



ROLLS-ROYCE ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB

NORTH EASTERN SECTION NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2017



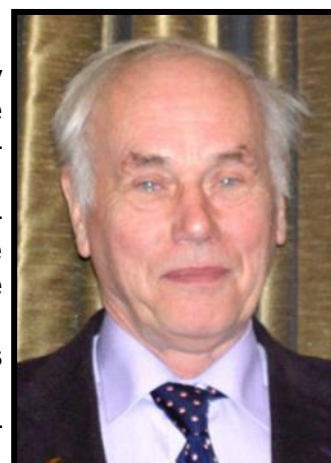
Well it has got the linked RR and Rolls-Royce written on the side of it.

Roger's Ramblings

I have had a wheel rim split on the Phantom, fortunately while I was manoeuvring at home and not on the road. The split occurred at the base of the rim, and not as you might expect through the spoke holes. The split appeared as a tear, not a fatigue fracture, possibly starting a very small manufacturing defect. This is a rare, but not unknown, problem, while wheels on Phantom I and II, and Bentley 3½ and 4¼, were made by Dunlop at Fort Dunlop, Birmingham.

The history of these wheels is interesting, and gives a clue as to possible reason for failure.

During road testing the test engineers reported what they de-



Continued on page 4

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The *Noggin and Natter evenings* on the first Wednesday of each month are now taking place at the **Crathorne Arms, Crathorne, TS15 0BA**, just off the A19 near Yarm. A busy pub, but within easy reach of most of us. Bar food is available for those who want it. It is a very select gathering at present, so why not come along and swell the numbers!

The third Wednesday evening meetings involve much lively talk and laughter at **The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe, DH6 5NX**.

A hardcore of attendees has developed, but new faces are always welcome. These meetings are definitely not men only! Just turn up at about 7.30pm, there is no need to book. Order food and drink at the bar and ask where we are - they usually know!

Events for 2017

14 May	Hurworth Village Classic Car rally - AF
27 May	Skyline Middlesbrough Air Show - BS
4 June	Ormesby Hall, Middlesbrough - MV
20 June	Silver Ghost round Britain Tour - RREC
23/25 June	Annual Rally, Burghley House - RREC
2 July	MGOC Vehicle Rally, Corbridge - BS
16 July	NECPWA Rally at Newby Hall - BS
30 July	Ripon Old Cars at Ripon Racecourse
5/6 August	North of England Rally - see details and booking form below
13 August	Raby Castle
28 August	Swainby Village Fete - AF
September	North Yorkshire's 19C Iron Workings - RH
24 September	NECPWA Rally at Beamish - BS
29 Sep/1 Oct	Section weekend based at Doxford Hall, Northumberland - MV/TH
Oct/Nov (tbc)	Visit to RAF Leeming - JC
10/11/12 November (tbc)	Classic Motor Show, NEC - JC
20 December	Christmas Event - RM

It is also proposed to arrange a visit to RAF Boomer, and resurrect the Tanfield Railway event, at a time to be arranged.

The AGM location, date, time, Agenda and supporting papers will be provided to section members in accordance with the RREC Rules for Sections AGM timetable.

ADVERTISING RATES

Yearly:	full page	£75.00	half page	£50.00
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Members' private advertisements - maximum space $\frac{1}{4}$ page

For sale	Under £200	Free	Over £200	£5.00
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scribed as 'Jellying' or 'Jaggers' this was an alarming oscillation of the steering wheel that only braking to 10 miles per hour would cure.

This happened when one front wheel hits a large bump in the road at a speed between 35 and 45 mph, if the frequency of the gyroscopic forces produced by the deflection of the wheel rim and tyre coincided with the natural torsional frequency of the chassis then 'Jaggers' was the result.

Wheel sizes for the Phantoms were reduced from 21 to 20 to 19 inches, and for the Bentley from 18 to 17 inches; was this in part to reduce weight and thus gyroscopic forces?

There must have been the temptation to reduce metal thickness in the wheel rim; did they over-do this leading to very occasional failure?

The Bentleys had sprung front bumpers with lead weights concealed in the outer ends. The continental Phantom IIs had twin spare wheels mounted in the front wings, they were both attempts to tune the chassis to avoid the 'Jaggers'. I now have two rebuilt wheels at the front.

Happy Motoring.

Roger

Contact Point Comments

Recent years have seen our Section join in with the arrangements made by the Middlesbrough and District Motor Club to venture forth on the National "Drive-it Day". This arrangement came about as some of our Section Members are also members of that club, but for me and others like me living in the North of our patch the journey to and from the event is around 100 miles.

This year, Derek volunteered to organise an RREC "Drive it Day" starting off at Washington Services on 23rd April, but the response from our membership was less than Derek had planned for, which was pitched at a number that would have given our group our own room to eat together at the venue he had selected. Disappointingly, the event therefore had to be cancelled.

This is the second time that an event in the North of the patch has had to be cancelled for what at first sight appears to be the same reason – an over-expectation of numbers that will support the event.

Clearly, your Committee needs to take on Board what conclusions can be drawn from these experiences, but it does seem to me that the events that have been arranged need to be supported rather than cancelled, even if the numbers turning out are tiny, if for no other reason than to recognise the time and effort put in by whoever has organised the event.

The RREC AGM and Annual Conference was attended by Bernie Surtees and myself in Paulerspury, near Northampton on 1st and 2nd April, and the matter that I have been in dialogue with the RREC Board and Chairman about for over 12 months was raised by me at both the AGM and the Annual Conference. The matter was referred to in the "Report of the Secretary" presented to the Section AGM in January 2017.

I think the matter is now resolved, but for my sins find myself – willingly – involved in a review of the Rules for Sections, presumably on the grounds from the RREC perspective of better to have me inside the tent than outside! I am of the opinion that the existing Rules for Sections are sound and the underlying issue is that they were ignored with established long standing custom and practice being applied in prefer-



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ence. I therefore trust that the Review will not be unduly onerous.

The RREC have appointed a new General Manager – David Maykels – whose previous experience includes being General Manager of Newcastle Greyhound stadium. I received an e-mail from him on 19.04.17 containing a questionnaire for completion by Section Members. Your answers may have implications in terms of how the RREC itself develops and moves forward. I would therefore urge you to complete the questionnaire which is elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Rod MacLeod

Secretary

25.04.17

Newsletter Editor's Comments

Now then - only three more newsletters to go after this one! I am afraid that I missed the deadline for a section report in the last Bulletin as I was on holiday.

Martin



Welfare

The final total for the sale of Malcolm Young's books was £275, which we gave to Wendy for a donation to the Heart Foundation. The few remaining books unsold we took to one of the Heart Foundation charity shops.

Jackie and I saw Colin and Gladys Hutchinson the other day, and both were looking well. The medics, at last, seem to have solved Colin's health problems, which is good news indeed.

If anyone knows of members who are unwell, or generally under the weather, please let our Membership Secretary, Bernie Surtees know, and he can pass the information on, or take action, as appropriate.

Martin

Where we have been:-

National Drive-it Day

Or to be more precise, where we have not been. Unfortunately this event had to be cancelled owing to lack of interest. Not ours, Jackie and I were booked in, despite the 150 mile round trip! What a way to start the year. Jackie and I did our own Drive-it Day, with a 50 mile, or so, route around the country lanes of Thirsk and Northallerton, ending up at the Allerton Court Hotel for lunch, which is where we bumped into Colin and Gladys! There was quite a large group of classic vehicles which met in Thirsk Market Place, but I do not know who they were, or where they were going, although we did see one in Kilburn, later on. I expect some others did their own thing as well, or maybe joined the M&DMC who were organising a run.

Martin



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Where we are going:-

Hurworth Village Classic Car Show, 14 May 2017

Bernie gave me a booking form to scan, which is at the end of this newsletter. You will need to print this out and fill it in by hand, as it is a jpeg image and cannot be edited. Alternatively, please contact Allan Fishburn if you are interested in joining this event.

Martin

Skylive Air Show, 27 May 2017

I expect that there may still be time to book for this. Contact Bernie Surtees, 01388 832941 or Noel Lindford, 07432 152095, Chairman, Tyne-Tees Centre, MG Car Club, e-mail: noel.lindford@btinternet.com There is a booking form at the end of this newsletter, but again you will need to print this out and fill it in by hand, as it is a jpeg image and cannot be edited.

Martin

Visit to Ormesby Hall, Middlesbrough - 1100hrs 4th June 2017

At the time of writing there are eighteen booked to come on this event, and as I had booked for twenty and been conned into paying a non-refundable deposit, I am glad that I extended the invitation to the Jaguar Drivers' Club! We need two more to make up the twenty, and if we exceed that I will ask if the hotel can cater for extra numbers.

The time booked for lunch is 2.15pm. I am sorry that this is rather late, so I suggest that we arrive at Ormesby Hall at 11.00am to 11.15am. There is a cafe there so we can have a leisurely coffee and a scone, cake etc, followed by a look round the house and grounds. We are allowed a photo opportunity, so we can photograph some, or all of the cars in front of the house. I suggest that we aim to leave at 1.45pm. This will get us to the Treebridge Hotel in plenty of time to look at the menu, and make our choices for starter, desserts, or both, and get a drink from the bar. The cost will be £20 per person to include entry to the hall, and a two course lunch and gratuity. Extra courses, drinks etc. must be ordered and paid for at the bar on the day. Entry to the Hall is free for National Trust members, so if you are a member the cost would be just £15 for the lunch. Remember to bring your membership card.

Please complete the booking form and return it to me as soon as possible, I need to let the hotel know numbers by 21st May. They have also asked what roasts we would like, so I will let everyone who books have details.

Martin

MGOC Classic Vehicle Show Corbridge Sunday 2nd July 2017

I think Bernie had put his name down as liaison for this event. However, I did receive the following earlier in the year from MGOC Northumbria:

*To register, including a driver and one passenger, please do any of the following: -
Go to the Billetto site using this link,
<https://billetto.co.uk/en/events/classicsshowcorbridge>
and simply follow the instructions (recommended method).
or
copy and paste this <https://billetto.co.uk/en/events/classicsshowcorbridge> into your
browser:
or
you can also enter via our website at <http://www.mgnorthumbria.org> on the Clas-
sics in Corbridge 2017 link.*

If you do this yourself, please let Bernie know, as he will need to let them know numbers by early June!

Martin

Harrogate Weekend, including the North of England Rally. Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th August 2017

The following has been received from Jeff Dennis:-

Now is the time to consider booking for the Harrogate Weekend and include the 38th North of England Rally, which takes place on the Sunday in the beautiful grounds of Harewood House.

The whole weekend is very flexible.

Option 1. Make a full weekend of it.

Arrive on the Friday and stay 2 or 3 nights at the Majestic Hotel. Enjoy a pleasant Friday afternoon experiencing the delights of Harrogate and enjoy an excellent evening meal amongst friends. Participate in the drive on Saturday, seeing the stunning Yorkshire countryside, followed by a Gala Dinner, which includes a drinks reception, and evening meal followed by entertainment. Travel to the North of England Rally on the Sunday and meet old friends and view over 200 elegant cars in the unsurpassed setting of Harewood House, one of the North's most impressive stately houses. Stay at the Majestic Hotel for evening meal and travel home refreshed on Monday morning, or leave for home on Sunday after the end of the Rally.

Option 2 Enjoy the Gala Dinner and the Rally; Arrive on the Saturday and stay at the Majestic Hotel for 1 or 2 nights.

Option 3. Travel on the Sunday and enjoy the North of England Rally.

Whichever option you choose you are guaranteed some fantastic leisure time.

This year's 38th North of England Rally is going to be something very special.

First. This is the 60th anniversary of the Club, so the Directors have agreed that entry to the Rally this year will be **free** to members. Yes - you heard that correctly, **Free**. Now you have no excuse. Get yourselves booked in. Fill your boots with picnic paraphernalia and come and join the fun.

Secondly. We are having a raffle for which the prize is! Are you ready for it? **A test drive in one of the new Bentleys.** How is that for something special? This is offered by JCT600 Leodis Court, the Bentley main dealer in Leeds. Half the proceeds will go to their corporate charity.

The entertainment at the Gala Dinner and on the Rally field will be provided by

Victoria Yellop. A brilliant female violinist of international repute. Victoria has had the honour of performing for Her Majesty The Queen. Her music ranges from light classical to vibrant Irish jigs.

The booking slip for the North of England Rally is in this Newsletter. Booking slips are in the April and June issue of the National Bulletin and also available on the Club website, so you have no excuses.

We have 40 rooms reserved at the Majestic Hotel until the **end of June**. The cost for dinner bed and breakfast is held at last years prices. £78 per person per night, standard double. £96 single room, £94 premier room per person per night. There will be a supplementary charge of £7 per person to cover the entertainment costs.

Non residents are most welcome to the Gala Dinner. Cost, including the £7 entertainment supplement, is £37 per person

If you wish to stay for the weekend and book into the Majestic Hotel, please indicate on the booking slip. **Book your accommodation direct with the hotel.** Telephone No 01423 700 300, quoting 'RREC member', to obtain the reduced rate. **After you have booked the hotel inform our hotel co-ordinator, Jeff Dennis**, by email jeff@jeffdennis.co.uk or 07966 492333 and he will send you details of the weekend activities at the hotel.

Non residents need to book and pay for the Gala Dinner **direct** with the hotel and also inform Jeff Dennis. Post code for the hotel is HG1 2HU.

Whatever you decide to do, whether it is the full weekend, part weekend or just the Sunday Rally, you know you are going to have an enjoyable time and be made most welcome.

Remember – the North of England Rally is one of the best. Make sure you are part of it.

DO NOT DELAY – BOOK TODAY

There is a booking form at the end of this newsletter, or one can be downloaded from the Club Website.

Raby Castle – 13 August 2017

We have again been invited to join the JDC at their stand at the Mark Woodward event at Raby Castle. A booking form will be included in the next newsletter, so in the meantime make a note in your diaries.

Martin

Section Weekend:

Friday 29th, Saturday 30th September and

Sunday 1st October 2017

Originally I had booked ten rooms at the Doxford Hall Hotel, as I was not sure how many would be interested in coming. Currently we are fully booked, although it is possible that one more room may become available in the event of a cancellation at the hotel. I have removed the booking form from the end of the newsletter, but if you would still be interested in joining us, let me know and I will start a reserve list.

Martin

RREC GENERAL MANAGER QUESTIONNAIRE.

The following questions are an extract from an e-mail received from the new RREC General Manager – David Maykels – by me on 19.04.17.

The e-mail was addressed to all RREC members, so you should have received your own copy directly. I have, for that reason, only copied the questions he is seeking a response to, and would urge all our Section Members to respond.

The responses received will clearly have an impact on the options adopted by the RREC to develop and move forward.

The Questions:

1. What age group do you fall into under 30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 70+
2. Are you male or female?
3. Do you currently own a Rolls-Royce, a Bentley or neither?
4. Why did you join the RREC?
5. How long have you been a member?
6. What do you enjoy most about the Club?
7. What frustrates you?
8. What one thing would you like to see improved?
9. How did you first hear about the club?
10. Which social events do you attend?
11. Which radio station do you listen to?
12. Which car magazines do you buy?
13. Are you a user of Facebook, Twitter or Instagram
14. How important is the Bulletin to you and how would you rate it?

On a scale of 1-10 how likely would you be to recommend or introduce a friend to the club?

Contact Details: +44 (0) 1327 810790 davidmaykels@rrec.org.uk

Rod MacLeod
Secretary 25.04.17

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