

REGISTER UPDATES

V8

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The **adverse effects of biofuels** on SU carburettors and rubber seals on fuel systems on classic MGs is a topic of concern for many MG enthusiasts. A news report in the Times in April suggested standard unleaded petrol in the UK could have a substantial increase in the biofuel content, whereas the premium fuels are likely to remain with a much smaller amount. The article highlighted the damage biofuels can cause on classic car fuel systems and on that basis suggested enthusiasts with those older models might have to switch to using premium fuel to avoid the increased risk. This will continue to be a topic we will follow closely on the V8 website and report in this column. The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC) is already on to where fellow V8 enthusiast, Chris Hunt Cooke, and his colleagues are seeking clarification of the issues for the wider classic car community.

The introduction of a **scrappage scheme** for old cars as part of the UK Budget 2009

statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in April was widely expected, although it seems it was made with some reluctance by the Treasury. Again this topic had been regularly reviewed on the V8BB and website over the last six months – both the benefits and concerns as a measure to stimulate new car sales in the UK but more particularly concerns over the possible impacts such a scheme might have on Condition 3 classic MGs. The fear is that a combination of the scrappage benefit or “payment” and the value of the spares harvested from a poor Condition 3 car could lead to more cars going to scrap rather than rebuilds. A post-Budget 2009 clarification indicated a car on a SORN presented for scrappage would not need to have a current MOT certificate, so many cars laid up for some time with the prospect of a rebuild one day might meet a scrappage fate.

The **new MGLive! format** for the Club’s annual Silverstone meeting in July is welcome. The V8 Register will have an RV8

on display in the main marquee and as usual the convenient V8 parking area and V8 marquee.

On the Friday there will be an **informal V8 lunch** at the Pear Tree in Hook Norton, which is close to the brewery, on the Friday evening an **informal V8 supper** at the Star Inn at Sulgrave (just north west of the A43 between Silverstone and Brackley). On Saturday evening a **V8BBQ** at the V8 marquee with cooked suppers prepared by Clive Wheatley’s able team of cooks. Last year they prepared over 100 delicious suppers for V8 members and their friends. Online prior booking is necessary for both the supper at Sulgrave and for the V8BBQ. If you do not have internet access then just call Victor Smith using the contact details above.

Finally we have the **V8 annual general meeting** on the Sunday at MGLive! which will be held at the V8 marquee at 12.30pm prompt. All members are encouraged to attend.

News report in the Times in April

You can see this article at <http://www.v8register.net/FilesDHT/V8May09Timesarticle.pdf>