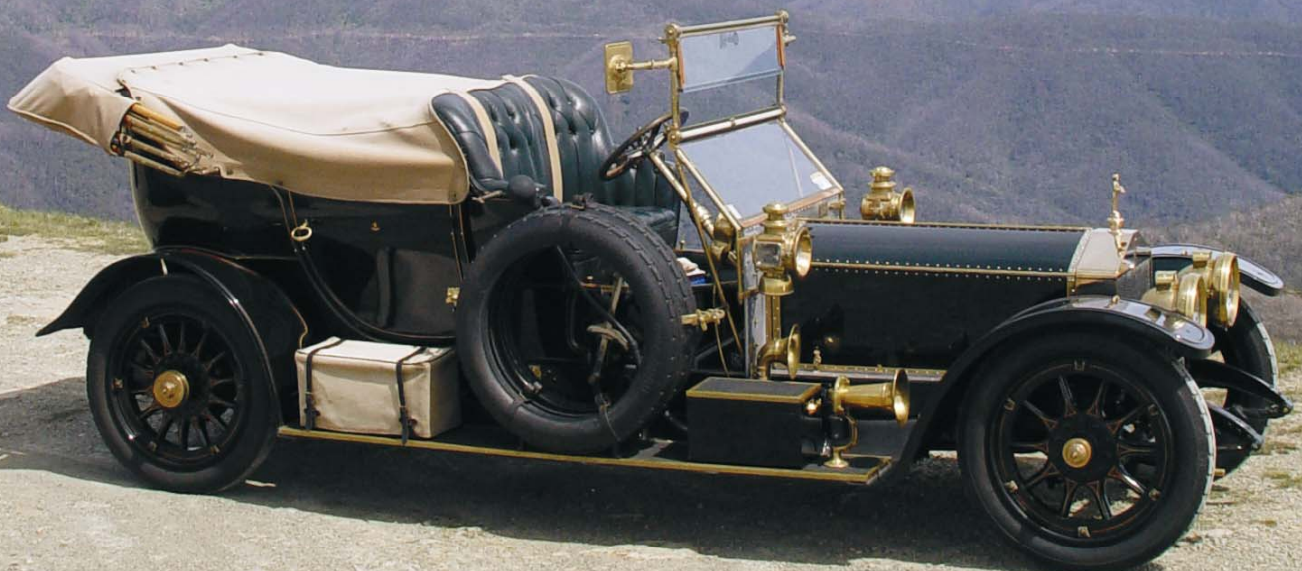




News and Record



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Front Cover Picture:

*Tony and Viv Dyas'
1179 in the Blue
Mountains*



Note:

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EDITORIAL

The Way We Were

My thanks to Jens Pilo who sent me some pictures from The Rolls-Royce Bulletin showing 20-Ghost Club activities in the summer of 1954. The cars in the foreground were from Stanley Sears collection, including his Light 20, Alpine Eagle and Edwardian Ghost Limousine.

Many of the cars in the line-up would have been a mere 30 years old or less. I just love the members' suits and the outfits of the ground crew inspecting the Light 20 in the foreground.

The Vickers Viscount of British European Airways was of course Rolls-Royce Dart powered, the Dart being one of the most successful and longest lived turboprop engines in history.

OOPS!

OK, so I got it wrong again. I referred to a Silver Wraith in the text of the Autumn Lunch article, though, fortunately, I properly captioned the header picture as containing Jimmy Valentine's Silver Dawn. In fact, the Dawn was properly accepted by the 20-Ghost Club as a qualifying car when Jimmy first joined. The decision only to accept pre-1940 cars for qualifying membership was never made retroactive. So, it was a pleasure to see the car and please bring it again some time!

Subscriptions

We would like to remind those members who have not paid their 2005 subscriptions that this is likely to be the last 'News and Record' they will receive. We would hate to lose you, particularly with major events being planned including a celebration of the Centenary of the Silver Ghost coming up in 2007. The 20-Ghost Club



provides a varied programme of events in various parts of the country and overseas as reported in these pages and provides unique opportunities for owners of pre WWII cars to meet and tour together in style.

We hope to hear from you and see you again soon.

New Australian Chairman

We are delighted to welcome Diana Jones as the new Chairman of the Australian Chapter of the 20-Ghost Club. Diana has already demonstrated her enthusiasm by coming to the UK and attending the 20-Ghost Club Concours d'Etat, at Grey's Court on 23 July 2005. (This will be fully reported in the next *News and Record*.) Actually, there is a rumour that a contributing reason for her visit was to see the Poms being thrashed by the Aussies at cricket.

In welcoming Diana, we particularly wish to record the major contribution to the Club played by her predecessor Malcolm Johns. During his Chairmanship, Malcolm has done a tremendous amount of work to increase the Australian

membership and has ensured that any 20-Ghost visitor to that great country is given a warm welcome.

MOTs

You will no longer get a paper MOT certificate, since the data from the system is now becoming fully computerised. The basic testing procedures have not changed, but testers who allowed amateurs a few days grace, rather than the statutory 24 hours, before a re-test, may no longer be allowed to do so as the performance of testing stations can be continuously monitored by the Agency. Check your car thoroughly to avoid a re-test due to obvious failures.

Peter Baines

Most members will already know of the sudden death in March of Peter Baines, the General Secretary of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club. Peter was a great friend to the 20-Ghost Club and he will be sorely missed. Our sympathy goes to his wife Jo and their family.

NHH

SPRING LUNCH

AT THE MACPHERSONS 16 APRIL 2005



About 30 people navigated the tricky Hampshire lanes to Spring Lunch at Armsworth Park House, where, once again, Strone and Alex Macpherson had offered to provide a Champagne Lunch. The weather was bitterly cold and those brave enough to travel with the top down arrived chilled to the core. However, the warmth of the hospitality and the inside of the 'barn' soon livened us up again.

Strone and Alex run a dog-friendly location and Buster (Forrest) and Musket (Hughes) found plenty to entertain themselves.

After an excellent lunch, Nigel Hughes provided 'entertainment' in the form of a talk on the events which had led to the fatal fire of the Concorde aircraft at Gonesse. This was a lively interactive session, where the audience joined in guessing the probabilities of the various individual events which had occurred. All in all, it was concluded that this had been a very unusual accident from which a valuable new engineering lesson had been learnt.

We were pleased to welcome Roland Horton as a new member, with his 'new' Phantom III 3BU48. Roland has imported the car from California, where it has been for the last 30 years or so. We look forward to seeing the results of the TLC which Roland will undoubtedly apply.

Thanks again to Strone and Alex for an excellent event.
NHH



Nich Channing's 42ZG with unknown replica skiff body



Brian Palmer, Susie Forrest with Buster, Alex Macpherson, Nigel Hughes with Musket and the Forrests' 2154



Roland Horton's 1937 Phantom III, 3BU48, with Sedanca de Ville coachwork by Park Ward



Its all there but it needs TLC



How about a standing lady instead?



Left: The purposeful Cockpit of 2260E

*Photos for this report courtesy of Colin Hughes,
Nigel Hughes and Peter Golding*

NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA TOURS

2003 & 2004

By Tony Dyas

An epic trilogy from New Zealand

To recap, Viv and I had already cancelled two tours to New Zealand due to daughters deciding that the dates we would be away would be a good time to have babies! But, with the latest batch of grandchildren now fully weaned, the Dyas' and the Meads embarked on parts two and three of the most important trilogy to come out of New Zealand since The Lord of the Rings!

The original plan was to tour New Zealand in two visits but ultimately we agreed on three trips- the first to New Zealand and then two to Australia. It was also important to take cars of similar performance so we decided that Viv and I would use a 1909 Silver Ghost and Graham and Barbara would use a 1910 Silver Ghost, both with Roi des Belges coachwork.

The three tours have now been completed and after driving over 12,000 miles across some of the most beautiful and challenging roads in the southern hemisphere the cars are now safely home.

As expected, the pleasure of driving the Ghosts and meeting new friends and fellow enthusiasts was enhanced by some amazing experiences and the occasional challenge to keep the show on the road. In this article however, we would like to primarily focus on the itinerary of the three tours and give you a flavour of what the Ghosts so successfully achieved.

Recap of the Black Cap

The highlights of the New Zealand trip were first detailed in Issue Nine of the News and Record following our first tour of the islands in October and November 2003.

The routes and accommodation were not pre-planned and pre-booked and, as a result a great degree of flexibility was built in to the tour. In total, we covered some 4,300 miles, most of which was achieved with only the casual use of maps!

The New Zealand stage of the tour was undoubtedly an amazing experience and one we would recommend to both experienced and novice Rolls-Royce tourers alike. The combination of amazing countryside and the fellowship of local Rolls-Royce enthusiasts across the country ensured it was a trip to remember.

In particular, we would like to recommend and thank Andy Anderson for arranging the documentation both in and out of New Zealand and for providing the dreaded carnets for 1179 and 1330.

Crossing the Great Divide

The second trip was to Australia and started in Brisbane. Our plan was to experience the beauty of the Australian countryside, driving inland rather than along the main coastal highway to Melbourne. In total, we travelled nearly 3,000 miles crossing the Great Dividing Range on numerous occasions. At times people would ask us where we were heading and when we said Melbourne they would tell us that we were travelling in the wrong direction! We would then explain that we decided the driving and scenery was more exciting by travelling our way.

In Brisbane we met up with Graham and Dorothy Singer, David McPhee, who introduced us to 1122 the

oldest Silver Ghost currently in Australia, as well as a group of Silver Ghost owners at an afternoon get together. In Sydney we met a number of Silver Ghost owners including the Vassallos, Gillings, Milvertons, Halls and Wherrys. Towards the end of our trip we met up with The 20-Ghost Club at Beechworth in Victoria and joined them for the drive into Melbourne where we attended the RROC Federal Rally. Meeting so many people who share our hobby with the same enthusiasm as ourselves enhanced the trip.

The highlights of the second trip - not to be missed on a visit to this part of Australia; -

- * A visit to O'Reilly's in Lamington National park

- * The drive across the Gibraltar Range

- * The drive from Scone to Windsor- preferably when it is not raining!

- * The drive in the Blue Mountains to see the Three Sisters at Katoomba

- * Sydney Harbour and the stunning Sydney Opera House

- * Canberra with the Federal Buildings and Memorial Park

- * Eden with the best prawns I have ever tasted!

- * The drive to Brown Mountain

- * The drive through Kosciuszko National Park

* The road from Gundagai to Corryong with wide open magnificent country

* The Federal Rally

At the end of this section we left 1179 and 1330 at the Fox Museum in Melbourne.

Tasmanian Devil of a Snowstorm

The third and final leg was from Melbourne to Fremantle via Tasmania and The 20-Ghost Club National Tour held in the Victoria High Country.

1179 and 1330 had wintered well at the Fox Museum and the Melbourne sunshine at 32 degrees C was most welcome on our return to Australia. However the following day in Tasmania the sunshine gave way to rain and a temperature of 15-20C. The day after we arrived at Cradle Mountain in a snowstorm with the temperature around 0C! This was an interesting shock for us all, including Bill and Jacqui Hall, who had joined us and masterminded our tour of Tasmania and continued with us until we finished the National Tour. We were assured at the Lodge that the snow would not settle but woke to see a carpet of snow and two cars that were decidedly grumpy at being asked to start in such appalling weather conditions.

After a lot of persuasion the cars were started and we left Cradle Mountain in a howling wind and a snowstorm! After that Tasmania was kinder to us and we were able to enjoy the countryside in rather better conditions. We visited Keith and Robyn Drew and were able to use their well-equipped garage for some routine servicing. The visit to Tasmania was a delight with Strahan and Freycinet National Park being special.

Springing a Surprise

We joined the 20-Ghost Club Tour run superbly by Kerry and Lachlan

Ely. Kerry and Lachlan made us very welcome and we were allowed to take over Lachlan's garage on our arrival in Yea. 1330 had worn out her rear brake linings and we spent an interesting day removing the rear wheels, brake assemblies and relined the brakes using modified drills and ingenuity to achieve a successful result. Lachlan's assistance and advice was much appreciated.

In order not to feel out of it 1179 broke the offside front main leaf spring at 6,000 feet at the top of Mount Buller - choosing 12.30 on a Sunday in order to make it a challenge. A local cable car employee lent us three ratchet straps, which together with a block of wood enabled us to lock the spring in one position for the 15-mile drive down the mountain to the Lodge. Graham and I, together with the invaluable assistance of Graham Singer removed the broken spring. Amazingly the proprietor of a local company, 25 miles away, agreed to carry out the repairs on a Sunday. Following a 5am start, the spring was successfully refitted to 1179 with the assistance of the two Grahams!

Old Silver Ghosts cross the Nullarbor

After the 20-Ghost Club Tour we returned to travel along the Great Ocean Road and around to the Murray River and then to the Barossa Valley. Following this we rejoined the coastal road at Port Augusta and followed the road around the Eyre Peninsula to Ceduna and across the Nullarbor to Norseman and then down to Esperance. 1179 and 1330 must be amongst the oldest Silver Ghosts to cross the Nullarbor- a really great achievement for the cars- on one day we travelled 360 miles!

In Western Australia we met Jeremy and Breda Green, Con and Nayda Keogh at Albany and then enjoyed their company on the final leg to Fremantle where we had the opportunity to meet a number of

fellow enthusiasts including Mick Rust and Glenice Matthews, Roger and Christine Fry, and Mark and Marilyn Babidge.

The Long Sail Home

After 12,000 miles 1179 and 1330 had finished a remarkable trip proving the excellence of the engineering of Rolls-Royce cars manufactured over 90 years ago.

The highlights of the final leg were:

* Tasmania - Cradle Mountain and Freycinet National Park

* Victoria - The Great Ocean Road The Eyre Peninsula

* The Nullarbor- a tranquil magnificence

* Walpole National Park - the Tree Top walk

* Pemberton - the Gloucester Tree and the wild birds

* Margaret River and Cape Naturaliste Dunsborough

* The wild flowers throughout Western Australia

The cars were then crated up ready for their trip home- they arrived home early in January having avoided the Tsunami on the return journey.

When making this trip we were advised by Jeremy Barker at CARS (UK) who was first class in co-ordinating the travel arrangements for the cars to New Zealand, New Zealand to Australia and Australia back home without a problem.

We would like to thank Graham and Barbara Mead for being fantastic companions for the three trips and their previous experience in New Zealand and Australia made them wonderful route organisers.

Article and photos by Tony & Viv Dyas

1179, 1330 and 14PK at the summit of Mount Hotham, the highest road in Victoria



The start of the Nullarbor Plain



1179 on a section of the old Nullarbor Road, an unmade up road, at Nullarbor- the journey would have been a serious challenge before sealed roads were introduced.



1179 meets a road train at Border Village where Western Australia meets South Australia



*Meeting the Greenes and Keoghs
at Albany WA*



*Viv feeding a Western Rosella near
the Gloucester Tree, Pemberton*

*1179 at the Esplanade Hotel,
Fremantle enjoying valet parking!*



VISIT TO THE HOUSE IN THE WOODS

14 May 2005

Thanks to the generosity of William and Clare Corbett, the Club was allowed to visit the House in the Woods at Beaulieu on 14 May 2005 for lunch.

The house was originally built by the father of the present Lord Montagu as a Winter retreat to escape from the cold of the Palace House. The House in the Woods was used as a secure location for the training of SOE officers (British spies) during World War II. When the Montagu estate, like many other country estates, hit hard times after the war, the House in the Woods was sold to Clare Corbett's father. He had six children, of which Clare is one, and left one sixth of the house to each of them in his will. Since then, the house has been used for major family gatherings, such as at Christmas, so the house and family are used to the idea of catering for substantial numbers.

The contents of the house were collected by Clare's father and virtually nothing has been changed since, so the house is a fascinating time warp for historians.

The grounds of the house are superbly laid out with all sorts of wonderful walks through a mass of Rhododendrons and Azaleas down to a lake. The timing of our visit was ideal and the sunshine enabled us to admire the shrubs in full bloom.

Clare and various family members were present and looked after us superbly including an excellent lunch for approximately forty members. They definitely knew how to do things in the early part of the last century!

We are very grateful to William and Clare for arranging such an interesting and enjoyable visit.



COMING EVENTS 2005

12 - 26 September - Relax in Ireland

We apologise for the late notification of the details of this event. At long last we have now managed to resuscitate the Irish Tour and look forward to some excellent motoring and relaxation in interesting places and pleasant hotels. The event has already been promulgated on the Members page of the Club Web Site and notification has separately been sent to all UK members with known e-mail addresses. A flyer with application form is also included with this edition of 'News and Record'.

Contact: Tim Forrest, e-mail Forresttim@AOL.com or phone 01428 684208

Sunday 9 October - Autumn Lunch

The Autumn Lunch this year will be held at The New French Partridge, Horton, Northampton from 11.30 a.m. on Sunday 9 October.

Contact: Brian Palmer 01162 882417 (Flyer enclosed)

2006

Sunday 13 Aug - Fawley Hill

We have been able to arrange a visit to Fawley Hill, the home of Bill McAlpine. Bill has his own standard gauge steam railway and it will be a 'Steam Day', with limited public access. We will probably be the only car club present because of the space taken up by our cars! The steam train(s) will be running all day with unlimited rides through the deer park. The steam museum will also be open. A flyer will be produced for the next edition of 'News and Record'. Numbers will be limited.

Contact: Andy Butcher, 01386 701757 e-mail: Silverghost@ukonline.co.uk

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome the following New Members and apologise for not including them in the last edition of 'News and Record':

Ashley-Carter, Piers & Laura, 18 Arnold Gardens, Palmers Green, London N13 5JE
Tel: 020 8372 2572 Email: piers.ashley-carter@wates.co.uk
1927 PI 26EF Replica Torpedo Tourer c1960

Horton, Roland & Jane Johnson, Regent House, Leybourne Place, Felbridge, West Sussex RH19 2PW
Tel: 01342 325588
1937 PIII Park Ward Sedan de Ville

Lister, Terence & Margaret, Combrook House, Combrook Warwickshire CV35 9HN
Tel: 01926 640378 Bus: 01789 403800 Fax: 01926 642163
Mob: 07711 444678 Email: terrylister@listersgroup.co.uk
1911 SG 1605 Replica Roi des Belges Wilkinson
1923 SSG 370HH RRCCW Tilbury Landaulet

Morrison, David & Charlotte, 2760 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach, California 90806 USA
Tel: 562 439 7733 Bus: 562 426 6054 Email: silverghost@charter.net
1924 SSG 146JH RRCCW Pall Mall Tourer

Steel, Allan & Judy, 15 East Parkway, Colonel Light Gardens, SA 5041 Australia
Tel: 08 8277 2597 Mob: 0407 716726 Email: adjusteel@bigpond.com
1926 20 GUK68 Martin & King Saloon

Wall, Ian & Pamela, 11 Glenwood Road, Springfield, SA 5062 Australia
Tel: 08 8379 4932 Fax: 08 8379 7922 Mob: 0417 395072
1923 SG 26PK Barker Sedan de Ville
1922 20 43G7 Salmons Tickford Saloon

For Sale from The Club Shop

Ties £15.00
Nickel or Chrome Car Badges £ 25.00
Contact: Andy Butcher 01386 701757.

Alpine '93 Videos £20.00 Back numbers of Record and News and Record £2.50 ea. Contact: John Kennedy 01344 883033



Back Cover Picture

1928 Phantom I saloon by Hooper, owned by Roger Bunn and photographed by Colin Hughes at the Annual Concours d'Etat at Grey's Court, near Henley

