



The History of the South-East Area



Frank Hutson

The History of the South-East Branch

by

Frank Hutson

Edited by

Anna R Gunn



A History of the South East Branch

1991

July: Jim Dunbar sent a letter to all known Riley owners in the South East of Scotland area, inviting those interested to a meeting in the Glencairn Hotel, Edinburgh to discuss the formation of a South East branch of what ultimately became the Scottish Riley Enthusiasts.

August: On the 12th of the month, a total of ten interested Riley owners gathered in the public lounge of the Glencairn Hotel, and while it is unclear who they were, it is known that Jim Dunbar, Keith Rhodes and Patrick Whitty made the journey from the Tayside area and from the South East area Bob Mutter, Fergus McBride, and possibly David Clarkson, Frank Cooper. Jim Makin and Stuart Ritchie were present. It is not known who the tenth person was as there was no written record of the meeting made. Could it have been one Paul Tullis? Intimations had been received from five others, expressing an interest in the concept of meeting together to discuss matters Riley. It was agreed that future meetings would be held on the first Tuesday of every month and that they would take place within the Glencairn Hotel during the winter season and that during the summer months a series of different venues would be arranged so as to enjoy the *Magnificent Motoring* in company. Bob Mutter agreed to be Secretary/Organiser to the branch and look after any administrative details requiring attention.

September: Tuesday the 3rd was the inaugural meeting of the branch. It was agreed by those present that the meetings were not to be allowed to turn into a 'talking shop' but that a planned programme should be mapped out for the future. The remainder of the evening was taken up with each attendee introducing himself, description of Riley(s) owned and any problems experienced with the restoration of their cars. While no record exists, from the personal memory of the writer it is believed that the following people were present: David Clarkson, Frank Cooper, Frank Hutson, Jim Makin, Bill Martin, Fergus McBride, Bob Mutter, Stuart Ritchie, Andrew Thomson and Paul Tullis.

October: Things were now beginning to settle into a pattern. The monthly planned meeting took place on Tuesday the 1st of the month. Discussions were held on topics for future meetings and the following suggestions were put forward: Problems and Parts, Video/slide evening, Tabletop Rally, Riley Quiz, Club Auction Night, Workshop visits, Treasure Hunt and a Barbeque.

November: The meetings were obviously agreeing with our happy band and were being well attended. This month's topic was on 'insurance and what was available to the old car enthusiast'. Personal experiences were shared and much useful information gleaned. As an extra, Frank Cooper had brought along a Hammer Dulcimer which he had restored from a dilapidated condition – is there no limit to this man's talents? He gave a rendition of a few well known tunes, which had the feet tapping in time to the music.

December:

The Inaugural meeting of the SRE took place at the Glencarse Inn, near Perth, and five members of the South-East branch attended that Cardinal event for Rileys in Scotland.



Our Area representation was Stuart Ritchie, David and Irene Clarkson, Jim Makin and Bob Mutter

December: As the meetings were taking place in a public lounge bar of the hotel no claim to privacy could be made and this was illustrated by a 'Karaoke Night' being held by the management at the same time as our meeting. The meeting was abandoned with the resolve to look for a more suitable place and because of the close proximity of the Christmas and New Year festivities no meeting was planned for January.

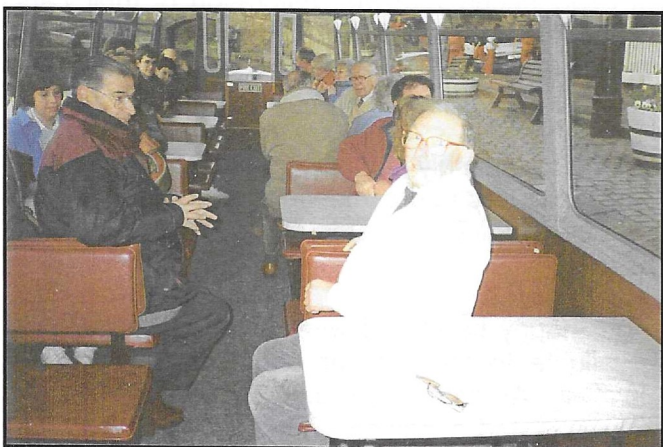
1992



February: This month, the meeting took the form of a 'Library' night when those present announced details of any books they possessed relating to Riley cars. Specialist tools were also discussed and it was revealed that a varied selection of these were owned by those present, who also indicated their willingness to lend these items to their fellow branch members.

March: At this meeting a warm welcome was extended to Tor Ole Bang-Steinsvik and his son. Tor was a professor, working at The Heriot Watt University and the owner of a 1934 Lincoln, six-cylinder car. An informal quiz night took place – 'Identify the Part'.

April: Stuart Ritchie, who had been visiting relatives in New Zealand over the winter period, kindly brought along video footage of the Pan Pacific Car Rally which he had attended. This was viewed with interest.



May: An outdoor run and visit to Myreton Motor Museum, East Lothian was the topic for this month. This provided another opportunity to view and inspect the Bang-Steinsvik Lincoln, which also appeared at the Aberdeen National that same month. The evening ended with an invitation to the home of Bill and Mamie Martin, Longniddry, for a light supper – a wonderful spread, much enjoyed by those present.

June: Frank Cooper had kindly arranged for the branch members to visit the Linlithgow Canal Centre with our cars. Restoration work taking place on canal barges was viewed and a trip on the canal in a restored vessel was enjoyed. Tom Richardson brought

along his 'MPH' to the great interest of those present. A good number of cars, pre and post war, and also modern, were to be found in the car park.

July: The branch staged their first ever 'Club Stand' at a rally when they attended the Scottish Association of Vehicle Enthusiasts event within the grounds of Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh. A total of nine Rileys were on display and much admired.

August: An outdoor barbeque was held for the first time. A kind invitation from Tom Richardson to visit his home in Kirkcaldy was gratefully accepted. This was also an opportunity to view his superb collection of cars, his workshop and his many and varied spares. Another event this month was the staging of a joint family picnic, with the Tayside branch, on the banks of Loch Leven – thoroughly enjoyed by all. This was an opportunity to meet fellow Riley Enthusiasts from other parts of the country.

October: Another outdoor run. On this occasion it was to Torness Nuclear Power Station, near Dunbar, East Lothian.

November: The Annual General Meeting of the SRE was held at Glencarse, Perthshire. Branch members were in attendance and Jim Makin was confirmed as branch representative on the SRE Committee.

December 1992: A different venue was chosen for this monthly meeting – The Bridge Inn, Ratho. As our previous meeting place at the Glencairn Hotel was not all that suitable it had been resolved that a search be made to find a more congenial venue. After discussion, The Countryside Inn, near to Milton Bridge was suggested, and Frank Hutson agreed to make enquiries.

Owing to pressure of business, Bob Mutter indicated that he wish to relinquish the post of Branch Secretary/organiser and Frank Hutson agreed to take on the task.

1993

January: With the new year came a new meeting place. Our first meeting took place in the Countryside Inn which proved to be very suitable, with close proximity to the Edinburgh City Bypass and ample car parking facilities. To the delight of the branch members, no charge was levied for the use of a private room.

February: On the suggestion of members, a visit was made to the workshop premises of Ramsay Coach Trimmers, Loanhead. This proved to be an enjoyable and instructive outing.

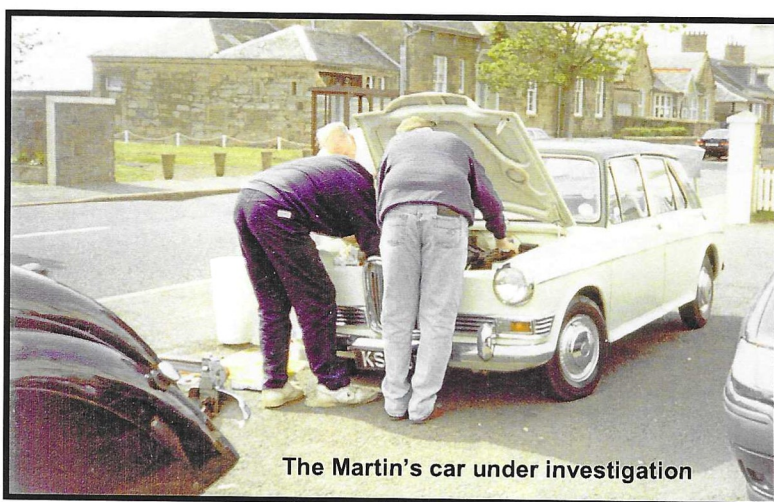
March: One of our own, Jim Makin, gave a practical demonstration into the working of the pre-select gear box which is in use on some of our pre-war models. Jim knew his subject and was able to answer any questions fired at him.

April to June: During this period we invited experts on various automotive topics to speak to branch members. A visit to a specialist restoration workshop was arranged. Some branch members also attended the 6th Scottish National Riley Rally, which was based at the seaside resort of Troon, Ayrshire. This was organised by the members of the West of Scotland Area, and was judged a success.

July: This month's activity was a run to Skirling Village, by Biggar, the home of David and Irene Clarkson, who entertained members and their wives to a buffet supper.

August: As the branch was now up and running successfully the responsibility for promoting, organising and running the Seventh Scottish National Riley Rally was given to South East Branch – a complete novelty to the majority of members. The August meeting was given over to discussing and generating ideas with regard to the area it was to be held in and the programme of events. It was generally agreed that the rally would be staged in the Borders of Scotland. Frank Hutson and David Clarkson were delegated to seek out possible venues and to report back at the next meeting in September.

September: Frank and David returned to the meeting with a dossier of various venues, and the recommendation that the rally should be staged in the Kelso area. Rally Headquarters could be situated in the Ednam House Hotel. This hotel had only limited accommodation, but there were ample alternative facilities in the immediate area, including camping and caravan sites. It was agreed by those present at the meeting to accept the proposal. It was also decided that as the branch membership was relatively small all the active members would form the organising committee. Frank Hutson was appointed Rally Organiser and Ian Sutherland volunteered to be Treasurer.



October, November: Both meetings were given over to discussing the impending Scottish National Rally and to receiving reports from various members on the tasks allocated to them. Any spare time at these meetings was utilised by discussing Riley matters in general.

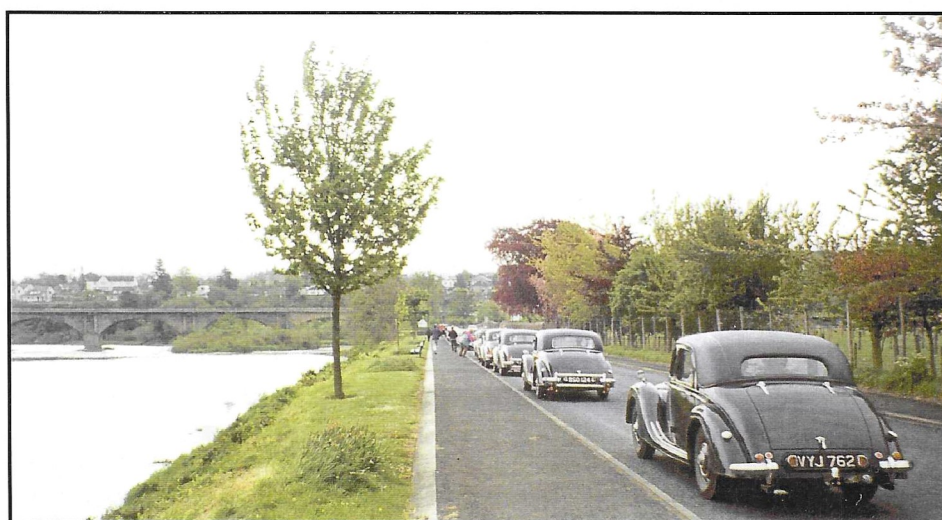
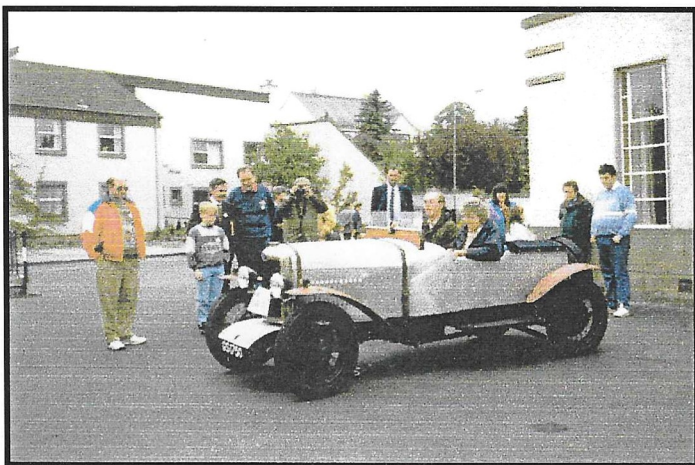
December: The December meeting took the form of a Christmas supper, attended by members of the branch, wives and friends. It was held in The Countryside Inn and a total of 25 people were present. Frank Cooper entertained the company with his hammer dulcimer and Stuart Ritchie gave a rendering of a Stanley Holloway monologue. The efforts of those two members were very much appreciated.

1994

January to May: All our meetings held over this period in The Countryside Inn were given over to Scottish National Riley Rally business. During May the meetings were convened on a weekly basis as the date for the rally drew closer.

Over the period 20th - 22nd May, the seventh Scottish National Riley Rally was staged at Kelso, Scottish Borders Region. Some 50 cars attended, mostly Rileys, but with a few modern as well, travelling from all parts of the UK, including Northern Ireland.

The weather was cold and windy, but this did not deter a full programme of events from taking place over the weekend, and many friendships were formed. On the Saturday afternoon, the organisation was honoured by being given a Civic Reception by Border Regional Council, including a visit from the Convener of the Council – a 'first' in Scottish Riley Circles. The event was judged a success by all those who took part in it.



June: The outdoor activity for this month took the shape of a club run to the Motor Museum situated within the historical village of New Lanark. Seven cars with passengers took part. Branch Chairman, Stuart Ritchie, announced his impending marriage to Elma in early August.

July: A club barbeque took place at the home of Ian and Jane Sutherland, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh. There was a good turnout of Riley cars (twelve) with ample space to display them. The weather was kind, contributing to a very enjoyable occasion.



August: There was no branch meeting this month but a number of members took part in the Veteran and Vintage Rally at Biggar on Sunday 14th. Branch members were delighted to present Stuart and Elma Ritchie with a memento to mark the occasion of their marriage.

September: This month the first Annual General Meeting of the Branch took place. Ten members were present. As there was a surplus of funds after the Scottish National Rally it was resolved that the affairs of the branch be put on a more formal footing.



The following office bearers were elected:

Chairman – Stuart Ritchie, Secretary – Frank Hutson, Treasurer – Ian Sutherland.

The balance sheet of the funds generated by the Scottish National Rally was produced for the information of the members. The Rally produced a surplus of £299 and it was resolved that £100 would be returned to the central funds of the SRE in repayment of a 'seed corn' borrowed earlier and also a further £100 to be donated to the funds of the SRE. The remainder would be banked locally and used as a core fund for branch use.

It was also decided that the efforts made by wives and partners of those who were present at the rally should be recognised and that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to them along with a £5 shopping voucher.

Programme suggestions for future branch meetings were discussed and two amateur videos of the National Rally were shown.

October: Frank Cooper agreed to talk to the meeting on 'Wood Restoration' in connection with our cars, and this was well received.

November: George Steedman, a local vehicle electrician, kindly consented to come along to our normal meeting place and gave an interesting talk on 'Electrics in old cars'. Judging by the number of questions put to the speaker, this item was of extreme interest to those present.

December: The branch's second Christmas Supper was held in The Countryside Inn. As with the one the previous year, wives, partners and friends were invited and a total of 28 people sat down to an excellent meal. We were very pleased to be joined by SRE Chairman, Jim Dunbar, who made the long journey down from Carnoustie just to be with us. A repeat screening of the May Rally videos was shown for the benefit of our guests. Monthly meetings continued at The Countryside Inn.

1995

January: No formal programme had been arranged for this month's meeting but twelve members found their way to the usual watering hole. The format and programmes were discussed for the remaining part of the winter session. The forthcoming 25th Anniversary Rally of the Ulster Riley Club was announced, and five members expressed interest in attending.

February: A talk, by a local commercial coach painter, followed by a question and answer session, was the topic for this month's meeting. Advance notice was received of the proposed London to Edinburgh run, to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the 1925 event, and the setting up of the Riley Motor Club. This branch was requested, and agreed to make the arrangements for the run's arrival in the City.

March: Members were invited to tour the workshops of A Plenderleith & Co., Motor Engineers, in the village of Rosewell. This company specialises in the preparation of engines for sports and rally vehicles and is well respected in the industry. Thirteen members attended and found the visit very interesting.

April: The meeting took the form of a light-hearted quiz. Arrangements for the reception of the participants in the forthcoming London/Edinburgh run were finalised.

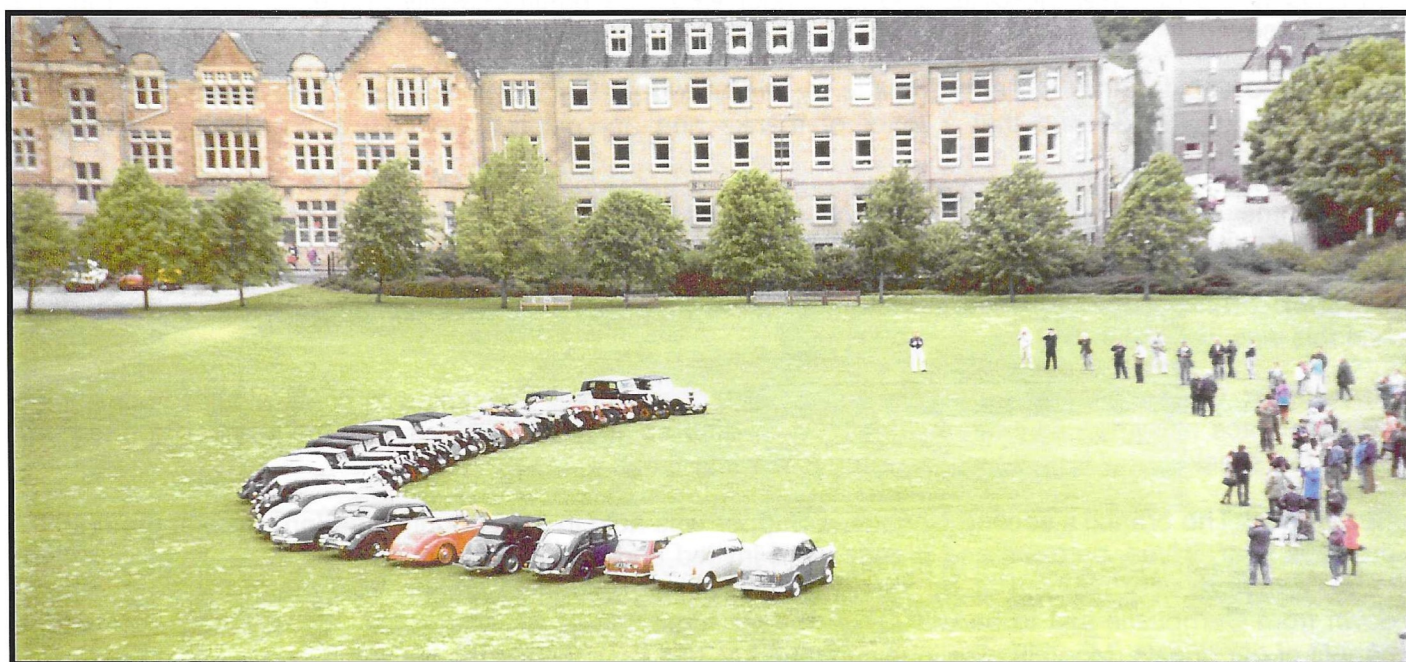
May: The first of the season's outdoor runs was made when sixteen branch members and friends visited the extensive premises of The Scottish Steam Railway Preservation Society at Bo'ness, West Lothian.

The 26th-28th May was the Eighth Scottish National Riley Rally, organised by the Tayside Area.



This year's event was based in Dundee and was attended by S-E branch members, some of whom had to return home early to prepare to welcome the participants of the London/Edinburgh Run, which was taking place over the same period.

After an overnight stop at Gretna, the London/Edinburgh Run arrived at the Leadburn Inn, where S-E Branch members met, and entertained them, to coffee and biscuits. They then escorted the visitors through Edinburgh. Their route took them down the Royal Mile to the Royal Park which adjoins the Palace of Holyrood House.



A tour of the City by open topped 'bus was arranged for the pilgrims while their cars were cared for by branch members. In the late afternoon the cars were led round the park in convoy enabling a panoramic view of the city to be enjoyed. Scottish cars then guided the pilgrims on their way to Peebles Hydro Hotel for a commemorative photograph in front of the Hotel—



— and a celebration dinner 'a la 1925'. This had been a very busy month for the branch members!

The event left its mark on Scotland in a rather unexpected way, when Alan Teeder's 1910 V-Twin, while reversing into line in front of the hotel, chose that very moment to lose a drain plug, and dump lots of hot oil on the pristine tarmacadam.

Frank Cooper rushed to scoop up some earth from the gardens, which did soak up the oil, but his action incurred the wrath of the gardener, who apparently could not see the funny side of the incident.



Riley V-Twin leaves its calling card

June: A treasure hunt was organised by John and Elizabeth Macfarlane and family. The treasure hunt terminated at the Canal Boat Centre, Linlithgow with refreshments at the café there.

July: Another club barbeque was held in Innerwick, at the home of Stuart and Elma Ritchie. The cars assembled near to Musselburgh Race Course on the A1 and then made a scenic journey through East Lothian to Innerwick. This was another superb social occasion!

On the 23rd of the month the branch had a club display at the SAVE Rally, Dalmeny House, where eight Rileys were on show to the public.

30th July saw the branch taking part in a joint picnic with Tayside branch within the grounds of Stirling University. Seven Riley cars attended plus two moderns.

This venue was first class, as was the weather. The under-bonnet entertainment provided by the cars absorbed much of the attention of the participants.

This had been yet another busy month for the branch!



Repair by Committee



August: There was no meeting this month, but the branch was represented at the Ulster Riley Club's 25th Anniversary Rally, Newcastle, Co Down, Northern Ireland. Three Riley cars took part – Stuart and Elma Ritchie in their Falcon, Jim Makin and family in their Kestrel and Dave and Irene Clarkson with their RMA, accompanied by passengers Frank and Betty Hutson. This was a very enjoyable event, well attended by visitors from the mainland as well as from Ireland.

September: On the 5th of the month the branch held their second Annual General Meeting, attended by fifteen members. Branch officers were willing to continue in office, so no other members were placed in danger. There was a change in the representation to the SRE committee in that Frank Hutson, Secretary of the branch, would now represent the branch on the main committee. Jim Makin, the incumbent since the inception of the SRE, was thanked for his services to the branch. It was also agreed that a charge of £1.00 would be levied from each member who attended the monthly meeting of the branch to defray expenses.

October: The Branch visited the Scottish Agricultural Museum at Ingliston, near Edinburgh

November: Representatives of the Lothian and Borders Police, Traffic Department had been invited to speak to the members at an indoor meeting at the Countryside Inn. A vehicle inspector from the Department of Transport also attended. The topic was Road Traffic Law as it relates to the older vehicle and it was followed by a very lively question and answer session.

December: It was time once again for the branch's traditional Christmas Supper in the company of wives and friends. In all, twenty-six people attended.

1996

January: There was no formal meeting as it was still quite close to the festive season. Only seven members came along for a 'noggin n' natter'.

February: Bad weather with heavy falls of snow caused the cancellation of this month's meeting, one of the few occasions that this has happened.

March: At this meeting Jim Makin gave the branch the benefit of his expert knowledge with a talk on fuel injection systems.

April: Mr Andrew Millar, Chief Examiner of Concours for the RSAC, gave a talk on his method of judging motor cycles and cars for awards at the last indoor meeting of the winter season. This was followed by a question and answer session. The total attendance was sixteen.

May: This was an outdoor meeting with a short run and a repeat visit to the Canal Boat Centre, Linlithgow. A trip on the canal was followed by refreshments in the club room, courtesy of Frank and Ruth Cooper.

June: The annual treasure hunt was organised once more by the Macfarlane family. The route took us through the highways and byways of West Lothian, finishing up at Kirkliston Church Centre for a light supper, organised by Elizabeth. This was a good event, which was well attended.

The 23rd June saw the Send-Off Rally at Stirling University as part of the Coventry Centenary celebrations. The branch was well represented both at the Rally and on the Feeder run to Coventry. Hospitality was offered and accepted by many overseas guests who had expressed a desire to travel from Scotland to the Rally. and a memorable time was had by all those who attended.

July: The annual barbeque, now a firm event in the branch calendar, was held on a slightly later date owing to the fact that many branch members had attended the Coventry '100' rally. It was held at the home of Frank and Betty Hutson at Braid Mount, Edinburgh and neighbours were given a treat with the number of Rileys parked in the street. Again, later in the month, the branch literally 'raised the standard' at our club stand at the SAVE Rally, Dalmeny House, when we unfurled our new Riley flag.

The flag was designed and made by Mamie Martin, who very kindly presented it to the branch. Frank Cooper made an appropriate flagstaff and we were proud to see it fluttering in the breeze. Other stand decorations and display material had been acquired and also used in the display. A total of eight cars were on show – six pre-war and two RMs.

August: This month's activity was an outdoor run to the Museum of Flight, East Fortune in East Lothian. John Fortune, one of our East Lothian members, was instrumental in making arrangements for the club to visit 'out of hours' and a most enjoyable couple of hours were spent viewing the exhibits.

September: South East branch members are very intellectual, if nothing else, in that another visit had been arranged to a museum. This time Dave Clarkson had arranged for the branch members to view the Biggar Street Museum. This was followed by a light supper at the home of Tom and Sheena Matthews.

October: This was the occasion of the third Annual General Meeting of the branch, now to be permanently held in the month of October. Twelve members were present with two apologies for absence being received. All the office bearers were re-elected unanimously. Regretfully, the death of one of the branch stalwarts, Fergus McBride was announced. The meeting stood in silence, as a mark of respect.

Members of the branch also attended the Annual General Meeting of the SRE on the 27th October at the Glencarse Hotel, Perthshire.

November: After a delay, the video of the Centenary Rally was now to hand, and this one, as well as the one taken by our own branch member Ian Macfarlane, was shown as the branch programme for this month. Both videos are now retained in the club archives.

December: On the 3rd December the now regular feature of the branch's Christmas Supper took place. It was at our usual watering hole, The Countryside Inn, but owing to very inclement weather – heavy snow – six couples did not make it on the night. The management did not impose any penalties for the missing numbers and it was decided that we could possibly hold another social event later in the New year to compensate for the lost business. Those who were there voted the meal a success.



Barbecue at Braid Mount

1997

January: There was no formal programme this month, but a 'noggin n' natter' had been arranged for the 7th of the month. Nine pilgrims turned out with compliments of the season being handed out all round.

February: The average attendance at the branch meetings is now numbering twelve – a sure sign that the branch is well and truly established. The idea of having a structured and planned programme for each month appears to be a successful formula. It was proposed that this month's programme take the form of a quiz but on the night this met with little enthusiasm; the time, however, was usefully utilised by discussing suggestions for future branch activities.

March: There was a varied programme at this month's meeting. A brief period of news and chat covering such topics as the ARC set-up, the impending Scottish National Rally at Aberdeen and a foray into the Scottish borders to meet members from the North East Area of England who were holding a weekend away at St. Boswells. The postponed quiz from previous meetings was presented and the results showed that our members were well versed in all matters 'motoring' as one would expect.

April: The last indoor meeting of the season was held on the first of the month. The branch had a guest speaker, Mr Graham Lord, Technical Director of Miller's Oils Ltd. who travelled from his home in Derby to be with us. His topic was 'Oil for the vintage and classic vehicle' and some twenty six members and guests from other 'One Marque' clubs listened intently. While much of his talk was of a technical nature it was during the question and answer period that the really useful information surfaced.

On Saturday 26th April Frank Cooper and Frank Hutson travelled to St. Boswells to greet our friends from the Newcastle & Morpeth area, where the day was spent with them, touring about the Scottish Borders.

May: For the first outdoor meeting of the season, a visit had been arranged to Suntrap Gardens, the horticulture centre of the Oatbridge Agriculture College. This visit was kindly arranged by Frank Cooper, and we had an attendance of some twenty people, including wives and friends. The weather was a bit inclement, so the greenhouses and other outbuildings were put to good use. Frank and Ruth Cooper arranged and served tea, coffee and biscuits before we departed home.

Later in the month the branch was well represented at the Scottish National Rally organised by the North-East Area, which was an excellent event and enjoyed by all who attended.



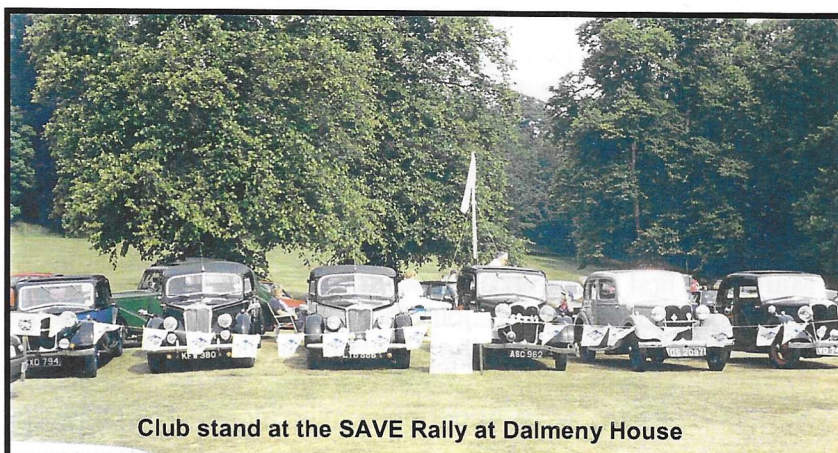
June: A regular feature in the club calendar is our treasure hunt and this month it was produced and organised by Paul and Rena Tullis who took us through the highways, by-ways and lanes of the Kingdom of Fife.

It was a most enjoyable event on roads not too familiar to most of the Branch members. The evening ended with a supper in a hostelry in Burntisland, again organised by Paul and Rena.

July: Barbeque time arrived again, and once more it was hosted by Ian and Jane Sutherland at their home in Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh. There is ample off road parking for our cars and there was a good turnout of Rileys. The catering was organised by Ian and Jane, assisted by Andrew and Sheila Thompson, and was well up to the usual standards.

In mid July the branch was represented by a club display staged at the SAVE Rally, Dalmeny House.

August: This month's branch activity was yet again another visit to a museum – this time to that of the Lothian & Borders Fire Brigade, situated in the centre of Edinburgh. After viewing the very interesting exhibits, going back to the inception of old Edinburgh fire brigade, we were invited to take a trip to the eastern outskirts of the City to the Brigade's private store where they had many other old vehicles awaiting restoration. This was a very interesting evening, even more so for the half dozen young folk in our party who had a ball clambering over the fire engines, large and small.



Club stand at the SAVE Rally at Dalmeny House

September: In the early evening of Tuesday 2nd September, twenty-five members and friends in vehicles, ancient and modern, assembled in Straiton Retail Car Park prior to setting off on a short run through the countryside of Midlothian and Peebles-shire. They were blessed with a fine sunny evening and a pleasant twenty mile drive through fine picturesque scenery was enjoyed by all. Many of the participants were seeing this countryside for the first time. An evening supper had been arranged at our normal meeting place, the Countryside Inn, and this brought our summer outdoor activities to an end.

October: Branch AGM time again and reference to the minutes of that meeting revealed that twenty one people attended. Quite a number of visitors appeared, Kirsten Junker from the North East Area who was temporarily resident in Edinburgh, Roy MacIntosh and Bill Fearnley, both prospective members and on the lookout for Riley cars, and a visitor from 'Down Under' Jim Makin's father. Stuart Ritchie demitted office as Branch Chairman and his place was taken by Frank Cooper. The other branch officers' positions remain the same – Secretary, Frank Hutson and Treasurer, Ian Sutherland.

The Annual General Meeting of our parent body, the SRE, was held on 26th of the month in the Glencarse Hotel, Perthshire. Twenty eight members attended, including a few from the South East Branch. We were also honoured by a visit from Victor Riley. Jim Dunbar, the organisation's first Chairman had previously indicated his wish to resign from the post and the writer, Frank Hutson was elected in his place. Other office bearers remained the same. Jim Dunbar was offered the office of Honorary President which he was very pleased to accept.

November: On arriving at the Countryside Inn for our scheduled meeting we found our normal meeting room occupied by a large number of ladies. Being well outnumbered, a smaller side room was quickly commandeered and we got down to the planned programme. We were very pleased to welcome Mr Jim Galteri of the Continental Tyre Company, who provided a very interesting talk on the design and construction of the modern tyre.

As Continental no longer manufacture the cross-ply tyre very little was said about it. A lively set of questions were posed, which were all adequately answered. An invitation to visit the factory at Newbridge was extended and this will be taken up in the New Year. We were pleased to welcome some new faces to our meeting. More importantly, subscriptions were offered and accepted.

December: The annual branch Christmas supper was held on Tuesday 9th at The Countryside Inn, where thirty- three members and friends sat down to an excellent supper. We were pleased to welcome two new members and their wives.

1998

January: The meetings at this time of the year are somewhat influenced by the weather and currently the South East area was experiencing heavy falls of snow. Cancellation of the January meeting was imminent when there was an unexpected thaw and the meeting went ahead as planned. Twelve members turned out. Frank Cooper brought along a cylinder head which he had hardened valve seats fitted in the anticipation of the eventual demise of leaded petrol. This was a subject now in all vintage and classic car enthusiasts' thoughts and will feature in future programmes of this branch.

February: A light hearted quiz, set by the two Franks as their contribution to this month's programme, was hotly contested by seventeen members present, divided into three teams – 'The Young Ones', 'The Happy Four' and 'Norman's No Hoppers'. By the narrowest of margins 'The Young Ones' were the victors.

March: A first for the branch was a joint meeting with another 'one make' club, when on Monday 9th we took up an invitation to join the South East Area branch of the Jaguar Enthusiasts at a talk and demonstration given by the Rescue Section of the Scottish Motor Sport Marshals' Club. The Riley Enthusiasts managed to outnumber the Jaguar Enthusiasts by one, twelve to eleven, thanks to the *Newsletter* Editor, Mike Anderton coming along and just tipping the balance.

April: This month it was our branch's turn to act as hosts to the Jaguar Enthusiasts with an invitation to attend our meeting. A total of thirty-six pilgrims sat down to listen to Dr John Graham of Esso Research Department give a talk on the development of petroleum spirit and the demise of 'leaded' petrol in the year 2000. Little new was gained on the last topic, and if Esso has a solution, he was not divulging it. As always it is the 'question and answer' session which is the most lively part of the meeting and this was no exception.

May: As a follow on from the talk by the representative of the Continental Tyre Company the first outdoor meeting of the season involved a run out to the factory situated at Newbridge.



Our group numbered seventeen, and travelled in seven Rileys, one pre-war Triumph and a couple of moderns. At the request of the management, a photograph of the cars was taken in front of the main factory entrance, and the picture was subsequently published as the front cover of Continental's periodical 'in house' magazine.

An extra outing took place on the 19th of the month when Paul Tullis arranged for the club members to visit The Scottish Bus Restoration workshops at Lathallan, Fife. This outing was well attended by members and friends and those attending were invited to ride in a restored thirties saloon 'bus round the extensive grounds.

May was a busy month for branch members in that the branch was well represented at the SRE National Rally held at Strathaven on the 22nd-25th of the month.



June: As the previous month had been a very busy one Riley-wise, no formal programme was mapped out for this month. The first informal 'all day' run and picnic to be organised by the branch was proposed as a run through the Peebles-shire hills but had to be cancelled at the last minute due to inclement weather.

July: Barbeque time once more, and the venue was the same as last year, the home of Jane and Ian Sutherland. The extensive garden is ideal for such an event and some thirty-plus bodies arrived in the usual assortment of Rileys, other vintage cars and some modern, all clutching the usual 'goodies'. Australian relatives of Jane, Louise and Doug Hastie, who are MG fanatics and organise a club similar to ours, were resident there and enjoyed taking part in the Riley chat. Thanks were expressed to Jane and Ian and also to Sheila and Andrew Thomson who co-hosted the event.

During this month the club, once more, mounted a display at the SAVE Rally, Dalmeny House. A total of twelve Rileys, pre-war and post-war, graced our stand. We were pleased to welcome on to the stand John Burgess and Jack Nicholson from the Strathclyde Area and Bob Miller, who had made the long trek from Kilmarnock. Unfortunately the weather did its worst and there was many a sad tale of the journeys home with defective wipers and leaking windscreens.

Sadly we learnt of the death of Bob Mutter. He passed away on the 29th of the month, and while latterly he had not been active within the branch, he will always be remembered as one of the founding members, and an early editor of the SRE newsletter and magazine.

August: Tuesday 4th August arrived and our proposed run out was cancelled due to inclement weather. However we were able to arrange, at short notice, a room at our usual winter meeting place and an impromptu 'noggin and natter' took place instead.

On Sunday 9th August, the branch was invited to take part in the motorised section of the Edinburgh Evening News Festival Cavalcade along Princes Street. Six cars took part, four pre-war and two RMs. On this occasion the weather was perfect and many thousands of the public had a perfect view of Rileys motoring along a traffic free Princes Street.

September: The first of the month was the day of our scheduled meeting and while we held it indoors we had an outdoor topic. Frank Cooper, a man of many talents, gave a demonstration to the assembled members and wives of the ancient craft of 'Corn Weaving'. Frank's love of the countryside was amply shown by this talk. The womenfolk present tried their hand at a simple, and some not quite so simple, patterns and corn dollies.

October: This is the month for the Annual General Meetings of both the branch and the parent body, SRE. Twelve members attended the branch meeting, with three apologies for absence. There was no change to the branch officials and suggestions were received and discussed on future branch programmes.

11th October was the occasion of the AGM of the SRE and representatives of the South-East branch were included in the 25% of the total membership of the organisation that had taken the trouble to attend.

November : We were back into the swing of our winter programme, where, at the branch meeting, two of our own agreed to speak to the members. Paul Tullis demonstrated the use of 'Plastiguage' and how it is utilised in determining bearing clearances. Frank Cooper's topic was about Type I, Type II and Type III clutches, explaining the differences and giving his opinion as to which one was the best.

December: Twenty-eight members and friends sat down to our fourth annual Christmas supper, once again held at our usual venue, the Countryside Inn. Three of the wives of members, Irene Clarkson, Ruth Cooper and Cynthia Fortune were all unwell and did not attend.

Sadly, the passing of one of our members, Dr Norman Thomson, was reported during the month. Norman was a quiet unassuming man and a very regular attendee at our branch meetings. There was a good turnout of members at the funeral service.

1999

January: Despite the closeness of the festive season it was resolved that we would hold our branch meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. Only nine members turned up in quite bad weather and it was agreed to abandon the planned programme event – a quiz. Instead a discussion took place on future programmes and also became the first of the planning sessions for the Scottish National Riley Rally that was to be hosted by the branch in May 2000.

February: The programme for this meeting was the postponed quiz from January, hosted by John Fortune. We had a good turnout of members, and while there were no geniuses present, all the teams proved to have a reasonable knowledge of motoring through the ages.

March: Another sad report of the sudden death of John Macfarlane at the young age of 48. John was a loyal branch member at our monthly meetings and events and will be sadly missed. Along with Elizabeth, his wife, and two sons Ian and Allan, he willingly participated, and on occasions, organised branch programmes. The branch was well represented at the funeral service and at the internment in Fife.

It was a rather subdued meeting, because of the sad announcement at the start of the meeting. We were delighted to welcome Jim Dunbar, The Hon. President of the SRE who had travelled from his home in Carnoustie to give a presentation on the design and construction of his 'special' supplemented by colour slides. Our members were very appreciative of this piece of inter-branch cooperation.



April: At the request of Gwyn Evans, an SRE member from Wales, the branch was requested to provide two cars to go along with Gwyn's own car, as the transport for his daughter's wedding taking place at Borthwick Castle, Midlothian, on Easter Saturday. We were happy to do this. Frank Hutson drove Gwyn and Meleri in Gwyn's Alpine Tourer.

This was the last indoor meeting of the season. Frank Hutson, Secretary, had attended a trade presentation on Redline Oil Lead Replacement for fuel, on behalf of the branch, and he presented his report to a rather depleted branch membership. He also presented a summary as how things stood and information available on the demise of leaded petrol in the year 2000.

A final discussion took place to decide the venue for the 2000 Scottish National Riley Rally. This was confirmed as the Barony Castle Conference Centre at Eddleston, Peebles-shire. Frank Hutson was appointed Rally Co-ordinator in the absence of other volunteers.

May: A novel idea, for this branch anyway, was that for our May meeting we took our Rileys for breakfast. Our Chairman, Frank Cooper, mooted the idea, which obviously caught on. The venue was the 'Butterchurn', close to junction 4 of the M90, on the B914.

Was it a success? – judge for yourself:

The order put through to the kitchen read thus:

- 18 full Scottish breakfasts
- 1 kippers
- 2 scrambled eggs
- 2 children's portions.



The National Riley Weekend this year was organised by the Tayside Area. They had agreed to switch "places" with us, so that we could be the organisers of the year 2000 National Riley Weekend. This rearrangement of the SRE Rally Host duty roster would make it possible for our branch to be in the right locality to participate in and indeed co-ordinate with the Riley Motor Club's London-Edinburgh Re-Run Celebration as well as to run the Scottish Weekend as they both fall on the same weekend in 2000.

Tayside had organised their 1999 Weekend to take place this year in Pitlochry, Perthshire, and after a misty start the event enjoyed fair weather.

The folk from our branch recorded as Entries were:-
Tom Richardson,
Stuart Ritchie, Frank Cooper,
Paul Tullis, David Clarkson,
Roy MacIntosh, John Morgan,
Tom Matthews and myself.



June: A week later than normal, our branch outing took the form of a treasure hunt, organised by Paul and Rena Tullis. Our Rileys visited parts of Fife they had never seen before, including the narrow cobbled streets of Culross. The evening finished in a local hostelry where some thirty pilgrims sat down to tea, coffee and sandwiches and various explanations as to why we all appeared to be going in opposite directions, most of the time.

On Saturday 26th June, the branch was invited to provide three cars, two pre-war and one RM, to take part in the Peebles Beltane Festival Centenary Parade. This provided another occasion to show off our Rileys to the public.

July: A regular feature at this time of the year, the annual club barbeque took place at the home of John and Cynthia Fortune in Drem, East Lothian. The weather, though slightly overcast was dry and warm and some thirty members and friends managed to sample the obligatory chicken legs, 'burgers and sausages, washed down with wine, beer and soft drinks. Usual display of Rileys to admire, this time joined by the Singer 'Le Mans' of Bill Fearnley and the two magnificent cars belonging to John – a Triumph 'Southern Cross' and a rare 1932 Alvis Speed 20.



This month there was a 'Triumph' for the branch too! The branch's regular club display at Dalmeny House was repeated this month, with us winning the cup for the 'Best Club Display'. Next year it is the branch's turn to do the judging for this award.

August: The outdoor outing this month was a visit to Rosslyn Chapel, Midlothian. Some twenty- three of us had the benefit of a guided tour round this very historical and interesting building, leaving with the thought that we must return again.

September: This month the gods, and the Sun, shone on us when we staged a 'border raid' to Bonchester Bridge and to the home of David and Jill Wolfenden, where we had been invited to picnic. Ian Macfarlane worked out a very scenic enjoyable route for us to follow and an assortment of Rileys, the Macfarlane Triumph and an MG 'Midget', driven by Jane Sutherland, descended on *Wolfelea*, for a barbeque lunch.

October: Some thirteen members were present at our branch AGM on Tuesday 5th October with two apologies for absence. All the office bearers were re-elected in the absence of any volunteers to take over the positions. Programmes for the winter session were discussed. The members were also made aware of the latest arrangement for the 2000 Scottish National Rally and the Riley Motor Clubs 75th Anniversary Celebratory London to Edinburgh run. It was agreed that a small committee consisting of Frank Hutson, Frank Cooper, Ian Sutherland and Ian Macfarlane be set up to make the preliminary arrangements for these events. The eighth Annual General Meeting of the SRE took place on the 10th October. As is customary, representatives of the branch attended.

November: For this month's meeting we had convinced Frank Cooper to speak to us on his experiences during his visit to his family in Australia, and on his meeting with Riley owners while he was there, but unfortunately Frank had to go south due to a family bereavement. Tom Matthews came to our rescue and a replacement speaker was found at very short notice. We were pleased to welcome and listen to Mr Mike Fenwick, who related his experiences in all branches of motor sport, from his early days in racing right up to the present day as a administrator in the motor sport organisation.

December: Some 29 members and friends sat down to what was the fifth annual Christmas supper at the Countryside Inn. It was a very pleasant evening and put the final flourish to what has been a very successful year of branch activity.

2000

January: The monthly meeting for this month was postponed for a week owing to the nearness of the festive season to the first Tuesday, our normal meeting day. Unfortunately, due to poor weather and a 'flu epidemic, the numbers on the ground were rather sparse and for this reason the re-scheduled talk by Frank Cooper on his experiences meeting Riley folk in Australia was, once again, postponed.

February: At the third attempt, a delighted audience listened appreciatively, to Frank Cooper's talk on his Australian experience. As with everything that Frank does, he had prepared well – bringing along photographs and some video footage. The meeting ended with the members being informed about plans and arrangements for the forthcoming Scottish National Rally in May.



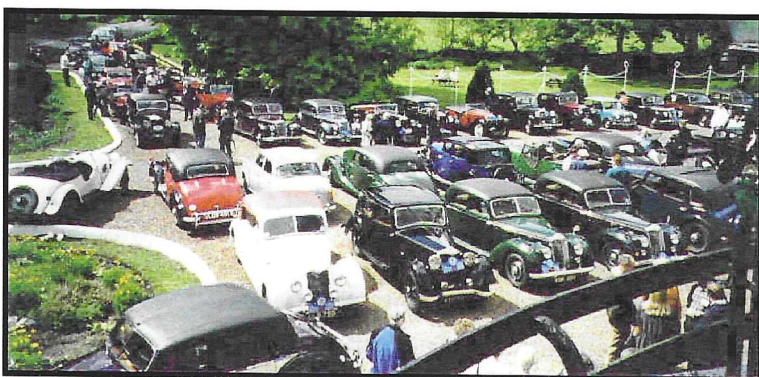
March: For our March meeting the branch invited Peter Graham, a 'well known' Riley enthusiast, particularly in the sporting circles of hill climbs and racing circuits. A 'full house' of branch members had assembled to hear Peter give a talk on his experiences of building and driving his cars. Peter had taken the trouble to travel down to our area from his home in Perthshire, bringing with him a large portfolio of photographs, which were much admired. Rally arrangements were ongoing, and to plan.

April: For the second year in succession we took our Riley's to breakfast, this time to The Crook Inn, Tweedsmuir, in the Scottish Borders. No fewer than six Rileys, one Triumph Gloria and one modern turned out in what was rather 'dicey' weather'. Some twenty members and friends, and the two 'Thomson boys', sat down to a full Scottish Breakfast in this very historic establishment. Despite the cold weather the cars set off after breakfast to the Fruid and Talla reservoirs and then tackled 'the one in five' Linns on their way to St.Mary's Loch and the Yarrow valley. Welcome soup and rolls were partaken in the Gordon Arms there, and then it was off home in quite adverse weather conditions.

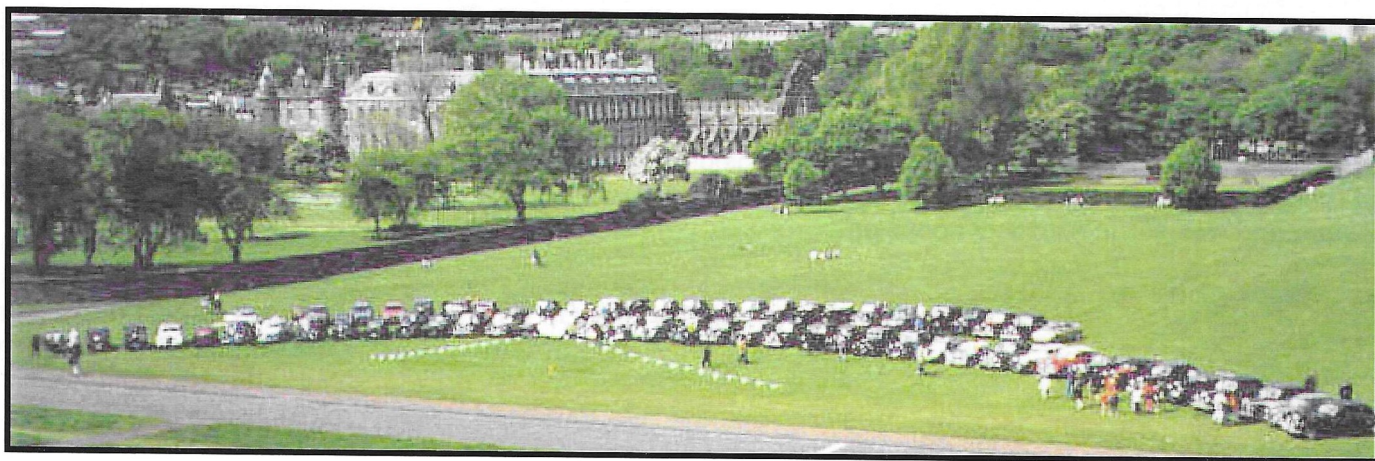
May: The May meeting, of necessity, had to move indoors this month as the final arrangements for the Scottish National Riley Rally at Barony Castle had to be made. All the branch members were anxious that nothing would go wrong and readily volunteered for the various tasks to be done to make it a success. As the final part of the London/Edinburgh run was due to arrive in the borders on the Sunday morning of the rally, arrangements were made to meet the participants at the Crook Inn, where they would be entertained to coffee and shortbread.

As planned the twelfth Scottish National Riley Rally took place over the weekend 26th - 28th May. The headquarters hotel was the Barony Castle Conference Centre, Eddleston, Peeblesshire and a good turnout of Riley cars of all ages were present.

We were particularly pleased to welcome owners from all parts of the UK. Victor Riley was a very welcome guest as was Beat Fischer, Chairman of Riley Club Schweiz (Switzerland).



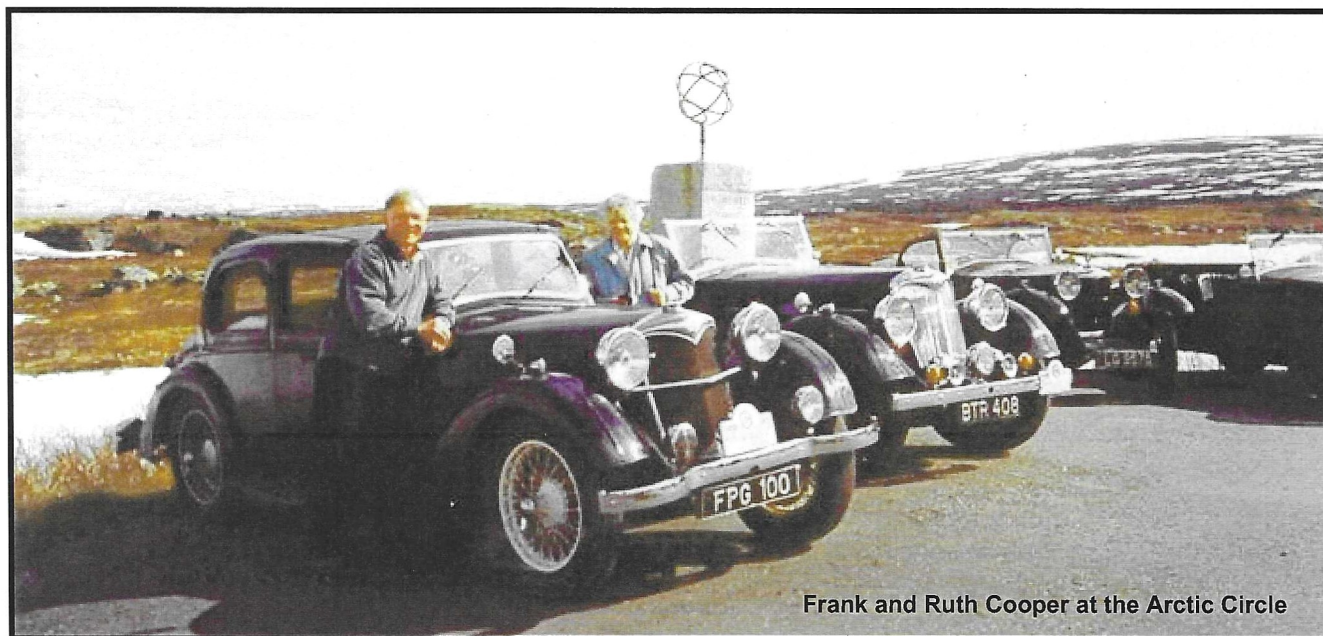
At the Crook Inn on the Sunday, we were also pleased to welcome the participants of the London-Edinburgh Run, who subsequently accompanied us on the run back into Edinburgh, where Holyrood Park saw the largest gathering of Rileys, over sixty cars, ever to be displayed in Scotland.



It was a very successful weekend and worthy of the new Millennium.

June: Because of the close proximity of the Scottish National Rally and related events it was agreed that there would not be an official branch meeting this month. The branch members, however, wished a sincere 'bon voyage' to Frank and Ruth Cooper who were taking part in the Riley Register's trip to Norway and the North Cape, beyond the Arctic Circle. Frank and Ruth would be driving their 'Continental' in company with nine other cars – brave souls!

Frank and Ruth's trip took place over the period 4th - 19th June, covering 3,249 miles in fifteen days and it says something about Frank's preparation that his car was one of the few which completed the trip incident free. Congratulations!! 'Well Done!'

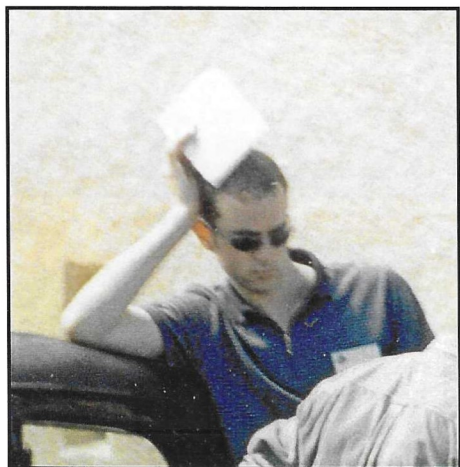


Frank and Ruth Cooper at the Arctic Circle

July: Barbeque time again – this time on a Sunday afternoon. Once again it took place at the home of Ian and Jane Sutherland and on this occasion we had invited members of the MG Car Club to join us. There was ample space to park the fifteen cars and Rileys outnumbered the MGs by two to one. It was a super occasion, helped by the weather which settled down to bright sunshine after a bit of an 'iffy' start to the day. We were honoured to have a visit from Jim Dunbar and Ian Drummond who had travelled down from Tayside in their quite magnificent 'specials'.

On Sunday 16th July we fielded our usual club display at the SAVE rally, Dalmeny House. As we were awarded the trophy for the best club display last year it was our duty to judge the other club displays this year.

August: Our open air outing this month took the form of an evening run through the lanes and byways of East Lothian. Once again, the route was expertly, and efficiently, planned by our now expert in these matters, Ian Macfarlane. The entourage on this occasion consisted of five pre-war Rileys, three RMs, one BMC 'Elf', a Daimler 'Sovereign' of the 1980's era and a modern. The evening was a balmy one with the late sunshine highlighting some spectacular views over the Firth of Forth. Before the return journey home, tea/coffee and biscuits were taken in the Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady. It was good to have along Frank and Ruth Cooper with their 'Continental', which recently completed the epic journey to the North Cape and was still in excellent condition.



September: Our last outdoor activity of the summer season took the form of an all day run. On a fairly bleak day, nine Rileys, one Singer and a modern assembled in the car park of the Straiton Retail Complex before setting off on a run through Mid and East Lothian, the Lammermuir Hills to Whitadder reservoir.

No need to explain who did the route plans!

We were very pleased to welcome Thomas Gough and his RM from the North East Area. After a rather wet picnic lunch, which of necessity had to be taken in our cars with little opportunity for social exchanges, we set off for the home of Stuart and Elma Ritchie at Innerwick and a late afternoon barbeque.. Fortunately the weather had greatly improved and this contributed to a very enjoyable day.

On the weekend of 8th-10th the Central Area organised a trip to the Isle of Mull and two of our branch members and wives joined in the expedition. It was a very laid back occasion, with an opportunity to meet with members of other areas including some from south of the border.

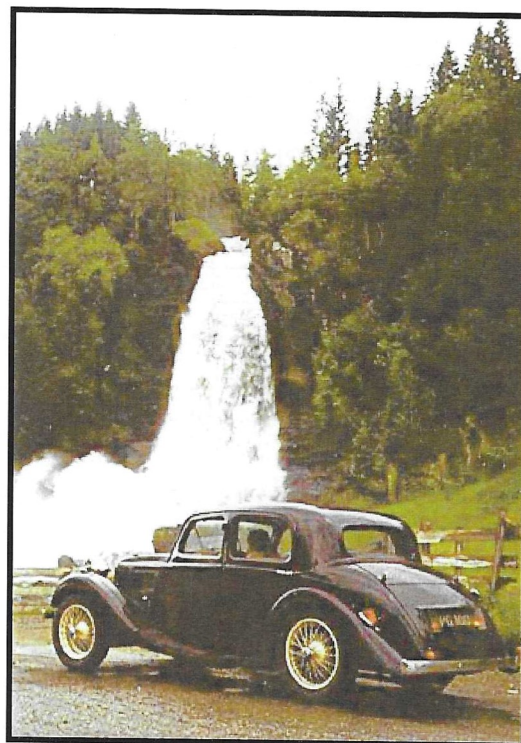
October: Branch AGM time again and this took place on Tuesday 3rd. Some eleven members attended the meeting held in The Countryside Inn. Apologies for their absence were tendered by five others. Opinions were expressed that the branch continues to be a successful and vibrant organisation within the umbrella of the SRE. All the present branch officials were re-elected. A proposal was made about the possibility of holding a branch 'weekend away' in the spring of 2001.

Members also attended the AGM of the club on Sunday 15th. A new location had been selected for this meeting, the Royal Dunkeld Hotel, Dunkeld, in an effort to get more members to attend, hopefully in their Riley cars. This was apparently successful as the attendance was increased by 50% from normal and over a dozen Rileys in the car park and surrounding streets.

November: The 7th of the month was the day for the branch meeting and dawn broke to absolutely foul weather. Not much improvement during the day and thoughts of cancellation were surfacing. However the decision was made to continue with the meeting though it was expected that the attendance could be very much reduced.

Frank and Ruth Cooper had 'volunteered' to relate to us their experiences of travelling with the Riley party to the North Cape in Norway. As usual they had been very meticulous in their preparation, and it was a pleasant surprise to see them rewarded with a larger than usual attendance. Wives and friends had been brought along to listen and we were very pleased to welcome them and three members from the Central Area, including the newly elected SRE Chairman, Mike Cartney.

Jim Dunbar and Iain Drummond also made the long journey down from Tayside. All told we had some twenty-eight souls listening and watching enthralled to the report of the epic journey. Frank and Ruth had been awarded the 'Skelly Cup' at the SRE Annual General Meeting for their efforts, and appropriately, it was arranged for the Chairman, Mike Cartney, to present it to them before the gathering.



December: Christmas Supper number six, came along on the 5th of the month. Some twenty-eight members, wives and friend sat down, once more, to a traditional meal and a very pleasant social occasion. The proposal to hold a branch weekend away in the spring met with approval. This will be to the Rua Reidh Lighthouse guesthouse, in Gairloch, Wester Ross-shire, and a number of those present indicated their interest in making up a party.

Epilogue

A decade of our meeting with like-minded friends may seem a long time, a quarter of a century of my being a Riley owner, (almost a third of my life), seems not too long, and some of you have owned your Rileys much longer.

A lot has happened in these years, cars bought, repaired, restored and used, advice and help given and received. Short evening runs, longer more adventurous days/weekends out. Barbecues, treasure hunts, visits, talks, not forgetting our two successful rallies, all add up to ten successful years.

All of this has come about from what we, the members, have put into it. Our secretary, tireless in his efforts to bring your ideas to fruition, deserves our especial thanks. Our ladies too have put forward their ideas, baked cakes, made picnics, supporting and enjoying our motoring passion.

Thank you all for what you have put into our group activities. Like our cars, we want to continue going forward. Thank you all.

Frank Cooper, Branch Chairman

	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Active members						
David Clarkson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Frank Cooper	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bill Fearnley				Y		
John Fortune		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Frank Hutson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ian Kennedy		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fergus McBride	Y	Y				
Gerald Lafferty				Y		
John Macfarlane	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Ian Macfarlane			Y	Y	Y	Y
Roy MacIntosh				Y	Y	Y
Jim Makin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bill Martin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom Matthews	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stuart Ritchie	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ian Sutherland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Andrew Thomson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Norman Thomson	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Paul Tullis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

These tables provide the records of Branch member attendance at meetings from 1994 to 2000

	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Attending Occasionally						
Peter Beaton	O	O	O	O	O	O
Alex Clarkson	O	O	O	O	O	O
David Morgan	O					
Bill Fearnley					O	O
Gerald Lafferty					O	O
Tom Richardson	O	O	O	O	O	O
Andrew Simpson	O					
Ian Macfarlane	O	O				
Allan Macfarlane	O	O	O	O	O	O
Attending for Special occasions						
David Wolfenden					S	S

This Photograph is specially for Stuart



It took four years for the Dunbar- inspired Riley activities in Scotland to lead to the establishment of Scottish Riley Enthusiasts.

Before and during that time, committed local Riley enthusiasts throughout Scotland participated in motoring events that were entirely locally inspired.

The Photographs on the facing page and back cover illustrate some of the roots from which the South-East Branch evolved, and depict events that took place during the embryonic stage of the SRE, and the participants who would go on to help establish the South-East Branch of Scottish Riley Enthusiasts

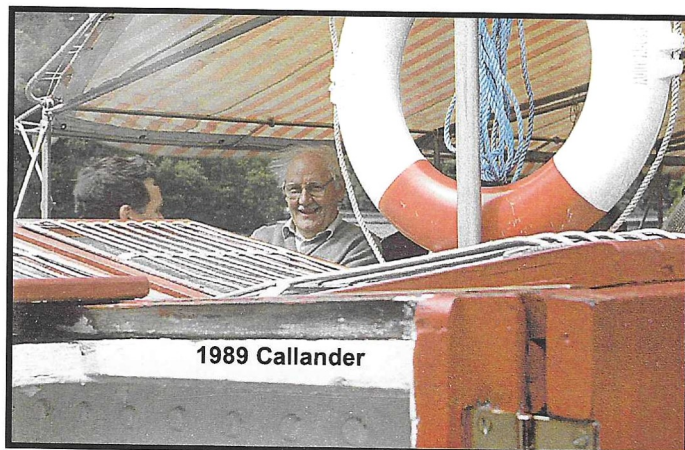
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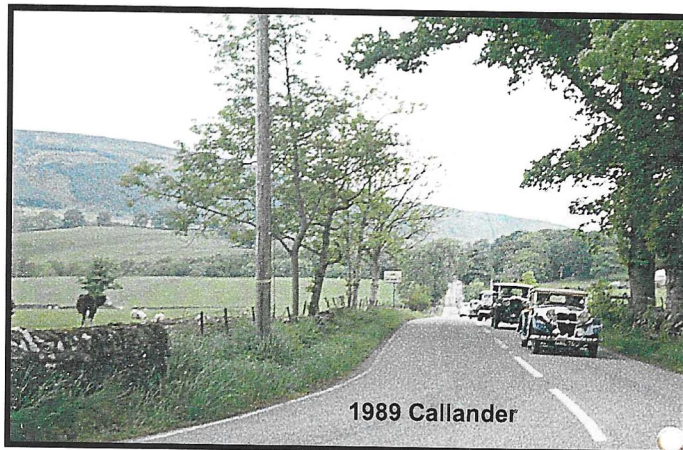
1988 Stirling



1988 Stirling



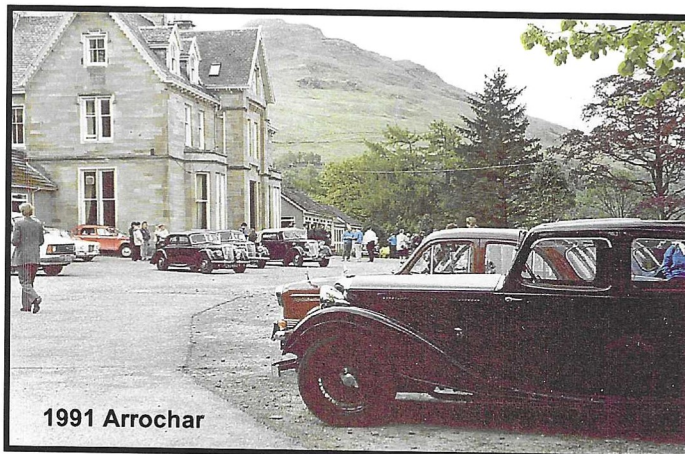
1989 Callander



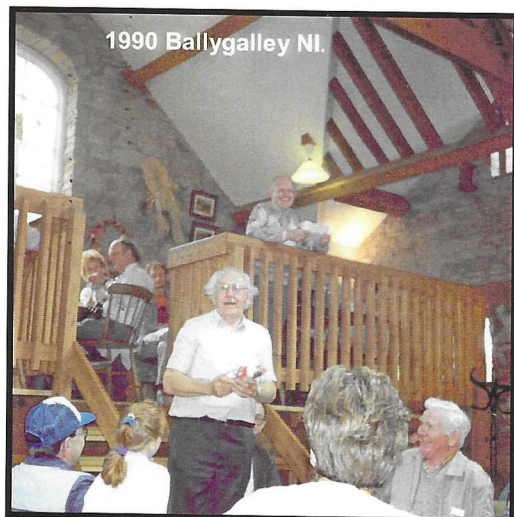
1989 Callander



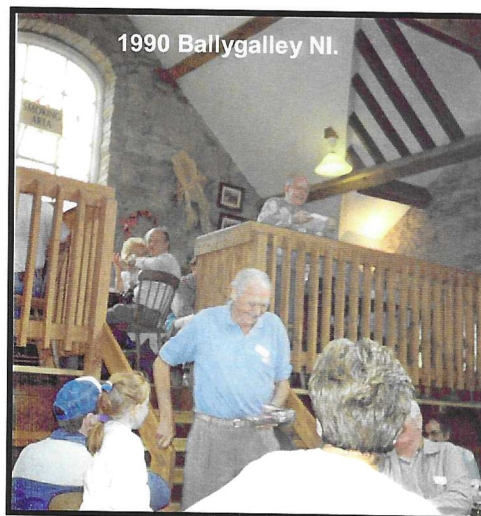
1990 Kinfauns



1991 Arrochar



1990 Ballygalley NI.



1990 Ballygalley NI.



The History of the South-East Area

by

Frank Hutson

This Volume is one of a uniform suite of six Club Histories published by Scottish Riley Enthusiasts. The History of Scottish Riley Enthusiasts is an overview of the development of the Club until 2000. The others cover the period from their beginnings till 2000, and these are related from the perspective of one of the Club's local Areas.

The other Volumes in the suite are entitled:

The History of Scottish Riley Enthusiasts	by Anna Gunn
The History of the South-West Area	by Bob Miller
The History of the North-East Area	by Anna Gunn
The History of the Tayside Area	by Eric Stewart
The History of the Central Area	by Mike Cartney

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