

# **Royal College of Science Motor Club**

## **Termly Report to CSB**

### **Spring & Summer Terms 2012-13 and Autumn Term 2013-14**

#### **Forward to Reports**

Following changes to how the Motor Clubs fit within the management structure of clubs they were asked to provide termly reports. At a review meeting in December 2012 it was agreed that the Motor Clubs would continue to provide termly reports to the CSPB. Due to confusion as to when and to whom the papers should have been submitted, our (the RCS MC's) Spring and Summer Report – written in May – was not submitted before the final CSPB meeting of the academic year and is thus included here in addition to the report for the period since that report was written (May-November).

#### *Spring and Summer Report (Written May 2013)*

##### **Spring Term**

It has been a good spring term, however the wet and cold weather has prevented us from getting Jezebel out as much as we would have liked.

The main focus for the term was relining the brakes which were found to be getting on the thin side. The necessary material and parts – flat headed copper rivets in an unusual size – were obtained and the relining was duly completed. The total cost of this resulted in the club over spending on its grant for Equipment Purchase by £67.20. This overspend is budgeted as being covered by the underspend of the grant for insurance which resulted from the change in underwriter.

We finished the term with £604.41 remaining in grant, with most of this being grant for fuel and hire of the Union minibus. The minibus hire takes place in the Summer, and general consumption of fuel this term is down due to the prolonged wet and cold weather. We anticipate using the remaining grant in the summer term as a result of increased level of activities compared to previous years as Jezebel is once again in a good working state rather than being 'run in'.

The club's AGM saw a number of minor changes to the club's constitution to bring it in line with the new Union's constitution and bye-laws. The new committee was also elected with the current chairman (Stephen Ball) and treasurer (Cassie Epps) being elected for second terms in office. We also conferred the status of mechanic onto two of our more experienced members: Philip Kent and Guy Emmanuel; in accordance with our constitution (points 3.4-3.5).

Jezebel also attended the wedding of Simon O'Hanlon, a sub warden of Falmouth and Keogh Halls, during the Easter Holidays. During the ferrying of guests Jezebel started backfiring through the exhaust as a result of a deteriorating gasket. The offending gasket was duly replaced and no further incidents followed.

##### **Summer Term**

The first week of the Summer Term has been very busy for Jezebel with Commemoration Day, Imperial Festival and the HCVS London to Brighton Run all taking place in quick succession.

Commemoration Day went smoothly with Jezebel, assisted by Clementine and Boanerges, ferrying the Rector and other VIPs between 170 Queens Gate and the Royal Albert Hall; as well as being on display so the graduates could have their photo taken with the Mascots.

Imperial Festival provided the club with the opportunity to get Jezebel ready for the Brighton Run the following day as well as being on display to the various members of the public and alumni who visited. She even makes an appearance in the College's video about the event.

The HCVS London to Brighton Run went well with 20 people travelling on Jezebel and Clementine (it was organised as a joint trip). The vehicles left the garage at 6:10 to reach the start line in time for the 7:20 start. The vehicles stopped for breakfast at a roadside café before continuing on to Brighton arriving on the seafront just after 12:00.

After giving the vehicles a last clean they were judged with Jezebel coming second in her class – open cab fire appliance – only the 6th time she's come second (she has only come first only once).

Jezebel and Clementine then drove back to London with a stop at a pub in Staplefield so the crew could have dinner. Both vehicles made it back to London, with Clementine arriving back at her garage just after 23:00 and Jezebel arriving just after 00:00 having taken a scenic route back through London. This is the first time Jezebel has made it to Brighton and back again in nearly four years.

Jezebel is currently in a good mechanical state with a number of minor niggles having been identified by the long drive – 147.3 miles (she was originally only expected to drive 100 miles in a week).

Overnight on the 18-19th May Jezebel (along with Clementine and Boanerges) took part in the Miglia Quadrato a night time treasure hunt in the centre mile of London. The team managed to visit and find answers to 35 of the 40 easy and medium clues which should give us a good result (final scores have not yet been confirmed). This was a great event and gives a different experience of driving in the heart of London – as well as giving the navigator(s) practise of map work.

Mechanically Jezebel is a good state and we are planning on doing some work on the electrical systems in July following some issues which has resulted in the headlights being markedly different in brightness. Also we also anticipate that we will need to manufacture a new bearing for the water pump – something that can be done in house with the sole cost being the raw material (a lump of phosphor bronze) – the bearing has become worn though prolonged use and now is leaking oil.

### **Future Events**

The summer season gives Jezebel plenty of opportunity to put miles on her clock as she attends a number of shows and rallies. Planned events in addition to weekly garage sessions are:

- 15<sup>th</sup> June - Hanwell Carnival
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Chelsea Fire Station Pull: the crew of Chelsea Fire Station pull Jezebel around the streets to raise money for charity.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Union Summer Ball
- 25<sup>th</sup> June – RCSU Summer Ball
- July – Training session with Chelsea Fire Station: the crew of the station have invited us along to take part in their training and use some of their equipment. Date TBC
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> August – Odiham Fire Show
- 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August – the Isle of Wight Steam Show

*Royal College of Science Motor Club Termly Report to CSB:  
Spring & Summer Terms 2012-13, and Winter Term 2013-14*



*One of the newly lined brake shoes*



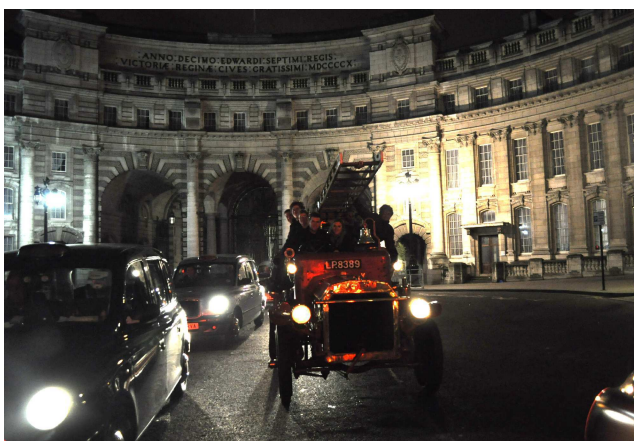
*Jezebel in traffic on route to Brighton*



*Joe Hall with Jezebel outside Brompton Oratory for the wedding of Simon O'Hanlon*



*Jezebel giving Boanerges a tow home*



*Admiralty Arch, on way back to the garage after the Brighton Run*

Summer 2013 and Autumn Term Report (Written November 2013)

**Summer**

Despite College having broken up for Summer, the RCS Motor Club continues to have a number of events throughout the Summer, and at the end of term. Only some of which are detailed here. Following an incident in an adjacent lab, a number of major changes to the state of the garage have taken or are taking place which resulted in a number of sessions working on improving the conditions in the garage (see below) before term restarted.

The leaky bearing mentioned in the last report (above) has been duly replaced with the new part which was made by members of the club. This has fixed the leak. As part of the repair work it was noticed that the shaft for the water pump is short (i.e. the last time it was made it was cut to the wrong length) and is showing signs of wear. This will want replacing in the next year or so: this is an 'in-house' job which has been done successfully before and at this point is not a mechanical issue.

Jezebel successfully took part in Hanwell Carnival appearing in the local press. Together with Clem, Jezebel stayed for most of the day parked up at the finish (a local park) where they posed with hundreds of Children (and adults) for numerous photos. Jezebel also attended both the Union Summer Ball where she posed for (yet more) photos, and the RCSU Summer Ball where she took students for short drives round the local area.

At the beginning of August Jezebel also went to the Odiham Fire Show which is the largest Fire Appliance Show in the country: this year there was around 300 different fire engines on site. Jezebel was the oldest tender vehicle at the show this year with only two hand operated pumps being older. With last year's event having been cancelled and Jezebel being unable to attend the year before it was good to see her back at one of her regular shows (she's been going since 1994).

Unfortunately in the middle of August when Jezebel was on route to Hanwell Community Centre's Open Day, her magneto stopped working – the magneto is the device which provides the sparks for igniting the petrol. After spending a few hours at the side of the road in Notting Hill a roadside repair was not possible and Jezebel was towed back to campus by a local recovery firm. The magneto has now been serviced: a new set of bearings have been installed and the assembly re-magnetized; and it is now being carried as a spare. A 'new' magneto was assembled from various parts which we have bought over the years, and now that they are needed have reconditioned them. This magneto has been used successfully since its installation.

Also for the first time in a number of years, Jezebel successfully made it to the Isle of Wight Steam Show to which she is specially invited. This large show features a large number of historic and vintage cars, motorbikes and commercial vehicles; in addition to a military vehicles section, and the steam vehicles for which the show is named. This is typically the biggest club trip of the year with Jezebel traveling the >100 mile journey to the show on the Thursday, before taking part in the show Friday to Monday before making the return trip on the Tuesday.

Whilst at the Isle of Wight Steam Show the club received an email informing us that due to an incident in an adjacent laboratory to the club garage a number of members of staff from Facilities, Health and Safety, and the Fire Team had been in the garage and were unhappy with the large number of things in the garage. These issues were broadly three areas: the modifications to the electrics to help provide more lighting (the professional installed lighting was inadequate), the structural and fire safety state of the Mezzanine and a number of more general health and safety concerns. Throughout the end of August and into September the club committee (in

consultation with the committee from RSM Motor Club who's garage also had issues with a lack of lighting) we have been working to address the various concerns.

Subsequently the mezzanine has been removed as it did not conform to the necessary fire standards and was deemed not fit for purpose by a structural engineer. This loss of space has had a dramatic impact on the club activities and the two clubs (RCS and RSM Motor Clubs) are now living in a state of chaos. We are currently in consultation with College as to getting a new mezzanine installed and are in the process of sourcing funding for the project. Also the lighting in both garages has been upgraded addressing both concerns due to the lack of lighting making working unsafe but also the issues with the bodged electrics. The electrics are now in an appropriate state. The installation of new lighting caused a large amount of disruption to the clubs as equipment from each club had to be stored in the other garage whilst work was taking place. Despite moving some club equipment into alternative storage there the club is still suffering from a drastic lack of space.

### **Autumn Term**

Despite these issues the club has a good start to the new term. Our year started with the traditional lifts to the Mingle from Halls – only a couple of Halls made use of us this year but as a result we could spend more time with those halls. Next year we will try to provide lifts to more halls. We had our traditional stall at Freshers' Fair and were running tours throughout the day. Thursday evening was the RCSU Made in Chelsea Pub Crawl which we attended and provided lifts for the majority of the evening.

Due to logistical issues and concern over the engine, Jezebel was not able to give tours at the RCSU's Autumn Ball, but the concern over the engine meant that there was plenty of mechanical work for new members to get involved in. For the next couple of garage sessions we dismantled the bottom of the engine to check the drive shaft before reassembling the sump cover. The oil pipes were checked and the engine's water pump checked over and serviced. As part of this process an issue with the gearing for the dizzy rotary arm was identified. This issue was preventing Jezebel from being started as the rotary arm is used to send the sparks which provide the first kick to start the engine (then the magneto takes over). Despite this issue we were able to attend the commemoration day giving lifts to the Rector and other VIPs between the Royal Albert Hall (RAH) and 170 Queen's Gate. Jezebel was also parked up outside the RAH or Queen's Tower so the Graduates could get their photos taken with the Mascots.

The issue with the gear was resolved before the Brighton Run at the start of November – the pin which held the gear in place had sheared (possibly a number of years ago) and the gear was now able (when hot or under very heavy load) to spin freely rather than rotating the shaft. Replacing the pin with a sturdy replacement had solved this issue. Like last year Jezebel (with Clementine) went along to the start of the Veteran Vehicle Club's London to Brighton Run to see Boanerges off (the Imperial owned vintage car): Jezebel and Clementine are both too young to enter. We then proceeded to follow the route stopping for breakfast and lunch before turning round and heading back to London. This is a really good trip and is the first opportunity for new members to ride Jezebel on a longer trip and more open and rural roads.

Following the Brighton Run the electricians were working in the garages so no club activities were able to take place. Following the completion of the work we have been re-organising the garage so that we are able to vaguely function as a club. The two remaining events for this term are our annual Christmas lights trip and an Ordinary General Meeting (both Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December) where we will be electing the non-executive officer position of "Queen of Jez" and as discussing plans for this year and Jezebel's Centenary which will be in 2016.

Jezebel is currently in a good mechanical state. We are planning on doing so long needed repair work to the back box around where people sit as the paint work has deteriorated. The ladder is also in need of some attention as the varnish has worn away and the ladder is in need of general maintenance as parts have aged and suffered from wear and tear. We are also planning on upgrading the wiring system which is currently beginning to show its age as a result of being in a high grease and oil environment.

We now have a number of student members of the club who are now over 21 and thus are eligible to be drivers for the club. We currently have one student driver (Stephen Ball) who is capable of driving Jezebel; and we have two apprentice drivers (Guy Emanuel and Ellis Hudson). This is very helpful as it means we are less reliant on associate members of the club (Alumni of the club) to be free to come in and drive. This means we are able to take on more events midweek and at a wider range of times. This will help make the club more visible to all students as well as giving more opportunities for them to get involved in the club.

The club finances are in a good situation and at the end of last year we purchased a new lifting jack (the previous one had gone past the end of working life and stopped working during the course of the year). We are starting to make plans for Jezebel's Centenary and are looking at holding a large event during 2016 to mark the occasion and as part of this we are also planning to carry out conservation work that has been a low priority for the last few years due to all the necessary maintenance that was taking place.

The outlook for the year is good and we are hoping to get to run a wider range of events over the year. The ongoing work in the garage is continuing to impact on the club's activities but we hope to have a longer term solution in place by midway through next term.