

"Dripfeed"

NEWSLETTER OF THE BANKS PENINSULA BRANCH
OF THE
VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF New Zealand (INC)

VOLUME 46, No 7 AUGUST 2023.

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Noggin & Natter: 2nd Thursday of the Month

- Noggin 7.30 pm at the Papanui RSA. Upham Room – enter either from 55 Bellvue Ave or the first entrance on the left on Harewood Road (Papanui / Main North Road)
- **Thursday 10th of August.**
- We look forward to seeing you there. Supper is provided.

From the Editor:

In the far off times, when there were a decent number of members who liked to race, we had an annual Mid Winter Speed Day at Ruapuna, usually with twenty to thirty entries of all sorts, that were organised into fields according to speed. Lots of fun, no one took it too seriously, and a great place to learn about racecraft. I had my first competitive outing in my Citroen Big 15 at one of these. I was put at the back of the grid, with a suitable warning sign on the bumper to let everyone else know that this was my first race. After a lap or so I'd manage to pass someone, the car hadn't exploded, and I had another car in my sights as I approached the hairpin, feeling that this racing business was all a bit of a doddle, and that I was a naturally talented driver. There was sudden roar and a screech of tortured rubber as George Calder, in his wonderful Riley Special, hurtled up the inside, outbraked me, slid round the hairpin and vanished into the distance. I'm still recovering.

There were handicap races, Le Mans starts, which favoured the more athletic drivers, and one year, it was decided to have a bike race. Entrants were asked to bring the oldest pushbike they could find, and we lined up for a race of one lap. There were three Penny Farthings, a number of early racing bikes, and I was on my father's 1950 Humber Sports model with the Sturmey Archer three speed hub. Entrants included Gavin Bain, Peter Croft, George Calder, Tim and James Palmer. It's long way round Ruapuna on a bike, even the short circuit, and after a few hundred desperate metres, most of us were completely bugged. But that finely honed and toned athlete Gavin Bain, on his Penny Farthing (ordinary) surprised everyone by winning, as the photo shows. Wisely, Gavin refused all

offers of sponsorship and retired from competitive cycle racing while still at the top, but sent these photos to prove his moment of glory.

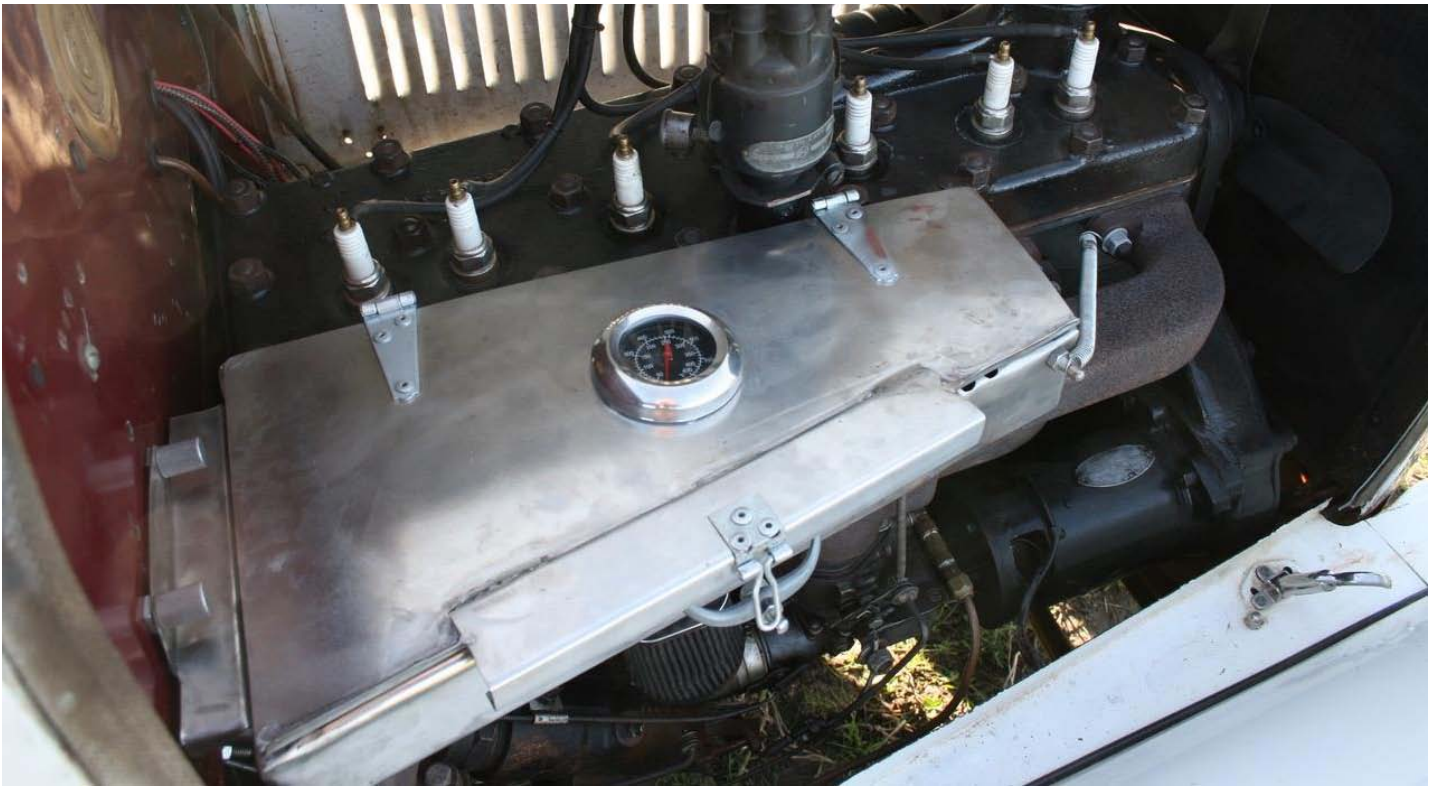


In case some of you cynics think that the late great Laurence Pomeroy was simply a mythical figure, the photo provided by Gavin Bain below proves otherwise.

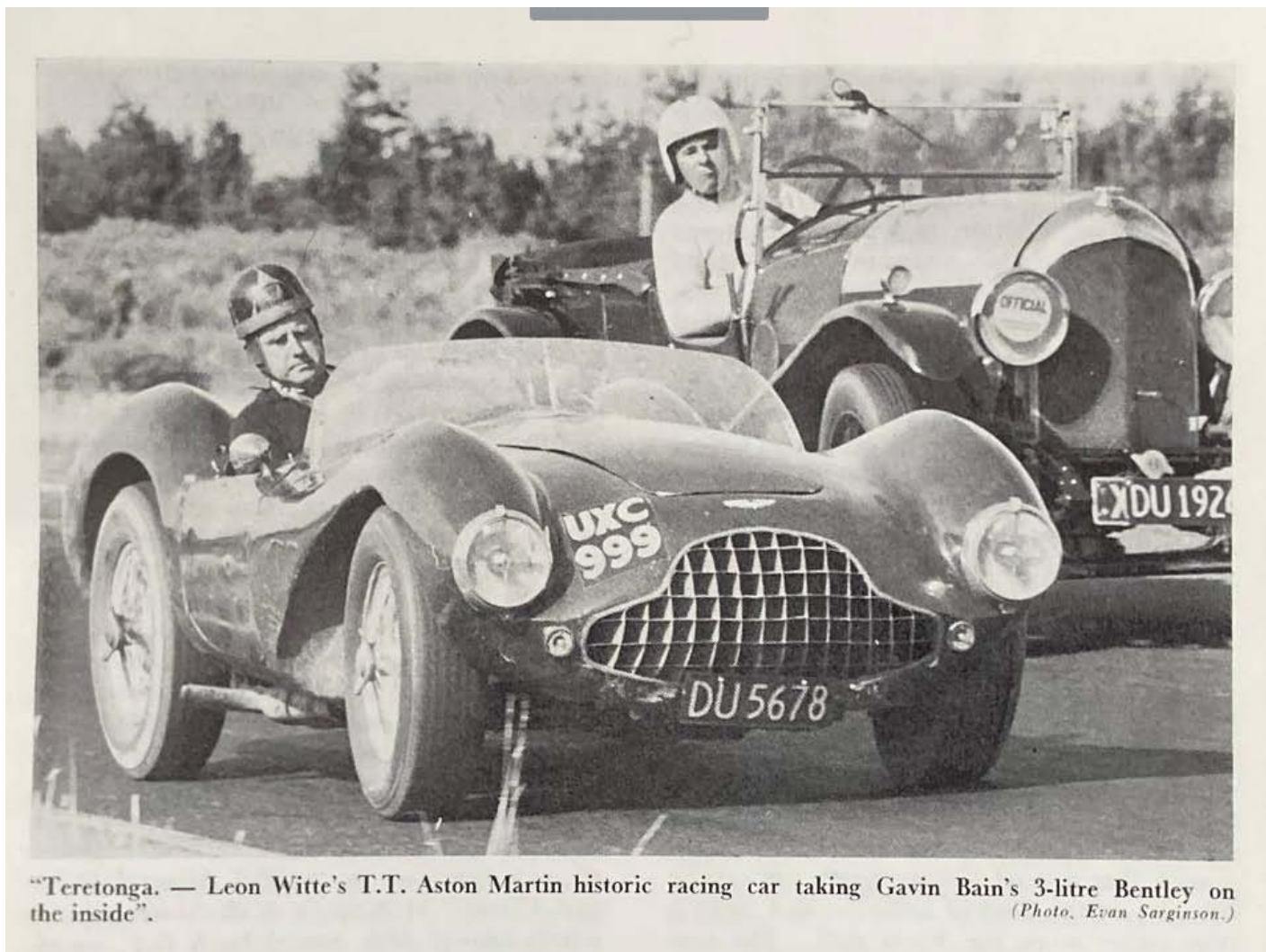


The Pie Warmer Special gets yet another mention, which is more than it deserves, as John MacDonald has dug out photographic evidence of the sophisticated machinery that earned the Chrysler its nickname. I hope that Greg will retain this feature when rebuilding, as it's arguably the best feature of the car.





On four wheels, not all of Gavin's moments were quite as victorious, as Euan Sarginson's photo at Teretonga in 1967 shows, with Leon Witte in his T.T. Aston Martin, taking the Bain Bentley on the inside.



Future Events

VCC Daffodil Run, Sunday 20th of September, from 10.00am

This event has four starting points, the Southbrook Park car park, the New Brighton Club, Marine Parade, the Cashmere Club, Colombo Street and the Selwyn District Council carpark in Rolleston. There's a \$10 per car fee and it's a good cause, so do go along and support it, unless you have a touchy clutch, as there's quite a lot of queuing, especially as you turn into Cutler Park.

Mid Winter Awards Lunch, Tai Tapu Hotel, Sunday 27th of August, 12.30pm

This year we have some long service awards to give out. Donald Wright, that most famous son of Annat, and the lucky organiser of the 2024 Irishman Rally gets his fifty year award, and might want to give a rousing speech, or more importantly plead with people to give him a hand with organising Irishman. Two of the four Pidgeon boys, Michael and Craig, will receive their thirty five year awards. Michael assures me he will not be making a long speech, and I'm not sure about Craig. Surprisingly, some people don't seem to enjoy public speaking. Odd isn't it? The cost is \$50, which is subsidised, and payment should be sent to the branch account 03 1355 0611 198 00. Please include your name, and lunch in the reference.

Opening Run, Sunday 24th of September.

Details in the next issue.

National Commercial Rally, Wanganui, Labour Weekend

Contact Wanganui @vcc.org.nz

Rallye Monte Carlo, Show Weekend 17th – 19th of November.

Due to popular demand, this great and classic event is on again. The last Monte was in 2021 and had a record entry, which we hope will be repeated this year. Make sure you book your accommodation at Akaroa early, as motel and Air B&B are sometimes hesitant to book for one night at a popular weekend.

We have tweaked the rules and towns quite a bit, as they were set when the club only catered for cars up to 1960, and a majority of the cars entering were thus older and slower. Now it's too easy to win in a relatively modern and much faster car, and we need to recognise the greater effort required by older cars to get the town points. Speed limits have changed too. So if you have an older and slower car, this could be your moment of glory. And if you have a newer and faster car, prepare to drive immense distances. James Palmer, one of the original organisers, has devoted a good deal of time to re thinking the rules and regulations, as under the old rules there were really only one or two ways to get your maximum points and it was becoming somewhat predictable. The changes that the sub committee have devised should definitely help the older slower cars, and also make experienced competitors rethink how they approach it. It will be all about cunning and ingenuity, and reading the rules carefully, rather than driving flat out for hours and hours.

As at this week, we have twenty one entries, ranging from the sublime, a veteran Cadillac, to the ridiculous, a Morris Minor. All are welcome of course, and hitherto badly dressed entrants assure me that dinner suits have been organised already. And we have sixteen entrants in the Concours De Confort, a record. One year the Palmer Equipe managed to have a pristine vintage toilet somehow affixed to the family UNIC thus setting a high standard that might perhaps be exceeded this year. Mimi and I will be judging the Concours de Confort, and early bribes can be delivered via courier to our home address

National Veteran Rally, Dunedin 25th – 29th January 2024

Contact Trevor Kempton at natvet2024@gmail.com