



Mar-Apr 2005

33 rd Edition

Editor & Publisher: Al Thompson

It's Cruisin' Time Again, Folks!

As Dave Harris has noted elsewhere in this issue, our 2005 Cruisin' season has started. A few of us had our old English cars out to the bowling event in Feb, and then again for the (wet) Alberni run in March. Now we need to see more of those beautiful old cars out folks, so get them started up, spit-polished and ready to go. Our Events Coordinator, Geoff Francis, has a full slate of runs and car shows to keep us busy and entertained throughout this season. And remember - should your old English car be (heaven forbid!) confined to the garage for any reason, you are always very welcome to come out in your 'modern' daily driver. The next few events are listed in the box below. Please note that the Parade coming up in May is on 22nd May in Nanaimo, and not 15th May in Ladysmith as printed on some of the schedules that have been distributed.

In this issue of the Beano, you'll find reports of the Bowling, the Alberni run, and the Feb and March club meetings. As well, there is the second half of Mike Bull's interesting article about Classic Motorhomes - the first half of this saga was in the Jan-Feb Beano. There is also a short photo piece on one of our members that I hope you will find interesting! Sorry there is no "Flogger's Corner" - ran outa space! As always, reader input and suggestions are welcome. I look forward to hearing from you....*Al Thompson, Ed., 756-0452 or athomps@island.net*

Plan Now to participate in:

Lake Cowichan Run.....Sunday April 24th

Meet at Southgate Mall, 10:15 am

Nanaimo Empire Days Parade..... Sunday May 22nd

Check in at Needham St. & Victoria Rd., before 12 noon

Qualicum Car Show..... Sunday June 19th

Details will be provided later

British Bowl-A-Rama 2005!

Eighteen brave British bowlers and seven not-so-brave spectators participated in the opening event of the Central Island Old English Car Club's Cruisin' season on Feb 20th 2005. This 'top-level Championship' event was held at the Brechin Lanes, Nanaimo. High score in the first game belonged to Nigel Muggeridge [*our Nige??..you gotta be kiddin!..Ed*]. Michael Bull topped everyone in the second game [*now Mikey looks like a bowler!..Ed*]. I lost count at two hundred and fifty seven gutter balls! Some excuses for this were: Darla's sore wrist from too much playing on the computer (*Boo-Hoo!*); Geoff Francis's shoes were too tight (*Ouch!*); and Al Thompson's wrist was also sore from pruning trees [*dam' right!..Ed*]. Then came my favourite part of the day – a fine dinner together at the MGM restaurant. All in all, we had a great time – but don't we always?...*Dave Harris*

Alberni Run

Seventeen cars met at the Canadian Tire parking lot in Nanaimo, at 10am on Sunday 20th March, for the first car run of the season. It was a dismal day with the rain and cold but 3 loyal Brit's came with their Old English cars, including Kevin & Myra Noga, this being their first run with our club. Most of us decided that we would leave ours tucked away safe and dry, and join in the run for comradeship, and let us not forget the food. We left Nanaimo at 10:30, having Ken & Adele, in their MGB, joining in at Nanoose. Continuing on through Parksville and up to Coombs where 2 more English cars joined in. We had a short stop at Cathedral Grove

so everyone could stretch his or her legs. As we continued on to Port Alberni, Peter & Marian Etheridge fell behind, losing us when we turned off the main road in Port Alberni. They continued on to the restaurant, to be treated like Royalty, while we wound our way around the back roads of Port Alberni and Sproat Lake joining them at the Paradise Café at 1:00 pm. Everyone enjoyed a great lunch and lots of laughs before dispersing for home. We are looking forward to the run in April, hoping the weather will cooperate this time...*Candy Francis*

Why Not a Classic Motorhome?

[In the previous Beano, Mike and Pat Bull had decided not to ship their 1966 Commer Van to the UK for their holiday touring, but instead had bought a 1972 Ford Transit Landliner from a UK Classic Camper Club member; now read on...]

Our new purchase had a full tank of petrol and was very clean. The utensils and bedding meant we could camp on our first night and we did not need to spend time looking for and buying a few dozen items. Our first call was to a nearby insurance broker where we bought "Comprehensive Cover" which means P.L. & P.D., plus Collision and Comprehensive. The alternative was "Third Party Fire & Theft only". The Transit license plates were still good for another few months, and so was the annual MOT that is a safety certification. The insurance cost us 350 pounds but after 3 months use we got back about 200 pounds.

Within this article is a photo of the Transit camper we bought; it was trouble free during

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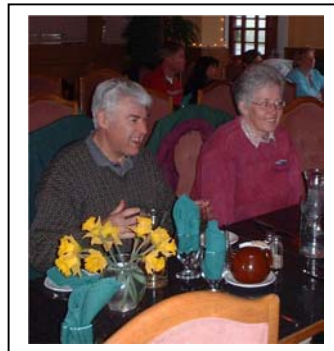
British Bowl-a-Rama 20th Feb '05

Photos by Merv Steg



Alberni Run 20th Mar '05

Photos by Ken Hedges & Al Thompson



Remember the British Bobby Run two years ago? And remember the whiskered British Bobby wowing the lovely young lass as he directed us into our parking places in Qualicum? This picture will remind you in case you have forgotten>>>>>

People who were on that run will recognize the Bobby as our own Alex Greenwood, and the comely young lass as Marge Sabourin.

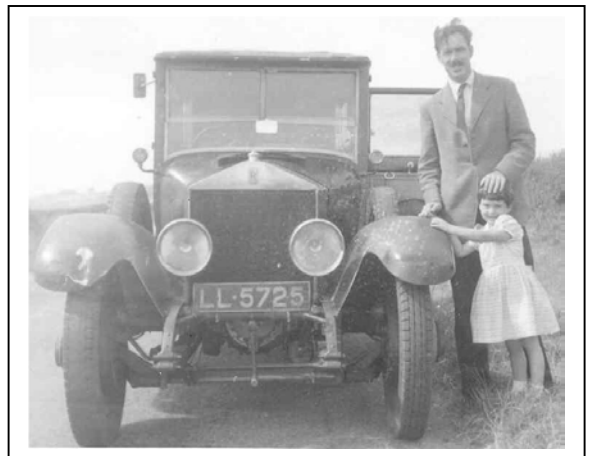
Alex has had a long association with English cars – starting eons before the elegant 1978 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow, which his good wife, Shirley, now owns. He recently sent me the photo (lower right) of himself standing beside his very first Rolls Royce. When this photo was taken in 1951 (well before his British Bobby days!) Alex was a young Captain in the British army. With him is his daughter Jane, who – more recently, and while on a visit to Canada – came on one of our OECC runs in the Lake Cowichan area.

Alex tells me that when he advertised his first Rolls for sale, the ad went like this: “Rolls Royce 1925 Silver Ghost – 4-wheel brake Landelette, excellent mechanical condition, £175, available mid-August as owner going abroad”

From all accounts, that Rolls would now fetch over £100,000. That’s big **Pounds** folks!...*Ed*



Quit fraternizing with the Constabulary!



1925 Silver Ghost plus Alex and Jane
(Right front tyre looks a bit dodgy, sir!)

our 10 week and 4,000 mile tour, taking us up 1 in 4 grades in the Yorkshire Dales, on motorways at 60 mph and down many narrow roadways which were hardly as wide as our camper was. It was powered by a 2 litre motor with 4 speed gear-box and gave us about 17 m.p.g, with fuel costing (then) about \$1.15/litre. The Transit's 2 litre V4 overhead valve engine by Ford has long been a favourite of both truckers and keen campers, so with that reputation we felt we would have no worries about breaking down.

On the second night of our tour, smarty pants Pat (the wife) asked what I intended to do with the Transit at the end of our tour? So, I pulled out a FOR SALE sign I brought over in our suitcase, stuck it on the camper rear door and said "we'll see what this does"! The very next night a wet looking couple knocked on the door asking to view the Transit (they were returning from the campsite toilet block). It seems their VW camper van had no toilet, no room for their dog and they were desperate for more space. They agreed to buy the Transit for what we had paid and, didn't mind waiting for delivery until the end of our tour!

We managed to attend only one week-end camp out with the Classic Camper Club but we did manage to make instant friendships with many similar minded club members during that week-end. They were very helpful, hospitable, and especially liked Canadians since many had a relative or friend in Canada. While visiting Poole in Dorset we came upon a very nice 1936 Pontiac coachbuilt motorhome, on display at a used camper dealer. This Pontiac was probably the oldest camper one is likely to see, anywhere!

It was in stunning original condition. This Pontiac had a rather interesting history of its own which I will explain in a following part of this article.

We travelled the entire coast of England, leaving Wales and Scotland until our next trip as we ran out of time, perhaps because we found too many great pubs, and auto-jumbles which happen every weekend from January until December, somewhere. I was able to find every spare part I needed for our 4 English cars, even a pair of seats for our Commer, which I bought from a CCC member in Dorset. Getting them into my suitcase took some ingenuity let me tell you! I put them into a card-board box and brought them back as a piece of luggage, no problem said Air Canada who bumped us up to Business Class at no-charge!



The 1972 Ford Transit Landliner

We toured in England for 10 weeks, saw through several Old Car museums, attended countless auto swap meets (auto-jumbles), bought loads of parts, literature, books and drank plenty of lovely beer! We attended just the one "camp-out" with the Classic Camper Club but we did get to see many lovely Old Motorhomes (*Continued next page*)

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in the hands of Club members who demanded that we "come back again", and we will. Especially so since the cost for our 10-week tour all-in was a mere \$5,000.00 plus airfare. This included all fuel, campsite fee's, food, entry fee's, beer, and general expenses, and more beer!

(In the next Beano, Mike will tell us all about the beautiful 'British-built' 1936 Pontiac Motorhome he found...Ed)

Club Meeting 15th February 2005

Chairman Doug opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with 26 members present. It was noted that, as usual, the minutes of the previous meeting are in the Beano. Adele Hedges gave the Treasurer's report showing net income for the month, to 7th Feb, of \$509.00. Mike Bull reported that so far there were 40 paid-up members for 2005. Geoff Francis handed out business-card sized schedules for the club events planned for the year. Nigel Muggeridge gave an update on the first event, the Bowling outing, scheduled for 3pm Sunday 20th Feb. Nigel also gave an overview of the "Brits Around BC" and "Brits on the Beach" coming up later in the season. Bernie Butler told us about his MG Midget project, and also about an MG event coming up in Seattle 6-10 July. Doug Unia gave us some technical updates about Jaguar engines, and Merv Steg showed us his T-shirt of the month – depicting a 1966 MGB. Russ Heughan won the 50/50 draw. Meeting closed at 8:10 pm...Ed.

Club Meeting 15th March 2005

The meeting started at 7:30 pm. 25 members were present and were welcomed by Chairman Doug Unia. Treasurer Adele

reported that we have total current assets of \$1,826, including \$1,496 in the bank. Registrar Mike Bull reported that 46 members are currently paid-up for 2005. Mike also talked about the Parksville swap meet (put on by the Vintage Car Club) coming up on 12th Jun. Events Coordinator Geoff Francis updated us on the first run of the season, to Port Alberni and environs – meet at Cdn Tire at 10:15 am on Sunday 20th Mar – with lunch at the Paradise Restaurant in PA. Nigel Muggeridge told us about Bob Schofield being sick in hospital – all members present wished him a speedy recovery. Several members gave info on other events and technical matters. Merv Steg showed the T-shirt of the month – the Rolls Royce that won the Isle of Man TT in 1906. Dennis Watson won the 50/50 draw – well done, Dennis!...Ed

Club History – Planned Article

We are working on a future Beano piece on the early history of our branch of the OECC. Stuff like: when the branch first got started, who were the founding members, where did the first meetings take place, and so on. Michael Davies, Doug Bainbridge and Don Graham have already kindly given input. If anyone else out there has any snippets of early club history, please let me know...Ed

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