

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS' CONTACT DETAILS

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Volume 1

Summer 2007

Number 18

The President Speaks

I must begin by apologizing for the lack of newsletters this year but now that we have got down to it I hope that you will enjoy this new style newsletter which is much better quality than anything which we have done in the past.

What might seem like a lack of activity in the association I can assure you is not so. The committee has been holding regular meetings and this year there have been fourteen so far. Most of the time has been taken up with planning the 5th Gibraltar Rally which took place a month later than usual on the 16th June.

Other business important to our association has been discussed regularly at our committee meetings; The long overdue changes to the traffic ordinance to include classic vehicles so that classic cars can be owned and used in Gibraltar within the law. This has taken longer than anyone would have expected as all the details we agreed by the government years ago. Regardless of the delays this is still going ahead. I had a meeting with Mr Caruana in May and he has assured me that he is in agreement with these changes to the law in respect of classic vehicles. Hopefully the classic vehicle legislation will be published in the Gibraltar Gazette very soon and then will automatically become law. It is unbelievable that the GCVA has been meeting with the government for five years and at the last budget the government abolished road tax for all vehicles which is one of the concessions they had agreed for classic vehicles.

Our events organiser John Ritchie has been very active and this year apart from taking on the responsibility for the Rally he has also organised several outings which I feel could have received better support. We had some very enjoyable scenic runs and in May a group of our members spent a pleasant weekend in Puerto Santa Maria.

In May we were visited by a group of members of the Traction Owners Club UK who were permitted to display their cars in the Piazza.

SUMMER BBQ – Marina Bay - July 2007

Some cars from the GCVA were able to join them too and later on a treasure hunt they had organised.

At the beginning of June we played host to two men who drive a 1932 Austin 7 from Santander to Gibraltar via Portugal to raise money for cancer relief. Hector Capurro was kind enough to accommodate them at his home for three nights before their return drive to England.

The 5th Gibraltar Rally was attended by over sixty vehicles and despite a damp start it later turned out into a lovely day. It was interesting to see many newcomers this year which made the display of vehicles more interesting and I think that the whole event was a success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted with this years Rally. Next year we are planning to return the event to the month of May if we can book the square for that time. The provisional date therefore would be 17th May 2008 but it is too early to confirm this.

It has now come to the time of year when it is too hot to do much with classic cars. I usually visit my garage everyday but the sun on the metal roof makes it very uncomfortable in there. Driving the car is also very uncomfortable in this heat. When September comes and the weather is cooler, the roads less busy, then we will begin to arrange outings and use the cars more.

Argus Insurance Company (Norwich Union) have expressed an interest in supporting our association and have drafted out some details of a special discounted insurance scheme for classic vehicles. More details will be made available as the negotiations with the managers of Argus progress.

In the meantime if anyone is in the process of renewing their car insurance with Argus then please go ahead and do so as I have been informed that any discounts agreed for GCVA members will be applied retrospectively when agreed.

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer so far, enjoy the rest of it and I look forward to meeting you in events in September

Stefan Nicholson

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 16th 2007

Outing to Sabinillas Market.
Followed by Lunch.

OCTOBER 7th 2007

Sun 07 Oct Outing to Ronda sightseeing and lunch. Meet Spanish side of the 0900 (Be on time please or get left behind-long route!) Route out will be via Jimena de la Frontera route back on main road via San Pedro. Please let us know if you are coming with plenty of time, we have to arrange restaurant / Venta bookings.

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Many Thanks to John Ritchie for the Photographs.

TRACTION OWNERS CLUB UK VISIT- May 2007



Many Thanks to Manolo Frendo for the Photographs.

16th June 5th Annual GCVA RALLY

The date set for the Classic Car Rally this year, the 16th June, was a little later than had been customary on previous years. Despite this the day threatened rain. The initial worry, however, soon wore off as the cars started rolling in, and the sun broke through raising everyone's spirits.



Over seventy cars attended with the majority being in place by 1045. Others continued to come in and by 1100, Casemates Square was full. At about this time the Rooke Band struck up, and together with the large number of visitors, helped to provide a particularly pleasant ambience. The Casemates phase of the rally followed the same general arrangements as other years. These included the usual goodie bags for all participants, arrangements for coffee and refreshments, and the participation of the local Historical Enactment Society performing the culminating part of The Ceremony of the Keys.



It was soon 1330 and time to start our parade up Main Street. This year the Sea Scouts Band very ably led the parade. As usual there was a great crowd all the way along the route enjoying the spectacle almost as much as the drivers and passengers. The route, which had been purposely shortened this year, then took us to Europa Point where everyone relaxed over a brief stop for refreshments. It was then time for the final stage, the lunch for all participants and guests.

The venue was the Royal Gibraltar Police Club with secure parking having been made available nearby at the playground of St Josephs School. It was probably at this stage that the organisers could begin to relax and talk about an event that had gone well, exchange "war stories" about eccentric car behaviour, hot to scalding radiators and that new noise coming from the depth of the car, which had never been heard before! Above all it was time to look forward to next year's event and to be grateful for the great deal of help we had received from many departments, organisations and individuals.





Portrait Photos Courtesy of John Navas

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