



Dear SP Owner,

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020

## **The next meeting is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

The car industry continues in the doldrums with manufacturing output at its lowest level since 2008; and add to that the latest problems in Wuhan, China, the source of the novel coronavirus. Not only is Wuhan the epicentre of this latest deadly epidemic but also the manufacturing hub of a number of Continental car manufacturers such as Peugeot and Renault, who outsource their production to a most cost efficient base and have now ceased production.

There was an excellent article in *'The Times'* 18<sup>th</sup> January Business section entitled 'True confessions of an electric car virgin.' This was a recreation of the epic 1000 miles 11 day trail back in 1900. It was the intention to complete the enactment in 3days with a Nissan Leaf EV. The London to Edinburgh return route was over to the Gloucester then up the western side of the UK via Preston, Carlisle then on to Edinburgh returning down the east coast via Washington, Chesterfield then London. It seems it was a frustrated journey as EVs are not built for long journeys. Stress, anxiety and frustrations set in when battery indicator reads low. It therefore needs much planning as to charging points and careful preparation as even the apps such as the clunky 'Zapp Map' that show such locations are not to be relied upon. The cost was for this 928 mile 'milk float' trip an interesting £81.71 vs an estimated £116 petrol cost in a Ford Fiesta. The average down time for charging was 60 minutes! I'd rather do the trip in an SP and forget the fuel cost as did Stanley Sedgewick in his 8 litre Bentley a few years back when he likewise covered the 1000 miles in a day! (I think it was Stanley's 8 litre but could be wrong)

It is with much sadness I received a communication, just as my last newsletter went out, that reported the passing of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the grandson of the founder of the Scouting movement. Robert owned in his younger years an SP250 registered 222 TAU (104210). Robert did say he bought the SP (unwisely) instead of going on a honeymoon! He also mentioned that when it was finely tuned it was timed at 135mph. Without issue, the Baden-Powell baronetcy passes to his younger brother David out in Australia. I am sure Robert lived up to his grandfather's saying: "Try and leave this world a better place than you found it" - I always remember this quotation from my scouting days.

Tom Cotter, the Barn Finder General, introduced me to William Jarrell IV out in the Carolinas who has SPs running through his veins. His father William not only purchased his first SP back in 1962 but also ran a garage/shop specialising in the SP and raced them also. His father knew many of the SP races of the time including Joe Dockman whose own SP racecar is currently in the Simeone Race Car museum. William's wife, whilst at college, pranged an SP that still sits in their barn awaiting restoration. William is currently restoring an SP for the track and has a lead on many others, some of which are UKKs – unknown knowns – our tally is now 1685UKKs out of the approx. 2650 built. Do watch Tom Cotter as the 'Barn Finder' on You Tube this series is sponsored by Hagerty Insurance.

The JDHT limited edition brochure created around XHP 438 is available directly from the online JDHT shop.- <https://shop.jaguarheritage.com/collections/technical-publications/products/daimler-sp250-brochure-60th-anniversary-limited-edition-reprint> cost is £25 plus P&P .

I do thank all those that have sent monies to help sponsor pasSPort the owners' handbook, although we do seek further monies to get the next publication off and running. Please send monies to Glyn Overy or through the SP250 Owners' Club website donating section of pasSPort. Thank you.

Since Tesla announced that they would build their next 'gigafactory' at Gruenheide on the outskirts of Berlin there have been a number of environmental protests concerned about its construction saying it will endanger water supply and wildlife in the area. The protests came after the Brandenburg water association warned against "extensive and serious problems with the drinking water supply and wastewater disposal" for the proposed factory.

Monte Carlo or bust is the current mind-set of Peter Baker, as he drives his Daimler Conquest on this Historical Rally. Peter is the son of SP owner Brian Baker and former chairman of the DLOC. Peter started out from Glasgow heading to the playboy Casino principality on the Mediterranean Sea. I do hope that since 31 January he has his passport with sufficient grace, as a requirement now is we need 6 months overlap before our passport expires. I trust he comes back with both car and shirt.....

More turmoil in the motor industry as Aston Martin are pinning their survival hopes on two fronts their new DBX 4x4 see:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fie8nXwZCs> and an injection of cash from the Chinese company Geeley which makes the 'Black cab' owns Volvo and Lotus. It has also a stake in Daimler-Benz. Such a fall from grace for this sports car manufacturer as but 15 months ago it had a great fanfare when it launched on the stock exchange. This is in addition to Canadian billionaire Lawrence Stroll who is on the cusp of acquiring 19.9 per cent stake (£200m) in Aston Martin, which has been bust seven times before.

We will have a stand at the NEC Restoration show next month. If you would like discounted tickets, please contact me.

We have been invited by Stephen Best for a free day's activities on Drive it day the 26<sup>th</sup> April <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-peter-best-drive-it-day-2020-tickets-73952362507>

We are going over again to The SPA Classic, **22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May**. We will have an extended club display overlooking the start/finish straight and the historic Eau Rouge corner. Alan Mason is the linkman, details above.

For those in the Midlands, a different rally at SPA, this time being held adjacent to the Royal Pump Rooms in the Regency town of Leamington being on Sunday 28 June cost is £10 :- [www.carsatthespa.co.uk](http://www.carsatthespa.co.uk).

*And finally.....* from Australia

.....Clutched from the 'Burning Bush'



*Yours sincerely,*

**Laurence and Ann**

Thought for the day:- “When I was young I thought that money was the most important thing in life; now that I am old I know it is” (OW)