

Paul Campbell

svw.safety.fast@gmail.com www.svwregister.co.uk

James Worsley wrote in with an update on the VA Saloon he owned from 1977 to 2003 (see photo). His affection for this car leads him to keep track on its whereabouts. After going through a few dealers he saw it advertised on Ebay at the end of last year. James made contact with the new owner, who acquired the car in Germany and is having some work done on it there before shipping it to his home north of London. The new owner is not yet a member of the MGCC, but James will work on him! We recently saw a VA Tourer going to its new owner in Germany from the UK, so it's always nice to see one coming the other way!

I've previously written about my disappointment after having my king pins and track rod ends replaced last year on my VA Tourer. With the help of a well-qualified friend, we've replaced the king pins with the later type after reaming the new bushes and getting a perfect clearance by shimming. We found several other reasons why the driving experience was so twitchy. The bolts securing one set of leaf springs were all loose and had stretched, so we replaced them with new BSF 3/8" x 3.5" bolts both sides and fitted the new bump stops I'd made. The torque cables were badly adjusted (one very loose, the other over tight) so we adjusted these to the recommended setting. One major issue was the fact that the wedges beneath each set of leaf springs that control the caster angle were incorrectly fitted. The thick end of the wedge should be pointing towards the rear of the car; one was correct, the other was round the other way, thereby giving different caster angles each side. Finally we checked and adjusted the tracking using a lovely set of 1950s optical gauges. As I'm finishing off some bodywork renovations I'm yet to test all the changes, but I'm confident it will drive better than ever and I shall of course report on this next month.

Don't forget to have a look on our 'SVW Register' Facebook group where we now have 119 members. The Brooklands MG Era Day on April 14th looks like being a big one for SVWs.

