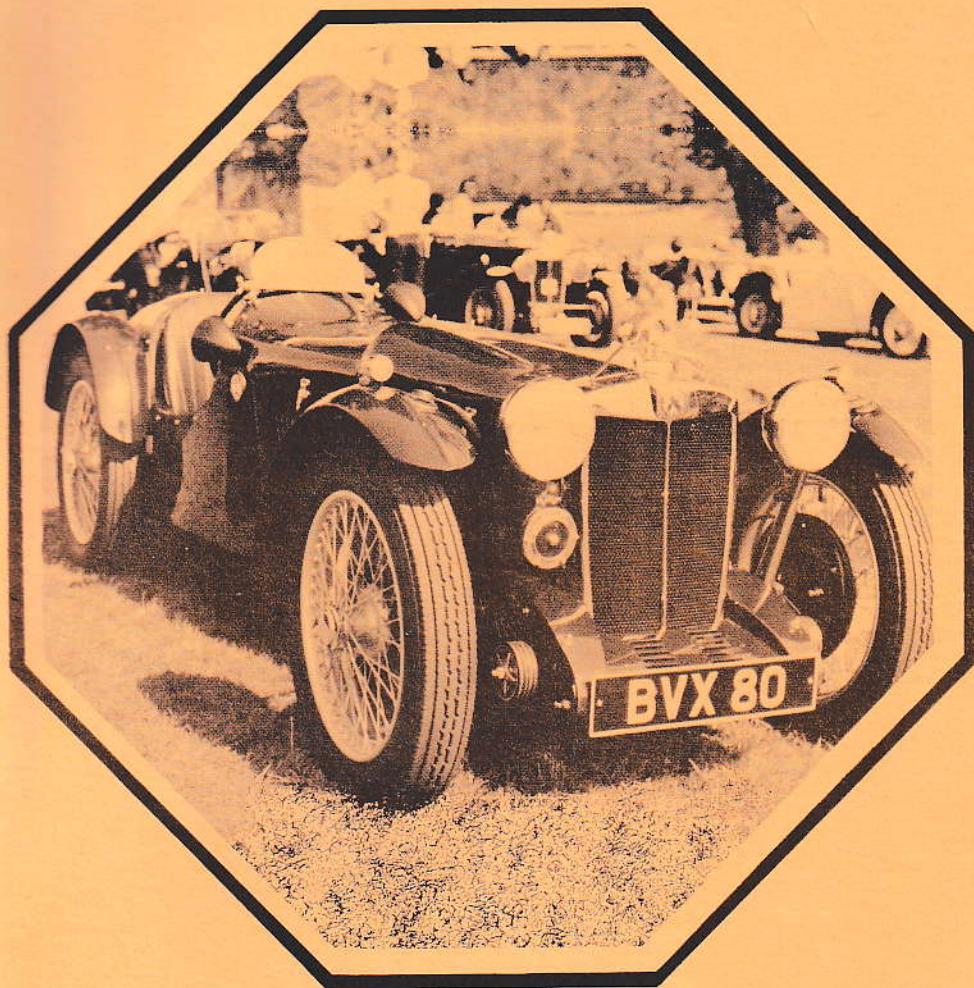
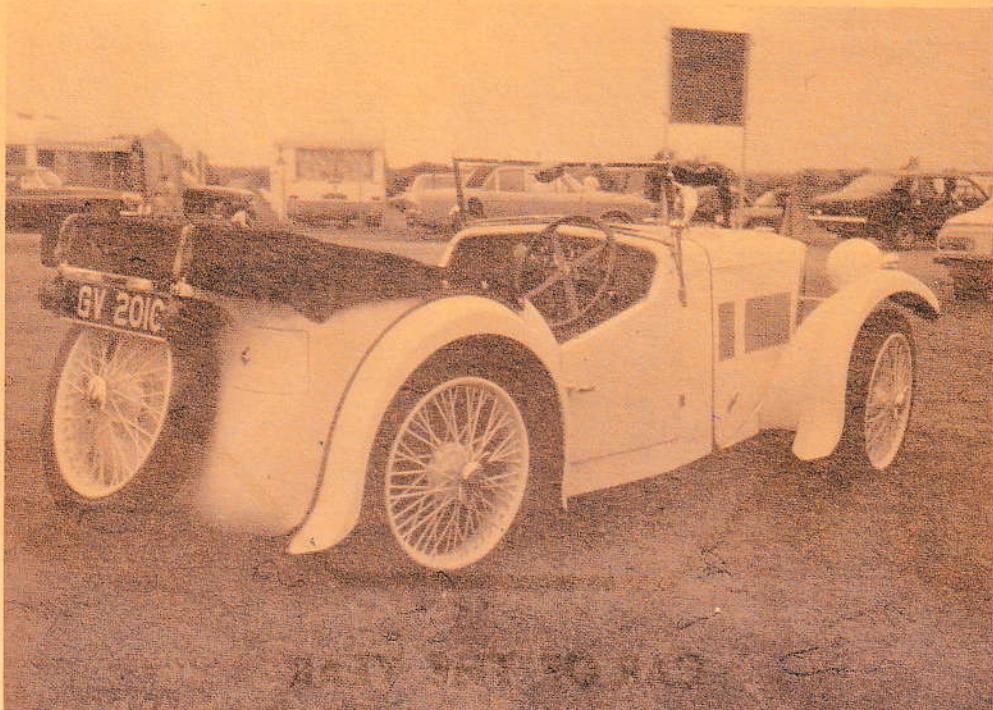
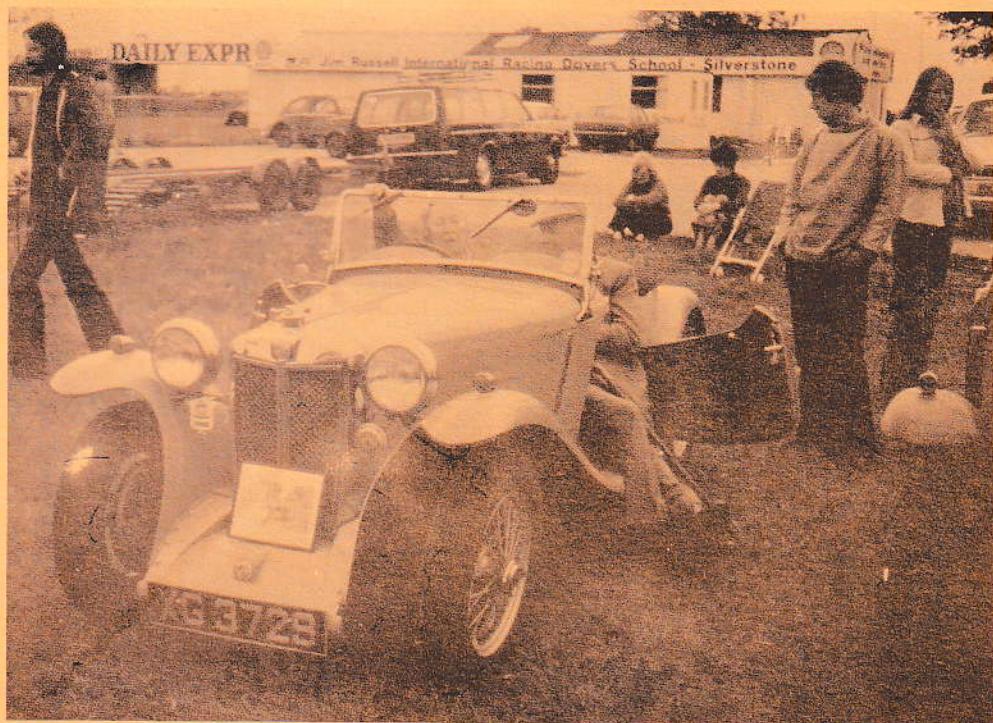




# TRIPLE M REGISTER INFOLETTER



CAR OF THE YEAR



M.G. Club News.

Triple-M Register,  
Infoletter No. 5B.

Editor. To whom all copy should be sent:-

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Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts., BA15 2DN.

Circulation Manager. To whom all s.a.e.s should be sent (size 7"x 10", please).

Tony Roodhouse,  
14, Nelson Gardens,  
Boxgrove Park, Guildford, Surrey.

Cover Pictures.

Outer Front. Car of the Year 1978, Tim Hunt's PB-based special, "Bongazoo". This car was built from a 4-seater by Archie Craig in the late nineteen-forties. It made quite a name for itself in Scottish motor sport, especially when it was blown. I heard an eye-witness account the other day of how it made f.t.d. in a sprint at Bathgate. Archie Craig himself has been active in Scottish Motor Sport until very recently and finally hung up his marshal's flags at the end of last season.

Inside Front Top. Betty Haig's well-known PB with the lady herself at the wheel. Miss Haig started her M.G. ownership with a 14/28 of 1926 vintage which she bought in 1931. Reg. No. was YK 602 although this piece of info. will probably not help our Vintage Register friends to trace it. Her second M.G. was a J2 (improving!), purchased in Feb. 1934 with 3,000 miles on the clock, (ALB 315, anyone own that one now?). She was not at all happy with this car and did not keep it for long. Her PM came along in late 1937 when it was two years old. Willie Wilkinson prepared the engine for competition work (c.r was raised to 7:1) and she promptly won the 1938 Paris to St. Raphael Rally with

(Continued on p.20).

## A LIGHT HEARTED STAFF...

Buck Sands sends this offering immortalising H.G.s in the "Airmen's Song Book" edited by C.H. Ward-Jackson Lieutenant Lancer. It dates from W.W.II and is sung to the tune of "The Mountain of Mourne"

### OH! HARRY, THIS WAAF

Oh! Harry, this Waaf is a wonderful life,  
Sure you might get a job as an officer's wife.  
There are plenty of airwomen digging for gold,  
At least, when I asked 'em, that's what I was told.  
So I soon took a hand in this digging y'kon,  
And I tried very hard to attract all the men,  
I saluted quite smartly by winking one eye,  
But ignored all the airmen unless they could fly.

A handsome Flight Lieutenant was the cause of my fall,  
So attractive and handsome and heavenly tall,  
Took me for a ride in his little H.G.,  
When something went wrong with the engine y'know,  
We were running on pool and 100 octane,  
Though I shouted quite loudly no help could obtain,  
He'd twenty H.A.s<sup>2</sup> to his credit already,  
So one little Waaf couldn't make him unsteady.

and now on my screey & wazz eve callazoo,  
Confident to say how I got my discharge,  
In a shiny sky craft.

Also, we often saw brilliant contributions to Miss Lucy B. McGehee of 171, Burwell Rd., Ipswich whose Limerick was chosen by Mr. Cecil Kimber as winner of the H.G. International Competition in 1934. It reads:-

There was a young girl called Nanette,  
Who happened on H.G. Nanette,  
Complete with blouse,  
Reputed far prettier than  
Garrison's independent project.

By the author.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

1. Lawrie Rhoads, P.O. Box 335, 123, Adams St., Medfield, Mass. 02052, U.S.A., needs engine, transmission, lamps and instruments for a J1.
2. Del Hawkes, P.O. Box 848, Steilacoom, Wash. U.S.A., wants a J2 in any condition.
3. D. Lawley, 192, Howat St., Stratford, Ontario, Canada, N5A2C1, is restoring an EA Airline Coupe and would much appreciate any other Airline owners' help. He needs photos. of detail like instrument panels, door interior, sliding sun roof, cubby hole area etc..
4. R.H. Prichard, 143, Shildwall Valley Rd., Liverpool, L16 4LA, has the following P-type spares to sell or swap. chassis - good condition, front axle (no brake assembly), rear axle and diff. (again no brake bits), steering box, track rods, engine block, front and rear springs. He needs front shockers, original spare plug holder.
5. Tony Jenkins, 21, Turvey Lane, Long Whatton, Leicsh., LE12 5SH, has for sale:- H radiator shell with core supports, "Eureka" oil pressure gauges, one black face, one white, H-type dash light "pull-on" switch, and new Lucas rear light. P-type cyl. head with valves, rockers and camshaft. P/H petrol pump, 12volt 'L' with bronze body. EA n/c door handle, 16inch road wheel, 4J, 48 spoke with new 6.00x16 resould.
6. Ben Hess, 29, Avondale Rd., Earlsdon, Coventry, needs to suit D/F/J, door locks and striker plates, to suit D/P, light switch, ignition switch, number plate brackets prop. shaft tunnel. His tel.no. is Coventry 711142.
7. D.S. Anderson, 32, Saville Rd., Blaby, Leicester, needs for his H-type; speedo/rev. counter, petrol gauge, dash lamps, steering wheel, +0.060" pistons, and vertical drive chain gallery. He has for exchange; P-type head lights, side lights, P-type (?) mid and rear oil drain pipes, complete H-type windscreen, H-type bonnet top, tel. no. 0533-774422.

8. Timothy Elwesde, The Flax, The Hoppety, Tedworth, Surrey, needs the following F-type parts:- radiator core, parts for the side-mounted spare wheel carrier as fitted to the saloonie.

9. Nigel Muscoliblitz, Rhodes House, Thurlestone, Tiverton, Somerset is having a batch of J-type crankshafts made. There are (or were) two of the batch to spare when we wrote. They are plain 2½in. big-end diameter crankpins in EN6IT, semi-counterbalanced, with a "P" rear dog nut. Price £200 and you can have new rods, shell bearings, big-end bolts and little ends too if you like. Write to Nigel.

10. David Brainwood, 4, Beaconsfield Rd., Holton Howbray, Leics., Tel. 4664-454, says that the J-type cylinder head he offered in the last Infocletter is really an M-type one. It is still on offer.

11. Alan Witham, "Heatfield", 39, Monnington Rd., Savile Park, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 0SX, Tel. - Halifax 57573, has for sale or exchange, two J brake drums, two hydraulic back plates and shoes to go with same, K-type differential (pinion chipped), J footbrake pedal and bracket assembly, 1½ petrol tank, various M-type engine and clutch parts, J front main bearing housing/dynamo mounting, Wade blower with castings to convert to size for 750cc.

He needs:- J flywheel, J clutch pressure plate, J clutch floating plate, J footbrake pedal and bracket assembly, J inlet manifold, P gearbox remote lever, oil/gas spray system (try your nearest ex-Ferguson tractor agent), steel and bakelite covers for J fuse and cut-out boxes.

12. Mike Macke would like to know where aluminum brake back plates for J-types grow.

13. Roger Ammerson, 164, Glen Rd., Oadby, Leics., LE2 4RV, needs the following J2 spares: cranks and bushes, rocker covers, new rear filler, door handles and locks, strike plates, transmission tunnel, ignition and light switch, and a master-fused water thermometer. He has various J & P type spares to swap. Ring him on 0533 718615 to find out about these.

14. Paul Thomas, 43, Kewillworth Ave., Winstanley Park, Lenton S12 9, (where he will be until the end of July). Is selling his J2, 1933, reg. no. AJ 9404, has PB engine and 3rd broken. It is half-rebuilt with rolling chassis completed and body woodwork all cut out. Some bits (not specified) are missing. The car is at "Lanceros", Tividale, Redditch, which explains the half-rebuilt bit. All expenses with about £1,650 in hand to Paul at the Winstanley address, please.

15. Garry Brewerton, P.O.Box 1388, Meadow Lake, Sask., Canada, S0M 1Y0, needs spares for his J2 and, in particular, he needs a clutch or pattern for or an actual pair of invert front wings.

16. Tony Jecklin, 21, Turvey Lane, Long Whatton, Leics., LE12 4PN, would appreciate any info on changing front wheel camber from  $2^{\circ}$  positive to about  $1^{\circ}$  negative. He thought that I had done this mod. on my J2 but he was fooled by the optical illusion created by cracked mudguards.

17. "Historic Racing Cars in Australia" by Jim Blunden is said to be no less than five KJs. In response to an alogue distributing request they are:-

Chassis	U.K. Reg. No.
KJ012	AB 1269
KJ002	AB 1474
KJ004	AB 1412
KJ010	AB 2161
KJ000	Probably none.

**NOTE.** The more mathematically-minded of you will soon notice that pages 7,8,15 and 16 are missing from this Infoletter. This is not because Tony or I have been absent-minded but because, here I am, two weeks late on press date and not enough copy to fill 20 pages. Why have 9 pages 20?, you may ask. Easy. I expect a keen readership to send me copy for at least 20 pages. Due to the oddities of typing stencils which fold, I type from the outsides in and the middle out. In fact I'm going to have to waffle to fill the rest of this page and it will be in the form of

#### **SCOTTISH NOTES.**

Let us cast our minds back to Infoletter No. 5, dated June 1970, where Steve Dear was all jubilation because, out of 6 Cream Cracker P Types, he had traced no less than 35 with logic which might not have got him very far in a Cambridge Maths, Tripos. He then deduced that there must have been up to 4,000 MM cars in hiding and waiting to be found. The rate of discovery of new MM machines since then has been steady and modest and neither supports or disproves this theory.

When I started work in Scotland in 1973, I asked John Reid for some Scottish MM contacts. He sent me all he knew, nine people who owned ten cars between them. We now know of some 41 MM cars in Scotland with leads on 6 others which I have made a mental note to pursue.

Only 6 of these are known to be runners but the odd thing is that very few of the previously unknown cars were an footloose to M.G. enthusiasts in Scotland and some were actually active in old car events here. We have some 2,000 cars known to the Register (right, John?) of the scottish picture, where the actual MM population exceeds the known by a factor of more than three, so typical, I can go better than Steve and postulate that there are over 6,000 MM cars in hiding. Scropy hunting.

## MORE ON 60mm PISTONS.

Bob Walker, 87, St. Leonard's Rd., Harrogate, writes:-  
I was particularly interested in Colin Butcher's info. on  
60mm pistons. Some years ago I reckoned that pistons for  
rebuilding my PB were likely to be a problem, and I came  
across some Singer ref. RS7782 pistons in std. +30 & +60  
sizes. I proposed to use them in company with eccentric  
little end bushes to recover the 0.070" compression height;  
I got the idea from John Thornley's book in the chapter  
on H.D.C. I wonder if other people have tried it?

The weights of these pistons are:-

{ std.	245	$\pm$ 0.25 gm.	All Hepworth and
Singer { +30	270	"	Grandage split skirt
{ +60	282	"	with rings and pin.

For comparison 2 std. PB "Hepplex" pistons that I have  
weigh 228 and 229 gm.

A set of Wellworthy 57mm+.060" Wolseley Hornet with  
domed top weigh 216, 219, 247, 245, 248 and 249gm each.  
Perhaps I have mixed a batch or Wellworthy didn't take as  
much care as Hepworth.

---

We must let Colin Butchers have the last word:-

"I now learn that new 60mm pistons - possibly to my over-  
size measurement - are available from the works of Peter  
Hepworth, "Red Gables", Ben Rhydding Drive, Ilkley, Yorks.  
Tel; 0943-609240.

A local friend recently purchased a set of standard  
pistons with rings, and was informed that there was no  
difficulty over supply. The price was in the region of  
\$20 per piston, which probably compares quite well with  
many modern pistons. Peter Hepworth is from the "Hepworth  
and Grandage" family, who make hepoltite pistons, and a  
couple of years ago he formed his own company to provide  
pistons and other specialist engine parts. I also believe  
that the pistons he produces are from the original  
Hepoltite drawings."

Thank you Colin. The moral here is...weigh your  
pistons before fitting them!

Date of Issue January 1955

## Service Information Sheet No. 21

**HEAD PROTECTION ON THE J2 TWO-SEATER**

A number of complaints have been received to the effect that in wet weather the J2 model throws up so much mud on the windscreen in line with the driver's eyes that it makes the car unpleasant to drive.

Taking advantage of recent very wet weather tests have been made to see what can be done to improve matters.

In a first test the headlamps were removed and it was promptly found that the trouble had disappeared. The lamps were refitted and the trouble returned as before.

The problem was therefore primarily a question of how to mount the headlamps in a position which cures the trouble without spoiling the appearance of the car.

A drawing shows how this is done. The existing headlamp support lugs are cut off and filed up, the bare metal being touched in with cellulose.

Alloy support brackets Part Nos. 2425 offside and 2416 nearside are then fitted in position utilizing the existing front lugs. The headlamps can then be mounted in a new position further forward and close together which is the best position so far found.

Various special half vulcanes and other devices have been tried at the Works but none of them produce the effect which is obtained by moving the headlamps.

Headlamp brackets as above can be obtained from the A.C. Co. reception of chassis no. of the car in question.

Lug at present  
used for lamp  
counting to be  
removed.

Headlamp tie bar

Hole for  
headlamp  
stud  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. dia.  
04

Headlamp support bracket  
Pt. No. 2425 0.5.  
2.26 N.W.

$\frac{1}{8}$  in. dia. bolt  
also picks up  
horn bracket.

TRIPLE-K MOTOR SPARES, Kimber Cottage, Glaziers Lane,  
Normandy, Guildford, Surrey.

Offer the following new KMM Spares:-

White metal camshaft bearings, H,C,D,J, types £9.50 set.  
P type £11.60 "  
F type £12.00 "  
J.K.L. types £14.00 2

Phosphor-bronze road spring trunnions,

P,J,L,F, types £1.85 pair

H type, front only £3.25 pair.

Hardened steel U/J bushes for pre-1936 prop shafts  
with circlips..... £4.85 for 4

Exchange prop-shaft spiders with matched bushes  
£9.00 each.

P,H,K,L, types original 506 type shock absorber  
indicator dials, self adhesive... 55p each.

Fulip inlet valves (KB965), P,E,H,L,types £1.50 each.

J type front aprons..... £14.75 each.

J,P,Z,L,E,types bronze rocker bushes £1.35 each.

H type early "split"-type hood frames £11.00 each.

E type side screen frames £10.00 pair.

H type rear spring valances £14.25 pair.

White 8/39 c.v.p. sets £38.00 each.

All the above are subject to 15% V.A.T.

Also: H.G. World '75 £4.00 No V.A.T.

H.G. International '77 £4.00 "

H.G. Yearbook 1973 £5.00 "

Orders can still be taken for J and P type cranks.

These are made of E224T, have 1½ in. dia. big ends, can  
be machined to take white metal or shell (Triumph  
Bromlech) bearings or, in the case of the J cranks, be  
provided with 1½in. dia. big end. Price £250 with £50  
deposit with order. Write to Phil and discuss your needs.

Competition Notes By John Adams

The Jubilee Year has started with a flying flurry of trials activities.

The MCC Exeter Trial in January saw only Ian Davison's PA uphold MM honours, coming home with a First Class Award but a very sick engine.

The M.G.C.C. Salisbury Trial on 30th March seemed a good opportunity for a testing ground for the Land's End Trial the following week-end, and five MM cars turned up; Ian Davison's PA (now with rebuilt engine), John Adam's PA, Steve Dear's PA and George Ward's I2, finishing in that order. Allan Groom's PB arrived with its Centreco blower blown, but Steve Dear and his famous hammer soon had the car in action again. Generally a good event.

On Good Friday the following week, a total of 328 assorted vehicles assembled for the Land's End Trial, including seven MM Cars. The general verdict seemed to be that the ascent was the best for many years, blessed with fine weather, some new hills and few delays. Some hills, seemed a little easier than usual, such as Bogger's Rock and NE Barracuda, and this must encourage the trend back to plain tyres. The one hill which sorted the men from the boys was Crackington, which was in fine condition and stopped the majority of the entry. Best MM man here was undoubtedly Allan Groom, who made a clean climb on 4.50x19 plain tyres on his way to a First Class Award. Points were also won by Barry Smith in his unblowered PB running on Town and Country 6.00x16 tyres which require a re-start mid-way on Crackington, and also by Paul Fletcher's PB who was using 5.50x16 Pirelli Cinturato tyres which give good grip, but are officially classified as plain and do not therefore require a re-start.

Ian Davison and John Adams, both with PAs on plain tyres, failed only on Crackington to record Second Class Awards. Mike Dean in his fine I2 and Patrick Gardner in the ex-Hudson PA were both making their trials debut, and both ex-

cars finished on the Saturday evening with only minor troubles en-route, although both missed out several sections to keep up to time. Steve Dear's PA was an unfortunate non-starter with a fractured hydraulic (1/2) brake pipe shortly before the start. Perhaps the only other tragedy of the week-end occurred when the E.M.I. contingent arrived en masse at the week-end accommodation in Newquay - innocently arranged by your Competitions Sec. - only to discover that it was a Temperance Hotel!.

The following week-end saw the V.S.C.C. Wessex Trial, with Steve Dear and Ian Davison entered in their PAs. Steve's now had brakes again, and went well to a First Class Award and Third Overall. Ian Davison's car had suffered 'hood gasket' troubles on the way home from Cornwall the previous week-end, but with these overcome the car went well to a Second Class Award. It was interesting to see that the overall winner in the Wessex was the Austin 7 of Barry Clerke despite having broken the crankshaft the previous week-end in the Land's End. Perhaps he keeps a stock of spare engines for the purpose!.

#### CAR OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Scores as at 20th April 1980.

1. M.B.Horrie	J2	49
2. I.Davison	PA	36
3. S.J.Bear	P1o/o	27
4. J.G.Adams	P1o/o	13
5. G.Ward	K1	14
6. P.Fletcher	P1o/o	12
6. A.Grassey	P2o/o	12
8. B.J.Smith	PE	11
9. H.A.Dean	I2	4
11. P.G.Gardner	PA	3

## NOTE THOUGHTS ON GEARBOXES.

- We all know that J1, J2, J3, L, P, X and XY types all have the same basic gearbox. The major variations are:-
1. The J-series bell-housing is shallower than the others and looks the rear engine cross tube mounting mirrors.
  2. The PA and XY first and second gear ratios are lower than the others being 4.08 on 1st. (c.f. 3.58:1) and 2.32 on 2nd. (c.f. 2.14:1). These lower ratios were also offered as an alternative on the RA.
  3. The speedo drive ratios differ, L and J being 8/14, P, 4/10, RA and XY 5/12 and NL having no speedo. The speedo drive ratio is stamped on the top of the casing behind the remote control flange.
  4. The later boxes have the cast-ijg bracket for the hand throttle and choke controls and the external reverse gear stop.
  5. The XY has (I think) a nine-spline input shaft flange instead of a six-spline one, (see later).

Now, no-one has yet set out to make gearbox spares, and with this in mind that when second-gear clusters finally do become readily scarce they are going to be very expensive to produce. It therefore behoves us to be aware of any alternative sources of spares. We know that the Wolseley Hornet had a similar gearbox (different bell-housing, different remote control, nine-spline input shaft, and the car tested by "Autocar" in April 1932 had the RA ratios of 1:1, 1.36:1, 2.32:1 and 4.08:1). However, a scan through scrap yards not 1,000 miles from Glasgow uncovered the following 'boxes which may point to other possible sources of spares.

### Exhibit A.

Has the correct gearbox casting, a J-type bell-housing, but no remote control fitting, a long whippy gearlever instead, and a 3-prong fitting to take a fabric U/J on a 6/8 spline. What does this one off? Morris Minor? MG? Austin Seven? Or something?

Exhibit B.

Is just like A above but the gearbox casing is one inch longer than "standard". This is to accommodate synchromesh cones on 4th. and 3rd. This, in turn, calls for changes throughout the internal arrangement so that none, no, not any of the parts are interchangeable. But it may be possible to fit the whole gearbox if a one inch shorter prop. shaft could be arranged. What sort of car did this come from?

Exhibit C.

Was found without a bell-housing or gear lever but has the same casing as the J, nine-spline input shaft (Wolseley) and internal ratios of 1:1, 1.44:1, 2.79:1 and 3.92:1. The 1st. and 2nd. gear cluster looks just like the H.G. ones and the speeds. drive ratio is 3/11. What car does this come from?

Exhibit D.

Ratios identical to C above, the long casing (and therefore synchromesh), a completely foreign bell-housing in aluminium alloy, speeds drive ratio of 1/15 and what looks like an overdrive on the back end. This cannot be confirmed because it had defied all attempts at taking it apart so far. What car does this come from and who wants a P-type with overdrive?.

Seriously, though, one would suspect that all these came from the Morris/Wolseley range and might point to an extra source of parts if anyone gets desperate. But, what cars do we seek out in scrapyards and autojumbles?.

AND FINALLY.

1. D. Lawley, 192, Novat St., Stratford, Ontario, Canada, N5A2C1, recently met a Mr. H.F. Godfrey (who also lives in Canada) and who used to own C0283 (engine no. AA 134, Reg. no. AXO 203). He has some early photos of the car and if the present owner would like to be put in touch Mr. Lawley can arrange this.
2. Nick Sands sends a note on the 1935 Alpine Rally Cars. HG 2603 (Chassis no. L2056) has changed hands again and is now owned by Mr. J. Kelly in the U.S.A.. JB 2265 (Chass. no. L2068 is believed to have been exported to the U.S.A. as long ago as 1935 and it has not been heard of since. This was the Watkinson car. Perhaps our trans-atlantic MMF reps. should get their search parties out. JO 7243 (Chassis no. L2072) is the Welch car and we have no clue as to its whereabouts. Nick says that some covet K3s but he would like to find that one.

3. And some more on L types. In his book "The History of Brooklands Motor Course", W. Boddy says, "For the August S.A.R.C. Meeting the bright idea was adopted of a Mountain Race between old-time Brooklands drivers, for which the M.G. Car Co. Ltd. graciously lent ten 1087 cc M.G. Magnas so that each competitor should have a fair chance." The drivers were:-

Lt.-Col. J.T.C. Moore-Brabazon M.C., M.P.,

Sydney Cummings

Major R. G. Chapman

Capt. J. A. D. French

Capt. H. Macklin

Capt. L. G. Hornstead

H. F. McConnell

Capt. F. H. B. Samuelson

J. W. Stocks

Tom Thornycroft.

So it looks as if more L types might be genuine Brooklands racers. Can anyone quote the chassis numbers of these cars?

4. FINALLY, TONY ASKS ME TO REMIND YOU THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TWO INCREASES IN POSTAL CHARGES SINCE SOME OF YOU LAST SENT HIM S.A.E.S.. HE FEELS EMBARRASSED WHEN HE HAS TO CREEP UP TO THE LETTER BOX WITH LARGE ENVELOPES CONTAINING 5-6 POUNDS OF STAMPS. PLEASE PRINT HIM A FEW 1p OR 2p STAMPS IF YOU HAVE OLD STOCK WITH HIM.

In fact K.G.s did quite well in this all lady event for Miss Enid Riddell won the 1600cc Class in her K3 (K3008 now owned by Noel Cobb in the U.S.A.) Miss Dorothy Stanley-Turner's PB came 5th. and won the Concours and Countess Pamela May took a second in class place although on this occasion she was driving a Riley instead of her usual J3.

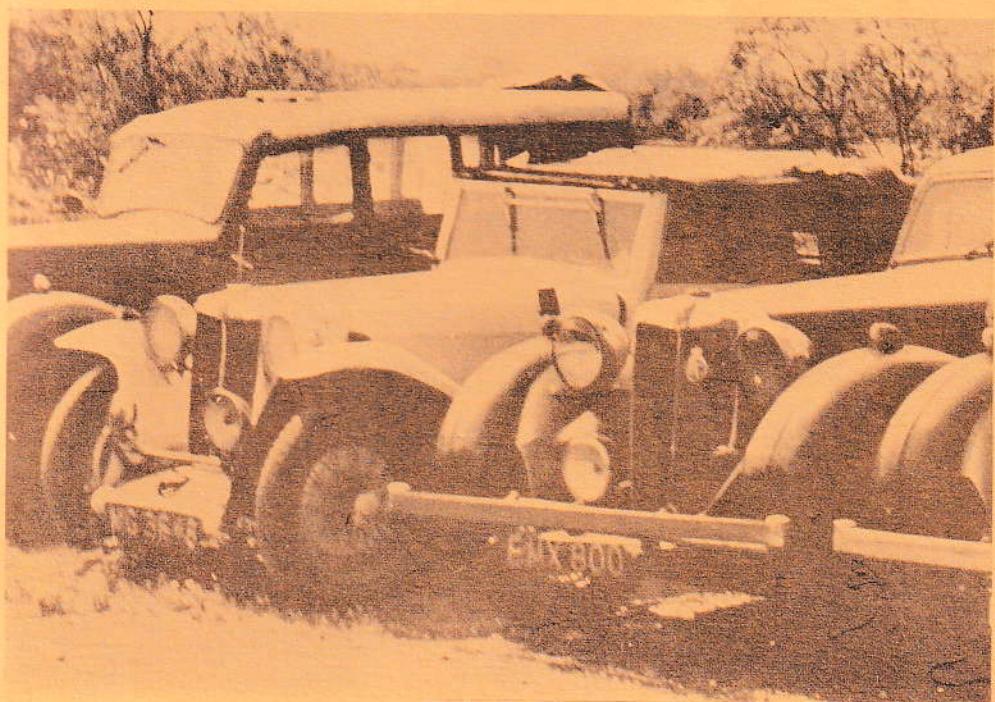
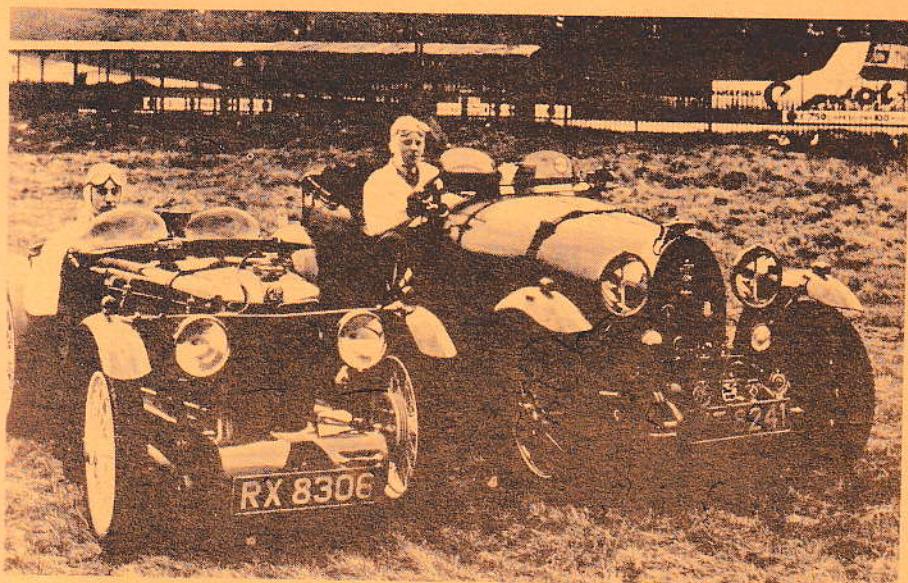
In 1959 Miss Haig came 3rd. in the ex-works PB JB 4611. She reports getting 16 m.p.g. on 10Lb/in<sup>2</sup> boost. This car was resident in the Trowbridge area in 1969 with an XPAG engine to drag it along. Where is it now? After W.W.II Miss Haig raced an NE, I believe the T.T. winning car now owned by Pat Green but I cannot find the book which says so. This particular picture was taken at our Silverstone meeting about four years ago.

Inside Front Bottom. A smart J1 taken at the same Silverstone meeting. Alas, I do not know who owns it, nor does Nick Sands. Sir, if you tell me all about your car, I'll print it in the next Infoletter.

Inside Back Top. RX 8306, the Evans brothers' C type. This car is the one now owned by Mike Edmondson, fitted with an R-type engine and which has gone so very fast since Colvin Gunn sorted out the Zoller blower (by the not so simple expedient of making a new one).

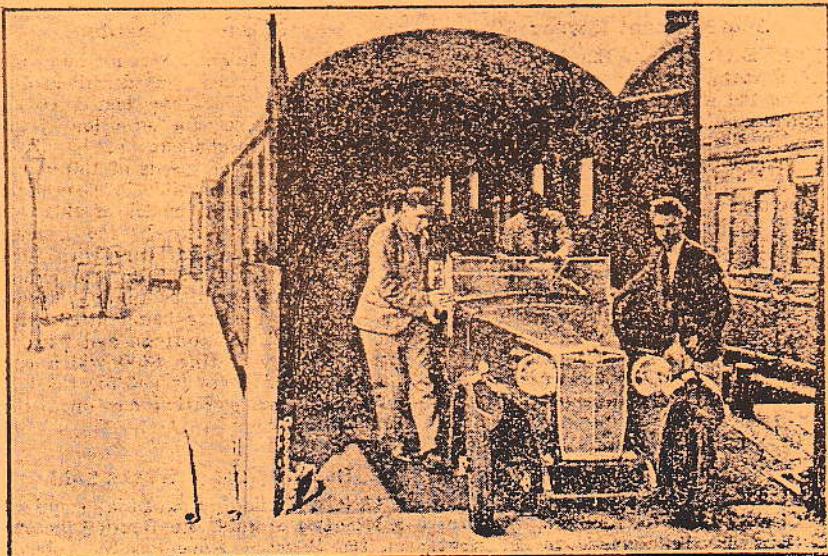
Inside Back Bottom. This picture was taken at Richardsons' (who have a thing about M.G.s) in the middle 'sixties. Nick Sands would like to know the identity of the middle car (MG 3678) and/or its present whereabouts.

Final Note. Closing date for copy for Infoletter No. 59 will be the end of June. Can we please have something from all routine contributors.



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Unloading one of the first arrivals at Olympia at Addison Road Station. Most of the cars in the Show are brought by train.