



BACKFIRE

www.northwestcasualclassics.com

April 2010

Chairman's Word

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Aloha!!!, and a very good evening to all Members,

Well!!!!, the days of "wine and roses" have gone and April 1st was certainly a "Fools Day" for us motorists. Just about everything has gone up in price and we are faced with the £5-40p per gallon plus increases in road tax for pretty well anything over one and a half litres. Of course, you are alright if you want to drive a "SHOE BOX", they cost from nothing to about £35 a year. The annoying thing about this is that people who drive the above are doing around 12,000 miles a year and most of us are only covering 2-3000 miles, so who is putting the most CO2 into the atmosphere because I for one think the "green factor" is a complete load of bollocks. I know I drive an American V8 motor with only a small block engine which gives off low emissions but this is my choice and really my only vice after working 46 years and now I am being penalised for it. In summing up, the motorist, especially with an old classic, is funding the £167 Billion of taxpayers money, (our money, because I still pay it) that we supplied to prop up those greedy banks, and now we are being ripped off in order to pay us our own money back. So here we stand, WELL AND TRULY STUFFED, as usual.

Anyway HAPPY MOTORING!!! (what a joke)

So Take the High Ground and Lock
and Load

You're Friendly Neighbourhood

Chairman

John Wayne G.



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Next Meeting May 11th

CLUB DISCOUNTS



Car Parts, equipment and consumables. www.cesuk.com
or tel: 01244 377 118. Quote account no. NWC003



Orford Green, Warrington

Please remember to take your club membership card with you in order to claim your discount

DISCLAIMER

Any views or opinions expressed in the NWCC newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the club, its officers or committee members. No responsibility can be accepted for inaccurate or misleading information within this newsletter,

Please note: The third party liability insurance which the club has taken out only covers members when attending events which have been booked through the club. For other events attended individually, please make sure you are covered by your own insurance.

BITS & PIECES

Stirling Moss

You may have read, in the newspapers, of Stirling Moss's horrific accident at his home. He has a lift installed in his three storey house and was on the third floor when he called the lift. When the doors opened, Stirling stepped through and fell three floors as the lift had not gone up. A malfunctioning lock mechanism caused the accident.

His injuries included two broken ankles, four broken bones in a foot, skin abrasions and chipped vertebrae. He is, thankfully, recovering in hospital.

Stirling is not, however, taking it too easy as he has just purchased a classic Porsche racing car. He was disappointed not to be able to attend the sale in Florida himself, but conducted the sale through a proxy bidder.

The car is a 1961 Porsche RS 61 Spyder for which he paid the equivalent of £1,057,000.

Anniversary

Practical Classics magazine is thirty years old. The first issue was

published in 1980 and an anniversary issue is now on sale.

Classic Car Weekly isn't far behind as it's their twentieth birthday later this year.

Speaking of anniversaries; did you know it's now forty years since the London-Mexico World Cup Rally. There will be a reunion of some of the cars used on the event, as well as drivers and team members, at the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon on April 18th. There will also be memorabilia, film shows and other classic motorsport cars.

Liverpool Pageant of Power

No, it's not a misprint. The organisers of the Cholmondeley Pageant of Power have announced an event for the centre of Liverpool. On Tuesday 25th May both sides of The Strand will be closed after rush hour. Racing cars from various eras will be demonstrated, while power boats will race around the docks with aerobatics displays overhead.



ADDS

These classified ads were really put in papers.

FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.
8 years old. Hateful little bastard.
Bites!

FREE PUPPIES
1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog.

FREE PUPPIES.
Mother, a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.
Father, Super Dog . . Able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

FOUND DIRTY WHITE DOG.
Looks like a rat. Been out a while.
Better be a big reward.

COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED.
Also 1 gay bull for sale.

JOINING NUDIST COLONY!
Must sell washer and dryer £100.

WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE .
Worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie.

And the best one:

FOR SALE BY OWNER.
Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition. £200 or best offer. No longer needed, Got married last month. Wife knows f*****g everything.

Thanks to Maurice Howard

Date-Rape-Drug

Police are warning all men who frequent clubs, parties & local pubs to be alert and stay cautious when offered a drink by any woman.

Many females use a date-rape-drug on the market called 'Beer' The drug is found in liquid form and is available anywhere. It comes in bottles, cans, or from taps and in large kegs. Beer is used by female sexual predators at parties and bars to persuade their male victims to go home and sleep with them.

A woman needs only to get a guy to consume a few units of Beer and then simply ask him home for no-strings-attached sex. Men are rendered helpless against this approach. After several Beers , men will often succumb to the desires to sleep with horrific looking women to whom they would never normally be attracted.

After drinking Beer , men often awaken with only hazy memories of exactly what happened to them the night before, often with just a vague feeling that 'something bad' occurred.

At other times these unfortunate men are swindled out of their life's savings, in a familiar scam known as 'a relationship' . In extreme cases, the female may even be shrewd enough to entrap the unsuspecting male into a longer-term form of servitude and punishment referred to as 'marriage'. Men are much more susceptible to this scam after Beer is administered and sex is offered by the predatory females.

Please inform every male you know.

If you fall victim to this 'Beer ' scam and the women administering it, there are male support groups where you can discuss the details of your shocking encounter with similarly victimized men.

Thanks to Chris Lee

Club Shows 2010

Drive It Day - Sun 25 April

Culcheth Car Show - Mon 3 May

Cholmondeley Castle - Sun 9 May

Leyland Show - Sun 16 May

Daresbury Horse - Mon 31 May

Tatton Park - Sat/Sun 5/6 June

Warrington Show - Sat 19 June

Audlem Festival - Sun 20 June

Summer Road Run - Sun 27 June

Fiddler's Ferry - Sun 4 July

Cholmondeley P of P - 17/18 July

North Wales Classic - Sun 25 July

Woodvale - Sat/Sun 7/8 August

Lytham Hall - Sun 8 August

Knowsley Hall - Sun 15 August

Tatton Park - Sat/Sun 21/22 Aug

Oulton Park Gold Cup - Sun/Mon 29/30 Aug

Cholmondeley Castle - Sun 5 Sept

Festival of 1000 cars, Leigh Heritage Week - Sat 11 September. To be confirmed.

Fairhaven Lake - Sun 12 Sept

Leyland Classic - Sun 19 Sept

Wirral Festival - Sat/Sun 18/19 Sept., Birkenhead Park

Widnes - Sat/Sun 25/26 Sept

Others shows and dates may be added throughout year



Classic Cars in Malta



A holiday in Malta has many advantages. Good weather (usually), they drive on the left, speak English and serve beer in pints. But for classic car spotters it's heaven.

In Britain you'll quite often see a classic being used for more than just travelling to and from shows. But in Malta they are on every corner and



being used as everyday transport. Even the buses used for public transport hark back to the 1960s, being mostly Leylands with custom bodywork. Hail a taxi and you are quite likely to be riding in W123 Mercedes. A walk around Valletta revealed many gems, like the mint looking Toyota Corolla parked in the market square and the Morris Ital estate have to be a rare cars in this country.

Although some looked well worn and



were being patched up, others, like this Mk11 Cortina looked quite solid and wouldn't look out of place on a show field. While standing on a corner taking photos of the cathedral there were many distractions. A mini van with windows, a Morris Ital saloon, and a van, and a Bedford CA van took my attention away from the architecture. When visiting the old capital of Mdina we arrived at the car



park to see a Hillman Imp on Minilites and another Toyota, again in mint condition. A Bedford bus was in use for classic tours.



On a day trip over to Malta's sister island of Gozo we were still finding interesting vehicles, not least the buses; and when did you last see a Mini Moke.



The roads in Malta are atrocious and they take a very casual attitude towards road signs, but, for a classic car enthusiast, the islands are well worth a visit. If you do go, make sure you visit the classic car museum in Qawra.

Exotic Profile

Facel



Facel, full name Forges et Ateliers de Construction d'Eure et de Loire, began by making bodies for various French manufacturers but owner, Jean Daninos, wanted the company to create their own "Grand Routier". In 1951 they were building bodies on the rare Bentley Cresta chassis and this became the basis of Facel's own revised design of 1954, the Vega. The Vega was powered by a 4.5-ltr Chrysler V8 engine to move the weight of this luxury automobile. The steel body panels were welded directly to the tubular chassis during construction. From 1957 a revised version, the HK500, had an increased engine size with the same 6.3-ltr, 360bhp unit as fitted to the later Jensen Interceptors. Power steering and automatic transmission was available and, from 1960, disc brakes were fitted to all four wheels.

Only 1000 or so Vegas and HK500s were sold and, in 1961, the HK500 was replaced by the restyled Facel II, which some have described as a poem in steel. Un-

fortunately such poetry cost more than the contemporary Aston Martin DB4 and the Maserati 3500 and less than 200 were produced.

A cheaper, more popular model was the Facellia, produced alongside its more expensive sister car, featured Facel's own 1.6-ltr twin cam engine, but even this didn't sell as well as hoped with less than 1000 being sold.



In 1963 the Facellia gave way to the Volvo-engined Facel III, but this wasn't enough to save the company and Facel was wound up in 1964.

SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL Facel Vega Facel II (1962-64)
PRODUCTION 184
BODY STYLES Two-door, four-seater Grand Tourer.
CONSTRUCTION Steel chassis, steel/light alloy body.
ENGINE 6286cc cast-iron V8.
POWER OUTPUT 390 bhp at 5400 rpm (manual) 355 bhp at 4800 rpm (auto).
TRANSMISSION Three-speed Torqueflite auto or four-speed Pont-a-Mousson manual.
SUSPENSION Independent front coil springs, rear live axle leaf springs.
BRAKES Four-wheel Dunlop discs.
MAXIMUM SPEED 240 km/h (149 mph)
0-60 MPH (0-96 km/h) 8.3 sec
0-100 MPH (0-161 km/h) 17.0 sec
A.F.C. 5.4 km/l (15 mpg)

Backside

