



VICTORIA

NEWSLETTER VOL. 2. ISSUE No. 3 15th March, 1964.

THE BASIL BOWES MEMORIAL CHALLENGE

TROPHY WINNER

The winner of the Basil Bowes Memorial Challenge Trophy for 1964 is Alister Cannon driving his Alvis T.A. 14. The fate of the trophy was decided by the result of the two-day Rally to San Remo on February 22nd & 23rd.

The trophy goes to the highest aggregate points scored by an Alvis in the twin events, the Observation Trial, held on the Saturday and the Gymkhana held on the Sunday. Alister scored the total of 163 points. This score was the highest of any make competing.

Individual results are tabulated below.

SAN REMO MEMORIAL RALLY - Dramatic Test of Enthusiasm!!!

In spite of the worst weather conditions experienced since the Great Flood, the two-day Rally at San Remo was contested with zest to its conclusion on the afternoon of Sunday, February 23rd.

Under a lowering sky on the Saturday morning, the competitors were sent off sporadically on the start of the observation trial section of the route. It was unfortunate that weeks of planning should have been upset by lateness of arrival of some competitors. Doubtless this will improve next year, as a feature of the conditions will be loss of points for lateness at the start.

David Wishher, although not officially competing was sent off first in the T.C. 21 Saloon. Five minutes later John MacLeod and wife, Eila sped on their way in their T.C. 21 Saloon. Keith Welsh and his family in the Mark V Jaguar, followed by Barry Gough (a lone figure) in the S.A. Speed 20, departed at intervals of five minutes each.

Des Donnan and his gallant lady (& son) braved the elements in the 12/50 Tourer, less hood, and were sent off next. Alister Cannon arrived with a screech of brakes and a shower of gravel to relate a rear wheel rubbing on the gravel, which he had been forced to cure by removing and replacing the spring. So Alister and Rosalie were sent on their way.

Sid Lehner had failed to appear over the horizon by 11.45 a.m., so somewhat mystified we departed without Sid. The reason became plain later. Sid had given the T.A. 21 Drophead to a friend (?) to repair on the Tuesday previous. Came Saturday and neither friend (?) nor car was to be found. Sid appeared during the afternoon with Roy Henderson and although carless, obviously enjoyed himself. Which shows a very good club spirit.

Simon Ramsay and Roy Henderson started during the afternoon, timing their own start, having been given a sealed envelope with trial sheets the night previous.

A welcome institution at the start from 21 Edgar Street was the Morris motorised caravan in which Nick Davies, his wife & son had journeyed up from Penshurst, near Hamilton. The shelter and the cups of tea were very much appreciated!

John Cole was to have executed the trial on the Sunday morning in the T.A. 21 Saloon, but presumably the storm on the Saturday afternoon must have damaged the orchard, for we missed John's smiling countenance.

Derek Holyoake intended coming in the T.A. 14 but his good wife had delayed the arrival of their son/daughter a bit long and so Derek naturally hovered within earshot at home. Never mind, Derek, next year!

Graham Quinn had entered the T.C. 21/100 Drophead but a day or so before the event the gear box developed a clang which turned out to be the noise made by several gear teeth going into orbit. However he made it on the Sunday with Jane & family in the Valiant. A good effort.

### The Route

The route of the observation trial led through Dandenong to Berwick, then down to Koo-Wee-Rup and thence on to San Remo, with many guileful clues to be sorted out on the way.

### The Storm!!!

About 4 p.m. the storm broke at San Remo, fortunately after most competitors had arrived. Andy Hannam was seen to dive across the card table to prevent it and the papers from being air-borne. Luckily a card table has not a good aerofoil section or we might have lost finishing marshalls, results and all!

### The Evening

It had been intended to hold a barbecue with films in the back garden of Mrs. Bowes' San Remo house, but the continuing deluge put paid to that idea.

The barbecue was successfully held indoors, however and later through the good offices of Terry Plummer & Barry Gough we saw films of various Alvis Car Club events going back four or five years. Si Ramsay showed us at least 250 slides including his own & Austin Woods' overseas slides and cars present at Berwick, Albury, Kalorama etc. to the accompaniment of a phenomenally well-catalogued commentary. A very enjoyable evening.

The members spent the night in scattered billets, some in the caravan park, some in the house.

### Gymkhana.

On the Sunday morning the weather abated a little until we got to the track, when it commenced to shower intermittently with patches of sunshine between tempered by a cold wind.

In spite of this the course was quickly set out and the 7 events run through in brisk time. Intervening showers forced all to dive for cover in or behind the pits until they passed. At the conclusion of events an impromptu barbecue was held in and around the pits. Sid Lehner cheerfully volunteered to sell the meat left from the night before and happily "flogged" almost all of it.

The barbecue lunch was followed by an optional standing 1/4 mile sprint along the track over the finishing line. Fastest time was 21.4 sec. recorded by Graham Quinn (Valiant), followed by 23.6 sec. put up by Simon Ramsay (Valiant), 25.2 sec. by Alister Cannon (T.A. 14), 25.6 sec. by Keith Welsh (Jaguar Mk. V) and a lumbering 31 sec. by David Caldwell (T.A. 14).

After this the Alvis cars present took part in the traditional line-up for photographs. Those duly over, the members left for home after a weekend of triumphing over the elements, which thoroughly earned each one the title of Enthusiast.

## Results of Events

Des Donnan emerged a clear winner of the Observation Trial section with a score of 75 points gained in the 12/50 Tourer.

Alister Cannon totted up the highest score of points in the Gymkhana Section on the Sunday in the T.A. 14 with an award of 90 points.

The highest aggregate of points over the two sections was scored by Alister Cannon with 163 points, which being registered in an Alvis makes Alister the winner of the Basil Bowes Memorial Challenge Trophy for 1964.

In second place came Des. Donnan in the 12/50 with 144 points followed by Barry Gough with an aggregate of 137 points, Keith Welsh with 131 points, John McLeod 111 points, and Simon Ramsay with 85 points.

## Handicap

The Vintage & P.V.T. vehicles received handicaps worked out as follows:-

Des Donnan's 1926 12/50 received 1 point for each year of age prior to 1939 back to 1930 and 2 points for each year prior to 1930 back to 1926, making a bonus score of 17 points for the weekend. This was added to his aggregate score in the Trial & Gymkhana. B.Gough's Spd.20 Collected a point for each year of age prior to 1939 to '32 adding 7 points.

In addition the nature of the events in the Gymkhana and the short course lengths were designed to cancel out the advantage conferred by larger modern horse power and make skilful driving the criterion.

The results seem to indicate that some success was achieved in this direction.

T.A. 14	-	163 Points
12/50	-	144 Points
Speed 20	-	137 Points
Mark V Jaguar	-	131 Points
T.A. 21	-	111 Points
Valiant	-	84 Points

## Individual Scores

### Observation Trial

Des. Donnan	A. Cannon	B. Gough	K. Welsh	J. McLeod	S. Ramsay
75	73	64	63	61	40

### Gymkhana

A.Cannon	G.Quinn	K.Welsh	B.Gough	R.Henderson	D.Donnan	J.McLeod	S.Ramsay
90	80	68	66	64	52	50	44

## Secret Time

The secret time for the Trial was 2 hours 38 min. 12.5 sec.  
John McLeod was closest to this with a time of 2 hours 30 minutes.

Gymkhana Times

Name	Donnan	Quinn	Welsh	Ramsay	Gough	Cannon	Henderson	McLeod
Car No.	11	10	8	7	6	5	2	12
Event 1	24.8	---	---	34.0	26.0	24.8	22.2	18.2
Event 2	38.8	29.0	27.0	29.6	36.8	26.6	34.0	30.4
Event 3	56.6	37.0	30.6	44.4	37.0	31.2	----	40.2
Event 4	37.2	31.8	36.6	37.2	37.2	31.4	36.5	36.8
Event 5	59.6	51.8	50.8	1.01.8	44.5	53.0	53.0	1.05.0
Event 6	35.0	31.0	31.2	41.6	45.0	31.4	34.0	53.2
Event 7	2.06.8	1.30.0	----	----	1.10.6	1.41.0	1.33.0	Failed to finish

Prizes

The Committee had provided for prizes as follows:-

- Outright Winner - Alvis - Memorial Trophy & Replica. A.Cannon.
- Best Alvis Trial Section - Trophy - Des. Donnan
- Best Alvis Gymkhana - Trophy - Alister Cannon.
- Best Other Make Aggregate - Trophy - Keith Welsh.
- Nearest Secret Time - Trial - Trophy - John McLeod.

These trophies will all be presented at the Annual Dinner to be held early in May - more details next issue of venue, date and guest speakers. Keep it in mind!!

Jottings . . . . . by Scribe

It was most encouraging to see George ("Nick") Davies complete with wife and son come up from Peshurst (near Hamilton) in the Morris motorised caravan. George brought two stop watches and his services in timing the Gymkhana events and assisting at the start were greatly appreciated. We hope you will be a competitor next time George!

\* \* \* \* \*

We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Bowes for the use of her San Remo holiday house during the Rally weekend. Without it we'd have been a sorry lot in the prevailing conditions.

\* \* \* \* \*

Albert Broad leaves Saturday 21st. March on the 'Flavia' for Alvisland. Alvis Ltd. will show him through the Engineering Works and later through the Service Department, A T.D. 21 and chauffeur are to be made available, we understand. Cor!

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Murray and 12/70 leave for Canberra soon for a position with the Bureau of Census & Statistics. We wish Jean every success with the new job.

\* \* \* \* \*

Before going to press we discovered the reason for John Cole's non-appearance at the Rally. It seems that as John negotiated the level crossing at Koo-Wee-Rup a loud bang occurred and the T.A. 21 filled with smoke. On raising the bonnet a rod was seen poking through the crankcase.

Only 400 miles after reconditioning. We might have guessed that only something shattering would keep John away. Feverish work is going on to make the Silver Eagle mobile.

\* \* \* \* \*

David Wischer has acquired the ex-Brian Donellan 12/50 tourer which reposed at the PitStop Garage in Nepean Highway, Elwood for some time, It is wonderful to see it finish up in good hands.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are pleased to hear from Mrs. Morris after a long absence. Mrs. Morris has lost a radiator cap from the 3-litre and is anxious to procure a new one or one in good condition. Will pay cash.

CARS WANTED, FOR SALE, PIECES TO LET, RAFFLE, ETC.

Harold Welsh wishes to sell his 1939 Speed 25 (ex John Murray) due to unavoidable circumstances necessitating his loss to the Club. The car has been thoroughly overhauled mechanically, the bodywork fully restored with the exception of upholstery and interior trim. Price £375. Telephone No. 89-7449.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ian Ednie has for sale his T.A. 14 Saloon (see Photo in Clubrooms). Price unknown. Contact Ian at 3, The Avenue, Blackburn.

\* \* \* \* \*

John Fowler is returning to South Australia and wishes to sell his T.A. 14 drophead. The body and upholstery and hood of this car are immaculate. The motor needs an overhaul. This impressed us as a good car. Price £100. John's address is 40 Ferndale Road, Glen Iris.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alister Cannon has for sale a pair of Armstrong heavy-duty lever-action adjustable shock absorbers suit T.A. 14 £10 pair. Almost new.

He wants to buy a 12/50 temperature gauge; a 12/50 Vernier Magneto coupling; an inside control tube with levers (12/50 steering wheel spark and hand throttle controls); a 12/50 0/100 m.p.h. Speedometer. Contact Alister at 17 Merle Street, Box Hill. 'Phone 89-3146.

\* \* \* \* \*

Leonard Long has his T.A. 14 shooting brake for sale. This car is reported to be very well-kept. 212 Williams Road, Toorak.

\* \* \* \* \*

SLIDES, GENTLEMEN, PLEASE.

A lot of photographs were taken by Alvis gentry at the Kalorama Rally and at San Remo Rally. We are sure our other members would be delighted to see these, so please bring them to the meeting with you. We hope to arrange a projector for this meeting also. If you can assist in this respect would you kindly ring Alister Cannon at 89-3146? Thank you.

ALVIS CAR CLUB: VICTORIA = COMMITTEE =

President: David Caldwell, 6 The Outlook, Heathmont.  
Vice-President: David Wischer, 40 Winton Road, Ashburton. 25-2391.  
Secretary: Alister Cannon, 17 Merle Street, Box Hill. 89-3146.  
Spares Registrar: David Muirden, Flat 15, 37 Domain Street, South Yarra.  
Treasurer: Andy Hannam, 54 Doveton Avenue, Dandenong.  
Club Captain: David Bamford, 13 Vernon Street, South Blackburn.  
Committeemen: Keith Welsh, 22 Winmera Street, Box Hill.  
Social Secretary: ? ? ?  
Editor: David Caldwell.

