



IGNITION PROBLEMS

With the demise of Leaded Petrol, various options are available. Lead not only gave protection to valve seats but it increased the octane rating of the fuel which in turn helped to prevent pre-ignition (pinking).

One remedy is to have hardened valves fitted to the cylinder head, but this is expensive and will not solve the 'pinking' or possible overheating problems. Another is to use LRP (Lead Replacement Petrol), but this only protects at engine speeds up to 3,000 rpm. No use for motorway cruising. LRP is becoming harder to locate and may eventually disappear.

I have chosen to use 'Castrol Valvemaster Plus' along with several other Members. This product contains a lead replacement additive and an octane booster. The container incorporates a handy measuring device in the top that shows the petrol quantities in litres, to which the product is to be added. Simply squeeze the bottle and the additive flows into the measuring chamber until it reaches the required level and pour it into the fuel tank.

To set up the car properly it is necessary to take it to a tuning specialist who has all the equipment, to ensure that the timing is correct, and the distributor is working as it was intended to.

The TF Handbook recommends that the plug gaps should be set at 0.035" (0.90mm) and I feel that this is excessive and may lead to spark failure and consequential miss firing. On the advice of a tuning specialist I have reduced the plug gaps to 0.025" (0.65mm) to good effect. When the ignition has been checked, and the carburettor adjusted to achieve the best mixture, take the car out and road test it. If pinking occurs, and this is more easily detected with the hood up, slacken the two nuts that secure the distributor to the cam cover and rotate it in an anti-clockwise direction to retard the ignition. Do this in small steps until satisfaction is achieved.

It is a good idea to mark the position of the distributor in relation to the camshaft cover using a white marker pen or similar before turning it. This way you can always go back to the original position and start again should the need arise.

SOUTHERN REGION CHRISTMAS PARTY

Due to David & Sally Parkin's move from Woodvale Cottage, the Southern Region Party was held at the home of Arthur & Gwenda Bowden nearby. The format was slightly changed in that Gwenda provided the spread and a small charge was made.

As usual the occasion attracted friends from the North, Frank & Diana Smith from Hereford and a goodly number from the Thames and Eastern regions. Chairman Tony Taylor and Ruth also made the journey and in all some 35 members were present. The weather was not very kind but it did nothing to dampen the spirits of those present and a good time was had by all. The ladies did sterling work serving the food and Tony Brooks managed the bar. The younger Bowdens, Peter and his wife Elaine, did a fantastic job at the kitchen sink and their son, William, was delighted to help Tony selling raffle tickets.

A slight profit was made on the meal and £138.00 on the raffle as a result of which the Spares Fund benefited to the extent of £158.00. All in all it was a highly successful day especially as England won the Rugby World Cup on the same day!

Arthur & Gwenda Bowden, 89-80, Kent

NORTHERN REGION CANDLELIGHT BUFFET SAT 6th DECEMBER 2003.

Twenty-four hungry members congregated on the Friday evening and set off for Marco's Ital-