

The Royale Owners Club



Rockit News July 2009



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All contributions to this publication are the personal opinions of the individuals concerned. The club accepts no responsibility whatsoever for the advice or information that it contains

Welcome to new members Gerhold Reitmeier from Kassel in Germany and to Mike Solomon a re-joined member from Kent, also to Derek Green from Berkshire.

Contact changes - new entries

Germany	Gerhold Reitmeier	none	reitmeier@arcor.de	Sabre
Kent	Mike Solomon	01622 726954	mike@msolomon.co.uk	Sabre
Berkshire	Derek Green	01635 493384	sphinx@tiscali.co.uk	Sabre

New Editor Required I am, after a serious change in my circumstances, unable to continue as the Editor of this publication. I put it to the members present at the AGM but no-one could take over. I did say at the AGM that I was able to continue being editor but not able to print and post. Sadly that is no longer the case as the demands on my time will not permit me to continue from this issue onwards.

This issue completes the fourth year that I have done it and I must say that without the printing side of it, it has been a very interesting hobby, that has improved my computer skills and introduced me to a good many of the membership. The job holds a position on the committee of the club, but that is not essential, it's up to you.

The job would be best suited to a retired or semi-retired member or member's partner, with Email and word processing skills. So please step forward as this is definitely the last issue that I will do. Contact me by Email or telephone for any more details. (SC)

Excerpt from Pitstop the Marlin Owners Club magazine. Ed. Sue Roedel

There was quite a debate at the AGM about going to an electronic copy of pitstop and giving members the choice of hard or electronic copy. Personally I like having my real copy through the post, as it completes my job and I like to flick through it to see how it looks, even though I have put it together, it's still nice to have it in my hand. However not everyone is bothered about getting a copy through the post and it's those members who can have it electronically. Currently the idea is only conceptual, because to release it onto the website, I will have to arrange a members only access area, so non members don't sneak in and get a glimpse unless they have joined. The other idea is to introduce a member login onto the forum, so members could type threads but non-members only had view-only access. The decision to do this was made reluctantly because we don't want to appear stand-offish, but there are non members who are taking advantage of the forum for technical advice etc. and not contributing back to the club and this does seem a bit unfair.

The Peter Hare Memorial Fund has been increased by the purchase of back issue od's and an extra donation gratefully received from Peter Gurton

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Stop Press The Number plate that Ken Baker has for sale on page 14 is AL JBA

Royale Owners Club

Minutes of the 14th AGM Warwick Suite, Stoneleigh Showground Sunday 3rd May 2009

Committee: Peter Gibbons, Chairman; Shirley Kelly, Treasurer; Jim Waites, Event Organiser; John Kelly, Membership Secretary; Simon Carrington, Magazine Editor

Number Attendees: 28

Apologies: Malcolm Instone, Jean & Archie Horton, Bill Paul

Minutes 2008: Minutes of the 2008 AGM accepted as a true representation of the meeting, Proposed by Peter Gurton, Seconded by Ray Hobby.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer presented the accounts and explained the club has a reasonable balance in hand. Income during the year was more than expenditure and thus leaves an increased balance in hand over last year by approx £100. The club's Public Liability insurance was increased to £5 million as this is now a requirement by some exhibitions. Money's are now banked directly into the club's reserve account in order to achieve maximum possible interest. Current membership stands at 92 members.

No queries were raised by the floor and the accounts were accepted.

Membership Secretary's Report: As already stated the club now has 92 members. Membership fees have again been very slow in coming in (with 20 members needing to be chased for their payment) which is somewhat of a problem but all fees have now been received. All members are asked to try to pay as promptly as possible in the coming year.

We now have several continental members and it was mentioned that the membership fee does not currently cover the cost of magazine, postage and banking charges for these members. It was suggested that the club should consider whether it was appropriate to ask our overseas membership for a higher membership fee. However it was also felt that these members should not be penalised in any way. The issue was put to the vote of the floor and the motion for the membership to remain at one charge for all members was passed with no opposition. The overseas members present each stated that to help reduce the costs they were willing to receive the Rocket News electronically in the future thereby saving some expenditure. The treasurer also asked if they would consider paying in cash for their membership fees in future in order to avoid the bank charges on bank transfers etc.

It was mentioned that the current number of Royale Badges held in stock are 4 Metal and 13 Cloth. These are still available at a charge of £12.75 and £3.00 respectively plus postage and packing costs. There are currently no plans to reproduce more metal badges as due to minimum quantity for production etc, the cost would be high and turnover low making it an unviable proposition. |

Chairman's Report/Events: This has been a good year for the club.

Several successful events this year included

- Trip to XVII Circuit Historique at Laon, France where initial rain was not allowed to put a damper on the trip.
- Woburn Transport Rally ('Pims & Cakes event') where the weather was lovely and a most interesting turn out of many types of vehicles from buses to bikes.
- Trip to northern 'green' Spain in September organised and led by John Nassaris which was enjoyed by all who went and even the seas across the Bay of Biscay were calm for us.
- Christmas Dinner Dance which was held in early December in Worcester.

Forthcoming events include a trip to **Coventry Transport Museum and Cathedral** on 11th July (for more info contact Peter and Wendy Gibbons); **Music and Picnic evening in the Walled Garden at Luton Hoo** (for more info contact Jean and Jim Waites); **5 Day trip to France** in early September to be organised by John Nassaris (see AOB). Mention was also made of the Exeter Kit Car show in October which some members attend and feel is worth a visit.

Election of Officers: The chairman asked the committee if they were prepared to stand for re-election. Simon Carrington Magazine Editor, is happy to remain in office if required but is now unable to be responsible for the printing and despatch of the Rocket News.

The chairman asked if any members present would like to take on any of the committee posts. No volunteers were forthcoming for any position.

A vote was taken and all current committee members were returned to office for a further year.

Simon stated that if no one else would take on this responsibility for Rocket News he would for the time being continue to create the magazine but would not be able to continue responsibility for printing and despatch. The magazine usually comprises 12 pages in total. It was suggested that the magazine could be distributed electronically to all members as most are now available on email, and to place it onto the club's web-site where it can also be reviewed. However it was debated that some members are involved with the club only via the magazine, and not all members are happy to receive a copy electronically but prefer to have a hard copy to review at leisure and retain. Currently it costs about £500 per year to print and post, which will probably be significantly increased if the magazine has to be printed externally. If anyone would like to help Simon by printing and despatching this would be a great assistance. However, as we currently have no solution to this problem it was felt necessary to investigate the cost of external printing and should no volunteer be forthcoming to print and distribute. It was proposed that the Committee be allowed to decide this issue once costs are ascertained.

Whilst discussing the addition of Rocket News to the club's new web site, there was discussion on what should be available for the general public and non members to view. It was felt that non members are able to obtain information that should be exclusively for those who have paid to become members, and that we should investigate the cost of arranging a securer area for members only which would include technical tips, membership details, and events etc. It was felt that the creation of this would perhaps be cost prohibitive and that we may become too paranoid over these issues. The general consensus of the meeting was that the new web site is a really good advertisement and representation of the club and should stay as it is with the following amendments:

- Full membership contact list will NOT be shown on the site
- A disclaimer will be visibly shown
- Technical information will NOT generally be shown on the site

The above was proposed and seconded]

AOB:

VIM Plates

Available from Malcolm Badger

French Holiday

There will be a trip to St Nazaire, France in September which will be open to both Royale and JBA owners - Presently in planning stage: Departing 6th September, Plymouth to Roscoff overnight ferry, 4 nights in France. Costs £472 per couple plus accommodation etc. If interested in further details contact John & Wendy Nassaris.

Technical items.

- We have several members still building cars and one part build up for sale, details from John Kelly.
- IVA now in force. John Kelly is expecting to receive a copy of the full IVA Manual soon, but it's currently "looking like a minefield". For example - one issue covers kite marks on glass which would mean that Royale glass definitely would not pass the IVA test! Costs for the IVA are £400, with a £90 retest charge.

Members Contact List

A number of email addresses have changed and some on membership joining forms are difficult to read. It would be appreciated if members ensure they print their emails very carefully to avoid confusion in future.

Presentation to Simon Carrington

A presentation was made on behalf of all members to Simon Carrington and his wife Lesley in thanks for the immense amount of work that he has done for the Royale Owners Club as both Chairman and Magazine Editor/Producer over the past few years.

Meeting closed at 12.55pm.

Days Out, Trips etc.

11th 12th July Scottish Borders/Northumberland Tour.
Details from Classic Car Tours (MK) Tel: 01539 728832

12th July Leighton Hall Classic Car & Bike Show, in Carnforth, Lancaster.
Phone for details 01253 407779

23rd to 26th July English High Roads Tour 4 days-4 nights. Starts Midlands (Rutland), Peak District, Lancashire Moors, Cumbria & Yorkshire Dales. also 2 day, 1 night option of the Yorkshire Dales only (part tour).
Details from Classic Car Tours (MK) Tel: 01539 728832

26th July Classic Sports Car Show including Cheshire Kit Car Day. Capesthorpe Hall
Phone for details 01484 452002

2nd August Yorkshire Classic Car & Bike Show, Ripley Castle, Nr Harrogate
Phone for details Tel: 01253 407779

30th 31st August Knebworth Annual Classic Car Show, 2500+ classic cars at Knebworth Park, Stevenage, Herts. Details from Greenwood Exhibitions.
Tel: 01527 871150 or www.classicmotorshow.com

5th to 12th September Brittany Tour. 7 Nights 3 Star Hotels, half board throughout. Brittany coast, Mont St Michel, Carnac
Continental Car Tours. Tel: 01304 380244 www.continentalcartours.co.uk

9th to 13th September East of England – Yorkshire Moors Tour 5 days-4 nights
Cambridge, Fens, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire.
Details from Classic Car Tours (MK) Tel: 01539 728832

21st to 27th September The Lake District Classic Tour. 7 nights Dinner Bed and Breakfast plus pre-paid visits.
Details from Merlin Events Tel: 01935 474630 or e-mail merlinevents@hotmail.com

3rd 4th October Autumn in Eden Tour 2 days 1 night.
Lake District, Cumbria, Hadrian's Wall & Northumberland
Details from Classic Car Tours (MK) Tel: 01539 728832

This page was kindly compiled by Peter Gurton, Thanks Peter (SC)
Sorry that a couple of these trips are already gone due to my workload.

Chairman's Chat

Hi again everyone. I hope the improved weather this summer has enticed you all into using your car and that the experience has been enjoyable. Since my last update the vibration in my car did turn out to be the prop shaft and since its replacement the vibration has gone. So, Wendy and I together with John Nasarris and his wife also named Wendy decided to enjoy a short jaunt to Italy in our cars via France and Switzerland covering almost three thousand miles over a period of 19 days. Our trip included a visit to Pisa, Sienna, Venice, Verona, St Gimignano, Florence and Assisi. To say nothing of the most fantastic scenery along the way, the beauty of Tuscany and Umbria is truthfully breathtaking. I won't say it was trouble free as I lost my bottom hose at one point and discovered a leak in the access points of the wiper shafts which we covered in silicone as a quick bodge job to last out the holiday. I'd like to say this was an easy drive but the time scale was probably too short to fit so much in and to take in all that we saw. However, the country roads in Italy are a surprise and the scenery round every turn was in the main beautiful. In fact from my perspective the high light of the trip was not the classical historic places we visited so much but the off the beaten track places we stayed including a fortified farmhouse in Umbria, Mountain Chalet at the foot of Mont Blank, an Italian Villa and an apartment overlooking the Mediterranean on the side of a hill at Recco. The list goes on, but if you would like to see the slide show at some stage and you have the time to go through all 700 feel, free to pop over for tea and biscuits.

The weekend trip to Coventry Transport Museum was held on the 11th July with an overnight stay at the Hinckley Island hotel and I believe a success. I'm sure all those that attended would agree, with free parking and free entry, well worth a visit if you are ever in the area.

With the changes to the web-site that were agreed at the AGM it is looking a little sparse now so if you have something to share with the members please let us have it to include. It's yours and you paid for it so please let's make the most use of it and fill it with interesting stuff. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Peter Gibbons



Peter & John's Sabres Resting in Tuscany

Thousands of motorists are at risk of being fined up to £1,000 because they are unwittingly driving without a valid licence. **They risk prosecution after failing to spot the extremely small print on their photocard licence which says it automatically expires after 10 years and has to be renewed** - even though drivers are licensed to drive until the age of 70. The fiasco has come to light a decade after the first batch of photo licences was issued in July 1998, just as they start to expire.

Motoring organisations blamed the Government for the fiasco and said 'most' drivers believed their licences were for life. A mock-up driving licence from 1998 when the photocards were launched shows the imminent expiry date as item '4b'. They said officials had failed to publicise sufficiently the fact that new-style licences - unlike the old paper ones - expire after a set period and have to be renewed.

To rub salt into wounds, drivers will have to pay £17.50 to renew their card - a charge which critics have condemned as a 'stealth tax' and which will earn the Treasury an estimated £437million over 25 years. Official DVLA figures reveal that while 16,136 expired this summer, so far only 11,566 drivers have renewed, leaving 4,570 outstanding.

With another 300,000 photocard licences due to expire over the coming year, experts fear the number of invalid licences will soar, putting thousands more drivers in breach of the law and at risk of a fine. At the heart of the confusion is the small print on the tiny credit-card-size photo licence, which is used in conjunction with the paper version.

Just below the driver name on the front of the photocard licence is a series of dates and details - each one numbered. Number 4b features a date in tiny writing, but no explicit explanation as to what it means. The date's significance is only explained if the driver turns over the card and reads the key on the back which states that '4b' means 'licence valid to'.

Even more confusingly, an adjacent table on the rear of the card sets out how long the driver is registered to hold a licence - that is until his or her 70th birthday.

A total of 25million new-style licences have been issued but - motoring experts say - drivers were never sufficiently warned they would expire after 10 years.

Motorists who fail to renew their licences in time are allowed to continue driving. But the DVLA says they could be charged with 'failing to surrender their licence', an offence carrying a £1,000 fine.

AA president, Edmund King said: 'It is not generally known that photocard licences expire: there appears to be a lack of information that people will have to renew these licences.'

'People think they have already paid them for once over and that is it. It will come as a surprise to motorists and a shock that they have to pay an extra £17.50. The AA called on the Government to use the annual £450million from traffic enforcement fines to offset the renewal charge.

Before photocard licences were introduced, old-style paper licences were valid until the age of 70.

'Many motorists still believe this to be the case with the new ones.'

the AA says this is 'not clear'. The Agency was unable to say whether motorists were told the licences would expire when they were first issued. It said it was issuing postal reminders to drivers whose photograph was due to expire, to get the renewal message across. But a spokesman admitted this was the limit of the DVLA's publicity.

Experts say many drivers will slip through the net because DVLA records are inaccurate and many motorists have changed address, making it impossible to trace them.

A DVLA spokesman said: 'Previous experience has shown that wide-scale publicity is less effective and can generate enquiries and concerns from those not affected. Instead, DVLA focussed on targeted publicity to ensure that we got the message to the right person at the right time.'

REGISTRATION PLATE FOR SALE
"A11 JBA"
ON RETENTION CERTIFICATE
PRICE INCLUDES THE £80 TRANSFER FEE
£195
SYZYGY66@TISCALI.CO.UK - OR RING 02086515711

VOLKSWAGEN POLO FOR SALE - 2002 MODEL - 17000 MILES -
1.4 SE AUTOMATIC - 5 DOOR - SILVER - FULL SERVICE HISTORY -
CAMBELT REPLACED - AIRCON SERVICED - ONE CAREFUL LADY
OWNER (ANDY) - MOT TO JULY 2010 - JUST SERVICED - £4500 -
SYZYGY66@TISCALI.CO.UK - KEN - 02086515711

cheers ken

Many thanks to all those responsible for presenting Lesley and Me with the necklace and the watch at the AGM. We are both extremely grateful and although Lesley knew about the watch, she didn't realize that she was going to be presented with the necklace. Consequently we were both struck dumb so write our thanks to all here. **Lesley & Simon Carrington**

Good bye to the Rockit News

As I stated on page 3 this is the last issue that I am able to edit and as you may realize is already 2 ½ weeks late.

I have to say that I have really enjoyed being news editor and I sincerely hope that someone will "take over the reigns" and keep it going.

My thanks go to all the contributors that have sent articles and photo's over the last four years.

I leave you with this next item, which I'm sorry to say I did not write. I can only say that the last two lines sum up my sentiments entirely. Good Luck

Simon Carrington

For those who wish to have a glass of wine.. and those who don't...this is something to think about.

As Benjamin Franklin said: In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom, in water there is bacteria. In a number of carefully controlled trials, scientists have demonstrated that if we drink 1 liter of water each day, at the end of the year we would have absorbed more than 1 kilo of Escherichia coli, (E.coli) - bacteria found in feces. In other words, we would be consuming 1 kilo of poop.

However, we do NOT run that risk when drinking wine & beer (or tequila, rum, whiskey or other liquor) because alcohol has to go through a purification process of boiling, filtering and/or fermenting. Remember: Water = Poop, Wine = Health

Therefore, it's better to drink wine and talk stupid, than to drink water and be full of shit