22	22	22
2nd	31	38	38	38
3rd	53	64	65	64
O-30mph	7.1 sec.	7.O	6.1	7.1
O-40	12.1	11.1	10.1	11.3
O-50	19.3	15.5	15.5	16.1
O-60	30.4	25.5	23.2	26.5
20-40mph	13.1	16.0	14.4	16.2
30-50	15.3	17.9	14.7	18.4
40-60	23.2	22.9	17.9	23.8
MPG mileage	32.4(1083)	36.3 (284)	33.2 (1229)	27.6 (955)
Test	Autocar	Modern Motor	Autocar	Autocar
Reference	1734	12/1960	1729	1788

SHORTS COTTAGES, MOUNT PLEASENT FARM, 16FT BANK, CHATTERIS, CAMBS. PE16 6XL

10% discount to all members, please remember to mention this when you telephone as correcting this afterwards is not always possible. For the benefit of new Courier readers, we offer 10% discount off our normal retail prices to members who quote us their membership number. However, the prices advertised here are not subject to further discount as they have already been reduced.

Due to changes in the law, our advertised prices now include VAT. However the prices we quote you over the phone or list in our catalogue DO NOT INCLUDE VAT. We hope this

clears up any misunderstanding.



EXHAUSTS EXHAUSTS EXHAUSTS EXHAUSTS EXHAUSTS

octored in the second	MILD STEEL	STAINLESS STEEL
Herald (state model)	£39.66	£116.33
Vitesse 1600	£71.91 £103.63 £66.62	£105.75 £132.19 £132.19
Spitfire MkI	£76.40 £53.13 £67.69 £61.33 £92.48	£132.19 £105.75 £126.90 £137.48 £145.94
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1300/1500 4 branch manifold	£116.33
Twin box sports system	£116.33

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100 111001 11121		
ENGINES & GEARBOX	List Price	Courler
Engine Fully Reconditioned	468.82	421.94
Gearbox Fully Reconditioned	175.07	152.75
Differential Fully Reconditioned	205.62	185.06
PLEASE STATE MODEL & YEAR WHEN ORDERING		
Front Lower Wing MkIV/1500/GT6III	49.35	44.41
Beer Wing MkIV/1500/GT6III /B I)	139.82	125.61
Front Wing MkIII/GT6 I	55.81	47.59
Front Wing MkIII/GT6 I	88.12	79.31
Front w/arch Repair Mk IV/1500/GT6 III	69.32 22.91	60.81 20.62
Wheelarch Inner/Outer Section	34.07	30.66
Bonnet Under Leading Edge Panel	22.32	20.09
MkIV Headlamp Support Panel MkIV	22.91	20.62
Bonnet Support Tubes MkIV	23.26	20.93
Steel Front 1/4 Valance MkIV	46.41	41.13
Doorskins MkIII/GT6 I/II	20.56	18.50 18.50
Doorskins MkIV Rear Wing Repair (Inner/Outer)	34.07	30.66
Rear Inner Wing (in boot)	35.25	31.75
Rear Lower Valance	34.07	30.66
Valance to Wing Finishing Strip	5.75 135.12	5.18
Boot Lid MkIV Outer Sill Genuine B.L	30.55	121.61 27.50
Outer Sill Heavy Duty Pattern	14.68	13.21
Inner Sill	8.81	7.93
Diaphram Sill	5.87	5.28
Full Floor (Front to Back) Left Hand Full Floor (Front to Back), Right Hand	36.42 36.42	32.78
Front Footwell (State Left/Right)	16.45	14.80
Boot Floor	49.35	44.41
STEEL PANELS - HERALD/VITESSE		
Front Lower Wing Herald 13/60	68.15	61.38
Front Inner Wheelarch Outer Section	34.07	30.66
Front Lower Val. (FIBREGLASS ONLY) .	28.20	25.38
Rubber Bumper Mounting Strip (centre) Rubber Bumper Mounting Strip (corner)	5.87 4.70	5.28
Front Floor Footwell (Ribbed)	28 14	25.32
Rear Floor Footwell	15.21	13.68
Rear Floor Footwell Body Mounting Bracket Under Floor Body Mounting Bracket Under 'B' Post .	8.10	7.29
Body Mounting Bracket Under 'B' Post .	8.81	6.60
Body Joint Strip (Floor join Front/Rear) . Doorskin (Original Press)	8.81 41.12	6.60 37.01
Door Treadplate (As Original)	8.16	7.34
Outer Sill	11.75	10.57
Rear Lower Wing	68.18	61.34
Rear ¼ Val. Herald (Inc. Bumper	00.00	20.09
Mount) Rear 1/4 Valance Vitesse	22.32	20.09
Rear Centre Valance Herald (Inc.		
Bumper Mount)	49.35	44.41
Rear Centre Valance Vitesse	45.82	41.24 13.74
Boot Floor/Side Closure Bootside Rain Channel	15.27 14.68	13.21
TRIM & RUBBER SEALS		
Door Draught Excluder (Furflex) Spit Door Draught Excluder (Furflex) GT6 Draught Excl. (Furflex) Her/Vit Saloon	12.92	11.63
Door Draught Excluder (Furflex) GT6	17.63	15.86
Draught Excl. (Furflex) Her/Vit Saloon	18.80 15.27	16.92 13.74
Draught Excluder Her/Vit Conv Outer Weatherstrip Spit/GT6	8.81	7.93
Inner Weatherstrip	4.11	3.70
Weatherstrip Clips	0.21	0.18
Window Channel Front Her/Vit	8.81	7.93
Window Channel Rear Her/Vit Door Checkstraps	4.11 8.81	3.70 7.93
Checkstrap Gaskets	2.93	2.64
Checkstrap Gaskets	18.80	16.92
Herald/Vitesse Rear Screen Seal	25.85	23.27
Bright Trim Insert (Narrow) with Clip	9.22	8.29
Bright Trim Spit IV/1500 GT6 III, P		3
Pedal Rubbers Bonnet Stop Cones	2.35	2.12
Brake/Clutch Master Rubber Gaiter	4.64	4.17
Handbrake Gaiter	11.16	10.04
Gearstick Gaiter Her/Vit	5.58	5.01
Gearstick Gaiter Spit/GT6 Door Trim Panels Spit/GT6 (PAIR)	7.46 49.35	6.70 44.41
Doortop Vinyl (PAIR)	25.85	23.36
Doortrim Clips	0.25	0.22
Carpet Set Superior Quality Spitfire Carpet Set Superior Quality GT6	76.37	68.73
Carpet Set Superior Quality GT6	88.13 88.13	79.31 79.31
Carpet Set Superior Quality Her/Vit Hood Spit IV/1500 Original Quality	76.38	68.74
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		Price
Hood Her/Vit Original Quality	88.13	79.31
Header Rail Seal	11.16	10.05
Seal Retainer	13.51	12.16
STEERING & FRONT SUSPENSION		
Steering Rack (Exchange)	34.08	30.67
Standard Rubber Rack Mounting	2.59	2.33
Top Ball Joint	9.40	8.46
Track Rod End	6.46	5.82
Vertical Link	41.13	37.01
Stub Axle	21.74	19.56
Front Brass Trunnion (STANPART)	14.10	12.69
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Eight Inner Wishbone Bolts & Nylocs	6.11	5.50
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Rear Driveshaft New (State Model)	52.88	47.59
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Her/Vitesse locking petrol cap	£5.50
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🔙 IRST this month, an apology, I am sorry about last month, my fault, I missed the deadline so this time you have two articles combined into one!

THE SEVENTH BOND EQUIPE WEEKEND.

Saturday and Sunday 13th/14th June. This is my last as organiser so I hope that there is a good furnout. If you want further details of the event. a location map or a list of accommodation, please drop me a line with a spare stamp enclosed, stating which information you reauire. The main concentration of the events will be on Sunday, so that is the time to come if you can only make it for the one day,

I would like to thank all of those who have written or telephoned me regarding the impending end of my stint as Register Secretary, no I will not change my mind but as I stated last month, you have not lost me completely watch this space for further details.

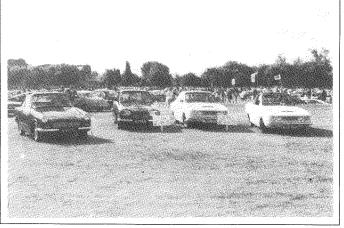
Some time ago I had some correspondence and indeed a telephone conversation with Richard Dittman in Quebec, Canada, are you still out there Richard? How are your conver-



Patrick Rinderknecht's very smart 2 Litre.

tibles doing and did the magazine article ma- If anyone wants any spares and they will be terialise? In addition to Richard I have in the past dealt with Equipe owners in Holland, France, Sweden, Greece, South Africa and Australia. All this goes to show that Bond did their bit for the export drive in the sixties. Recently I received a letter from Patrick Rinderknecht of Switzerland, saying that he hopes to

at the Bond Club event at Morecambe on Spring Bank Holiday weekend I can arrange to deliver Have you any spares for Equipes that are in your way and you wish to dispose of? If so please give me a call and/or bring them along to the Weekend and we might be able to convert your spares into cash!



Bond Reg. at Classic Car Roadshow, 1991,

attend this years Equipe Weekend, and also a picture of his smart 2 Litre (previous page). Now on to a spares request. Can anyone help out with front quarter lights for a 2 Litre? I have two owners looking for replacements, please give me a call if you can help. I should have some news next month on a supply of side trim strips for 2 Litres. Don't forget that I can supply reproductions of all the Equipe badges as well as Commission plates, door glass and 2 litre (and late 1300) front seat support diaphragms.

Once every twenty years an event called the Preston Guild takes place in the town of that name. Obviously the Equipe has a unique connection with Preston, as Bonds were the only car manufacturer to be based in the town. The event takes place this year in early September and the organisers would welcome a selection of Bonds to take part in a display at the event.

Any members particularly those in the north of the country requiring further details, please give me a call Still on the subject of events, this months picture (oppo-

site)was taken at the last of the Popular Classics Roadshow of 1991 which took place in Peterborough. The cars on show are the same four Equipes that were featured in the Popular Classics article in March 1990. They are 2+2 516 FYL (owned by me), Dennis Watsons 4S 127 EEW, 2 litre coupe MRY7F now owned by my wife but when the article was written Peter Prime was the owner, and lastly Keith Dungworths well known convertible NJA 791G. . . . Well I think that will do for this month, time to start next months effort!

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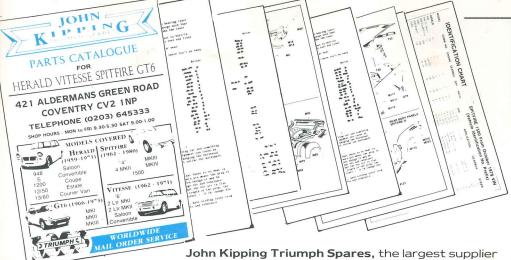


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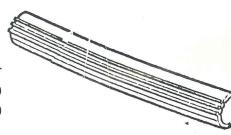
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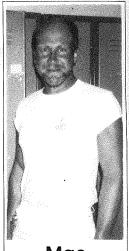
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Mac Reynolds

I, the first of this months two featured Vitesses (trying to clear the backlog of photos)... both of them convertibles... spring in the air... hoods down . . . and all that . . . belongs to Shaun Mitchell (Dunstable) it's a MkI 2 Litre, rea number OYW 353F, chassis number HC 7260CV. First registered 1/11/67 ... and finished in red ... mileage is currently at 88,000 and it's used every day . . . well done Shaun . . . and well done also to Shaun's pretty young daughter 'Holly' who is helping to keep OYW spick and span ... (you're never to young to love a Vitesse! ...).

Barnett-Smith (Bournemouth), it's a 2 Litre Mkll. first registered on 13/2/70 ... registration no Kenlow fan, alternator, electronic ignition, rear CLT 8H, chassis number HC55454CV. Finished in white with a black interior ... Gavin has own-name but a few ... four years ago she also ed her for 10 years . . . and has recently com- had a body off restoration at S.W. Classics



The other featured Vitesse is owned by Gavin pleted an engine rebuild (after 133,000), She is complemented by several modifications . . telescopic shocks, inertia seat belts... to (Totnes) the chassis being dip galvanised. Gavin only uses her in the summer months now so I'll look forward to catching up with you at one of the shows

> On the subject of modifications, a very popular and simple way to improve our cars . . . is to fit a stainless steel exhaust system . . . the main advantage is obviously the long life . . . once fitted, hopefully remaining there for the rest of the cars life (most systems come with a lifetime guarantee). Only the rubber mountings requiring periodic attention/replacement . . . these stainless systems also look much smarter than a heap of rusty plumbing hanging from the underside of your car . . . and in the long term

can actually work out cheaper... one good auality stainless system fitted once . . . against (how many?) mild steel systems... one every three years perhaps? Not forgetting to take into consideration ... time/charges for to mention the inconvenience of having the car off the road ... but a word of warning here ... when purchasing your stainless system . . . there is no problem if you can examine it prior to purchase ... but if you buy using mail order (as I did recently), BEWARE . . . the system I received I was far from happy with . . . the rear box having to be returned due to a hole the size of a finger nail in the weld... the point that I want to make is that the trader/supplier (no names, no pack drill!...) did not make it clear when I placed my order that due to the very competitive price the exhaust's quality had suffered, in fact in my opinion it was quite 'shoddy' with several faults and non-original points.

What I am saying is . . . if you do order something over the telephone . . . question the person on the other end, is it original?, is it remanufactured?, what is the quality? It may save you a lot of ... effort and grief ... another ... 'What not to do' (as I also did!!) is to not remove the old exhaust system (however bad) before unwrapping and checking its replacement . . . unfortunately I had passed the 'point of no return' . . (up the proverbial creek! . . .) the old exhaust fell off (fell off in bits...) The car needed for work in the morning... and the replacement nowhere near the standard I expected or required . . . so with the situation I was faced with I had to fit it (with some modifications)

On a plus note, for one of my other Mklls I have purchased a complete sports system (BELLS SILENCERS, Club Offers), these are a GOOD quality systems, worth the money . . . AND THOROUGLY RECOMMENDED

A quick tip if you are fitting your own exhaust . . . the job is made 100% easier if you remove the engine side screens to allow access to the manifold . . . and it is like all other jobs . . . when you have the side screens off you could give this a good clean up . . respray maybe? or clean down the now easier accessible engine . . . the iobs are endless . . .

Still in the area of stainless steel . . . I recently gave my MkII wheel trims a bit of a face lift after a winter of Cornish mud/salt they had come to look quite dull with the black paint peeling off ... remove from the car after giving them a thorough wash . . . then with the trims somewhere where no damage can be done . . . driveway, gravel path? or suitably protected bench... liberally apply some paint stripper (nitromors or similar) with an old paintbrush . . . working it round . . . especially the dummy wheel nuts . . . you will find the paint blisters and lifts almost immediately . . . follow the instructions on the tin . . . this normally means now washing off the stripper with white spirit followed by hot water and detergent... (do always

observe any safety instructions on the tin). The trims should be back to the completely stainless look... (some of you may like this) I've seen quite a few cars with trims left like this . . . I've also seen them re-painted to match the body colour . . . I'm not keen...but it's personal choice...this is where the job becomes a bit fiddly and much patience is required . . . after drying the trims, using masking tape... mask off all the bright stainless steel areas... not forgetting the dummy nuts, it's not as difficult as you may imagine if you stick complete strips of tape to the trims... overlapping the areas to be re-sprayed, you can then rub the tip of a pencil/felt tip along the edges outlining the areas to be cut out . . . peel back the tape, cut out the marked areas, then re-stick back down.

... I did two trims at a time . . . first a coat of grev primer followed (after allowing time to dry hard) by a coat of black acrylic, when completely dry the masking tape can be peeled off . . . and if you are careful, re-used to mask the remaining two trims, anywhere that you have not masked 100% can be cleaned off by scraping with a Stanley knife blade or similar and any overspray removed with T cut . . .

... this is a good idea anyway to remove all that old road film and bits of tar... this certainly improves the cars appearance no end... especially if you complete the job by cleaning the tyres... use a rag dampened with a little cellulose thinners . . . works wonders . . . much better than the sometimes over glossy paint, but do be careful with your paintwork . . . and don't leave the rag lying around . . . in case you pick it up later to use on the cars paintwork . . .

.... I've mentioned the bonnet stop cones before and recommend that if you can, use the original have recently discovered that these are still available from your British Leyland dealer, part number 612962 priced at £2.29 including VAT, they do last a lost longer than the remanufactured ones . . .

A question from a recent new member whom I had the pleasure to meet whilst visiting S. W. Classics recently . . . comes from Eric Moore (West Looe) who asks (along with myself and I suspect many members) has anyone a surefire way of improving the Vitesse heater system...

.... a stronger fan perhaps? If you would let me know any ideas or suggestions, I would like to cover ... how to service/fault find with regards to heaters in a future Vitesse Register . . .

must apologise but I did say I would reprint the article on the Vitesse from the Sunday Mirror 1970 but due to the fact that I've mislaid the cutting you will have to wait till next month . . . thanks, take care...cheers

The COURIER

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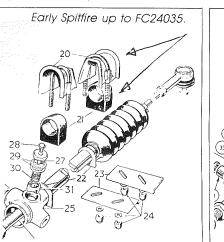


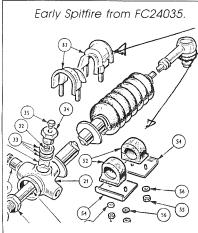
VER the next few months we shall be taking a look at the steering components and observing the differences between models.

STEERING

The steering rack itself never changed for the early Spitfires but a nylon plug was fitted from FC66200 (early 66) to the right hand side which fits under the rubber mounting. The reason for this was to stop the rack rattling inside the body. By the way, if you are going to exchange yours for a reconditioned rack, take the nylon plug out first because the new rack will not have one fitted, Scandinavian countries apart from being left hand drive also had grease nipples fitted as standard to their racks (special order only on British cars etc.). Is there anyone out there willing to send me a couple of photos of these racks to that I can have them printed in the Courier?

Spiffires up to FC24035 (beginning 64) had different rubber mounting blocks. These had no lip for the rack flanges to sit on as there are with the later blocks. The clamp assembly was altered from having a flat upper lid to a curved lip. But no changeover date is given. The clamps were altered once more for the MkIV's etc.





The track rod ends kep the same part number but altered in need some more so if you are godesign. The Scandinavian cars had to have grease nipples fitted (again special order on British cars etc). These are still available as are the top ball joints and well worth fitting. If greased me a ring. regularly they should last a lifetime. The only reason why they wear out is because there is virtually no grease in them to start with. If you do not want to drill holes in them, take the rubber boot off and full them up with grease, or maybe some enterprising trader could remanufacture these items?

The flexible joint which holds the rack to the steering column remained the same but the clamp bolts which hold all three items together changed at FC61199 (beginning of Mklls). The reason being the same as Jasper Bacon commented on not so long ago, not being high tensile and shearing. The correct joints for early time was drawing on and she

SPITFIRE I, II, III REGISTER

Brett Dennis

cars are very hard to come by. These having a wire passing through the other four bolts to that repair was possible by renewing the rubber washers etc. The ones available today are throwaway items, as the bolt instead of wire passing through them have had their ends burred over. These joints found their way onto later Spitfires etc. If you need a joint in a hurry for an MoT etc, then try looking under the dash of a Morris Ital. These should be in good condition

as there is no dirtv oil to contam-

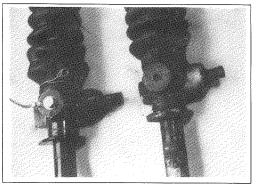
inate the rubber washers.

If you own a Herald or Vitesse and need some new button clips which hold the dash millboards in place, then look no further than a Ford Sierra, just by the foot pedals.

I have been verv pleased with the response for the Spitfire display at this years International, but we still

ing, if only for one day and are willing to display your car, please give

I received a phone call from a very upset lady. She is having her MkIII Spit rebuilt and needed a new front valance. Then she saw the news in Autorama that British Heritage are remanufacturing these items. But every time she tried to obtain one she was told they have not been manufactured. But

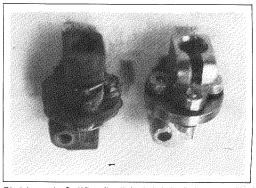


Left early Spitfire steering rack. Right re-designed steering rack for 1500's, same part number stamped on body.

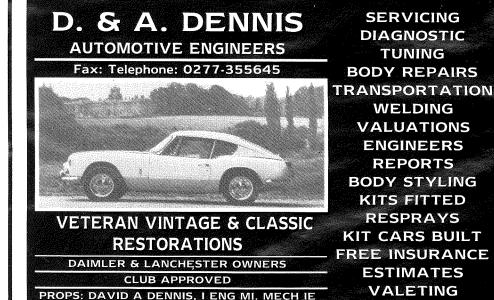
could not put it off for much longer, so she tried again and was told they had made one hundred valances but they were not releasing any for five odd months.

Well they have now lost a customer because she has had to have her old one rebuilt. So what's the hold up? There are people out there wanting the parts and they can't get them. (Can anyone at P.S. don't forget about the display, YOUR club Heritage give us the full story? Editor).

Parts for sale this month are pairs of door seals suitable for Spitfires at £10 a pair, and the correct battery terminal clamps for MkIII Spitfires. These have negative earth written on a yellow plastic sleeving, £6 a pair, all plus postage. Would the gentleman who wrote to me from Reno. Nevada, please send me his address as I have some photocopys for you and I have lost the letter.



Right, eraly Spitfire flexible joint. Left, late Spitfire flexible joint. Next month, a small auiz?



ANDREW P DENNIS

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BRAKING SECTION

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- 1			
	LET'S GET INTO TRIM WITH THESE ITEM Seat cover kit, Spitfire MkIII	S! Inc. VA	Т
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Head gasket set, Herald 13/60-Spiffire MkIII
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Leon F Guyot INTERNATIONAL LIAISON SECRETARY

DEC 1989 FEB. 1992

55



VE just watched Nigel Mansel win his third successive Grand Prix in Brazil — perhaps 1992 will see him finally get the World Championship that has evaded him thus far.

As I write this, my Herald is still in the paint shop in Holland, and as you read this, I should be in Holland myself helping to finish it off prior to driving it home! Whilst the Herald has been away. have put a good deal of effort into my Vitesse project, including re-assembling the epoxy-resin coated front suspension (using Waxoyl to fit the wishbone bushes and not washing up liquid, which is full of salt — as suggested by Peter Williams!) After fitting the suspension to the car, along with anti-roll bars etc. I've actually got to the stage of rolling it in and out of my lock-up garage at long last! That should make working on it slightly easier. I've also bought a TSSC/Bells Stainless Steel exhaust system, although I don't 1989, but it's true! so here goes:-

need it yet,	because	now I	have	it,	it	is	inflation
proof!							

.... My brand new speedometer is being recalibrated and my mechanical tachometer is bing converted to RVC Electric type with parts from a Triumph 2.5 unit, and when I get my Herald back, I'll have the same work carried out converting my Vitesse tachometer therein using parts from a Dolomite 1850, all this work is being carried out by Speedy Cables of Islinaton, London -I'll let you know how I get on in due course. Now, on to International matters, I just cannot believe that I haven't published a breakdown of our International Membership since December

New Zealand	11	15
Nigeria	0	1
Norway	21	27
Polana	1	1
Portugal	11	21
Singapore	0	3
South Africa	7	6
Spain	10	11
Sweden	16	20
(Thanks to Triumph Clu	ub Sweden)	
Switzerland	21	25
Tahiti	0	1
Turkev	0	2
U.S.A.	40	57
Yugoslavia	2	2
Zimbabwe	2	1
TOTALS	487	670
That's an increase of	27.3%	

Remember, that we in the TSSC value every single member of the TSSC wherever you may be around the world! I look forward to meeting as many of you at the Stafford International as possible. please come and look for me at the International Liaison Desk in the main hall.

I've had a letter from Thasos Polyviou who wants to be TSSC Area Organiser in sunny Cyprus, he says there are many many Triumph cars there ranging from TR2-6, Heralds and Vitesses. We would be very grateful to Thasos for increasing awareness/membership of the TSSC in Cyprus, or anywhere else for that matter, as you can see above, we presently only have two members in Cyprus, and it would be nice if that situation could be improved upon!

Austria	3	4
Australia	19	22
Barbados	27	0
Belgium	27	41
(well done TSSC Belgium Are	∍a)	
Bermuda	2	2
B.F.P.O.	21	22
Brasil	2	1
Canada	11	14
Channel Isles	30	34
(Jersey)		21
Guernsey		11
(Alderney)		2
Cyprus	1	2 2
Denmark	9	10
Egypt	1	0
Eire	26	30
Finland	18	29
(thanks to Triumph Club Finl	and)	
France	21	38
(thanks to Amicale Spitfire)		
Germany	76	83
Gibraltar	1	1
Greece	4	7
'Gulf States'	4 2 2 0	4
Hong Kong	2	4 6 2
Israel	0	2
Italy	16	48
(Well done TSSC Italy Area)		
Jamaica	0	1
Japan	5	4
Kenya 🍙	5 0	1 4
Luxembourg 🚩	1	4

shown is a car Hakan once owned (you may see the original painting proudly displayed at the TSSC HQ in Lubenham), from March 85 to January 90 he drove over 100.000km without any real problems, excepting the usual minor ones, like the right hand driveshaft breaking twice (no, not the same one!), the first time it happened, he was driving on a motorway at about 70MPH, when suddenly the engine revs increased but the vehicles speed didn't, he let the car roll as long as possible without applying the brakes, and he now believes it was the correct procedure, although he didn't know it then! At the very moment the car stopped, the rear wheel collapsed. The second time it happened, the wheel came off completely and he had to search for it for rather a long time before he found it in some bushes on the 'wrong side of the road'. This happened right outside his workplace and ALL of his colleagues saw his 'three wheeler'. He has never seen so many smiling faces in the room as on that day! He has a friend who drives a recovery truck and he towed the stricken Herald to it's garage. That evening, Hakan set to

beautiful watercolour by our Swedish friend Hakan

Gulbrandsen, The Herald 13/60 estate BGJ 638

Hakan says that he sees incidents such as these as running adjustments. The reason that he final-Iv sold BGJ 638 was the rust — plenty of it everywhere! Today the Herald is owned by a member of the Triumph Club of Sweden and has been brought back to really good condition. (Old Triumphs never die, they just get restored)

and fitted a new shaft and to everyones surprise.

he drove the car into work the following day, he

tells me that he believes that most of his col-

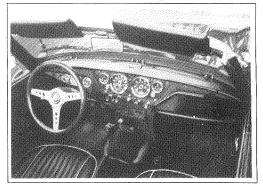
leagues saw the car as a write-off.



Spitfire 4? Body nr FC29805L, Motor no. FK 9088HE, 1300cc. Bonnet, Lenham, fitted 69. O/drive g/box.

Whilst I'm in Scandinavia, I've just heard from Svein Johannessen of Hosle in Norway, who has kindly sent some photos of his lovely Spitfire MkII with a modified Alfa-Romeoesque Lenham GRP bonnet, and doesn't it look good? The photos show it without its optional Lenham hard top and also

The front cover of this months Courier features a show all the work that Svein has carried out trimming the interior since his car last appeared in the Courier in February 1991, with the hard top.



I have recieved news of the 10th International Spitfire weekend in the Netherlands — this year on the 5th-6th September 1992. This year it is NOT at Klein Vink, so don't go rushing off to Arcen out of habit! Instead, it is to be held at the Beekse Bergen at Hilvarenbeek near Tilburg, this is some 60 miles nearer to Britain than Arcen. Beekse Bergen is especially suited to children with lots to do for everyone! Further information, such as prices and accommodation will be printed when received If however, you should wish to contact the organisers in advance: Mike Luiiten, International Spitfire Weekend, Kastanjelaan 131, 4902 RL, Oosterhout, Netherlands (tel: 010-31-1620-32796). If you do telephone please remember that the Dutch remain one hour in front of BST, N.B. You don't need to drive a Spitfire to attend, all Triumphs and Triumph enthusiasts are equally welcome! (I hope to see members of the Triumph Spitfife Club of the Netherlands at our TSSC International this year).

One final note about the STIR 17 on 30th-31st May 1992. For those of you in difficulty finding it on the map, it is being held at the Domain Puvenbroeck Country Park, near to Wachte Beke, which is approx. 10 miles north east of Ghent in Belgium.

It can be found on Junc. 11 of the E17 Autoroute/-Motorway, Remember that if you wish to reserve a place for the Saturday evening dinner (6.30pm-10.00pm) the cost is 515BF/about £9 each, or the Sunday morning breakfast, cost is 195BF/£3,50 each. You must send your reservations on a postcard to STIR XVII, 103 Arabislaan, NL-2555 DJ, The Hague, Netherlands. Send NO money, pay on arrival at the event.

This is the most important European All Standard-Triumph meet of 1992 and I understand that no less than 33 Triumph Clubs have been invited! N.B. Pets are not allowed in Puyenbroeck, except for your Triumph! (JOKE).

Whilst we are in' Belgium, I must mention TSSC Belgium areas participation at the Oldtimer show

The COURIER 27

Malawi

Netherlands

Malta

Nevis

Andorra



Oldtimers show, Ghent, Belgium. Early spring 92.

in Ghent, the organiser and Triumph fanatic (Mr. Maruleyt!, can't read Stefans writing!) kindly placed the TSSC stand together with other Triumph Clubs, four TSSC cars on were on show, including Claude Buntix's superb Vitesse 2 Litre MkII Convertible in British Racing Green, unfortunately, the photo of his car won't reproduce in the Courier. TSSC Belgium, and other TSSC International Areas will be able to collect TSSC literature/banners etc. at this years TSSC International in Stafford — THE **EVENT** for 1992! By popular demand, this year the Distance Award is coming back, to stay! A prize will be awarded for the TSSC type Triumph that has been driven from the longest (direct) distance to the Stafford International. To qualify for entry, please get a petrol reciept or equivalent receipt at your place of departure (home) and write your mileage/kilometerage from your odometer/mileometer on the back when setting out, and again when arriving at Stafford, also your car type, reaistration number and your name, legibly! All entries to the International Liaison desk by noon on Sunday 19th July. The judges decision is final and conclusive.

Peter Davis is the rally director of Le Deuxieme Rallye D'Alsace, (La Rallye pour tout voitures fabriquees avant 1975) due to take place on 14th-19th September 1992. It all sounds like a really good event, not so tough on drivers/cars as any of the Snobbish Pirelli events (my personal opinion). For the Rallye D'Alsace your car must be 1975 or older, you will need your MoT certificate and a crew of two. Team entries of three cars are encouraged with cash prizes! To emphasise the easy-going nature of the event I can say that there are visits to the Schumpf Collection or the railway museum at Mulhause, and afternoon in Riquewhir. another in Nancy, also visits to Rheims, Laon and Amiens. The provisional entry fee for a car and two

people will be £845 including return ferry, 7 nights

accommodation in 3 star hotels and the reception dinners. Applications for entries open on 29th February 1992 and close on 12th June 1992, and must include a deposit of £45 per crew, if accepted, 50% of the balance becomes due on the 12th July 1992, and the remainder on 12th August 1992. For more information, please contact Peter Davis at Rallve office, Quantock House, Rectory Road, Staplearove, Taunton, TA2 6EL. Tel:- 0823 333127....

On the subject of rallies, a brief note about the 15th British Sports Car Days rally, organised by the British Sports Car Owners Club of Luxembourg, commencing Friday night 26th June 1992,

and running until Sunday 28th June 1992 and will be based at the Hotel Bisdorff in Berdof. If interested, please write or phone before 1st June 1992, to Jean Hansen, Op Pelgert, L-6970. Oberanven, Luxembourah.

Tel:- 348442 (evenings) or FAX 349292.

or:- RIA Caldwell, P.O.B. 10, L-6150, Altlinster, Luxembourg. Tel:- 789322 (evenings).

I've just received a copy of the German language magazine of the 1st Spitfire Club Deutschlands for which I thank our German Triumph owning friends. Mention is made therein of the 3rd Spitfire weekend in Schleswig-Holstein from 6th-8th June 1992, which is a Treffen fur Triumph Spitfire und Klassische Englische Fahrzeuge (meeting for Triumph Spiffires and Classic English Vehicles), for further information contact:-

Spitfire IG Schleswig-Holstein c/o Thomas Peters and Susanne Conradus, Gerberstr 28, 2200. Elmshorn, Germany. Tel: - 04121 25786.

Unfortunately, my German isn't very good, but if you are interested in the above event. I would recommend that you contact them as soon as possible!

Next month, I will produce a special feature on the IVth Giro Del Polesine of the Auto & Moto Storiche Rovigo in Italy, held in association for the first time with the TSSC Italy Area, this rally will take place on 21st-22n September 1991, and of course it will take place during 1992 around the same time. I will provide contact points for members interested in the 1992 event — it sounds fantastic watch this space.

That's all for now, see you soon.

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John Thomason 1500 REGUSTER

HIS months heading photo is sent in by Stan Robottom of Cannock. Staffs and features his Vermillion X reg Spitfire 1500. It was first reaistered on 4th August 1981 and has a a commission number TFADIAT-009234. It would appear that in the March Courier I got my numbers muddled up when I said that Maggie Taylor's Spitfire 1500 (TFADWIAT-008913) was the 76th Spitfire from last produced, implying that the last Spitfire was TFAD 008989. In fact the last produced was TFADW5AT009898, an overdrive model (indicated by the '5' AT) now owned by British Leyland Heritage. Sorry for the mix up. After such a good response for heading photos of late 1500 Spitfires, please send in your shots of early Spit IV's to feature on this page.

BODYWORK

Today the majority of body panels necessary to rebuild a Spitfire are again available, making it possible to rebuild any Spitfire no matter how far. As a general rule and from experience, as far as 'aone' (figure 1, overpage).

Whether it is economical to do so is entirely up to you and your motives. Replacing a large number of body panels can add up to a considerable expenditure (table 1, over page), not withstanding labour costs (or your own time and effort). Remember there are still Spiffires around that have been looked after and don't require extensive body repairs.

Before deciding to follow the rebuild route, give the bodywork a really thorough going over to establish the extent of the corrosion and the number of new panels required. Even then,

expect to find more corrosion once panels start to be removed.

external body panels are concerned, I would advocate replacement of the complete panel as opposed to local patch repairs.

Take for example the rear wina. Although the complete panel (£115) may cost more than the repair panels (lower front £11, wheel arch £32 and lower rear £13).

I believe that the extra cost is more than compensated for by the greater amount of time and effort spent cutting out and fitting the repair panels and making good with filler.

In addition, with local repairs you can never be entirely sure that rust doesn't exist elsewhere

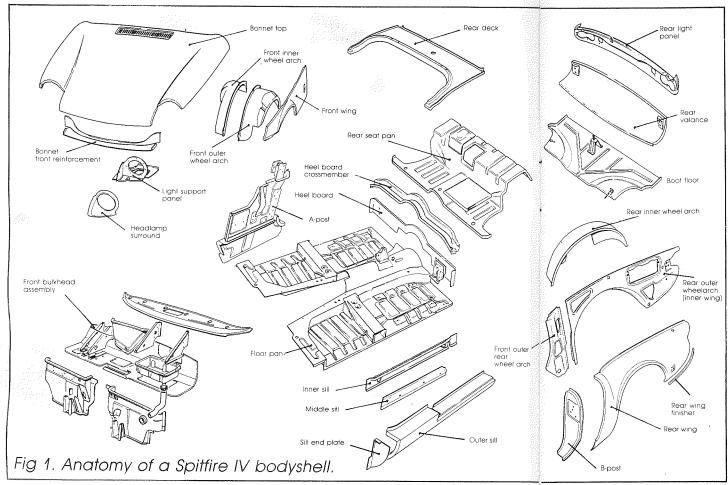


TABLE 1 Penjacement nanel costs

	TABLE 1. Replacemen	ii panei cos	15
1	2x outer sills	The state of the s	£52
2	2x middle sills		£8
3	2x inner sills		£18
4	2x sill end plate		£10
5	2x full floor pans		£96
6	2x rear inner wheel	arches	£52
7	2x rear outer wheel	arches	£90
8	2x rear wings		£130
9	2x rear wing finisher	rs	£8
10	1x boot floor		£53
11	1x rear valance		£30
12	1x rear light panel		£70
13	1x boot lid		£120
14	2x front wing		£80
15	2x front outer wheel	arch	£70
16	2x front inner wheel	arch	£60
17	2x headlight suppor	t panels	£35
18	1x bonnet front reinford	cement	£23
19	2x front quarter valo	ances	£90
20	2x door skins		£42
	•	Total	£1137

N.B. Prices are for original panels but don't include VAT. Savinas will be achieved by shopping around or using 'pattern' panels.

and may break through at a later date. With the whole of the old panel removed, the inner panels can be thoroughly inspected and treated accordingly. At the end of the day, with no filler to give 'sinkage' or for the insurance man to find, should you be unfortunate enough to have a bump, and immediately use an excuse to reduce your claim through 'betterment'.

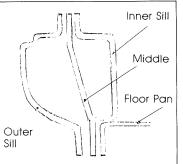
Again although more expensive, wherever possible, I would recommend using 'original' as opposed to 'pattern' panels, some of which just don't seem to fit as well, e.g. outer sills. The flanges on pattern sills aren't the same as on the originals and some are manufactured from thinner gauge material.

As regards internal body panels, dependant upon the extent of the corrosion, I would tend towards welded local repairs, Internal panels of the body and as such tend to be more difficult to replace. In addition they are usually structural and care needs to be taken in adequately supporting/jigging the body during replacement to avoid distortion being built into the body. Finally, although structural, internal panels don't necessarily require the same level of finish Having established the work that is required and which panels you wish to replace, a question asked by many is 'WHERE DO I START?' The following lists the order in which I would consider rebuilding the body, assuming that the majority of the panels require replacement or repair. As with all the body repairs I

tend to be a more integral part

would advise keeping the body on the chassis, even if the body is to be removed to change/repair the chassis. This maintains datum points and supports the body during the repairs. If you have a hard top fit this as well for additional support.

1. SILLS. The sills comprise 3 panels which form a rigid box section (fig. 2) and are probably the most important structural components



on the body. If these are not sound and straight then they can upset the rigidity and integrity of the remainder of the body. They should therefore be considered the first to replace (see Bernard Robinsons current series on sill and floor replacement). With the outer sill removed (fig. 3) the condition of the middle sill can be ascertained. Except in very bad cases the inner sill doesn't usually need complete re-

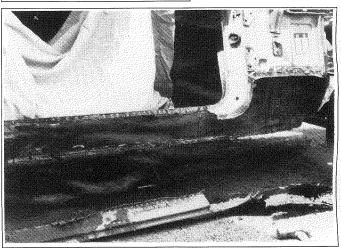


Figure 3. Outer sill removed revealing middle sill and corrosion to bottom of A post. Note the drilled out spot welds.

placement and can be locally repaired. As with all the repairs listed here, finish the repair on one side of the car before proceeding to the other side.

2. A-Post. The bottom of the A-post is probably one of the most rust prone areas on the Spitfire. Although visible from inside the car, the true extent of the corrosion is more easily seen and repaired with the outer sill removed (fig. 4, over), and should therefore be repaired before replacing the outer sill. Replacement of the complete A-post should not be necessary unless corrosion is so extensive as that shown in figure 5 (over). In this case great care and extensive measurements and bracing should be made before changing the complete A-post, otherwise it will affect the correct positioning of the door hinge mountings, windscreen and front bulkhead.

3. Sill end plate. With the A-post repaired/replaced and the outer sill welded in place, the Sill end plate can be welded in place together with any local repairs that may be necessary to the front bulkhead in that region.

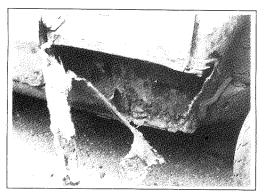


Figure 4. The extent of corrosion isn't revealed until the sill is removed.

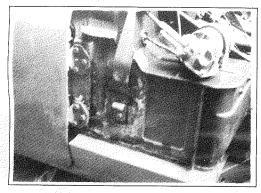


Figure 5. Serious corrosion of the upper part of the A-post will lead to sagging doors and windscreen.

4. Floor pans. With the sills and A-post sound and straight, attention can turn towards (a) the area around the bottom of the A-post, (b) along the

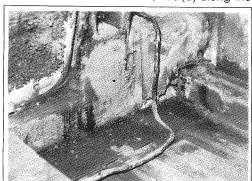
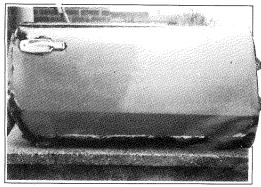


Figure 6. Typical repairs around the A-post and front footwell Old repairs such as these should be removed and started again.

anchor points and (d) around the seat belt anchor the wheel arch.

points and (e) the rear healboard around the rear radius arm fixings. Whether to local repair (fig. 6) or replace the complete floor pan (ie one side of the car) will depend upon the extent of the corrosion. Alternatively only the front or rear half of the floor pan need be replaced. If replacing the complete floor pan (ie one side), then it is easier if the floor cross member is removed first. 5. Doors. An area often forgotten with sill replacement is the B-post and the interface with the inner and outer rear wings. The body will still sag if these panels are not structurally sound since they 'continue' the strength of the sill 'box section' to the rear of the car. This then should be the next area of attention. However since this may well involve the fitment of new rear wings, I would first repair the doors and fit them to the car. This way should there be insufficient adjustment of the door hinges to achieve a good rear wing/closer gap (badly fitting door skins?) then a certain amount of fore/aft adjustment of the rear wing can be accommodated during replacement. Unless the corrosion is very small, then a replacement door skin is the only way of achieving a satisfactory job. Welded patches usually result in distortion of the large unsupported door skin, while considerable filler/work is required to make good. The soundness of the filler is questionable with continual slamming (?) of the door. Unless left to fester, corrosion of the door sill is usually minimal and only a new door skin is required. If the bottom of the door shell is badly corroded (fig. 7.) then a repair panel can be fitted (don't forget drain holes), although a 2nd hand door with a good shell but rusty skin can be picked up cheaply.



Beyond repair! Note corrosion extending right up to the door handle.

6. Rear wing. As discussed at the beginning, unless the corrosion around the wheel arch and the front and rear lower sections is minimal. I would recommend complete replacement for a good job (fig. 8. over).

This enables the outer wheel arch to be cleaned up/replaced and painted to prevent further edge of the inner sill (c) cracking around the seat corrosion in the double skin that exists all around



Figure 8. In this case a complete rear wing panel will give the most satisfactory repair. Note how the inner wing has been repaired to 'continue' the strength of the middle sill.

7. Rear inner and outer wheel arches. Only with the rear wina removed can the true extent of any corrosion be determined, which may extend to both the inner and outer wheel arches. To repair or replace will depend upon your own evaluation of and the type of car you want at the end of the day, eg repaired but structurally sound or concours. Repair panels are available for the outer wheel arch comprising the actual wheel arch and the area adiacent to the boot floor.

If replacing the outer rear wheel arch (inner wina) don't foraet that together with the rear wing, both are structural, supporting the rear of the car. As such the

rear of the car needs to be adequately supported/braced prior to removing inner and outer wheel arch panels. Undoubted repairs to the heelboard cross-member should be made before replacing the inner wheel arch.

8. B-post. With the inner and outer rear wheel arches repaired/replaced, any repairs necessary to the bottom of the B-post can be carried out before refitting the rear wing. Remember this area is an extension of the sills and hence ensure good solid repairs. If the rear valance and/or boot floor is to be replaced, don't refit the rear wing finishers at this stage.

9. Boot floor and rear valance. The most common form of corrosion here is cracking along the joint with the outer wheel arch (inner wina) and that between the boot floor and rear valance, usually resulting in the boot floor coming adrift. If this is the extent of the corrosion then right angled repair sections can be welded in place. If replacing the complete panels (fig. 9) then provided the rear inner and outer rear wings are sound, then 2 panels can be cut out and replaced at the same time, tack welding in place before final weldina.

10. Rear light panel. Usually replaced as a result of accidental damage, corrosion is usually fairly minimal. However if repairs and filling have to be as extensive as those shown in figure 10 (below), then replacement is simpler than the time and effort spent on repair, especially when all flanges on the panel are nicely exposed for (spot) welding. Again provided the inner and outer wings are sound then the rear light panel, rear valances and boot floor could be cut out and replaced at the same time. Check the gap and fit the boot lid before finally welding in place.

11. Bonnet. As with the rest of the body, I would recommend repair of the bonnet on the car. This enables continuous checking of its alignment to the front bulkhead, sills and doors.

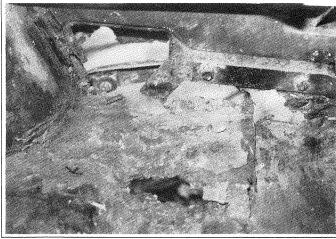
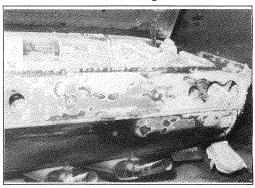


Figure 9. Extensive corrosion to the boot floor and the inner and outer rear winas!



Again replacement of the rear light panel may be simpler than extensive repairs.

Apart from the repair of the leading edge of the bonnet, other repairs are ideally undertaken with the front wings removed. Fortunately (?) the front

wings are usually the greatest source of bonnet. The outer lips of the outer wheel arch is usually corrosion and require replacement. Again, replacement of the whole wing is far better than local repairs. With the wings removed the true extent of any corrosion can be seen.

available, but unless in the condition shown in figure 11, they can be adequately repaired first

badly corroded, but can be repaired although it is a difficult shape to repair and it may be easier to replace the whole outer wheel arch. If so this is easier with the whole (inner and outer) wheel Replacement headlight support panels are arch removed from the bonnet (leave the bonnet support tubes in place).



tery boxes, boot lids windscreen surrounds, gutters etc. can be repaired/replaced as required. Detailed description of the methods and procedures involved in the replacement of the panels mentioned above will be covered in future issues either in this column or by the restoration articles on the Clubs Spitfire 1500 project car. 🚓

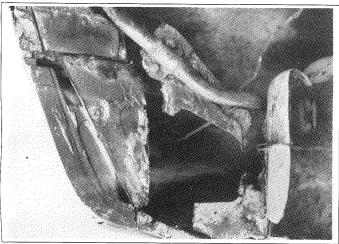


Figure 11. Replacement headlight surround panel is really necessary!

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SPECIALS REGISTER

Trevor Collett Joint Specials Register Secretary

R ECENT references in the Courier to the Falcon Carbibbean have prompted a letter and pictures from Geoff Cowshill of Leicester.

Over to Geoff: Lown a Falcon Caribbean and believe that some of its background and history maybe of intererst to T.S.S.C. members. The main assembly of the car was by Mr K Hardy of Halebarns around 1962-65 using almost exclusively new Herald parts. The body shell was bought from 'Falcon Shells Ltd' of Essex, for £176 15 shillings, who were manufacturers of a range of body shells and special chassis to be adapted mainly for side-valve Fords.

The Herald parts were bought from Drabble and Allen Ltd., a Standard-Triumph dealer on Victoria Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire, It was not registered and driven until 1989 when I completed it, to a roadworthy state, and registered it.



Geoff Cowsill's Falcon Caribbean

There are about 38 Caribbeans on the Falcon Register and I have heard of only four Triumph based models including Mr. Vaga's steam car (see February Courier). My Caribbean has been standing for nearly twenty seven years when I started work on it. The front and rear springs, both specially made liahter, had sagged. The rear I replaced with a second hand MkIV Spitfire item. the fronts with Herald springs and new shocks along with a MkIV Spitfire anti-roll bar. With such a light body this gives a firm (bone-jarring) ride and predictable handling with very little body roll. I had to replace all the brake wheel cylinders due to corrosion damage. The addition of Goodridge stainless hoses and new shoes all round brought the drum brakes up to a reasonable standard for modern traffic (though how they stop a steel bodied Herald, I don't know!)

The engine I stripped and found it to be undamaged by its long period of inactivity. It had

HISTORIC KIT

been fitted with an early Spitfire camshaft and L had the head skimmed to give a ratio of 9:1. Once reassembled with new valve springs and gaskets found the performance disappointing, but traced this to ancient grease (not the mythical kind) preventing the action of the advance/retard bobweights. The twin-carb conversion kit, detailed in the comprehensive file of paperwork and receipts that came with the car, had not survived (an oil cooler kit seems to have met with the same fate of being sold somewhere along the way). I have fitted MkI exhaust and MkII Spitfire inlet manifolds (along with a water pump housing from a 1500TC to provide a feed for the heated inlet manifold), new HS2 carbs and a slightly modified 12/50 Herald exhaust system.

The car runs well and has been reliable though it is somewhat undergeared (4.11:1) for motorway driving and very noisy due to a complete lack of interior trim and carpets. Due to financial commitments (and my airl friends recent Rover '95' P4, e.g. £1000 DIY engine rebuild for starters) the Falcon is now for sale at £1500 one, so if you fancy a challenge (kit completion rather than restoration and with all the hard work done) give me a ring on Leicester (0533) 826862.

Interesting car and interesting story: 27 years, one of the longest build-ups in kit car history?

* new softer springs all round would improve the ride but still let the car handle.

* front drum brakes were adequate for a Herald 1200 but as your Caribbean, like all fibrealass bodies, is somewhat lighter and consequently faster than a Herald, disc brakes would be a good idea. All the necessary parts for a conversion are readily available.

* Lagree that, again due to the light weight of such cars, the 4.11 differential makes the car undergeared for modern motorway cruising, but very effective in the traffic light grand prix.

If you want a Triumph sports car that's got all the attributes of the Triumph sports cars we are more familiar with, good looks, reliable mechanics etc., plus some more, such as exclusivity, 100% rust proof body and a never ending source of conversation, give Geoff a ring and make him an offer. You won't just be buying another car but a small slice of motoring history.

TRIUMPH SPECIALS DAY — as most of you probably worked out for yourselves, a typing error crept into my April reference to this unmissable event. The gathering of Triumph based kits and specials at Brooklands circuit in Surrey takes place on Sunday 23rd August. Be there . . . just be there.

The COURIER 65



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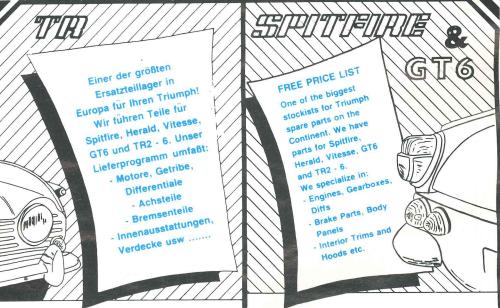
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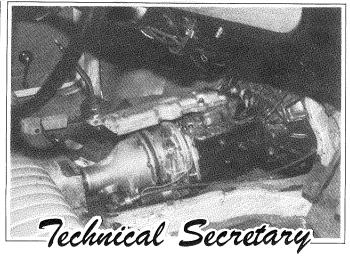
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36 The COURIER

HERALD **OVERDRIVE** Carl Heinlein



'VE been meaning to write this article for some time now having recently moved to a garageless house. I've been busy digging, building and roofing a garage. I'm looking forward to getting the cars in 'from the cold' after four months and starting the de-rusting process. Anyway, to the point;

All the Herald-based cars except the Herald would have used if they had offered overdrive could have been fitted with overdrive as a standard option if required. The Herald was overlooked, presumably because it was felt that the cost of overdrive was high compared to the cost of the cars and that the reduced engine speed, noise and overall refinement was not so necessary as with, perhaps, the Vitesse for example.

948 and MkI 1200s

I am afraid to say that the 948 and early 1200s (Mkls up to commission no GA80000) are much harder to convert than the later cars. This is because the form of the chassis rails around the back of the gearbox is much tighter. The later cars had the rails inset in this area and a crossplate was bolted across between them onto which the gearbox mount was fixed. If your car is an early one, have a look from underneath to check. 948 owners also have some further complications with the bell housing and need to make changes to the clutch and the bell housing to convert, but it is possible (see later).

Gearbox and Overdrive option.

Without more drastic and detailed modifications, there are 3 best options that we have: 1. Spitfire Mkl, II or III overdrive gearbox. This is the gearbox that Standard-Triumph

as an option. The gearbox itself is the same as the Herald box (3 synchromesh and with the same ratios) but it is mated to a Laycock D-type 25% overdrive. 25% is the standard ratio that was used for all our cars and means that when the overdrive is engaged, it increases its output speed by 25%, or, for a given road speed, the engine drops to 80% of its original speed. It is possible to convert your Herald gearbox to overdrive using an overdrive mainshaft and adaptor plate but finding an original overdrive conversion kit or the parts available separately are now fairly remote and you'll probably have to start with a full Spitfire Overdrive Gearbox. The biggest advantage with this box has to be that once the gearbox cover is back on, the gearbox will feel exactly as it did before, which may be important if you have any thought of originality in mind.

EARLY CARS

2. Spitfire MkIV overdrive gearbox.

It is relatively easy to pick up these boxes. As John Thomason pointed out in his article in the February 1992 Courier, the MkIV Spitfire gearboxes up to commission no. FH60000 (end 1973) were fitted with the D-type overdrive. This gearbox is one of the earlier versions because

it has synchromesh on first gear and is stronger internally (the mainshaft is fitted with a better tip bearing and the layshaft gear cluster runs on needle roller bearings rather than bushes). The overdrive is identical apart from a larger output flange.

LATER CARS.

The last few MkIVs were fitted with a different and much stronger overdrive, the J-type. You cannot simply swap the J-type over for the Dtype because the J-type mainshaft and adaptor plate are different. However, as complete gearboxes there is little difference in fitting either.

stronger. The same basic unit was fitted to the 2.5, the Stag and, with developments, is still fitted to some of today's Volvo's (yes, you can Clutch details are shown in Table 1 (below). still buy some new spares, not recon.).

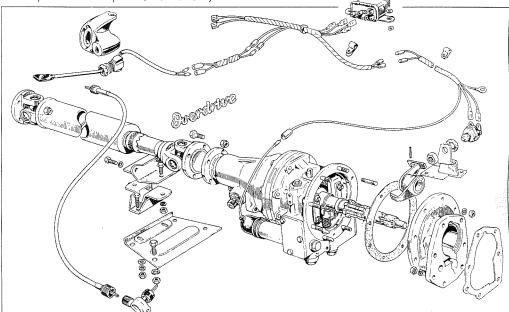
bearing into the Spitfire bell housing. Fit the 948 clutch slave cylinder.

2. It is possible to convert the 948 box to overdrive. Use the mainshaft and adaptor plate from a Spitfire I, II, or III overdrive gearbox and rebuild your current 948 aears around these in the 948 casina.

It is very tempting not to change over the bell housing when swapping gearboxes.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with this but you must be wary of fitting the correct clutch release bearing to suit the clutch you are using. Earlier bearings have a flat thrust face to suit the coil spring design of pressure plate.

Again, the J-type is a 25% unit but is much. The later bearings are rounded to suit the diaphragm clutch design.



Clutch and Bell housing.

The Herald 948's were fitted with a one-piece gearbox casing/bell housing which is unique to our cars. This gives you 2 options when converting to overdrive.

1. You can use the Spitfire aearbox of your choice with a Spitfire bell housing. However, due to the earlier design of the clutch you will need to fit the clutch release bearing and sleeve assembly from the 948. It may be easier to swap the complete 948 release arm and

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Continued next month. The COURIER 39



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Hoods SPIT zip rear window — original quality	
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Moulded carpet set, GT6 (state model)	£188.00
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1992 RACING NEWS

By The Sportsman

ERE we are again at the beginning of a new season of championship racing. Lots of old faces with some new ones and all looking for improvements on last years times. The first practice at Lydden saw eleven cars out, a lower number than we would normally expect, the early venue and the recession have taken their toll. With the rest of the country facing overcast and rainy conditions, we were blessed with dry and bright weather.



Keving Ginger, Peter Stock and Andy Schulz follow Colin Pendle, all trying for fastest practice time. Practice went off well with guest Colin Pendle had a very abbreviated practice with throttle pro-

in his 3.9 injected TR8 2.6 seconds faster than anyone else. Next on the arid was Class A newcomer Peter Stock in the Kingston Sports Cars 'Dominator' GT6 just pipping 1991 championship winner Kevin 'Kamikaze' Ginger, Next row found Andy Schuz (Class A) matching times with Adrian Boyle in the green (Class B) Vitesse.



New man Peter Stock in the Dominator GT6 having set a new Club lap Record Class A 51.2.

The next row saw the Vitesses of John Sadler (Class A) and Tony Lindsey-Dean (Class C) who

blems, Marc Amschwand completed the race in his (Class A) Spitfire. The next row found Class A Spitfires of Pete Whiteman and Jon Wolfe. The last row found David Barnes, the new owner of Guy St John's eye catching yellow/purple Class B Spitfire. Dave was clearly still getting accustomed to the more volatile Spitfire from the Class B Vitesse of last year. The race grid lined up and completed the warm up lap, with the sun just breaking through the cloud



The green lights on and they are off.

The red light showed, engines revved, then the green light and they were off.

Kevin Ginger made full use of his wealth of racing experience and took the initiative over new man Peter Stock. With Peter boxed in behind Kevin, Andy and Adrian took the outside line and Peter found himself demoted to 6th position with the matching red/white Vitesse of Tony Lindsey-Dean bearing down on him, closely followed by John's Vitesse, Marc, Peter and Dave's Spitfires, Before the first lap was complete Colin Pendle slowed and left the track with mechanical problems, Kevin Ginger pulled out an ever increasing lead. After 3 laps Kevin had gained a lead of about 12 car lenghts, whilst Adrian had slowed with a broken gearbox. Andy Schulz was trying desperately to hold off the attention of the ever closing Peter Stock with Tony Lindsey-Dean right behind. Marc Amschwant and Peter Whiteman were settling to a bumper to bumper chase. Dave Barnes bringing up the rear was still getting to terms with his new car.

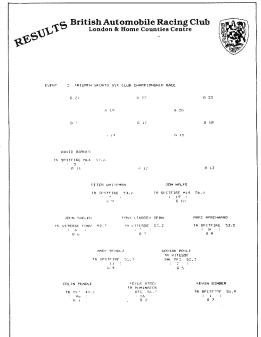
Lap 6 and Tony Lindsey-Dean made a desperate inside move at Devils Elbow and just finds his way past Peter Stock and Andy Schulz and powered up the hill to chase Kevin Ginger for the lead. Pete Stock passed Andy Schulz as he experienced some misfiring and subsequently fell back down the grid. On Jap 8 Tony Lindsey-Dean powered past Kevin Ginger to take the lead with Peter Stock closing on Kevin. John Sadlers Vitesse powered past the oiling Adrian Boyle and the bumper to bumper battle between Marc and

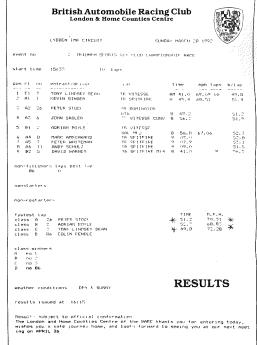
Peter in their Spitfires passed Andy Schulz who now seemed to be struggling to finish. The winner by 4 seconds was Tony Lindsey-Dean with Kevin Ginger second and newcomer Peter Stock a creditable third overall. John Sadler was 4th, Adrian Boyle 5th, Marc Amschwand 6th, Peter Whiteman 7th, Andy Schulz 8th and Dave Barnes 9th.



Having passed Kevin Ginger, Tony Lindsey-Dean heads for the chequered flag

NEW LAP RECORDS, CLASS		49.8s
CLASS	A: Peter Stock	51.2s
POINTS POSITION	Points	Class
 Tony Lindsey-—Dean 	16	C
2. Kevin Ginger	15	A
Adrian Boyle	15	В
4. Peter Stock	14	Α
Dave Barnes	12	В
6. John Sadler	10	Α
Mark Amschwand	9	Α
Peter Whiteman	8	Α
9. Andy Schulz	7	Α





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On the large forecourt we always have a good selection of Club cars for sale. At present we have 2 Herald convertibles, a TR4A, a Spitfire MkIV and a TR5, with more stock arriving daily.

All our parts are bought directly from the manufacturers, maintaining a large discount which is passed on to you, the customer. Our Mail Order Department sends your order same day if required and we stock every part available. We also have several vehicles being dismantled for the economy conscious owner.

OUR OPENING HOURS ARE:-

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1.	Front wing£3	6.00 Inc	. VAT
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ALL OTHER PANELS STOCKED

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1. Front trunnion (Stanpart) £15.00	Inc VAT
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3. Top ball joint	1
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7. Steering rack (exchange)	1
8. Alloy rack mounting kit £20.00	Į.
TOM CONTENDE MICHIGAN	

TRIM - SPITFIRE MKIV/1500 CTC MKIII

THIN — SETTIFIED WIKIV/1500, GTO WIKI	11
1. Pair door trim panels	£35.00
2. Pair PVC door cappings	620.00
3. Hear wheel arch panel kit	£35.00
4. Pair sun visor	£22.00
5. Carpet set (economy)	£65.00
6. Carpet set (moulded)	£120.00
7. Seat cover kit	£75.00

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Pen to Paper



THE clutch slave cylinder on the Vitesse MkII I'm restoring was decidedly naff, covered in crystals and other gunge like a U/S battery terminal. At around £40/£50 a cylinder (a price only to be described as sheer profiteering (how about an explanation, Girling, tell us why?), desperate measures needed taking.

So I have to admit I've just put WET-AND-DRY engineering company who can do the same paper up the bore to clean and refurbish it. job properly. Result: One perfect bore (the slave, not me). A two or three thou, increase in bore diameter the electric drill.

and a shine better, I suggest, than the manufacturers own. Trouble is I don't know whether the new bore is round, parallel, OR SAFE.

The purpose of this letter is not to recommend such actions, nor to expose my stupidity, but to ask why the Club cannot find a reputable

Of course you have to do it properly, one split is neither here nor there — new seals differ by stick, plenty of cotton tee-shirt strips, with 1200 more than that depending on whose rebuild arade wet and dry to clean it up with a final kit you use, and if necessary a new piston could polish with T-cut, and of course, all done with be produced to support the seal. The cost has to be far far less than the new cost auoted The bore is perfect, no blemishes, no scores, earlier, and over-bored cylinders could always be stamped with the oversize should it be felt undesirable to overbore twice.... SO, can somebody tell me please, why can't hydraulic cylinders be re-cycled by overboring?

Derek Wallace-Holman

UNKEMPT AND LONFLY!

DO vou live in my area? Would you like to meet other owners for help/advice/sympathy? Could you help or advice others? Maybe you'd just like an evening out with some fellow enthusiasts? . . . If so, read on

I am a novice Spitfire 1500 owner, having ac-Spitfire and a green Herald (plus all you others guired a somewhat unkempt black 1500 last I've yet to spot). summer. Since joining the TSSC I have had If you are interested in meeting and maybe every intention of attending an Area Meeting. However as my nearest are 30/40 miles away, I've never made it!

local members. ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Particularly, brown Spitfire frequently seen travelling along the A41 in the mornings, white Malcolm Smith, GT6 seen in Hemel Hempstead, blue Spitfire seen in Berkhamsted (your road spring makes Berkhamstead, Herts. mine look healthy!). Also in Berkhamstead a red HP4 2AB.

even forming an Area group, contact me at the address below. I look forward to hearing from you all.

The only solution appears to be to contact my P.S. Any Area Organisers with advice etc, please do not hesitate to write!!

41A Lower Kings Road,

FIND YOU ALL AT THE AXE AND CLEAVER ... (T.T.)

THE 'Tommy The Triumph' cartoon strip has appeared regularly in 'The Courier' for the past couple of years, and as far as I am aware, no-one has yet written to your magazine in praise of the strip.

I wish to set that point right immediately! I think You may think I am slightly biased — probably, Tommy The Triumph is wonderful, the best part as I'm the person that draws the thina..... of the magazine, the bit I turn to first, and my Brilliant - keep it up!

Yours Sincerely, Tommy The Triumph whole reason for being a member of the TSSC! P.S. I promise to find you all that Axe and Cleavage soon, Lindy



'SPITBITS'



We have the largest stock of used Spitfire/GT6 parts in the country, all off the shelf, if you can find any other trader cheaper, we will refund the difference.

1500 gearbox £45 All wheels £5 MkIV chassis £85 MkIV back light unit comp. £8 Alternators £8	\$59.00. Our tops come with stitched/welded seams for extra strength, rear zip window and all fittings to fit, made to original British Leyland design.
Rear leaf springs, all models	MkIV front ½ valances each
'NEW PARTS AVAILABLE'	Rear wing, corner repair

If the part you require is not listed here, please ring, I'm sure we will have it somewhere amonast our tons of used parts.

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Spitfires, GT6s bought and sold, any condition.

The Only Name to Remember

BODY

BODY REMOVAL

HERALD 1200 AND VITESSE

The body may be removed from the frame as a unit or by removing individual sections as described in the following pages.

To remove the complete unit, the procedure is as follows:--

Remove the battery, drain the cooling system and disconnect the water hoses from the heater.

The cables from the front end lighting, horns and stop lamp switch.

Fuel pipe from the tank.

Starter motor cable from the solenoid. Cables from the temperature gauge transmitter, distributor and oil pressure switch. Unclip the cable harness from the chassis frame.

Hydraulic pipes from the master cylin-

Speedometer drive cable from the rear of the instrument panel and pull the cable into the engine compartment.

Remove

Air cleaner and release the accelerator and choke controls from the carburettor. Both sill panels and fit the reinforcement plate (Fig. 2), using four 1" bolts with nuts and washers. In this example, the plates were made from 1" (25 mm.) angle iron.

The rear handbrake cable from the compensator (Fig. 3).

Clamp bolt from the steering coupling and pull the inner column clear of the coupling.

Carpets and seats.

Knob from the gear change lever and remove the gearbox cover (see page 2.205).

Bolts securing the body to the chassis. The location of the bolts is shown on Fig. 7.

The body is now free to be lifted off the frame.

The method of lifting the body will be determined by the equipment available.

Fig. 1 shows two hoists in use. The hooks under the rear wheel arches are padded to prevent damage to the paintwork.

To refit—reverse the removal procedure.

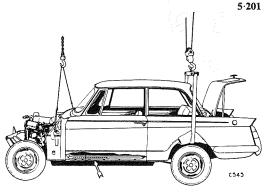


Fig. 1. Lifting the body

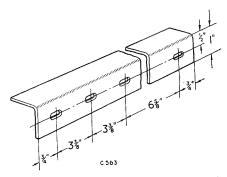


Fig. 2. Sill reinforcement plate dimensions

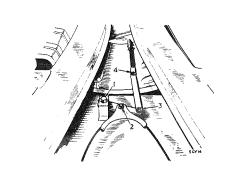


Fig. 3. Handbrake cable attachment

Top quality soft tops all models, Herald. Vitesse, black, tan or white from only

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Door draught excluder, original

(Furflex) per metre ...





GT6

VITESSE

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Furflex draught excluder	£14.00 each	
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Boot seal	£8.50	
Soft top front seal £6.90. Wood slat luggage r		
Fibreglass tunnel	£17.00	
BRAKES — STEERING — SUSPENSION, SPITFIRE & HERALD		

Front discs£14.68 Front trunnions£16.50 Bush kit£4.50 Front pads .. £8.00 Wishbone bushes .. £1.10 each Spax rear shocks .. £30.00 each Steering lower joint £18.80

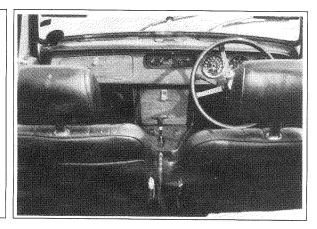
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'BODY OFF' HERALD/VITESSE -

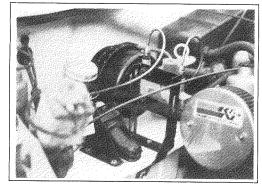
Mr Malcolm Hill of Northampton sends in this rather enlightening page of information on the above subject.

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION FOR A 2 LITRE VITESSE Tom Longley



feel I must respond to a letter in the April Courier, from M A Poynter, regarding the possibility of converting a 2 Litre Vitesse to automatic transmission. I have one of the few automatic Vitesses in existence and have carried out all the necessary modifications to the car, except for the chassis alterations as I was fortunate enough to find a dealer-modified chassis through the Courier classified advertisements.

I would be glad to pass on any information regarding the conversion to Mr Poynter. I do not know if he has seen the Vitesse 'Turning Circle' No. 14, October 1989, in which there is an article about my automatic Vitesse, but I would imagine he has not as he asks in his letter whether it is possible to convert a Vitesse. I found it a very enjoyable and rewarding project and the resulting car is great to drive — but I would say that as I'm totally biased! Anyone who remembers the above mentioned 'Turning Circle' article, called 'Changing up to Automatic', may be interested in an update of the antics of the car. VGX 175G has been 'off the road' for the winter and is awaiting a reconditioned pair of brake calipers and a pair of new discs. I have located a tiny oil cooler for the transmission, which is small enough to fit in the space between the oval cut out in the front valance and the radiator. Despite being incredibly small I would imagine it will be able to cope with the Vitesse as it's the type fitted to Rolls Royce Silver Shadows! (a bit of name dropping there!). Since I use the car for towing quite regularly I think this is quite a necessary item..... I have built a steel transmission tunnel cover, using a Dolomite 1850 one as a starting point, to replace the tatty cardboard one original to the car. This is a vast improvement because it is so rigid and will (hopefully) not fall apart like the cardboard ones often do. Last year the car received two new wings, one



front and one rear, and a bonnet front corner piece — a vast improvement. One day I'll get around to respraying her — but the shock to the system might be to great — for me, the car and most of Surrey area!

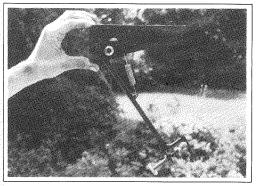
Also last year I discovered I had been running her with the wrong distributor, a MkI instead of a Mkll. I found this out quite by chance talking to someone at last year's International Weekend (thanks Mick). I immediately changed the distributor for the correct MkII item which I fortunately had stashed away amonst my spare parts.

The resulting increase in performance was auite staggering. Six cylinder distributors seem to get transferred from car to car over Vitesses. TR5s, TR6s, 2000s and 2500s, but of course they

are not the same and when applied to the wrong engine are almost certain to decrease the performance. So if your car lacks performance that no amount of tuning will put right, check you have the right distributor — it took wrong one!

The Vitesse organ type accelerator pedal had to be replaced with a modified pendant pedal from a MkIII Spitfire.

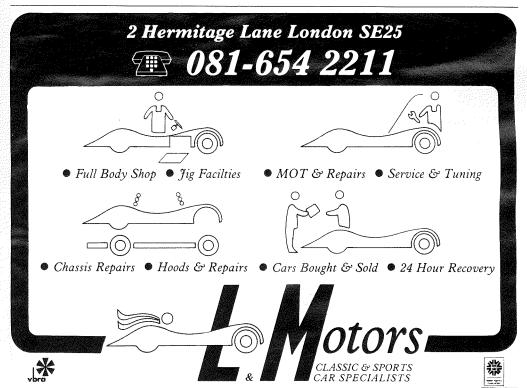
The Vitesse pedal and cable just could not cope with the extra stresses used for 'kickdown'.



Modified MkIII Spitfire accelerator pedal

I welded the Spitfire pedal bracket inside a brake/clutch pedal bracket and bolted that to the bulkhead. The brake/clutch bracket helps to spread the load over a greater area. This arrangement makes for a very robust pedal me five years before I found out mine was the and allows the stronger Triumph 2000 cable to be used, which can of course cope with 'kickdown'.... I rebuilt the Girling Powerstop brake servo which had been original equipment on the automatic Vitesse. This has a unique bracket arrangement because of the extra space on the bulkhead where the clutch master cylinder would normally reside.

I am now building a centre console based on a Triumph 2000 Mkl unit. This is quite a task because everything has to be removeable in order to obtain access to the gearbox below. At the end of the Turning Circle article, Lasked for information about any other special order automatic Club cars. The response was limited. due to the small number of factory or otherwise converted cars. One was a Vitesse 1600 prototype which I am told by its owner, was sadly rotted beyond repair. The other, also a Vitesse, was a reported sighting of a MkII 2 Litre with ZF gearbox. Any further information would be gratefully received.



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Herald/Vitesse Restoration |

Peter Williams

Restoration Special: Front seat upholstery recovering

Part 16

By far the most exciting news this year for Herald and Vitesse enthusiasts was the launch in February of Newton Commercial's Herald/-Vitesse trim range. So, instead of the planned rear driveshafts article (now rescheduled for print in a couple of months time) we thought it would be more in keeping with the event to find out and to show you how easy (or difficult) it is to refurbish your front and rear seats. Hence this restoration special. Front seats this month, rear seats next.

As mentioned in this month's Spotlight, Newton Commercial's new range of Herald and Vitesse frim covers saloon and convertible front and rear seat covering kits, door and rear trim panels, toe and other millboards, boot floor coverings, sound deadening kits and moulded carpet sets. Trim colours, dependant on the model of car, are available in black, matador red, midnight blue (Herald 1200,12/50), shadow blue (Herald 13/60, Vitesse) and light tan. The carpets are available in black only. Newton Commercial have invested significantly in this new range and all of the trim has been developed and produced in-house to match the original specifications. Fabrication uses the latest technology.

Over the next two months we'll be showing you how to recover both the front (this month) and the rear seats of your car. Instructions are provided with the covering kits which are in general fine though I found them a little confusing in places. However, we found that recovering the seats in a Herald or Vitesse is easi-Iv within DIYer's capabilities as the following series of photos show. The article is based on recovering Vitesse Mk.2 seats. Though some details differ, the main techniques shown should be equally valid for the whole Herald/Vitesse range.

It should be noted that it appears that two types of seat were used in late Vitesses, the bases are exactly the same but some feature frame backs with side springs (covered with thin padding) in order to produce the con-

toured shape whereas the other type feature seat backs with thick contoured foam padding with no additional side springs. The type of seat can be checked by running a tape measure across the top of the seat and measuring the distance from the top of the flutes on the front of the sauab (the bit you rest your back on) to the seam a few inches down at the back. On the spring wire side type the measurement should be 345mm and on the non spring type the same measurement is about 290mm. Alternatively, unclipping and sliding up the squab upholstery takes but a few minutes and the type of seat is then immediately obvious. In any case, and with any seat it's a good idea to dismantle the seat trim before ordering any new seat covering kit as for instance, you may or may not need some of the foams, wadding or base diaphram.

The order of the job firstly is to carefully strip the old upholstery from the donor seat. You'll find that the seat base cover is glued to the base foam in a few well defined areas. It's a good idea to carefully peel the old cover from the foam taking note of exactly where the glue went on the original. Fitting the new seat covers follows the same basic routine as followed by Standard Triumph with only minor differences due to the slightly different internal construction of the new trim as compared to the old. Once separated, the chances are that you'll need a new base foam as the old 'Dunlopillo' will no doubt be rather worn. The replacement modern foam takes the form of a main base

plus two thigh pad 'wings' which make up the shape of the seat just as the style of the original. Base diaphrams can also split and it's interesting to note that if required, the new diaphrams supplied are the very same as the original. So, on to the work photo style,



Figure 1. With the seat out of the car, undo the two relevant bolts and remove the seat runners.

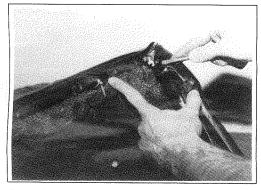


Figure 2. The backrest upholstery is secured to the tubular frame with 'C' clips and to the seat base frame with half a dozen push on clips. Hook each off with pliers or a screwdriver and ease out the rear flap. While you're at it, remove the similar clips which secure the base side skirts in place. Note that the clips at the back (which you'll find have to clip over three thicknesses of turned over material flaps) have a wider mouth than the clips that just hold the side skirts of the base cover in place.

SAFETY NOTE WHEN USING ADHESIVES MAKE SURE WORKING AREA IS WELL **VENTILATED**

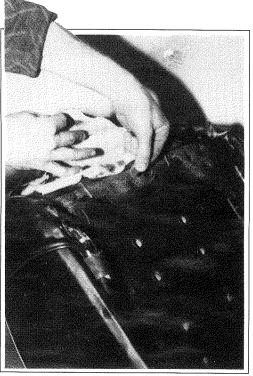


Figure 3. With the first rear flap pulled out of the way, a white calico flap can then be seen. This is the clever bit of the squab - to be revealed later and is attached to the rear frame with a single centrally placed clip. Prise this off. Ease the calico out of the frame and then remove the final single clip which secures the seat base cover to the rear of the frame.

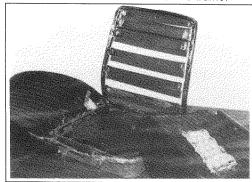


Figure 4. The squab and seat base upholstery can now be removed. During fitting of the new seat base. remove the lowest rubber squab strap to improve access. It simply clips in and out of a couple of holes each side. Don't forget to replace later on. One of my squab straps had a broken clip which was replaced by making one up out of a piece of wire coat hanger. No doubt you can buy them but my solution is. I think more fun.

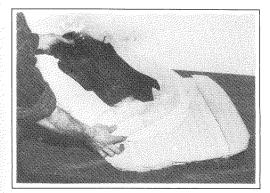


Figure 5. Carefully separate the seat cover from the foam, taking note of where glue has been applied.

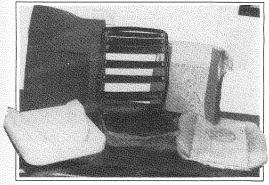


Figure 6. Old and some of the new parts that may be required. From left to right: new three piece base foam set (not yet assembled), new (thin) squab foam (spring sides seat back type), seat frame (non spring sides type), original thick contoured foam back (non spring sides type, the plastic bags on the top shoulders are original - they help the trim slip over the foam on assembly), original assembled three piece base foam.

The first operation towards fitting the new base cover is to glue the cover to the main base foam, Leave the cover inside out while doing this and don't be tempted to turn it the right way out until after a few more operations. The base cover sits on the foam centralised left to right and with the front seam of the fluted (multiple padded stripes) section flush with the front edge of the foam. I think it's a good idea to measure the width of the fluted section and then draw a couple of front to rear lines on the foam to show where the outer edges of the flutes need to go. Next, apply adhesive onto the outermost two flutes of the underside of the cover plus more glue on the corresponding region on the foam. The cover should then be positioned on the foam and allowed to dry. This can be done with the foam out of the frame but I preferred to glue the foam to the frame first and then

glue the cover to the foam. This allows you to measure the gap along the rear between the edge of the flute seam to the inside of the frame tube upright. For the rear of the cover to be central this gap should be the same each side. So adjust to suit and when happy firm the cover onto the foam and allow to dry really thoroughly.

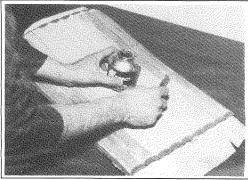


Figure 7. Apply glue to the outermost flutes on the underside of the cover and the corresponding area on the main base foam. I actually glued the outermost two flutes each side, probably a bit over the top. Carefully align as described in the main text, apply pressure and allow to dry thoroughly. For the glue, I used either standard Evostic or Evostick Time Bond, both gave good results.

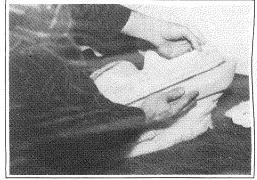


Figure 8. With the glue thoroughly set, offer in the contoured side winas so that their outer top edges alian with the piped seams of the seat cover. When in the correct position, the bottom of the wings overhang the base foam by about an inch along the sides and at the front edge, and are butted up to the frame tubes at the rear. Once you're familiar with the position, remove and apply glue to the underside of the foam wings and the corresponding areas on the base foam only. Fix in place. The thin lower foam wrap should also be glued in place at this stage. Once everything's dry, apply glue to the short calico skirt (being held here) on the side facing the camera. turn it over and fix to the outside face of the foam wings and front edge of the base foam. Ensure the piped side seams of the cover sit neatly along the

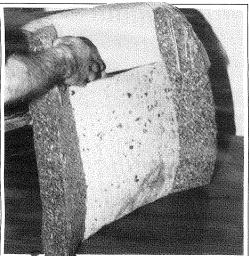
outside edge of the wings. Don't apply any glue to the top of the wings or the corresponding area on the underside of the vinyl cover.



Figure 9. Finally, squash down the foam and turn the cover right side out at the sides...



Fig. 10 . . secure at the back with a single centrally placed clip, gently stretch the main skirts and clip in place in the same way as the original - clips to the sides and a 'C' clip each side to the tubular frame.



secrets. Both the thick contoured and thin foam types (see figure 6) have a slot here. Glue the foam onto the frame.

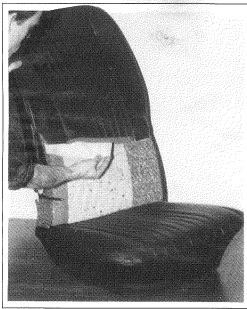


Figure 12. Inspect the inside of the squab cover and you'll find a sheet of calico fixed along the top seam but otherwise hanging loose. Slide the cover over the frame with this flap initially to the front as shown here. Now, stick your hand behind the front of the cover and push the calico sheet through the slot shown in figure 11. Lower the cover fully over the frame and manoeuver the calico down between the rear of the foam and the sauab straps.

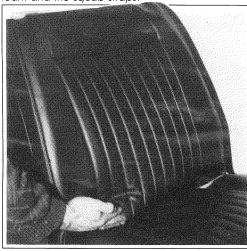


Figure 13. Pull the cover firmly down. The bottom front In close up, the foam back displays its edge simply tuck behind the rear of the seat base.

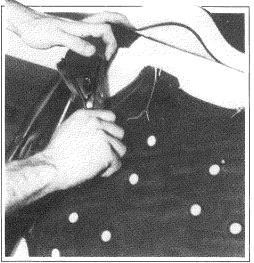


Fig. 14. Make sure the inner, side stiffening boards are pushed firmly to the top of their channel, roll the cover tails over the frame and secure each side with a couple of 'C' clips - push one end into the material and pull the clip over the frame with pliers. Check that the flutes of the squab line up with those on the base cover. If not the base can be moved slightly sideways to suit by removing the single rear clip and tensioning the foam/cover one way or the other. Reclip.

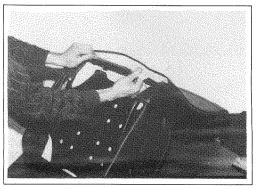


Figure 15. Now for the fun bit. Grip the calico sheet and pull firmly. This distorts the foam padding to give more shape to the top face of the seat squab. Check the shape and when happy secure the calico with a clip. The final rear flap of the squab cover can then be tensioned and clipped in place.

Next month: Rear seat recovering.

PS. All being well, I'm tempting providence here, the Vitesse restoration including trimming out the car as shown here should be complete and ready for the South of England Meet. As stated previously, the car has been prepared to be a very presentable (A1+)road car and to a standard I think any DIYer could achieve or no doubt better. See you there? Happy Motoring.



Figure 16. The final result. One seat has been recovered with the Newton Commercial trim and the other is original. Can you spot which is which?

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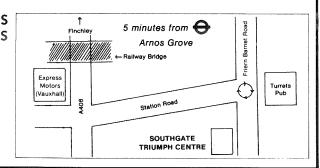
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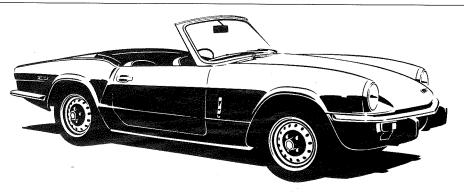
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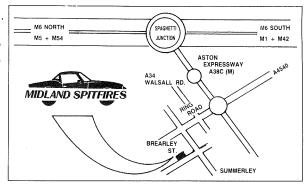


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COR you soft top enthusiasts and top down die-hards, this may come as a shock. It is recommended that once a new hood is fitted. it is advisable to leave the hood in position for at least 2-3 weeks. This is good advice because it does take time for the hood to 'settle in' and stretch to its new shape.

HOOD CARE AND MAINTENANCE

STOWING.

When you do take it down, make sure it is folded correctly before stowage — undo the wraparound on the back of the hood, collapse the hood frame, undo the studs on the quarter lights, pulling any surplus material backwards over the boot of the car, fold the corners inwards and tuck down into position. This not only prevents the hood blowing up when the car is moving, but also prolongs the life of the see-through quarter lights and rear window

CLEANING.

ALL PVC HOODS should be cleaned with a soft brush or a sponge using warm water with a small amount of washing up liquid or car shampoo

DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES USE ABRASIVES OR CHEMICAL CLEANERS. AS THESE WILL DAMAGE THE HOOD.

CANVAS AND MOHAIR HOODS.

These hoods are more difficult to clean as they must only be cleaned when dry.

Using a soft brush (clothes brush or similar), brush all deposits off the car, DO NOT SCRUB!! as this will lift the colour out of the material causing faded patches. One common problem is 'burd turd' which must be left to dry completely before carefully brushing off.

WATERPROOFING & SEALING.

There are many products available for this purpose but make sure you use them for the correct applications:- Three products are available from TSSC Offers which include:-

MAXOL - (clear or black).

This is used for re-waterproofing your hood and is applied using a rag or brush over the entire outside of the hood (except windows of course!). For coloured hoods, clear can be used. Black is used on black hoods and will also restore colour back if your hood is faded.

SEAMSEAL. This is a synthetic sealer which is applied to any stitched seams from the inside of the hood, this will make seams watertight and prevent the thread from rotting away.

ZIPEAZE, A small aerosol used for lubrication of zips, prevents rusting and aids movement of zip.

DIY HOOD **FITTING**

John Muggleton

NEVER use chemical cleaners on any hood, try to scrub mud off of a canvas or Mohair hood, fold up a hood if it is (a) wet, or (b) covered in frost — always fold hood properly when vou stow it away — wash with clean water and a soft brush.

I would like to extend my thanks to Car Hood Co. of London who took the time to visit the Club Office to show us how to fit the hood correctly. As our main suppliers, they have supplied hoods to the Club for nearly two years and the quality is one of the best in the country, at competitive prices (see Offers Brochure for details). The car we used was a MkIII Spitfire which has its own style of hood frame but the fitting instructions contained on the previous articles do cover most eventualities on other types of frame.

T. D. FITCHETT

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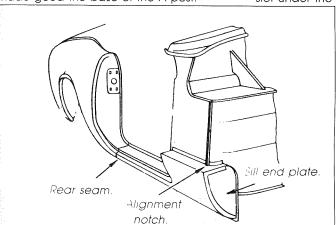
SPITFIRE/GT6 **FLOOR** REPLACEMENT

Bernard Robinson Part 3

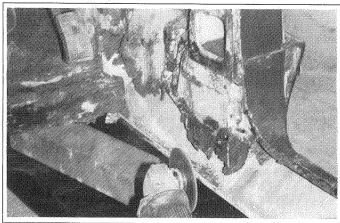
EMOVAL of the rear trim boards is simply a matter of inser-

ting a screwdriver behind the board and levering the clips out of their respective holes.

This enables you to gain access to the wiring loom. This can be removed starting at the fuse box end where you will find either bullet connectors or a multi pin. Feed the loom back through the floor cross member and on through the rear B post inner panel (see fig A). To aid you later, fix a length of MIG wire to the end and leave this sticking out as rethreading the loom back when you've finished can be tricky. Replacement of the outer sill is quite straight forward. This should obviously be carried out after you have repaired the inner sill strengthener and inner sill, after you've made good the base of the A post.



We will cover those in a moment. Basic alignouter sills were fine so in effect I was working in



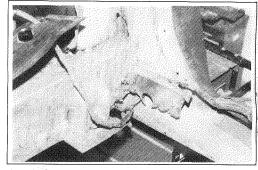


Fig. A. B post inner panel. Loom access point.

a genuine BL sill. These have a notch cut in the scuttle side section (see drawing) which you should align with the scuttle side seam. It should fit snugly in the A post filler area and slot under the rear wing, flush align top and

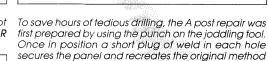
bottom with inner sill and floor edge. Once happy tack weld into position. Now try the door fit. If you have chocked this out, all should be OK, if not, you may have to jack the gap out. I normally attach a new sill end plate prior to this as well as otherwise you have to insert it and weld a screw to it to pull it into position for welding. Sill end plates have a crease across the corner. This is normal and no they haven't been bent in the post! Having checked everything is OK you can do your final welding. As I stated our cars

ment is quite simple if you have purchased reverse procedure to normal sill replacement.



INNER SILL REPLACEMENT



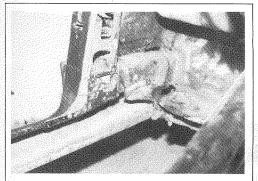




Bolster off inner sill, grind off paint and drill out spot welds to remove top strip (this is a posed shot, WEAR GAUNTLETS), finally, grind clean.



The bottom of the A post normally looks like this but

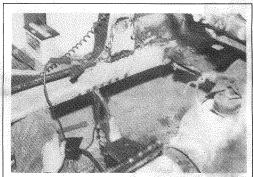


All bad corrosion cut out and area cleaned up ready to accept repair panel. Once again as we are working in reverse to normal, we have already removed floor.

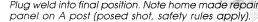
A more normal view can be seen in John Thomasons article this month.



A post repair in position. Note alignment at top and bottom of outer sill. Also at front where it slides between floor and front outrigger support bracket. Note also gaps between repair panel and originals. these have to be dealt with by making your own plates, a guide to which, next month.

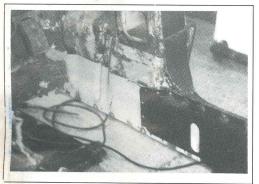


Plua weld into final position. Note home made repair





After punching plug weld holes, align inner sill strengtheners front and rear. Note front butts to A post repair. Clamp with Mole grips, C clamps etc. I prefer these mini clamps as once in position then don't pop off and don't get in the way.





Finally, once again plug weld into position, prior to this I sprayed a coating of rust preventative primer onto the outer sill.

If you're careful and by not welding all in one sequence, i.e. keep swapping ends, paint burn damage can be kept to a minimum.

See left. Align inner sill to top of inner sill repair panel and front and rear A and B post. Punch clamp and weld. Note gap under inner sill, this sets floor height.

As the last shot (below) shows, we are getting closer to fitting the floors (honest!) and I hope you can see how neat a job you can achieve if you just take your time.

Inevitably there are always more rust holes than ready made repair panels so next month I'll give you the Robinson Guide to making your own to give you all the chance of saying:-

'Now here's one I prepared earlier'.



A post repair plus inner sills in position. This shot also shows trial floor fit.

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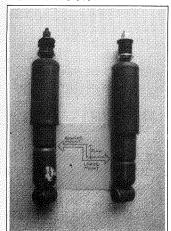
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TECHNICAL TIPS . . .

SPITFIRE MKII DROOP **SNOOT**

Norman Stainthorp

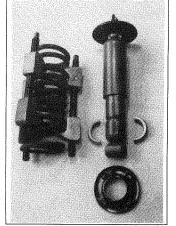
HEN you stand back and admíre vour perfectly restored Spitfire, Can vou not help thinking that the bodywork sits just a teeny weeny bit high in relation to the front wheels?



Comparison betwen standard absorber and one with lower spring mounting position (effectively lowers suspension).

I decided I could stand it no longer and broke the news to the wife that I intended to spend our hard-earned cash on lowering the front of the Spitfire by one inch (25cm). I expected her to intimate that any spare funds. To remove the standard shock would be better employed in feeding and clothing the children, but to my surprise she said 'yes, I had noticed it looked a bit high', so I pressed on with my plan with greater conviction on the grounds that if my wife's noticed, then everybody's noticed.

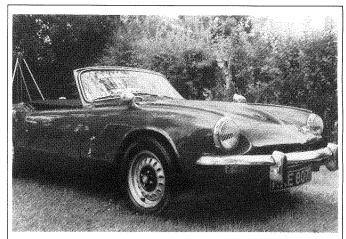
I purchased two shock absorbers ref: STANPART 205537, that have a lower groove for the spring pan locating collets, thus effectively lowering the gap between the wheel-arch and tyre by the desired one inch.



absorber from inside the spring. I used three spring compressors to ensure that there would be no slippage, and once dismantled I took the opportunity to paint the spring and top location pan in the same colour as the rest of the car. On reassembly I took care to ensure that the collets were fitted the correct way up, and before finally releasing the spring clamps, I ensured the three top bolts lined up with the holes in the turret. The headlights were re-adjusted and the tyres (175/ 70/13) low profile, were checked to ensure that they did not foul the wheel arches. The car now looks satisfyingly squatter on the road and the ride is slightly softer, the only disadvantage I have found is that the trollev jack now fouls the anti-roll bar, but then you can't have everything in life!

Disassembly of front spring/shock absorber unit showing three compressors to hold the spring, also spring locating pan and

Below:- Mkll Spitfire with lowered front suspension to reduce aap. Tyres are 175/70/13 low profile.





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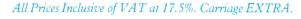
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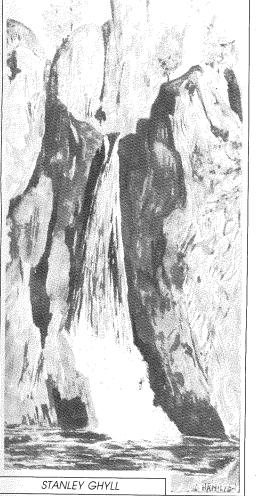
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HERE are three routes I take when visiting Stanley Ghyll waterfall in the Lake District, none of the three eclipsing the other for scenic beauty or interest. Two are demanding on a vehicle as old as a Spitfire, or indeed a Herald if not well maintained. The brakes are used a lot on the descents of Wrynose Pass and Hard Knott Pass

If the vehicles radiator is not up to scratch, take a bottle of water with you and keep an eve on the temperature gauge on the uphill climbs, I shall describe the middle difficult one

MY TRAVELS IN A **SPITFIRE**

B Hamilton

I live only an hours drive from the Lake District, people in Scotland, Midlands and the South of England would need a long weekend for travel-ling there and back. Newby Bridge is a good place to stop for bed and breakfast, it's on the Barrow Road. The two hotel bars are sometimes crowded and noisy, if you don't like children about whilst sitting with your pint, you'll have a problem, they're all over the place. It doesn't bother me, knowing what it's like trying to keep our three happy when they were younger on our family outinas.

On this particular day I knew the weather was going to be conducive to open topped cars, a high pressure weather area had been lingering over the British Isles for over a week with no signs of budging . . . Leaving the M6 at exit 36, the road to Barrow-in-Furness is a good one. Haverthwaite Village is on this road, and there is a steam railway museum worth visiting ... May | diaress? . . .

Has any other Spitfire driver noticed when being overtaken by a car or coach — the hood of the Spitfire being down — that child passengers enthuse at the sight of a pretty sports car more so than their parents?

'Look mum - dad, look!' their little hands pointing. Perhaps the Spitfire looks just like the Noddy cars in the story books mum or dad reads from at bedtime.

Now then, yes back to Haverthwaite. A stretch of line has been preserved from Lakeside — a hamlet at the south end of lake Windermere to the mentioned station.

I'm a regular visitor to this time-warped station, it brings back memories of my days in the Royal Air Force, travelling between camps or on leave. Sitting in the cafeteria, drinking tea, Ovaltine advertisements, Cadburys, Nestles and Fry's chocolate machines. That grotesque machine one could punch out one's name by moving a pointer around a dial of letters and numbers. A lever when pressed down completed the procedure. Sometimes when not pressed down enough, would not move the aluminium read out strip along to the correct spacing, superimposing the last letter or number on to the previous one.

The ritual of uncoupling the engine from the train is worth watching. Also the filling of its water tanks from a water tower standing at the entrance to a tunnel. When the train has departed to Lakeside I wander to this spot and peer into darkness, the daylight at the other end of the tunnel is about 300 yards away. The rusty line terminated by buffers the same distance. It used to go on to



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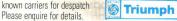
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Ulverston. The main Barrow road bisects it now. One Christmas I took our children to a 'Santa Ride'. I remember the day very well, so different to the summer days.

We watched the Father Christmas climb aboard the train. Oh what a dull, damp, cold day it was. The three little ones decided they wanted nothing to do with this awful looking man. So we stood and watched the train disappear into the aloom, the smoke from the engine curling back onto the carriages, what a horrible day . . . We ended up in the Little Chef just a few miles down the road at Lindale, alas this restaurant is now closed and derelict. The road was by-passed. We celebrated my 45th birthday there, I remember it well, just like vesterday. My wife had wisely stayed at home watching Christmas television.

So on, leaving the Barrow Road at Greenodd, joining the A5092. This road leads to moorland and climbs to 700ft. Stop and look around. What a view. Woodland Fell and Furness Fells. The road goes down to Grizebeck towards Broughton in Furness. The sea comes into view, here also the fells of Gray Stones, Black Combe, White Combe and Stoupdale Craas.

... Tolkien's Mythical Middle Earth in The Lord of the Rings...

Loften wonder if Tolkiens Mythical Middle Earth in The Lord of the Rings were given its village names from similar sounding ones in the Lake District. At Duddon Bridge there is a road to the right signposted 'Fell Road, unsuitable for caravans'. This is one of two roads to Ulpha.

Climbing from near sea level through woods to about 500ft, the ground opens up to moorland and heather. Ulpha Fell reaching up over 1500 ff to the left. The road becomes yet lonelier. There's not a lot in Ulpha village but I'd like to stay there one day.

From here to Eskdale are continuously changing scenes of distant fells. I can't resist stopping every quarter of a mile just to look around. From moorland to meadow land, from sheep to cows, from a place called High Ground to a place called Low Ground.

Devoke Water is not far from High Ground, a place I shall one day describe, the road we are travelling passes this lake and at this point is a good place to park one's car and walk to Stanley Ghyll waterfall. There's a signpost pointing the way. The path here is on level around and avoids a climb through woods strewn with boulders. I prefer to walk through the woods — strewn with boulders -.

So on to Eskdale Green. Near by the road junction we are seeking is a pub with a kings name. I've forgotten though my visits have been numerous. Here the road from Ulpha joins the road to Dalegarth Station, and carries on to Hard Knott Pass. At Dalesgarth a narrow gauge railway term inates, it's starting place is Ravenglass.

I've travelled it several times. Just before the little station is an old school house at a road junction, turn right here. At the end of this road is a public car park, here starts the walk to the waterfall. After passing a couple of foot bridges the path becomes narrower and more difficult underfoot, but stay awhile on each bridge.

The third bridge has a notice at it's far side across the handrails, a warning that to proceed further is dangerous.

The waterfall comes into view here, but it seems the authorities and nature have connived to stop you from seeing it in full force. Trees and rocks cut off most of the view It IS dangerous

... but I always carry on and step over the warning sign. The path is steep and wet. Tree roots cross it but act as ladder runas, muddy ladder rungs. Water trickles through the undergrowth of leaves, ferns and fallen branches from trees growing denser here than on lower ground.

The path now being about 18 inches wide and sloping to a drop of about 25 feet, below boulders and rocks, the river flowing past them perhaps still in the position the great ice sheets left them thousands of years ago. So on a little further until the path opens up to a dark pool of water. At the bottom of a high rock face in a gully, the waterfall, a drop of 37 feet churns the water to a brown creamy foam. To the right the rocks rise higher to a sheer drop of about 50 feet and permanently in the shade. I've yet to photograph this place successfully, under-exposure or the film running out, frustrating me on every visit, but I remember the scene vividly... Before crossing this last bridge, a path leads steeply on to the right ending at the top of the waterfall.

A few yards along this path on the left side is what I like to describe a natures own 'moss garden'. A bridge passing over a stream suggests a place to stop and muse over the scene, a riding lumpy carpet of green mosses.

Some years ago on my downward journey, I stopped on the path about 15 feet below this bridge and looked up at the garden. The sight I beheld imprinted on my mind a sight I'll never forget or can fully describe albeit a few moments that I had stood there.

The rain had been heavy and long lasting on days previous to our visit, the stream passing through the moss area and under the bridge was fast flowing, hitting the plants with such a force there was created a water fountain rising three of four feet above the spot. A shaft of sunlight penetrating the wood had lighted the droplets of water, the spray forming several arcs. The droplets bouncing from the moss reached the peak of the arc. hovered and dropped back to disappear then re-appear a little distance away to complete their travel....

... many arcs, many droplets. Perhaps the shadow of a branch of a bush caused them to disappear and re-appear. Around the area of display, a halo of bright light, fluffy at its edge, making me blink, thinking l had an access of tears. This dazzle was the sunlight reflecting from the wet moss. It was magic, I was transfixed. The light melted away, the wonder disappeared....

The climbing path zig-zags it's way through rhododendron bushes and ends at a rocky pavement. Here we are above the waterfall. Move slowly and with care, twenty-feet and there's a drop to the dark pool mentioned earlier. There 15 a warning sign.

My method of approach is to crawl to the edge of the pavement and peer over the edge of the rock. It's a little frightening, but I wouldn't try looking over in a standing position.

There is a tree growing at the very edge of the precipice. Climbers use it as an anchor point to tie their ropes to and then absell down to the bottom of the waterfall.

Years ago with our children, we had reached this point and found several young men and women pulling at their ropes tied around the mentioned tree, preparing to descent, except for one airl. She sat on a nearby rock wide-eyed,

'No - no I can't do it?' she pleaded.

'It's easy', reasoned another girl.

'No — I'll meet you at the bottom', her eyes stared at something over my right shoulder.

We stook and listened to this altercation for a couple of minutes. The poor airl was embarassed seeing us. I felt sorry for her.

One of the company shouted down into the gorge, someone had reached the bottom. Others moved about as if waiting for a bus, no doubt wishing we would go away.

'Come on dad, let's go', demanded one of my lot, 'Hang on,' I replied, 'let's see if any of this crowd falls off their rope".... 'That's it!' shouted the reluctant airl. They had heard me.

We escaped over a fence onto open moorland. the very same moorland I mentioned previously in my script. The riverlet supplying the waterfall flows through coarse grass from the fells about. Crossing over to the opposite bank and a short journey through a fence and bushes brings one opposite the place where we peered over the precipice. Someone has put up a safety fence, this area also being dangerous . . . There is no path down from this side of the waterfall, but I have scrambled down in the past. The way is steep and unstable, rotting trees and tree branches making walking difficult, the ferns are waist high. Never-the-less you will meet no one on your way down, you could be the first person to pass this way.

Well today is Christmas Day, just after 11.30pm, full of turkey and a little merry, steeped in nostalaic thoughts of hot summer days (I wish the powers that be would bring back double summer time). I think I can safely say my wife's wee Spitfire is cured of the strange noises from the rear wheels. It has been in the local garage since the first week of October.

The half shafts had been worn by the inner bearings disintegrating, and damaged the outer ones. My youngest son James bought himself a Spitfire 1500 V' reg, last week (under my guidance). A good respray has been carried out. but the transfers have been put on wrongly. How can I unstick them? . . . The lad sits in it at night, brum brumming, he still has to pass his driving test. He's just seventeen.

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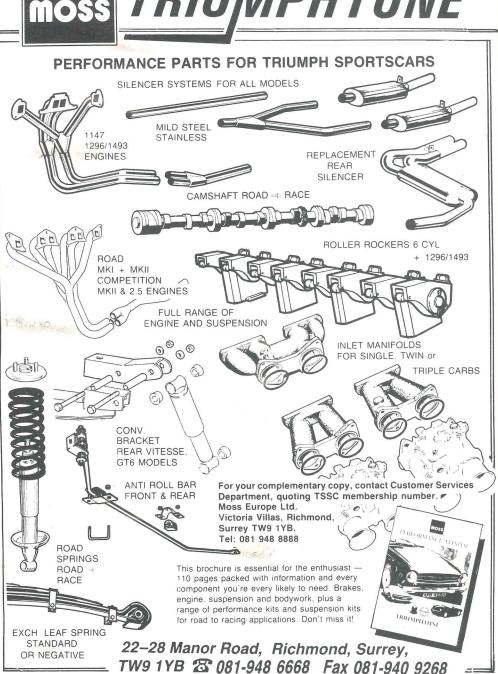
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TRIUMPHTUNE



HE Day! At 08.00 Andy and I tightened that wheel bearing in the half light of a damp Welsh morning and set off to pick up John and Pam from their guesthouse accommodation.

My mum and dad were also Support Crew, it was dad's birthday after all and what better way to celebrate than a drive around an Historic Rally course? They went with John and Pam, who followed us into Swansea for the Start. Once there, I met at last some local area members who had not been able to make the meetings before: Clive Measday who identified himself by saying "I've got a Herald like that?", and Julian Watts, who runs 'Triumph Restorations' in Swansea and was navigating no. 54, an ownrestored, pristine Herald 1200 saloon.

09hr 24m 45s and, with Timecards sandwiched between open Road Book and the appropriate map, No. 55 was counted down to the start of our first Historic Rally. The idea was that you never had to exceed 30mph average speed, but regularity stages later meant a constant 35mph or so to overcome the time wasted at Time Controls, road junctions etc. Still, the first five miles to the first Driving test was an easy fun and I discovered that the Road Book was in fact intellegible.



The test involved driving around awkwardly placed traffic cones and then stopping astride the finish line. Having seen 'Top Gear' and its report on a similar Test in the Morecombe Illuminations Rally, we felt confident! The 25 foot turning circle came into its own and we finished perfectly across the line, so it was Timecard signed and off on the first 15.4 miles Regularity Section. To ensure competitors maintained a 30mph average, sneaky Regularity Controls appeared at intervals, where Timecards had to be signed and times recorded. There were penalties for arriving early, late, not at all or slowing down in sight of these places! To ensure the correct route was taken, similarly sneaky Passage Controls were sprinkled about the course. These were red fluorescent arrows on boards by the roadside, with a three figure number on the back which had to be recorded as you passed. The last one of the morning was actually in the wrong place, which worried us until this was confirmed, as we thought we had missed it! Sometime near the end of the second stage, after a hair raising

OF THE VALES Part 2.

Claire Conway-Crapp Andy Webb

plunge down muddy roads the size of footpaths, a tortured scream emitted from the front of the car and the smell of burning something wafted in from under the gearbox tunnel. It disappeared after a while, but eventually the ignition light glowed red and we pulled into a convenient layby and lifted the bonnet ... the dynamo glowed red as well. The intrepid Support Crew appeared as if by magic and John produced the Holy Grail, sorry, a replacement dynamo, which was swapped for the incinerated version in 21 minutes. Off we went again. . . Andy was having the time of his life, we slithered through a muddy farmyard sideways and fishtailed out of the 90 degree bend with him grinning like a madman! I called out junctions and directions and counted down in tenths of a mile whilst the trip meter worked overtime, being reset at each Tulip diagram for accuracy. We nearly tailgated an MGB at a Passage Control, but the brakes were better than anticipated and we missed them. 'Damn!' said Andy.

Llyn Brianne reservoir and Driving Test No. 2. Without moving from your seats and with mirrors covered up, reverse your car up to a pole without hitting it . . . we clipped it and got 20 penalties. Never mind, the next stage was the infamous Lake perimeter road and Abergwesyn Pass, complete

The COURIER 77

with a Devil's Staircase! Llyn Brianne, it must be said, was breathtaking, with five clear miles before the next junction, the Navigator had time to relax a bit and enjoy the view. We passed a chrome over-rider on the road at this point, although it did not register until we had gone by. I wonder whose it was?

Lunch at last, with No. 55 arriving dead on time for a change. No penalties there! Lunch was a hurried curry, before helping out the crew of a Vitesse Saloon that needed a water pump gasket pronto. Our Support Crew had briefly become theirs, arranging gasket making material (the back page of the Rally Regulations!) from me in return for a nut and bolt for our dynamo, the original having sheared in half! There was time for a glance around the other Triumphs, another Vitesse Saloon and two Herald Coupés, plus a MkII GT6.

At 14h 21m 0s we were off again. Timecards signed and needing to make up time from the dynamo change, otherwise we would be over the 30 minutes grace allowed and would be eliminated! 14.54 miles of Regularity stage to the Mynydd Eppynt military rifle ranges came next, so there was no chance of catching up time there.

An irritating Citroen 11BL with an English registration in the French style at the back, tried to overtake us on a cattle grid, later the crew tooted like mad for us to pull over and let them overtake. Being nice, we did, whereupon they shot past and vanished down the wrong road!

A misquoted distance in the Road Book did not catch us out and we arrived at the next Drivina Test in one piece, unlike some others. One big Healey hit the bank and demolished its front end and radiator, a Mini-Cooper crew decided they had gone the wrong way and turned ground, only to drive headfirst into a competing Volvo coming the other way. The only scratches the Herald got were from that Driving Test pole!

This test was also a judgement of distance to a pole, this time it was judging the height of your vehicle and driving beneath one set to its perceived height. There were penalties for knocking it down and for any distance between the roof and pole. Hastily consulting the Saloon dimensions in the Owners Handbook, adding a couple of inches for the Convertible and mentally gauging 4 feet 6 inches against the height of the Test Official worked . . . the pole literally slid across the top point of the roof and we were the only ones with no penalties!

The penultimate stage led up to the last proper Driving Test. On the way, one of the big old Volvo

saloons pulled into a layby in front of us and we stopped to offer assistance. The crew were convinced it was the gearbox in trouble, but the symptoms? Exactly the same as our dynamo destroying itself. Sure enough, when they popped the bonnet the dynamo was red hot. They decided to push on to the finish, so we escorted them on to the last Test. This was a real corker, a speed sprint around two traffic cones and a tree, a roundabout and then stopping across the finish line again. The Volvo charges around like a demented hippo and then it was our turn. Did I say that that muddy farmyard had made Andy's day? I retract that statement in favour of this Test.

... I have never seen a Herald move so fast or heard so much screamina from the tyres before I held on for dear life as the car spent most of the time canted this way and that at about 45 degrees. We slammed to a halt across the finish in 62 seconds, out of an allowed 100 it was pretty good!

Our Support crew then turned up, having missed it all! With ten minutes to spare before disqualification, I'm afraid the supposed 24.5mph average for the last 4.69 miles went out of the window. It wasn't technically a regularity section, so we belted down the M4 back to the Rally HQ and clocked in with four minutes to spare. Then came the last Test! Back to the car with a torch and set of 20 points to plot and then a route to draw on the map, involving arriving and departing these points in particular directions . . . except the wording did not make it clear whether you arrived from or towards them. Several minutes over time, we handed it in.

Then, that was it! We both received a Finisher's Award of a thick slate plaque and got our map back. Our first Rally was over, Odin the Herald was still in one piece and had behaved, bar the dynamo, perfectly. My mum acquired for us some coffee and biscuits and we all went into a side room to watch a video someone had taken of the event. We had appeared on it briefly when the rumour went around that the results were up! John went off to investigate and returned with the verdict that we had about 540 penalties and were second in Class! Not bad, all things considered. The official results, sent out a week later, confirmed that we had come 46th overall out of 71, having gained 210 penalty points for the 21 minutes it took to change the dynamo. I knew we should have soldiered on until the timed stage ended! Had we done so, we would have won the class by 100+ points and come in 25th overall . . . oh well!! . . . Andv and I are now hooked, next step to join the Historic Rally Car Register, obtain our RAC licences and get our 1961 Herald 1200 Coupé on the road and up to spec! Meanwhile the next Rally beckons . . . and this time it's at night! Now where did I put that interior light?

bought my first GT6, reg no. YXJ 969K, chassis no. KE12606 when I was 20, in 1982, from a local farmers son who had abandoned it having just had a brand new car. It was a MkIII and would start OK but the clutch was stuck, and the bodywork a bit tatty around the edges but apart from that, it looked reasonable. I parted with my cash, how much I can't remember, and took the car home.

Abandoned by the Farmers Son Mark Lloyd

Some parts needed attention, so if I just list them you will see:- fuel pump, front trunnion bushes, sills, quarter valances and after a minor front end shunt with a plumbers van, a quick filler job on the nose and a respray. But apart from this it was great fun and the girlfriend (now 'the wife') thought it was smashing.

The car was sold about six decided to replace all joints months later and I moved onto and bushes anyway so after Autograss racing, having built and raced two cars the time had come to tackle a restoration project and what better than another GT6. Julie (the wife) approved so that was it. I saw the ner arches, sills, rear wings and TSSC advertised and joined up looking for a suitable car.

After looking at a few, I eventually bought one locally in trating on the suspension rebuild August 1990. GT6 MkIII reg no. DOC 997K, chassis no. KE12620, first registered on 24/04/72 and as you can see it was only 14 cars down the production line from my first car!

So the restoration has started, interior stripped out, body off the chassis and all suspension removed for rebuilding. It was and painting.

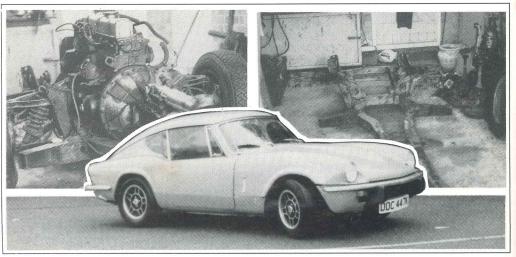
shopping around, I found the best deal to be with Rob at Clive Manvers, so thanks to him for his help. New body panels have been bought, front wings and invalance and steel quarter valances all to be fitted soon I hope as I have been concenand painting

Some original parts were missing such as tunnel trim, steering wheel and original road wheels as alloys were fitted, all these parts were found at Steve Gill Sportscars near Pontypool. New outriggers have been welded onto the chassis and it is now ready for sandblasting



The head had been taken off the engine and the siasm comes and goes especially when (I am sure bores appear to be very good so hopefully honing and new rings with a crank regrind and bearings will see the bottom end alright, but the one finger, you do sometimes wonder if it's all rocker shaft is ruined so we will take it as it comes. I intend to rebuild the car as standard but may fit electronic ignition and an electric fan, then use the car only in the summer because of all the effort which will be put into the car. I want to keep it in good condition. As with any project the enthu-

this has happened to most), standing in a cold garage covered in oil and blood dripping from worth it, but it's all part of the fun really, so back to the garage and I hope to have the body back on the chassis this year and complete the year after. The intention then is to attend club events and use the car for touring the country and hopefully abroad.



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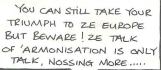
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BONJOUR, BONJOUR, BONJOUR. QUE NOUS AVONS ICI, THEN? 215 IS NOT A RENAULT OR A PEUGEOT MONSIEUR?









AVEZ VOUS LE

TRIANGLE DE WARNING?







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MAGAZINE COPY DATE

All magazine material must be received by the 15th of the month prior to month of publication

DEFINITION OF DEADLINE - Last date by which copy can be included in the publication, assuming space is still available. Always try and work well in advance to the deadline.

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