

ECS Owners' Club Magazine



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Editor's bit

It's early February and very cold outside. I have just come back from a brief blast in the Hawke under weak and weedy winter sunshine. I have to say that it was with the roof on, the ambient temperature of around zero did not lend itself to open-air motoring. Nevertheless lots of fun, although I find that when I come to start the Hawke after it has been resting for some time I am well advised to remove the petrol supply tube and suck some fuel through "by mouth", this seems to prime the fuel mechanical fuel pump. I might change it to an electric pump, no problems with them until they stop working!

I have not been driving the Hawke a great deal, the weather has been

unsuitable to say the least. The days are lengthening nicely now, so when the cold goes, then a few more afternoons in the Hawke I think.

I've had two letters from members this issue!! Michel Lacombe has been busy sorting out exhausts to fit the exhaust, good stuff, just the sort of information that people need, it saves hours of effort if someone has done it before. There must be lots of other useful information out there like that - send it in!

Letter from Ron & Jo' Smith

Dear Editor,

It gives me great pleasure in writing this letter as a new member of the GCS Hawke Owners Club, even though, as you must know by now, I do not own one of these classics as yet. Something I am looking forward to with great enthusiasm. I will hopefully have that pleasure in March. as my "Sports" is in the process of being built by Colin's brother, John, with the help of Garry and Colin in its final stages.

My connection with the Kit's scene started about 5 years ago when I purchased a very "sick" Spartan, which I brought back to life and sold within a year. This sale helped towards a Calvy Mitchel with a Fiat Twin cam engine. After two years refurbishment and great open-top motoring, I sold again and bought a Merlin which had stood in a garage for about three years, so a lot of work had to be carried out, and I received a lot of "ear bashing" from my wife Jo' for spending so much time in the garage and missing Coronation Street on the tele'.

To cut a long story short, I sold the Merlin and with the experience and the profits I've made in the last 5 years I can now purchase the car I've always admired, but could not afford.

My car will be ready around March 1996 and I should meet up with you at the Bingley or Newark Shows.

I should like to thank Garry and Colin for their help and wish them

luck with the business in '96 as they have a good product with good prospects.

Looking forward to meeting you all.

Ron and Jo' Smith

Letter from Michel Lacombe

Michel's found a use for some parts from something called a Morgan; he writes:

I can help some owners with their exhausts on the Hawke's with 1.6 and 2.0 litre Cortina engines. I have tried many systems without any being satisfactory (Mainly under-car clearance, noise, overheating under the rear wing and so on) Finally I found an easy way out, I bought a single exhaust box from Melvyn Rutter (Morgan specialist 01279 725725). It is about a metre long and fits under the wing, with a single side exit pipe just in front of the rear wheel. It fits perfectly amazing! The part numbers are:

Box = EXM17 fits Morgan +8 - 4SP or Morgan series 1 4/4

Side pipe = EXS43 fits +8

(Michel doesn't say how much these little items were!!)

Our faithful correspondent - Chris Pecover

Here we are again, thinking of something to say in order to help Keith our long suffering editor - fill up the magazine. I'm sure that he would rather see someone else sending in a contribution, and not have to put with my rather boring old spiel. So come on, make Keith's day, by sending him a contribution that we can all share and enjoy about your kit building progress (or not as the case may be), Hawke driving, or something totally different that has absolutely nothing to do with kits!

Having got that off my chest, I will say that now the better has weather arrived - I think? - I am really missing my old Hawke, especially being

able to drop the hood when the sun is out. I also miss "dropping my foot on the loud pedal" and enjoying "brisk" V8 motoring. I can certainly even more understand Tony Beszant's unabashed enthusiasm for his car, and the sheer pleasure of going for a drive! I suppose I'll just have to get on with building my next Hawke, and stop reminiscing/daydreaming about pleasures past with MOV7X.

Talking about the better weather, my wife and I went to the Chatham show on the Saturday 30 March, the sun was out (weakly), but it was bloody cold inside the show buildings (fancy name for the old naval rope sheds). I hope the organisers managed to get some heating to work on the Sunday! Another shock was actually going to a show and having to pay (!) twice (well I couldn't leave the "management" outside could I ?); just because I wasn't driving a kit car. The GCS stand looked quite good with two cars on it, and Sussex Kitcars on the adjacent stand with another Hawke on it. Outside the show was poorly attended with not too many clubs or kitcar people about, although I'm told that it got much better on the Sunday.

My build is coming along quite nicely, and as I write this piece the rolling chassis is finished and most of the body panels are in place with some fettling to be done. I'm glad that GCS decided to have their glassfibre work done somewhere else as the examples I've seen lately, including my own, were not that good. Their new supplier has a very good proven record in GRP work and should produce some excellent mouldings. My doors are on, locks and catches fitted, fuel tank is made and fitted, I've just finished modifying the wiper mechanism, and the V8 radiator c/w brackets is also in place.

Having visited Corbeau Seats on a snowy January morning to view their range of seats and discuss what I wanted from a pair of seats, I placed an order with them in late January. They were very helpful and readily agreed to produce a pair of modified "Sportsman Recliner" seats trimmed to my colour/fabric choice. As I write this piece I am waiting for the second delivery of my seats as they didn't quite get them right first time. However the quality of the manufacture was excellent and they looked very good, even if the shaping was not what I'd ordered. I'm fairly confident that I'll be more than pleased with the final results.

I won't get much time to work on my new Hawke over Easter, as the rest of life has been got on with, but I hope to make a start on preparations for spraying soon (about the time you'll be reading this). If you see me at Stoneleigh with a metallic Burgundy/Grey colouring you'll know that I've started painting.

Stoneleigh. This year's Stoneleigh show promises to be as big and interesting as usual, however with a new sponsor - "CARS & CAR CONVERSIONS" magazine - the show may have some different or extra features. The dates are, as you probably know, the 5 & 6th May 1996, and we plan to have our AGM on the Monday at about 2.00pm, as in previous years. We have booked a club stand as before, but at the time of writing this I don't know its number or location.

I will be there on both days and hopefully will have my frame tent available for day time shelter if necessary; we will have the club banner up so you shouldn't miss it. I will also bring along a couple of bottles of wine for our club members refreshment, so make sure you come and join us on the Monday.

I will also bring my barbecue along for anyone to use, although last year not many people showed any inclination for an outdoors "cook out

SPECIAL PLEA - Will you please bring yourselves, some commitment and your ideas to our AGM so that your new committee can do more for you and your club. If for some reason you cannot get to Stoneleigh on the Monday (excuses like - on holiday in the Bahamas - or - in intensive care - will not be considered valid!?) then please let John, Julie or me know beforehand so that we can input your ideas etc into the AGM. Thanks.

Bromley. The arrangements for Bromley Pageant of Motoring are slightly different this year, mainly due to GCS not taking a stand there and us as a club joining them on such a stand. However I have managed to book a club stand, which costs us nothing, which measures 40 x 25 feet which we can use to promote the club. The theme will be "Classic Kit Car Building" and whilst we are only supposed to have three cars on the stand, I'm sure that we can squeeze one or two more on as the need arises. Alternatively there will be a general "Kit Car parking area which can be used if there are too many of us. If any one has got some ideas for this stand I would welcome their input both before and on the day! As you

may recall from previous years the show is a one day event only but it certainly packs a tremendous amount into the one day, and is well worth a visit to Norman Park, Bromley Kent, on Sunday 30th June. Please ring me for further details as there will be a number of free tickets to be had!

Beaulieu. Due to "Burning Apathy" our promised gathering in the West of England last autumn did not happen, so in July this year it is planned to visit the Beaulieu Motor Museum as a club. Again I'm not sure of the date but you should find the necessary details elsewhere in this issue, in a piece put in by GCS. Do come along in your Hawke if you can, but it doesn't matter if your Hawke is not yet finished because you can join us in what ever "wheels" you've got. 2.

Badges. Following this years Chatham show, Garry & Colin placed an order for proper chromed badges for the Hawke which should be available from them at the Stoneleigh show. Judging by the standard of the Badgemaker's samples they should look very good indeed. As treasurer I have been holding some £10 deposits for club members for these badges, which I have recently have passed onto GCS to form part of the deposit placed with the badge supplier. I believe that the badges are going to cost approximately £40 so those who lodged their deposits with me will naturally be paying £ 10 less. So if you want a smart set of badges for your Hawke then bring your necessary "readies" along to the show.

That's all from me, so enjoy your Hawke-ing and see you at the Stoneleigh show!

Secretary's Report

Spring has sprung, or so they say, the daffodils are nodding their golden plumage and the dew is soft on the morning lawn...

Enough of the literature lets get on with the task at hand!

I would just like to say that I hope the enthusiasm and commitment of the club membership Improves somewhat this season.... In order to better facilitate this we are arranging an outing to Beaulieu on 21 July.

This is in addition to our regular meeting at Stoneleigh for the AGM (Monday 6th May at 2:00pm on the club stand).

We have contacted Beaulieu and they can offer us a discount, providing we can get more than 15 people to go!! I'm sure we can manage that. Could you please book your places by sending £6.75 per adult (£4.50 per child) to Chris Pecover, club treasurer by 30 June. This represents the discounted fee and means we will be allocated a discrete site for parking as a club. Final details of the day will be given nearer the time to those who book places. It would be really good to see as many of you as can make it. I have received a letter from a non-Hawkite who would like to purchase a fully built car. See the back of this issue for details (at least I hope that is where the Ed. has located it).

At the Stoneleigh Show we will have the chrome badge sets available, so if you have paid a deposit please bring your cash with you so that you can collect your set. In addition, the 1996 club register will be available, together with new membership cards. I have yet to receive confirmation of our stand number, but hope to have it the week before the show. If you are going you can either ring me the week before the show or just ask at the gate when you arrive.

We have booked a stand at the Norman Park show which takes place on 30 June at Bromley If you are going please let either myself or Chris know so that we can give you the details and make sure there is room for you to park!!

Garry and Colin are joining us both at Beaulieu and Norman Park which will give you an opportunity to socialise and ask a few searching questions (but don't tell them I told you!).

Lets make this a good year for the Hawke Owners Club.

Look forward to seeing you

Best wishes

Julie

News from GCS:

By the time you read this we should just about be trading again. Our first show was Chatham. which was not too bad. No definite orders but a fair amount of interest shown. We have booked a stand at Stoneleigh and we will decide which others shows to exhibit at as we go along.

1995 was a disastrous year for us and has more or less resulted in us having to start again. We now have another kit car manufacturer carrying out our laminating work. We have issued a summons against our previous laminator for damage caused to GCS. In the end we had to finish the work on the moulds ourselves. We apologise to customers that were inconvenienced during this long drawn out episode with the new moulds. Our next project is to build another demo car as we are without one at present. The car will be a V8 Sports and we hope to have it finished for the end of the summer.

We will be attending the run to Beaulieu as detailed by Julie. For the details see the secretary's report.

We have now ordered the chrome badge sets and they should be ready for collection at Stoneleigh. We have had to order 20 sets to make it cost effective. The cost is £35 + VAT per set of 3 badges.

We have been asked by several customers if we would tackle certain aspects of Hawke build ups that they do not wish to attempt themselves, i.e. spraying, body panels etc. We are willing to quote for this work on a price per project basis. We would also need to schedule work in because of space available.

Hope to see most of you at Stoneleigh.

Regards

Garry and Colin.

Classified Advertisements!!!

Wanted by ageing enthusiast, Hawke Sports or +2. Must be in good condition with 2 litre or lively 1600 engine. Preferably recent build with full history. Failing back prevents a self build, can you help? Ring 01903-520487 (Sussex) Paul.