

# NORTH HAMPSHIRE *AUSTIN* ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

Founded 1973

## Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

[www.nhaeg.org.uk](http://www.nhaeg.org.uk)

February 2008

Club nights at The New Inn, Heckfield, 8pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in every month

### Mo's Mutterings

I hope you have motored into 2008 safely and have already been out and about in your Austins. Don and I started the new year off well with a visit to The Phoenix on New Year's Day, where we met up with several members of the NHAEG and other old friends with their vintage cars.

There are two Austins for sale this month, perhaps a club member out there is looking for a challenge during the next few months. You could have an Austin up and running for the warmer weather and join in with our fun activities during the summer!

Here are some photos of a 1936 Pearl which is situated in Chobham, with engine and gear box out, new clutch lining fitted and flywheel ring gear.



The price is £1000.00 to include the trailer (caravan chassis) if required. The pram irons allow the hood to fold down to a tourer.

The owner is: Herbie Fisher Tel: 01276 485813

*Thanks to Malcolm Ryley for this information.*

**FOR SALE**

**1934 BOX SALOON RP**

**"BUMBLE"**

**REGISTRATION CG7280**

**MECHANICALLY SOUND, ENGINE REBUILT**

**BODY REQUIRES TLC**

**PRICE: £2,500.00**

**Tel: TED/SALLY 01256882572**



## COLIN'S COLUMN

What dreadful weather we have had of late, not really the sort for enjoying our type of cars. Ann and I had hoped to get to The Phoenix on New Year's Day but unfortunately, neither of us were particularly well. (No, we had not been drinking the previous night). I understand however, there was a very good turnout with a great many NHAEG members there. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

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On the 13<sup>th</sup> January Don and I went to Brooklands to watch the VSCC Driving Tests, also there from the NHAEG was Tony (Westall). Thankfully the rain held off and it was an excellent day, with some very spirited driving, especially from the Frazer Nash, Riley and a couple of Brescia Bugatti drivers.

There was a very large contingent of Austin 7's, 20 altogether, mainly specials and sports but there were a few Chummys and one short wheelbase saloon. Some of them had obviously had a lot of work done on their engines judging by the speeds they were doing especially up the Test Hill. One young lady however suffered the embarrassment of not making it to the top when her 7 jumped out of gear and she was unable to reselect before coming to a standstill. Being unable to restart on the hill she had to roll back to the bottom. The only other car unable to reach the top was a 1902 Dennis, which seemed a strange car to be competing.

There were 6 tests going on all around the site so there was always plenty to watch, as well as a great many spectators cars in the paddock area to look at including a very rare Mors racing car from the early part of the last century which was all engine with a couple of uncomfortable looking seats. Unfortunately we were not in the area when it arrived or when it left so we were unable to hear it but I imagine it would have made a glorious sound.

A very enjoyable day, if you have never been to a VSCC meeting you should give it a try sometime you will not be disappointed. It's good to see cars being put through their paces although Don and I did not think we would like to drive our cars like that. We will stick to gentle drives in the country.

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Our AGM was held at the January club night with an excellent attendance of 36 members. It was very straightforward affair. In my Chairman's Report I just mentioned the things we had done during the past year and thanked the members who had contributed to making them all a success. Jean gave her Treasurer's Report, explaining some of the entries on the Financial Statement that she had handed out to members at the start of the evening. There was no Secretary's Report as Trevor unfortunately was not well and unable to attend; hopefully by the time you read this he will be fighting fit again. Trevor did however tell me he had very little to say and nothing of any real importance.

We then held the election for the committee to serve in 2008. The officers remain the same but we do have a new committee member, Peter Adams, who is very welcome. At this point I would like to thank, on behalf of all club members, Roy Roberts for all the years he has served on the Committee. Roy has been a member of the club since its early days in the 1970s and for most of that time he has been on the committee, for a number of years serving as Chairman. Many thanks Roy for all your efforts and commitment over those years.

We also voted for the person who members consider deserves special recognition for outstanding service during the past year. There were many names put forward all worthy of recognition but the one who received the most votes was Ann Greig for all her efforts in organising the raffle each month. Well done Ann!

Under Any Other Business the question was raised as to whether we should look again at committee members retiring by rotation. This was discussed and it was decided that the committee should look at it again, at their first meeting, and come back to the members with some suggestions.

With nothing else under Any Other Business the meeting closed, many thanks to all members attending.

During the course of the evening Peter (Barlow) mentioned that he was proposing to run an event on Easter Sunday, which quite a few members indicated they would like to go on. He will let Maureen have the details to put in the Newsletter.

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I understand from George that most members have renewed their membership for 2008. There are a few however who have not and George will be sending out emails to remind them. If you are one of these people and are intending to remain in the club please renew as soon as possible so that George can draw up the list of members for 2008. If for any reason you are not renewing it would be appreciated if you would let us know why. Unfortunately this will be your last Newsletter if you have not renewed before the March issue is distributed.

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I came across an interesting web site the other day, which is well worth a visit. It is [www.austinmemories.com](http://www.austinmemories.com) and contains an enormous amount of information on Austin cars, people and the history of Longbridge.

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That's all for now, hopefully this dreadful weather we are currently having will soon come to an end and we can again start to enjoy our cars.

Safe and Happy Motoring,

**Colin**

## Secretary's Scribblings

### AGM 2008

As those who attended this year may have observed I didn't make it myself due to being laid low by a variety of 'lergies' which, in fact, continue to be tiresome. However, as the saying goes, 'into each life a little rain must fall' and such inconveniences cannot last forever. As I write, I am beginning to feel just a little more human so hopefully things will improve from hereon.

In any event, it is understood that the AGM went smoothly and as per normal, although the ballot brought about a slight change in those elected to serve on the 2008 committee. Apart from this nothing of particular note seemingly arose which, perhaps, is just as well since I gather that no notes were taken recording the proceedings! I didn't realise that I appear to be amongst the very few who have mastered the black art of handling a pen and paper

In view of the change in Committee membership, I would like to warmly welcome Peter (Adams) to the 'happy band' but would, however, hasten to add and express *my* own sincere thanks and appreciation for the efforts, over many years, of Roy (Roberts) in his various capacities, both on and off the NHAEG Committee. Roy has unfailingly displayed what I would term a wise and 'steadying' influence whenever committee business has been discussed which has helped to ensure that any issue, significant or trivial, has been treated in a sensible, measured manner. As someone who admits to, (on, hopefully, rare!) occasions, 'shooting from the hip', I, personally, have found his voice of calm and reasoned logic most helpful. It can always be relied upon to keep things in proper perspective. So, Roy, thank you once again for your past efforts and support though, hopefully, neither will markedly decrease despite the change which has taken place. Just think, no more having to turn out on cold, wet winter evenings to attend committee meetings! Sounds OK to me!

As a footnote to this item I understand that some expression of dismay and perhaps perceived criticism was expressed by some members, following the election of the 2008 committee, regarding the protocol adhered to so far as voting is concerned. It is maybe worth pointing out that, under existing Club Rules (Constitution), the committee consists of four Officers (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, plus four ordinary members. It follows, therefore, that if, approaching the time of the AGM, a nomination or nominations are received for any of these positions then a ballot becomes necessary to ensure that all members have the opportunity to select the eight to serve on the new committee. That this process has not been necessary or invoked over the past few years, (since no nominations for *any* position were forthcoming) does not detract from the fact that it remains valid and entirely proper. Until and unless a change in constitution is drafted, voted and enacted this is how our club works.

Furthermore, a suggestion has been mooted for, perhaps, one member to retire annually on a four-year rotational basis to ensure that 'fresh blood' has the opportunity to surface and serve on the committee. This notion was raised and debated early last year and the idea even put to members to solicit opinions. As so often turns out to be the case, few, if any, responses were received and those which were appeared to be in favour of sticking with the 'status quo'.

Nevertheless, since the topic appears to have aroused some controversy it will doubtless be raised and debated again in committee in the near future.

## Charlie Couling

Some members may never have met Charlie Couling who has the distinction (unless someone advises me otherwise!) of being our most Senior Member; his age, at last birthday in June, being 82. A motor engineer and one-time garage proprietor Charlie has been a member of the NHAEG for a very long time, as many will confirm. Not all that long ago he would attend Club meetings in one of his two, sequentially numbered, 1938 ex-GPO Morris Minor vans (FGN 202 and FGN 203), until the challenge of doing so simply became too much for him. He also even accompanied us occasionally on our trips to the Isle of Wight and elsewhere.

However, having had an extended period of ill-health and some hospitalisation a couple of years or so ago his general health, and in particular, his state of mind, have continued to deteriorate as a letter, received recently from his daughter, Marilyn Maddock, confirms.

Marilyn mentions that she has had Power of Attorney over Charlie's affairs for the past 18 months and his Alzheimer's had worsened to the extent that investigations were being conducted soon regarding care home placements. However, on January 1<sup>st</sup> he took a tumble and was hospitalised for a broken peg on one of his vertebrae. He is now fitted with a metal 'halo' since (predictably, perhaps, for Charlie) he was being 'difficult' with collar/neck supports.

Although his condition is currently stable he is not eating (Charlie always enjoyed his food and came to every Christmas Dinner until a couple of years ago!) and has difficulty drinking. He is currently in Truela Ward, South Wing, Royal Berks Hospital in Reading and will be for quite a while yet, Marilyn believes.

Clearly the prospect of Charlie returning to share a pint and a natter with us again has to be considered remote but, nevertheless, those who feel inclined, may care to drop him a line, either at the above address, or to his home address which is 212 Reading Road, Wokingham, RG41 1LH. It is entirely possible that such gestures may not be fully appreciated, certainly by the man himself, but, after such a long association with the club, it would be sad if he were not to receive some expressions of sympathy - in view of the circumstances now surrounding him and, of course, his daughter - by former club friends letting him know he has not been forgotten.

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## Next month.....

Our esteemed Newsletter Editor (Maureen) and her equally distinguished other half are off on one of their periodic antipodean jaunts shortly and the quill, therefore, is being passed over to me for the March issue of the Newsletter. I should warn in advance that this is likely to be a fairly thin edition since, at very long last, things are coming to a head and there is now a distinct possibility that Jean and I will be back in our own home within the next six weeks or so - that's

the plan anyway! Obviously everything will be pretty hectic and there will be little time to devote to producing an issue of normal length.

Nevertheless, if anyone does have anything to submit by way of copy, advertisements, etc., please forward these to me (trevor\_c.edwards@btinternet.com) and I will ensure they get good publicity.

Meanwhile, coughing vigorously once again and signing off a little early this month, to allow Maureen to put the February edition to bed before she flies off next week to foreign climes, I wish you all safe and trouble-free motoring—

*TREVOR*

*P.S. Had a very early birthday card last week. It was from the DVLA, pointing out, not at all subtly, that my Driving Licence expires at midnight on 29<sup>th</sup> March this year! No prizes for guessing why this should be!*

### **Don's Doodlings**

Christmas has been and gone and Maureen, my mum Sheila and I had a reasonably quiet time which was made enjoyable with the company of two of our good friends. Not the normal boisterous Christmas day we have had in the past, due to the absence of our four grandchildren, now living in different parts of the world but still a good day.

After Christmas, we did manage to get away for two days to Warners on the Isle of Wight. At the very last minute Colin and Ann Greig called to ask if we would mind them coming with us. Of course, we said "no", but they still came anyway. Colin rang Warners and was very lucky to book the very last chalet. Warners was as good as ever, the food and accommodation were excellent. Whilst there Colin worked out a six mile walk for us which took us from Norton Grange, through Yarmouth to Freshwater, where we stopped for a pub lunch. After lunch we made our way back to Yarmouth over one or two fairly steep hills with wonderful views of the Solent. I think Colin may suggest this walk to Trevor when he organizes our club trip in September.

Last Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, Colin very kindly took me to the VSCC meeting at Brooklands. It was amazing to see the cars being put through their paces. The good thing was that most of the cars were being driven by young lads and lasses.

That's it for now, see you all in March on return from hols.

**Don**

### 2007 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

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### Events Diary Update!

<b>February</b>	<b>Quiz</b>	<b>Colin</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Talk on Testing Equipment</b>	<b>George</b>
<b>April 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Spring Airing Drive It Day</b>	<b>Colin</b>
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>TBA Beaulieu Autojumble</b>	
<b>June 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Half Gallon Run Isle of Wight Austin Weekend</b>	<b>Nigel Offer</b>
<b>July 21-25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Concourse Cotswold Run</b>	<b>Don</b>
<b>August September</b>	<b>TBA TBA</b>	
<b>12-14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Beaulieu Autojumble</b>	
<b>5-8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Warners – Norton Grange</b>	<b>Trevor</b>
<b>October November December</b>	<b>TBA Auction Festive Fun</b>	<b>Don</b>



