



The ORIGINAL Healey Club for Healey Enthusiasts

The Healey Drivers' Club was established in 1955 in order to bring together **Healey and Austin Healey** owners with an interest in the care and preservation of the marque.

**The Club was founded
by Bic Healey and
was supported by
Donald Healey**

New Members will enjoy a warm welcome to the HDC.

Benefits of Membership of the

Healey Drivers' Club

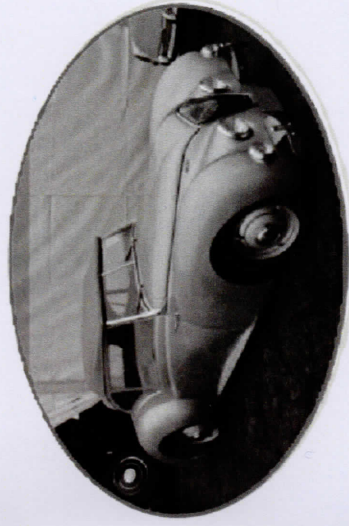
- ◆ Quarterly Full colour Magazine "Headlines from Healey".
- ◆ Discounted parts from AHead4Healeys Ltd
- ◆ Club Regalia and Clothing
- ◆ Regular Social events
- ◆ CarRuns including the renowned 'Rut'
- ◆ International Weekend
- ◆ Discounted tyres from Vredestein



Donald Healey



Bic Healey





Monthly Club Nights

Local meetings are held every month in **Cornwall, Devon & Oxfordshire**

A chance for fellow members to enjoy a **"Noggin & Natter"** and chat about allthings **'Healey'**



How To Join

Either complete the **Membership Application** enclosed with this leaflet or visit our website at

www.healeydriversclub.co.uk

Subscription rates for both **UK and Overseas** membership are shown on the form



Healey Drivers' Club

**FIND OUT HERE
ALL ABOUT
THE HDC**

and

HOW TO JOIN

Website: healeydriversclub.co.uk

History of the Healey Drivers Club

The Healey Drivers Club, the world's oldest Club catering for Healey enthusiasts, was founded in 1955, following letters written to the motoring press by Peter Cavanagh, a mimic and theatrical star who enjoyed his Healey Elliott saloon so much that he thought there should be a club for Healey owners. Peter also contacted Brian Healey, in charge of sales at the Warwick Company, who circularised known owners to determine if there was sufficient interest to follow Peter's suggestion.

A meeting was held at the Warwick Arms Hotel in Warwick in May of 1955 and this was attended by Peter Cavanagh, Ron Flockhart (driver of works Healeys and B.R.M.), John Langrishe and Brian Healey. Resulting from this small gathering the Healey Drivers Club was formed, with John Langrishe assuming the duties of secretary, and factory support being promised by Brian Healey.

Following notices in the press, an inaugural meeting was held on the 4th June 1955, and the first member enrolled, the 50th on the 8th July, the 100th on 20th September and the 200th on the 13th March 1956. Members joined from around the world and by the 23rd March 1957 membership had reached 300, with branches in Australia and the USA.

A succession of secretaries followed including Ken Gregory (Stirling Moss's manager), but the Club went into decline until interest was reborn and 1959 became a year of 'retrenchment and consolidation' The Club organised road events the first being the Scorpion Rally and the Ups and Downs Rally, the latter being in association with the Aston Martin Owner's Club.

Whilst the Healey Drivers Club continued to welcome both Healey and Austin Healey owners, the Mark I Sprite had been introduced in May of 1958, and a club was formed in October 1959 to be known as the Southern Counties Sprite Club. Membership was restricted to Sprite owners only and disposal of the car automatically terminated one's membership. membership quickly reached 126. Raymond Baxter, radio broadcaster and Sprite owner became president.

Healey Drivers Club membership consisted mainly of Austin Healey owners by 1960, and the decision was made to rename the Club the Austin Healey Club. The Healey family retaining ownership of the Healey drivers Club title. A limited company was formed by BMC and the day to day running of the Club was operated in conjunction with the MG Car Club at Abingdon with Peter Browning assuming the duties of secretary.

The reaction of the Southern Counties Sprite Club with nearly 400 members was, as to be expected, apprehensive and there was opposition to its being absorbed into the Austin Healey Club. John Thornley, Managing Director of the MG Car Company, and Chairman of the new Austin Healey Club, worked very closely with Brian Healey and Raymond Baxter to bring about an amicable 'marriage' between the two factions and in May of 1961 the Southern Counties Sprite Club became part of the Austin Healey Club, although it still exists today as the Southern Counties Centre.

The Austin Healey Club continued to prosper and its membership increased. The club enjoyed the support and financial backing of the British Motor Corporation and every new car leaving the factory carried details of the Club inviting the new owner to become a member. Contact was maintained with the factory through the medium of Safety Fast, a magazine for the enjoyment of both MG and Austin Healey Club members, and competitive events were organised for the benefit of the membership. Both the Austin Healey and MG cars were now being produced at the MG factory in Abingdon and Les Needham had become general secretary of the Austin Healey club. Under his guidance the Club went from strength to strength and Les maintained close contact with Brian Healey at Warwick.

It was a bitter blow when British Leyland, in 1968, having taken over BMC with the backing of the then socialist government, elected to withdraw the factory support to the clubs and to close the office at Abingdon. Les Needham having been instructed to destroy all club records and regalia, immediately

contacted Brian Healey at Warwick suggesting that he travel down to Abingdon and remove all this material before it was disposed of as per instructions. Everything was collected the following day and Brian Healey overnight found himself to be the new general secretary of a club without a home, Les Needham having declined an offer to move to Warwick.

Brian Healey re-established contact with all home and overseas clubs and produced a monthly newsletter 'Headlines from Healey', but with his existing company commitments and an ever increasing membership, it became apparent that the secretary's position was more than a part time job. Warwick, however, had ensured that the Clubs would continue to have a central contact point.

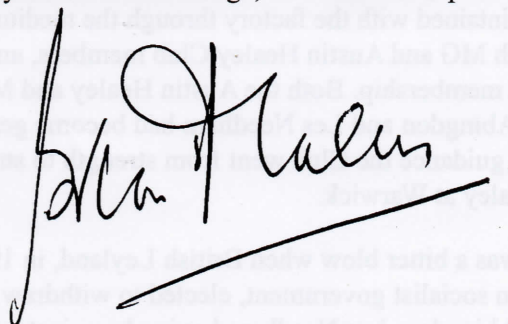
The Club centres would not accept that Stokes' decision to abandon the two clubs meant the end of the road, and resolved that they would approach the Healey company with an offer to reform with all UK centres represented under the Austin Healey Club banner, and this was agreed. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the centres the Club emerged even stronger and is today amongst the largest one make clubs in the world. Revcounter became the Club's monthly magazine and continues to provide the home centres and overseas membership with a vital link.

Cornwall and Devon, Cornwall in particular, have traditionally tended to be isolated from the rest of the UK, and they like it that way! There had always been a Cornwall & Devon centre, but this had been incorporated into the South West centre, and as a result those members in the extreme south west, or at least south of Bristol, felt that they were not getting maximum benefit from membership of the Austin Healey Club Ltd as geographically participation in any event was both time consuming and expensive. Consequently the interest in the south west waned.

A chance meeting at a multi club event in Wadebridge in 1991, which involved members of the Healey family, and three members of the Austin Healey Club, resulted in the seed being sown to gauge the amount of interest locally in the possible revival of the Cornwall & Devon centre. A decision was made to arrange a meeting at a local hostelry, and notices were placed in the local press and broadcast over the radio inviting owners to attend. Over 50 enthusiasts met at the Miner's Arms in Mithian and it was resolved that an approach be made to the Austin Healey Club with a view to reviving the defunct centre. The SW Centre of the parent Club organised a postal vote of its members to ascertain members' reaction to the proposed reformation of the Cornwall & Devon centre and 54% of the voting papers were returned confirming support for the reforming of the Cornwall & Devon centre. Pending clarification of the conditions under which the new centre would operate, it was resolved that the proposed centre would be named the Cornwall & Tamar centre, and a programme of events was drawn up, and the first newsletter published in January of 1992.

The terms as laid down by the National Executive Committee of the Austin Healey Club for the granting of centre status to the proposed Cornwall & Devon centre were presented to a further meeting of those interested, and concern was expressed over these. At that meeting a proposal was put forward that in view of these terms and conditions proving unacceptable, the Cornwall & Tamar centre should proceed independently of the Austin Healey Club. This was carried by a unanimous vote. An approach was then made to those members of the Healey family present requesting that the new club be known as the Healey Drivers Club, this title being owned by the family, and this was agreed to. After a lapse of over 30 years the Healey Drivers Club was reborn and now has a worldwide membership, although continuing to cater, in the main, for those members in the south west of Britain. The Club enjoys excellent relations with the Austin Healey Club, and members from both clubs meet on a regular basis at events. It publishes its own magazine, Roadster, has a grill badge, the design of which is based on the original Healey Drivers Club badge, and membership is open to all who are interested in sports cars.

President: Bic Healey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bic Healey', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Healey returns to Le Mans September 2002



HEALEY DRIVERS' CLUB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Membership of the **Healey Drivers' Club** gives you full entry to club events, a quarterly club magazine, a 10% discount on tyres from **Vredestein**, and a 10% discount on all spares ordered from parts supplier '**AHead4Healeys**'.

Our Membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December, and the subscription rates are as follows:-

UK membership £30 (£25 if joining after 1st August)

Overseas membership £38 (£33 if joining after 1st August)

Please complete the membership application on the reverse side so that your club membership can begin. The magazine and future information will be sent to the postal and email addresses you provide on this form.

Please send this application with your cheque (payable to the 'Healey Drivers' Club') to the Membership Secretary, 31 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea, Nr Colchester, CO5 8EZ.

Alternatively, you can email your completed form to the address below and pay directly into the HDC account, 30-98-76 01147919, using your name as reference.

Or use PayPal, payable to membership@healeydriversclub.co.uk with your name/membership number as reference.

For membership inquiries please contact membership@healeydriversclub.co.uk or telephone 07973 800520

Data Protection

The HDC respects your privacy and will only use your information for the purpose of administering club membership, club activities and events, and providing the defined benefits. We only collect the minimum data necessary to carry out these functions.

Your information is held securely by us and we will only retain your data for a reasonable time period after membership expires, except such data that may already be in the public domain. We do not sell, donate, or use your data for marketing purposes.

The club shares details with its printer in order to provide you with a magazine. It has also set up a discount scheme with the Austin Healey parts supplier 'Ahead4Healeys', and in order to identify you as a member will pass on just your name, postcode and membership number.

You can request not to be part of this scheme if you wish.

You can ask us what information we hold on you and if it is incorrect we will update it immediately. You can also request its deletion, but we may not then be able to meet our contractual obligations to you. You can resign from the club at any time.

The club's full Privacy Notice is on our website – www.healeydriversclub.co.uk

HEALEY DRIVERS' CLUB

MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL APPLICATION

I would like to apply for membership / renewal of The Healey Drivers' Club, and request you enter/update my details on the register accordingly, subject to the rules laid down in the Memorandum and Articles of Association (available on request). I confirm that I am over the age of 17.

I understand that my personal data (name, address, email, telephone, and vehicle details, etc.) will be held on a computer system for administration purposes to enable the club to carry out its contractual obligations and to provide the benefits of membership.

Please also see information on the reverse of this page.

Name.....

Address.....
.....

Post Code.....

Telephone.....

Email Address

Car Make.....

(You do not need to own a classic car to be a member)

Model.....Year.....Reg.No.....

Vehicle Status.....

Signature.....
....

Date.....

(For office use)

Membership Number.....