

ROCKIT NEWS JANUARY 2009



INTRODUCTION TO YOUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Dear Member, those of you that attended the AGM at Stonleigh will know that a new Chairman was voted - in commencing the 1st October 2008 and that person as it happens was me. So I thought it might be a good idea to introduce myself to those who do not know, or have even heard of me. My name is Peter Gibbons and I have owned a self build car for over 10 years, this being a JBA Falcon Sports and was the local representative of that club for much of the time in the South Central and Southern area. It has been a long time ambition of mine to own a Royale Sabre and although I searched for a long time I could not come up with one that met my expectations. Obviously the really nice ones don't come up for sale very often? In November 2005 a part built car came up on Ebay and although it did not reach the reserve I did manage to come to a private agreement and thus a part built Sabre was purchased. I will not go into the details here, but in the short term not the best move I ever made and three years later, we may by the time you read this, be on the road as SVA is now passed and the only thing to do is obtain registration and have the hood fitted, which by coincidence we find has a few bits missing. I am married to Wendy and have two grown up children, Alison and Anthony and we live in a small market town in Bedfordshire called Leighton Buzzard.

I will possibly be a most unconventional Chairman, as I have no idea as to the rules and regulations of being the Chairman, though I was once the Chairman of a junior football club for many years and that managed to survive so I could not have been that bad. What I would like to say is that I would like to launch a new club web-site that would eventually overtake the need for the magazine and deliver it by email or have it web based. We could have a cars and parts for sale page, a what's going on etc page. Please lets have your thoughts as to what we need going forward, be adventurous and look forward. Send me anything of use that can be electronically loaded onto our web site, news views, features, events and even funny stories. We will I hope also have a members only area that can only be accessed via your password.

We have organised two trips abroad in the last year, a summer weekend in the Cotswolds and a Christmas dinner and dance, so I believe we are becoming more social. For members still building cars they probably would like a problem solvers page but the rest probably want something that gives a more social atmosphere to the proceedings. So please, lets have your input as to what you want from your club and I will do my utmost to see you get it. Probably a lap dancing night might be out but don't rule anything out and let's have your suggestions please.

Kind Regards, Peter Gibbons, Chairman.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, JULY LAST SUMMER

Here was a trip that was all you needed to really enjoy a Royale. Blazing sunshine, like-minded friendly company and no hurry.

The trip started for Lesley and me in plenty of time to take a leisurely drive, using my Tom Tom to navigate us through north Bucks, Oxfordshire and into the Cotswolds.

The roads were winding, fairly clear and reasonably smooth. So we arrived at the Motor Museum in Bourton on the Water and parked in their forecourt, then went inside where tea/coffee biscuits were "laid on" by the owners (all arranged by Peter Gibbons as part of the trip)

This is not a public car park, it's a space where ten cars fit reasonably snugly, we had eight, six Sabres, one JBA plus Peter & Wendy's Mercedes. This helps the museum draw in the crowds and the cars were a real draw, as scores of people questioned members about the cars. Many having their pictures taken standing by the cars.

The site also provided us with a good place to park our cars, when we went to explore this beautiful village and have Lunch in a garden restaurant. Mid afternoon we drove to our overnight accommodation, the hotel on the outskirts Worcester, again the roads and the weather were ideal.

After a few "jars" in the hotel bar and a chinwag with other members, I opted for a couple of hours nap before dressing for dinner, at "my grandfathers place" in the centre of Worcester. Peter had arranged two minibuses for us all, then after a great meal, some wine and a wander round they collected us again, took us back to the hotel.

Lesley and me had to leave just after breakfast in the morning, as I was due to meet my brother at a classic race meeting at Silverstone in the afternoon. So sadly we said goodbye to those that we saw at breakfast and drove home on what was another beautiful day.

Some of the other couples stayed on a while longer and enjoyed the trip some more.

All of our thanks go to Peter & Wendy Gibbons for arranging this very successful weekend.



John & Wendy Nassaris' Sabre



Lesley, Jean Waites & Me

Hi folks – well, 2008 is grinding to a halt, and we are looking back on a fairly decent year. Last Xmas Ando and I travelled to the spa town of Opatija in Croatia and stayed in a lovely hotel in town. Very friendly folks, and a relaxed atmosphere prevailed. On Xmas Day we were taken up to the Postojna Grotto in Slovenia where there was a live nativity spectacle deep down in the caves. Very moving. New Year was brought in at home with some friends as usual.

The first few months of 2008 are all a bit vague – must be old age. According to Ando I was fiddling around with kitcars etc! I also had surgery to get rid of cataracts in both eyes and was given new artificial lenses at the eye clinic. What a transformation in my sight. I was a bit nervous about the ops but all went well.

In July we flew to Marseilles and boarded another of those riverboats. Superb food and company and lovely scenery drifting by as we travelled around the Aix, Orange, Arles, Avignon, Cassis and Chateaufort du Pape area, visiting the hotspots. Our trip was a musical one and we attended two operas, namely *Zaïde* and *Carmen*, both held in open-air theatres. Weather was just about ok.

On the car front Ando still has the Polo and won't budge from it. I bought an old Merc intending to have a trip to Scotland, which never materialized. I must get round to selling it. Have had a few cobras this year and something really unusual was the Koenigsegg CCXR – I can send snaps to anyone interested by the way on kennybaker@tiscali.co.uk - also had a lovely JBA Falcon Sports – absolutely mint condition and a credit to its builder.

In November Ando and I ventured into Malta for a week. The weather was incredible. Hailstones, electric storms, rain and sunshine in equal portions. Friendly folks, all-inclusive hotel with superb cuisine, sightseeing the whole island (and also Gozo) in those old buses still staggering around the roads.

For Xmas we are off to Gabicce Mare near Ancona to savour the delights of Italian food and drink “due cappuccini per favore” and all that stuff eh? We both hope that you will have a sparkling 2009 and that it brings you all that you hope for.

ken and ando

SPANISH TOUR TO RIBADESELLA SEP. 2008

Peter and Wendy Gibbons

Day 1, Wednesday September 24th and the car is packed ready to commence our journey to Plymouth where we have booked an overnight stop before catching the ferry to Santander the following morning. It was our intention to travel via the A303 but as luck would have it the road was closed at the A36 and it was necessary for us to drop down to the A30. Not an enormous problem as the scenery on our alternative route was beautiful but the going was much slower and our estimated 5 hour drive took 7 in the end, which was a little tiring. However, on arrival we met our fellow travellers and enjoyed a pleasant meal in our hotel before tucking in for the night ready for our sea crossing.

Day 2 Thursday 25th, and a beautiful sunny day greeted us. We had breakfast and prepared the car and ourselves for the 18 hour crossing to Spain. Joining us were Peter and Doreen Biggs, Bert and Carol Sladden and John and Wendy Nassaris who organised the trip. We had to check in by 11:00 for the 12:00 departure so 10:15 was the meeting time for us to go in convoy through Plymouth city centre to the ferry port, which went without any hitches. Now at this juncture I suppose I should point out that Wendy and I Sabre was now running 3 years behind schedule and again it was necessary for us (third time) to take Wendy's car on this trip, so we had 1 Royale Sabre, 2 JBA Falcons and a Mercedes SLK, quite a mix I'm sure you will agree. We booked in and waited our time to board in lovely sunny conditions, which unknown to us at the time was to continue for the duration of our holiday After boarding we found our sumptuous cabin and met with the others to spend our time eating, drinking and talking until it was time to turn in for the night and arrive refreshed the following morning. The crossing was like a millpond, and you would have thought, you had booked on a Mediterranean cruise rather than a trip across the notorious Bay of Biscay, it was bliss.



Day 3 Friday 26th Not such a good start to the day for us. Wendy's car, although all switched off before leaving it on the car deck had its right side indicators on when we returned to it and nothing we did could make them turn off. Very strange, but nothing we could do now, so disembark and look at it later was the plan once we reached the hotel. As John Nassaris organised the trip he lead the way and about half way he decided we should take the coast road rather than the motorway as it would be more scenic and we were not in a hurry. This cunning plan worked until we reached the sea when with four differing sat navs we failed to pick up the correct road. Mine gave the strongest indications it new where we needed to go so I now took up the lead. After 20 minutes of up hill and down dale and almost a little off road, we arrived back on the motorway and decided the best course was to get to our hotel and settle in before we did any more experimenting. When we got to within half a mile of our hotel we found the roads closed to traffic and Sat Navs don't take alternative routes from these distances. John and I located the hotel along the beachfront but had no idea

how we would get there by road. So we took an executive decision, as the promenade was accessible we decided we would play silly foreigner and dive along the prom to the hotel. Worked a treat to the dismay of the locals who must have thought we were some special display for the day. Booked in to our lovely four star rooms and treated ourselves to a rest and the odd tippie before looking to see what we could do about the lights we could not switch off, which was nothing. RAC Europe to the rescue and to cut a very long story short Wendy and I missed a day touring while the local Mercedes dealers charged us £100 to change a regulator. It was a double wammy for Wendy and I as also on this day back in the UK our car failed SVA and will need another visit.

Day 4 Saturday 27th Waiting for our car to be repaired the other went out for the day while Wendy and I explored the town, the sun shone, we had lazy lunch and probably saw more of the town than most visitors. Our car was collected at 16:00 from the garage 50 miles away and the RAC paid for the taxi to take us there to collect it, as this was along the coast close to where the others had been for the day, we took the scenic route back and covered most of the points the others had been to, though ours was the whistle stop version, but we still had a lovely day.

Day 5 Sunday 28th Again the sun came out for us, though it was a chilly start in the mountains where the temperature dropped to 8 degrees before warming to a very pleasant 25ish once the morning mist had burnt off. This was what we came for, some of the most spectacular valley drives alongside rivers with sheer drops and not too much to stop you going over the edge, and over mountain passes at the top of the world it was spectacular to say the least. The route took us through Cangas where there is one of the oldest Roman bridges in the world, on to Nuevo Riano then Potes, La Hermida, Panes and back along the coast to the hotel. Even the photographs don't do it justice. Truly beautiful.

Day 6 Monday 29th More mountain passes and valley wriggling with too many places to name here, but can I say if you ever get the chance to drive in the Picos de Europa then take it, this is what you built your car for, absolutely.

Day 7 Tuesday 30th and we to make our way back to Santander to catch the 16:00 ferry to take us back to the UK, still the sun shines for us what a lucky bunch we are, especially as a local British resident told us this is not the time of year to be driving in the Picos, what do they know. I hope Simon our illustrious editor can find room for some photos because they say more than I ever could. Another smooth crossing and we arrive back to a typical British climate that is wet, cold and miserable so hood up all the way home. Our thanks must go to John and Wendy Nassaris who organised the trip, suffered our company for the umpteenth foreign tour and we hope will suffer us for many more.

One last thing, if John and Wendy do another of these tours I for one will be first to put my name down. If you the reader have any sense you will be second.



ROYALE OWNERS CLUB CRISTMAS 2008 DINNER WORCESTER

