April 1977

DORSET AUSTIN SEVEN CLUB

SECRETARIAL April usually seems the month to get the '7' out of the garage and dust the cobwebs off - apart, of course, from the few hardy types that motor during the winter. It is also the start of our monthly evening runs.

There has been a lot of discussion in recent months about the running of an Austin 7 club. To avoid certain difficulties that have arisen within other clubs we have decided not to over-publicise ours. We believe that too many members may endanger the informality that exists. By the way, we now have 33 members and welcome to J. Harris o Salisbury - one of his cars, a 1923 A7, has been on show at Beaulieu.

By the time you have read this the Daffodil Run will have come and gone and I hope all those that entered enjoyed themselves.

I have received further details of the 10,000 mile Record Attempt by Chris Gould and the Pre-War A7 Club. Eight drivers working in three hour shifts had completed 4,147 miles, most of it at an average speed of over 50 mph, before the crankcase bolts sheared leaving the block floating about. However, subject to confirmation they have broken the 1,000 km and 5,000 km Records for Class 4, Category 4, Group 1 cars. Congratulations.

This month I am starting a "Spotlight On" section, so if I ask a few awkward questions, watch out

Spotlight On PETER TRELIVING

Peter has been interested in 7's for about eighteen months. Originally he saw an advert in the Echo for a 1930 Chummy in bits - without a body and started renovating. After realising that he could not enter any runs, etc. for many a year he started looking for another '7'. At last he found the right one - a '36 Ruby, which he bought just before Longleat Rally last year - and has now just finished renovating it in a record time of four months. It certainly has been a wonderful effort.

Peter is an electronics engineer by profession and lives with his wife, Judy, and two children at Merley.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1st May - May Day Run. Starting point Wimmborne Square 10.45 are for 11.15 a.m start. Lunchtime stop at a suitable public house and ending at the Blue Pool. Details subject to revision on the day. If you are coming, please try to let me know beforehand. Please try to support it as it is our first official run.

28th/29th May - Bristol A7 Club has decided to go ahead with the North Devon Run.

4th/7th June - Bristol A7 Club Scrumpy Run to Dorset.

19th June - Essex A7 Club Motoring Extravaganza at Southend Airport (I have some entry forms).

25th June - Ferndown Jubilee Celebration Rally & Concours. Free

entry, free teas. I hope to have some entry forms at our next meeting.

NEXT CLUBNIGHT - 21st April, Nags Head, Ringwood. A short run to the Red Shoot Inn, Linwood, leaving at approx. 8.45 pm.

FOR SALE 1936 crankcase - Ruby valve cover and studs

Ruby chassis - two 19" wheels (chrome centre; four 17" large chrome centre wheels - clutch plate - 14mm plug cylinder head, '37 type one pair Ruby bumper hangers; fuel tank one; n/s early Ruby door - a pair of Ford Model Y headlights - rear bumper for Morris 8. Richard Cowell, Sturminster Newton 72513 (work)

FOR SALE Two head gasket sets '36-'39 new. £3 each. Phil Whitter, Broadstone 094857

WANTED 6 volt horn - vacuum wiper - updraught 22FZB carb. Clutch thrust and pressure plate for '31/32 box. Richard Cowell, as above.

WANTED Solid centre wheels - early starter housing and drive - clutch thrust - pair of small Lucas headlights - front axle for 1928/29 saloon. Phil Whitter, as above.



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**Austin Seven—Relining the Clutch—(contd.)**

For reassembling the clutch, first place the pressure-plate, lining downwards, on the jig, replace the twelve clutch springs in their sockets in the upper surface of the plate and swing the declutching levers up into a vertical position to en­able the flywheel cover to be threaded over them. The jig can then be used to compress the whole assembly so that the three levers swing towards the centre of the clutch.

To ensure a sweet clutch action without vibration, each de­clutching lever must have its correct working clearance. This can be tested at this stage, while the assembly is in the jig, with the special gauging table which mounts under the jig by the pin and bayonet socket fixing as shown. Note that the pins must be right home in their slots for the locating faces on the ton, of the table to be tight against the bottom face of the jig; both surfaces must be quite clean. The gauge block and feeler can then be used as shown to check the position of the working face of each declutching lever, which can be set if necessary by the bending , bar depicted on this page.

Having verified the setting of the levers their springs can be refitted, using the special pliers as shown in the illustration. The declutching lever retaining ring, previously described, should be in position on the levers before the assembly is removed from the jig.

The flywheel can be replaced on its keyed taper on the end of the crankshaft and secured by its nut and lock-washer, being again prevented from turning by placing a bolt in its periphery.

Next rest the clutch plate against the flywheel lining and offer up the assembled flywheel cover for each of its six setscrews to be re­fitted and partly screwed up. Then remove the re­taining ring from the de­clutching levers and centre the clutch plate. A special centring bar is available for this purpose, the two outer holes of which fu over two opposite studs in the flywheel housing. When the splined clutch plate centre is located in the middle hole in the plate, the six setscrews can be tightened home.



Supplementing the information given in the last issue on removing and re-

placing the gearbox, it is advisable to slacken off the clutch pedal adjustment, as this will facilitate manoeuv­ring the clutch pedal lever past the steering box. It will be noticed that the clutch plate centre has one spline missing for location purposes and refitting the gearbox is rendered easier if this gap in the spline is on top centre. Therefore, engage top gear and turn the third motion shaft flange until that portion of the first motion shaft that corresponds to the missing spline on the clutch-plate centre is also on top centre. Next mark the third motion shaft flange and the rear of the gearbox, so that this position can be reverted to when the gearbox is offered into position, which is best done through the nearside door. With the gearbox refitted the remainder of the reassembling process is a reversal of the dismantling procedure outlined in the article appearing in the March issue of *The Austin Service Journal.* It will be necessary, of course, to reset the clutch pedal to give the play necessary for the

efficient functioning of the clutch.

The average time taken for the above is approximately 7¾ hours.

The following is a list of reference numbers of the assembly jig and other tools mentioned in this article. We advise their use, as makeshift tools tend to damage the parts to which they are applied. It is, of course, possible to compress the clutch in a vice, for the removal of the declutching lever springs, shifting it round as necessary to deal with each lever, but this involves the risk of cracking the pressure plate lining, which has to withstand the pressure on the declutching Lever pins.