

TOP MARQUE

The Newsletter of the Austin Healey Club Thames Valley Centre - Summer 2006



This is the first issue of Top Marque from me, the new Editor, Alan Cross, keeping all our Thames Valley members up to speed with all that is happening in the Austin Healey world in the Thames Valley area.

CHANGES TO THE TVC COMMITTEE

As you will know, the Thames Valley Centre has been chaired for many years by Nigel Unsworth. This year was no exception, with Nigel being voted back in for the 2005-06 club year. Sadly for us, Nigel's work has very recently taken him to Australia for 'several months'. That is unfortunate enough, but he has also disappeared with the Treasurer! Don't panic - Treasurer Liz, his wife, is simply travelling with him, and be assured the Centre funds are intact!!

Nigel and Liz resigned their posts at the last TVC Committee Meeting, and, at that meeting, replacements were found. **Brian White** becomes Acting Chairman, **Alan Pitkin** moves in as Acting Treasurer, and I get 'promoted' (!) from Deputy NEC Director to Acting NEC Director. As these posts can only be formally filled by member votes at the AGM, the new incumbents can only be 'acting', until a vote at the next AGM elects substantive officers to these roles. See the new line-up at the bottom of the page.

EVENTS

With the upheaval in the Thames Valley Committee at just the time that the summer programme of events was taking shape, the organisation has had a bit of a setback. However, we hope to firm up on the events that have been put forward.

The highlights as we write are:

Goodwood Revival. We will be once again subsidising tickets, for members only, at the Goodwood Revival on Sunday 3 September. Keep up to speed on this via the TVC web site.

Polo? We are trying to get the TVC Centre together for a day at the Polo Club in Ham (near Richmond, West London) during the summer - the problem at the moment is that the Polo Club is being rather slow in responding to our contact.

Pub? We also plan to arrange a TVC Centre Gathering at a pleasant pub in the Thames Valley region - probably on the 28 August (Bank Holiday weekend) - and we trust the weather will be good and accommodate us.

Don't forget the TVC Noggin 'n' Natter evenings in the region - Wooton (near Oxford), Finchampstead (near Wokingham), and Kew (West London). See the web site or RevCounter for full details.

Input from you? If you have any thoughts about the type of event you would like to see (or indeed would like to help arrange), then please contact either Brian White or Rob Fenton (contact details below).

WHERE ARE OUR 'SPRITELY' MEMBERS?

If you are a TVC Sprite owner (and around 30% of you are!), you will have received a letter directed specifically at you. We thought, however, that all TVC members should know how we are hoping to improve the recognition of Sprite owners in the area. Here is an abridged version of the letter:

It is often thought - mistakenly - that the Austin Healey Club caters only for Big Healey owners and that Sprite owners should to look elsewhere for support. In fact, history tells us that the Southern Sprite Club was one of the founding partners of the Austin Healey Club when the latter came into being in the early 1960s ... the Sprite has been part and parcel of the Club ever since. How could it be otherwise when Donald Healey professed the Sprite to be his favourite car?

Nevertheless ... the percentage of Sprite owners in Thames Valley Centre is only around 25% when relative production numbers would lead you to expect a majority of Sprites.

The clear message is that we "could do better", and this has focused our minds on the need to promote interest in Sprite ownership, particularly with a view to the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the Sprite in 2008. One way ... would be to appoint a Sprite representative to our Centre committee. Our objective would be to provide a more visible focus for Sprite owners both within and outside the Club, and to encourage the development of ideas which will make the Club more attractive to Sprite owners.

If you feel you could spare some of your valuable time to help Thames Valley Centre improve the lot of Sprite owners we'd be delighted to hear from you. We hold about 4-5 committee meetings per year.

*Please contact Rob Fenton on
robffenton@onetel.com*

*or
0208 998 8718.*



Keep up to date with the Thames Valley Austin Healey scene through our web site:
www.thamesvalley.austinhealeyclub.org.uk

THE CURRENT THAMES VALLEY COMMITTEE

Acting Chairman	Brian White	01923 772092	brian.moathouse@btopenworld.com
Secretary	George Grammer	01235 751933	ggrammer@jekyllpr.co.uk
Acting Treasurer	Alan Pitkin	01344 777130	alan@pitkin.fsworld.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Nick Crocker	01344 776091	nick.crocker@tiscali.co.uk
Acting NEC Director	Alan Cross	01344 777510	thamesvalley@austin-healey-club.com
Top Marque Editor	Alan Cross	01344 777510	austinhealey@alanfcross.com
Webmaster	Rob Fenton	0208 998 8718	robffenton@onetel.com
Member	Mick Dwyer	0208 444 0156	mickhealydwyer@aol.com