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Brass alternative to a plastic rear axle breather

Checking your plastic breather pipe is not missing from the top of the offside of your back axle was highlighted in this column in the February issue. Subsequently Richard Withington spotted a brass alternative and Jonathan Buckley then contributed some useful information on his experience saying "after reading the article I decided to have a look at mine and not surprisingly the plastic breather tube had sheared off and was missing. As the correct replacement part (**ZKC5726**) seems to be NLA, I ordered the 'equivalent' part to fit an MGB (**21H6060**) with the same thread (3/8" UNF). When this arrived I was rather disappointed with the

poor quality of the plastic part, and was convinced that it would soon go the way of the previous breather tube fitted on my car. I therefore looked around for a better quality or metal breather tube that would hopefully fit the same hole and thread".

He found that Land Rover (LR) uses a similar rear axle breather (**515845**), but of better quality in brass and incorporating a ball-type non-return valve to exclude water and dirt. These breather valves are widely available from LR dealers and on a well-known auction site, generally for less than £5. Unfortunately, the thread size is 'strangely' 1/8" BSP, which is slightly different to 3/8" UNF (28 TPI rather than 24 TPI). There may be other slight differences in diameter, pitch and other aspects.

However, Jonathan decided to re-cut the 1/8" BSP thread on the LR breather tube using a 3/8" UNF die. This seemed to work well despite the above differences in TPI and other aspects.

He then removed what remained of the plastic breather tube in the axle via the battery compartment opening using a sharp knife and then fitted the new LR breather valve. With the brass breather valve fitted in place in the rear axle, Jonathan felt it provides a more substantial and better

designed breather valve than the original or replacement plastic RV8 and MGB versions.

We hope to have news next month that supplies of re-threaded brass breathers are available as a direct replacement for MGV8 owners. Full details on the "More" webpage.

V8 Technical Day 2016

Following the successful V8 Technical Days in 2014 and 2015, Roger Aldridge has another arranged at Club Office for Saturday 21st May 2016 which will include technical presentations in the morning and after lunch a visit to Frontline near Abingdon. For details and booking a place, see the "More" webpage.

V8 Autumn Tour 2016

The next V8 Tour in the popular series will be based in The New Forest National Park from Thursday 1st to Monday 5th September 2016. Mike Lane has arranged a tour through beautiful areas of the forest with visits to a winery, the famous Buckler's Hard where ships of the line were built and finishing at the Museum of Army Flying for a tour followed by a buffet lunch prior to departure for home. For full details and booking see the "More" webpage at:

www.v8register.net/more.htm