

Regtransfers

.co.uk

In this issue:

A legendary number plate

Famous plate BS 1 returns home

A 'Truly Scrumptious' plate

Plumbers' Posh Plates

A Sound Investment

Triple DEElight



Letters

Send your letters to:
The Editor, Regtransfers
139, High Street South
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 3SS

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

I had to write to you to express my thanks for the efficient way in which you handled my purchase and the administration of my registration.

From the first phone call, my every enquiry was dealt with courtesy and efficiency. Your staff were always helpful and answered any enquiry I made about purchasing a registration.

I have already recommended your company to a friend and would do so to anybody else who wished to purchase a registration.

M. W. JULIAN
Beverley, East Yorkshire

'LITTLE SCORP IN PRINT'

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your lovely book, 'Fanatical about Number Plates'. It's so interesting and beautifully done and I'm thrilled with 'our page'.

Our families and friends were all surprised and pleased to see it. They all agree that Tony would have been absolutely delighted to see 'Little Scorp' in print.

GILL BURGESS
Worthing, West Sussex



TREASURED GIFT

Thank you so very much for the lovely book you sent to me. It arrived just before Christmas and really was one of my most treasured gifts.

I just know dear Bob will be looking down and feeling really proud and honoured that our story was featured in your special book. I am so glad I purchased my number plate from you, and feel part of a special group now.

NICHOLA DIX
Bottisham, Cambs



JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

Very many thanks for sending the new book which I think is magnificent. I went down with a virus and was confined to bed, so your book was 'just what the doctor ordered' to cheer me up. I found it fascinating from cover to cover and only wish it were three times longer! Congratulations anyway, and I hope it will be a big success.

PETER ROBSON
Scarborough

LIVING BY THE BOOK

I have recently completed the purchase and transfer of my registration number through yourselves and had to write to thank you so much for the excellent service you provided throughout the process.

I found your staff to be pleasant courteous and above all knowledgeable about the progress of my particular transfer.

I have been looking for a plate on and off for some time now and was delighted to come across the 62 BRU one as this not only fits my first name Bruce, but it is also the year I was born. I have now registered my wife on your reg alert scheme looking for 65 JEN.

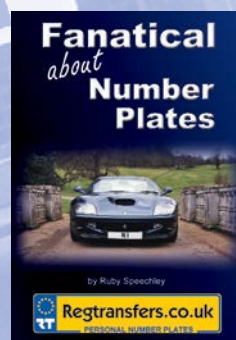
BRUCE CAMPBELL
Aberdeen, Scotland

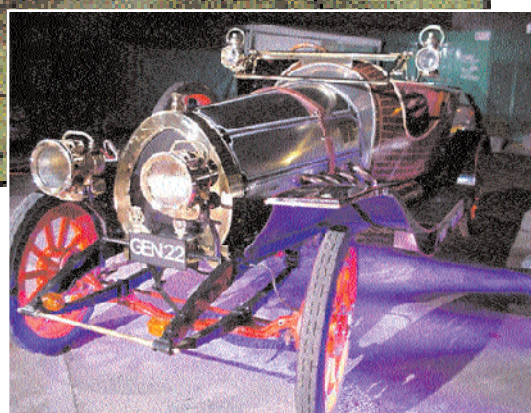
SATISFIED CUSTOMER

Thank you so much to Jayne Simmonds who has been most helpful and kind. The little gift is a mark of appreciation. Jayne's voice has what I call "a built in smile".

KEITH MINETT
Bromley, Kent

**Order your copy NOW at: www.regtransfers.co.uk
or call 01582 606105**





“A Truly Scrumptious Car”

...not to mention the number plate

Tony Green, from Lancashire has built his own ‘Truly Scrumptious’ replica of the film car Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, under licensed agreement with MGM. For the finishing touch, Tony turned to Regtransfers for an essential GEN number plate - GEN 11 was famously on the original car. GEN is short for ‘genii’ - in keeping with the fictional car’s magic powers. Tony had registered his interest in a GEN number with Regtransfers ‘Wants List’ service and was delighted when GEN 22 was found.

The classic 1968 film, about an eccentric inventor, Caractacus Potts and the amazing car he restores, was produced by Albert R. ‘Cubby’ Broccoli, of the James Bond series of films. It is no coincidence that the film was based on a series of stories by Bond author, Ian Fleming. The

screenplay was written by Roald Dahl in conjunction with Richard Maibaum and the film’s director, Ken Hughes.

The original car was designed by Ken Adams and Rowland Emmett, along with the Ford Racing team. A Ford V6 engine was used. The final car weighed approximately 2 tons and was 17 feet long. Built on a custom-made ladder frame chassis, it was hardwearing enough to withstand every type of surface it would be driven on - from staircases to sand!

Tony’s car is not the first replica built - several versions were created as stand-ins for the more dangerous scenes in the film.

Tony said, “I remember seeing the film in 1968 and it had a big influence on me at the time. I still think today that it has all the right ‘ingredients’ to entertain generations to come.

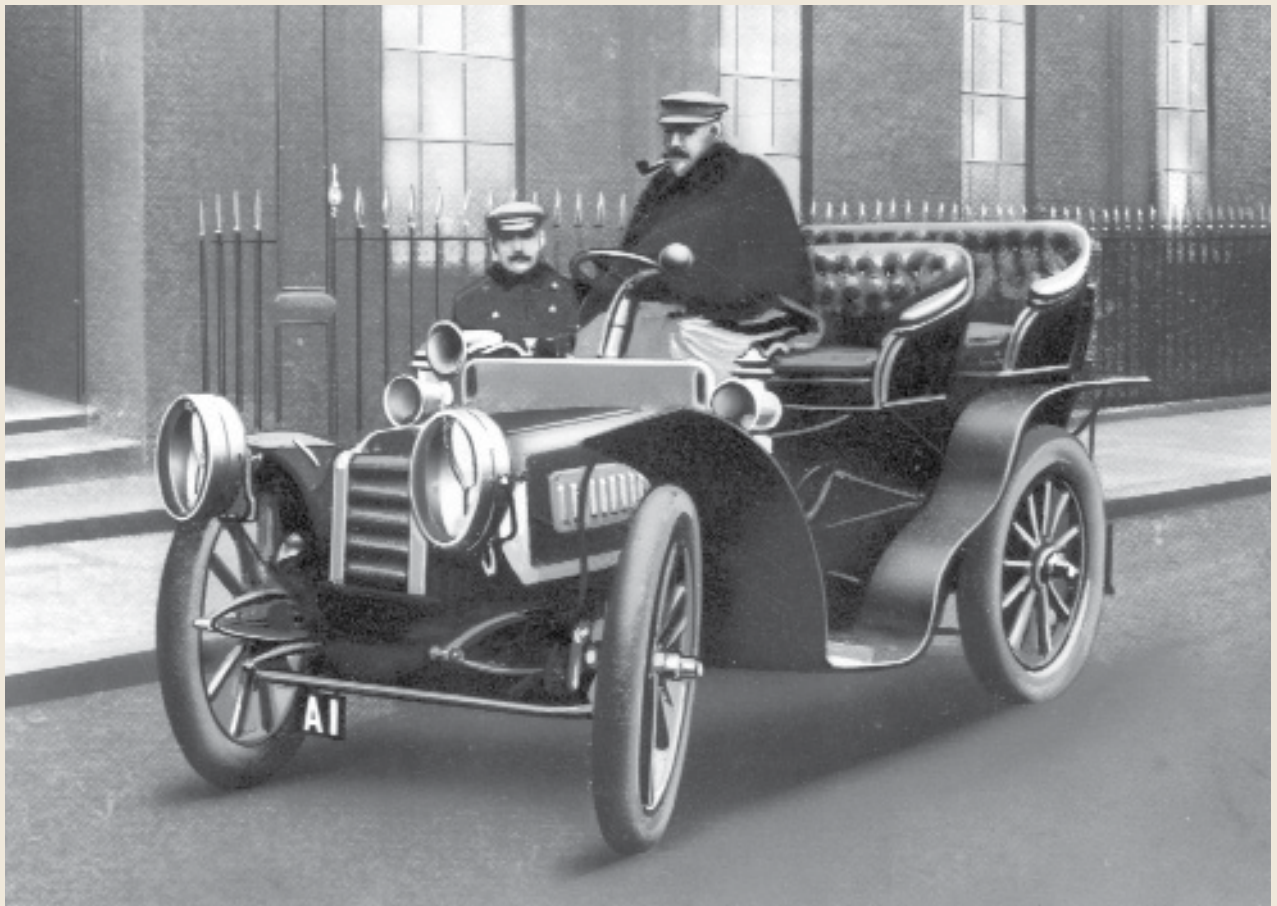
“I started collecting Chitty memorabilia, and before long I was showing it at various exhibitions around the UK. People kept asking me if I owned the original car. I hated having to say no, so when someone said to me ‘You have the plans why don’t you build one?’ I thought, Yes, I think I will! The car has taken me 2 years to build in total - in the evenings and at weekends.

“I have followed the master plans faithfully and one of the film’s car builders has finished the planking to the boat section for me.

The car wouldn’t be complete without a GEN number plate of course! Now the car is finished, I will be exhibiting it around the country. I have already appeared on the Richard & Judy show on Channel 4.”

It looks like a little bit of ‘Chitty’ magic comes alive for Tony!

A Legendary Number Plate



A 1 is widely thought to have been the first number plate issued in Britain. Although undoubtedly the first chronologically, and certainly the first issued by London, evidence shows that other authorities started issuing registrations slightly earlier than London.

Earl Russell, amongst others, queued all night outside the London County Council offices in the hope of having A 1 assigned to his vehicle. He eventually managed to secure it by a mere 5 seconds! The 'Car Illustrated' dated 23 December 1903 said, "There has been some amount of competition for the securing of the number plate A 1 and this has been acquired by Earl Russell for his Napier car. A Mr. L. H. Oliver of Edgware claims the distinction of personally handing the certificate for A 1 over to Earl Russell".

The chairman of London County Council later held A 1 for a short period of time. George V. Petty bought the car with the number on in 1907, transferring it to several vehicles over the years. Mr. Petty died in 1950, bequeathing the car and the plate to Trevor T. Laker. It is thought that this is probably the first time that a registration number had been mentioned in a will. The specific detail in the will requested that Mr. Laker use the number until his death when it should be sold and the proceeds donated to a dogs' charity. He was no doubt the envy of all car drivers. He turned down many generous offers, but always refused to sell. When he became an old man he finally sold A 1 to Dunlop Holdings Ltd, on the understanding that they would not receive the number until his death, and that £2,500 be donated to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Mr. Laker died in 1970.

Famous Plate BS 1 returns home



Bill Spence of Kirkwall in Orkney is the proud new owner of BS 1. Bill said: "Not only is the plate to mark 100 years of my shipbroking and stevedoring company, John Jolly but also, I am glad to say, BS 1 is finally coming home to Orkney where it was first registered on 15 March 1904. Of course it is also my initials too. It looks fantastic on my Jaguar XK8. I have been looking through the old Orkney records in the Kirkwall Archive to establish its provenance.

"It was originally assigned to William MacLennan of Grainbank who held the registration for 8 years until 1912 when John McEwan, Rector of Kirkwall Grammar School, obtained it. Subsequently it was assigned to the Manager of the National Bank in Kirkwall, George Drever. Then in 1921 Charles Haydon of Lynnfield put the number on his new Crossley.

"Eight years later the number was in Victoria Street, Stromness when the car was owned by John Robert Cursiter; then, in early 1930 the Crossley bearing BS 1 was sold to John M. F. Groat of Moasound, Longhope.

"I first saw BS 1 on the old Crossley in JMF's coal store in the 1950's soon before it left Orkney to go to Sheffield where it was allocated to Bob Stanley."

Bill discovered in the Orkney records that BS 3 was actually the first number registered in Orkney on 21 January 1904. He also found out that the author, George Bernard Shaw was allocated BS 73 on 5 November 1908 and that the motorcycle champion Barry Sheen had BS 7 at one time.

Bill himself already owns BS 15, BS 38, BS 43, BS 47 and BS 4747 and his late wife Margaret's grandfather owned BS 14.

"For BS 1's 100th birthday in 2004 I'd like to trace the owners of old cherished BS numbers - authentic ones that were issued originally. I would like to hold a reunion in Orkney during the springtime of 2004 - perhaps around the week preceding 15 March - and have the owners with their cars come to Orkney for a weekend of fun and maybe have a group photo taken of us all with our old plates. It could be a memorable event". If you would like to attend contact:

Bill Spence, P.O. Box 2, KIRKWALL, Orkney KW15 1HR.



A



Sound Investment

Ivan Scott, from Burnley in Lancashire, is pushing his hobby of collecting personalised number plates beyond just buying them for fun, he is now buying and selling them with investment firmly in mind.

For instance, he had to wait 17 years before he had the chance to buy his ultimate plate - **1 VY** (Ivy is his nickname), but 18 months later he had an offer for it that he just felt he couldn't turn down, so he sold it again.

More recently Ivan has bought **11 YS** for his daughter Yasmin's eleventh birthday. He said: "Yasmin is delighted

with the present. The plate is currently on our Citroen people carrier, but of course it will stay with her for as long as she wants it." Ivan currently has **OVA 1** on his Mercedes, which is an excellent plate for anyone interested in cricket, and he has **3 VN** on his BMW.

"I enjoy seeing the number plates on my cars, it makes them look special and personalises them so they stand out.

"Stuart Henson, the salesman at Regtransfers.co.uk has given me some great advice on what to buy, I am very grateful to him."





“If you buy your number wisely, it will honestly be better than money in the bank,” said Quentin Willson in BBC Top Gear Magazine. Indeed many investment markets cannot claim to “buck the trend”, but one exception over the last 10 years has been the Cherished Number Plate industry.

In 21 years of trading at Regtransfers, we have found that number plate values have increased year on year. Investing in this market place is fast becoming recognised as a sound financial move by many people.

Number plates have been bought and sold since the 1960's, but it has only been in more recent years that their values have massively increased.

Many of our clients have valuable collections of numbers that they enjoy on a personal level as well as the financial security they can bring. These plates are often passed on to loved ones in their wills, as an important part of their estate.



With the combinations changing every six months now, there is plenty of opportunity to invest in the new numbers as well as the old.

Many of our clients are thinking up words and names for the new style number plates, buying up several, then selling them on at a profit. Many clients take a long-term view and compile hugely valuable collections over many years. Even if you only have one on a car the other numbers can be held safely on retention certificates.

Some examples of cherished number plate prices are shown opposite, illustrating the current value against the cost when first purchased.

Although this is only a small selection it shows the immense increase in cherished registration values over the last 10 years. Investing in personalised numbers is certainly not the most obvious of choices, but it is becoming a serious proposition to businessmen and investors alike.

'Number One' plates such as 1 NU, name plates such as 1 UCY and pairs of plates such as 1 WET and WET 1 are the types of plates which are the most desirable, thus the most likely to increase in value.

Registration	Date of Sale	Price then	Current Value
1 NU	1995	£2,400	£25,000
1 VV	1995	£5,800	£20,000
WKS 1	1994	£2,200	£12,000
1 TCB	1992	£3,000	£15,000
NSH 1	1994	£2,600	£15,000
PAU 1Y	1996	£3,000	£20,000
1 OY	1994	£3,400	£25,000
1 OA	1992	£3,200	£17,500
HPS 1	1994	£3,300	£12,500
1 SAJ	1995	£3,300	£12,500

Triple DEE



From the age of 19, Deepak Bhatia has been involved in the family businesses:

JD Enterprises, JD Asset Management Plc and Dormouse Babywear Plc.

Just seven years later, Deepak is Managing Director, having taken over from his late Father. Now Deepak is celebrating the growing success of the group by building his collection of personalised number plates with an astonishingly apt set – DEE 1, DEE 2 & DEE 3.

“We recently launched a new range of babywear specifically for premature babies called ‘Tiny Dee’ to run along side the already successful ‘Baby Dee’ clothes. This is in addition to our boy’s range called ‘Dee’ and for girls ‘Miss Dee’, so the number plates really are spot on! The clothes are all excellent quality and very much in line with high fashion trends. One of our biggest and most famous customers is Harrods.

“I have always had an interest in personal number plates. My first

number plate was M3 BOY for my BMW when I was 21 years old. It attracted a lot of attention! Then I had M5 BOY followed by 9 DEE and 50 DB”, said Deepak.

“I subscribed to Regtransfers ‘Reg Alert’ service and received an email from them just as I was going home one evening. It said that DEE 1 had just become available. I was so excited, I had to buy it straight away! It was soon after that when DEE 2 and DEE 3 came onto the market too.

DEE FLIGHT



"We get comments about the plates all the time – its just another form of advertising for us – another reason for people to remember us.

"I'm pleased to say that my sister Joti (the J in JD) has recently finished University and joined the family business. I'm hoping that she'll soon be able to take some of the workload off my hands so that I can put my feet up for the first time in seven years!"



A Word from the RNC

by Rod Lomax, RNC Publicity Officer

Welcome to the Registration Numbers Club regular column in the brand new RegTransfers quarterly magazine.

For those passionately interested in cherished or personalised vehicle registration numbers perhaps a little history about this independent club might prove useful.

Founded in 1977, the Registration Numbers Club is the only UK based club for enthusiasts of this fascinating subject. It is dedicated to preserving the right to hold and transfer cherished vehicle registration numbers, a right which has been held since 1903 and which was once withdrawn in 1977 by the then DVLC following a strike by civil servants at its Swansea headquarters.

Former rally driver Alex Jackson of Leeds, was so concerned about the situation that he joined forces with classic car enthusiast and club magazine printer, Steve Waldenberg, to form the Registration Numbers Club. Membership quickly soared and the club soon became a voice for the cherished registration enthusiast around the UK.

The new club went from strength to strength, holding rallies at various venues throughout the country ... the cherished number owners voices had been heard and notice had been taken. Things

eventually settled down for the better and the situation regarding registration transfers improved with Local Vehicle Licensing Offices eventually offering a much better and faster service.

All this is behind us today with an increased public awareness of the endless number plate possibilities available and a generally excellent transfer service meaning that registrations can change hands in a matter of days rather than months.

The RNC currently has a membership level of around 500+ and continues to monitor DVLA activities, although, in reality, few problems arise. It publishes a quarterly newsletter, 'RNC News', which is prepared by one of the original founders, Steve Waldenberg, from the RNC Office in Leeds. It is the original independent club publication dealing exclusively with cherished registrations and contains articles and photographs contributed by members as well as news concerning registrations and forthcoming events.

Rod Lomax, from Bury in Lancashire, a long time member, was appointed club Publicity Officer in the summer of 2000 and commenced activities to gain it a higher profile.

The club celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 1997 with a dinner at Boroughbridge

prior to a rally at Harewood House in Yorkshire, and last year its 25th anniversary was marked with a rally at Stanford Hall in Leicestershire attracting over 80 vehicles and a well attended dinner the previous evening.

This summer the club will, once again, rally at the popular Stanford Hall in Leicestershire on Sunday 22nd June and will hold a celebratory dinner the previous evening at the Denbigh Arms Hotel in nearby Lutterworth. Full details of this members event and more information on the RNC including an application form are available by visiting the new club website at: www.registrationnumbersclub.org.uk or contact:

Steve Waldenberg, Honorary Organising Secretary
RNC Office, P O Box MT12, Leeds LS17 7UD.
Tel : 0113 226 7497
Fax: 0113 226 1110
Email: organisation@registrationnumbersclub.org.uk

Rod Lomax, Publicity Officer
5 Bank Top, Baldingstone, Bury, Lancashire BL9 6RY.
Tel: 0161 764 8180
Fax: 0161 764 3800
Email: publicity@registrationnumbersclub.org.uk



RNC Rally at Stanford Hall last year

Plumbers' Posh Plates

The Pimlico Plumbers credit a part of their ongoing success to their vast collection of personalised number plates. With a growing collection of over thirty, it is hard to miss plates such as BOG 1, DRA 1N, B1 DET, LAV 1 and W4 TER.

This attention to detail together with the outstanding service they offer has culminated in a series of prestigious awards recognising their status as one of the best in the industry. Three times voted London's Top Plumbers, finalists in the H&V National Domestic Installer of The Year award and H&V Marketing Initiative of The Year Winners, to name just a few.



The company's recent expansion into new 28,000 sq. ft. premises together with its livery of Volkswagen vans almost doubling to 90 is proof that their philosophy of the 'customer always coming first' is the key to their success.

Charlie Mullins, Managing Director said, "For 25 years now, we have been fulfilling that pledge by employing the highest calibre of staff in every position. In return for the high standard of service we offer, we find that our customers not only use us again and again themselves, but recommend us to their friends and family."

Pimlico Plumbers has carved a niche for itself by concentrating its efforts in an area of just 3½ square miles of Central London, but one that contains some of the most expensive properties and historic buildings in the capital. This means that presenting the right image to customers, who expect to

receive the very best service and the highest of standards, is essential.

Distinctive number plates provide the finishing touch. Charlie said, "I am delighted with the way Registration Transfers handle the sale and transfer of our registrations, always with superb efficiency, from the initial search to the completion of all relevant documentation. These plates have added a touch of recognition and fun to our vans and our customers are always commenting on them. We have gained so much fantastic publicity because of the plates. There is no doubt that people not only spot us out and about, but they never forget us either."





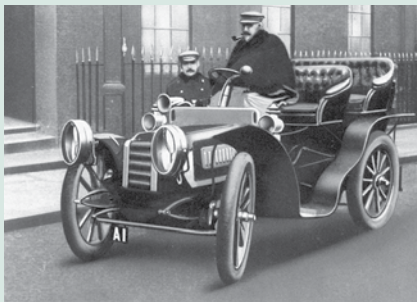
A 1 NUMBER PLATE IS LOST

The first car number plate issued in Great Britain, worth around £500,000, is missing. A 1 was registered by London County Council 100 years ago for Earl Russell's Napier car. Dunlop Holdings Ltd last owned it. But the Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI) yesterday issued an appeal to find the plate which "seemed to have fallen between the cracks and disappeared".

Alistair Manson, of the RMI's Cherished Number Dealers Association, said: "No one knows exactly what has happened to A 1."

A centenary rally was held at Woburn Abbey, in Beds, on May 18.

The Mirror, Thursday, April 3, 2003



KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

The number plate DA 1 has been handed down through three generations of the Rhodes family.

One of the first to be issued in 1904 by Wolverhampton local authority, DA 1 was first owned by Robert Rhodes, a solicitor. It now belongs to his grandson Richard.

A number of different cars have worn the plate over the years, starting with an Ariel Tonneau, a Rolls Royce 2025, several Humbers and today a Rover 45.

Mr. Rhodes plans to leave the plate in his will to the city, for the Mayor's car. It is thought to be worth in the region of £60,000.

QUENTIN WILLSON SPEAKS

"Cherished plates have gone up 22 per cent in the past four months" says car expert Quentin Willson, "it's the sort of return you can only dream of with traditional investments."

News

THE LATEST NUMBER PLATE NEWS

100 Years of British Number Plates



2003 AUCTION PRICES

The National Coalmining Museum in Wakefield, West Yorkshire on 8th/9th February 2003.

Top 5 sellers:

- 1) **SAJ 7D - £21,000**
- 2) **BAL 81R - £17,000**
- 3) **MEH 800B - £12,000**
- 4) **DAV 7D - £10,600**
- 5) **CDL 1N - £9,600**

Three very ordinary looking registration numbers also fetched good money.

On the first day GPF 146G sold for £3,100 hammer price, drawing gasps from the watching crowd, dealers included. No-one could understand why such an ordinary plate should fetch such good money. Later on the same day HMP 729G went for £3,300 hammer price much to the amusement of the large audience.

As the majority of the crowd were scratching their heads in wonderment a chap stood up and enlightened everyone with the fact that these numbers are from the Mini Coopers used in the film "The Italian Job".

On the second day the last number (there were 3 Minis in the film) LGW 809G sold for £3,000 hammer price.

A re-make of the film has been produced and is due to be released during the summer.

Knebworth Barns Conference & Banqueting Centre, Knebworth House, Hertfordshire, 26th/27th March 2003

Top 5 Sellers:

- 1) **13 OSS - £22,500**
- 2) **4 OO - £21,000**
- 3) **55 T - £15,700**
- 4) **57 NGH - £14,500**
- 5) **HOG 1E - £12,700 and 1111 SS - £12,700**

Surprisingly, there were many dateless two number, two letter plates going under the hammer for as much as double the usual price, bringing them up to the value of two digit, one letter registrations. For instance, 28 MS sold for £11,100 and 32 MH for £12,000 whilst 38 HH went for just £3,100 and 77 BJ sold for £5,400.

It is unclear as to why there is a sudden interest in these particular combinations as there are always other plates coming up at future auctions with the same initials.



CHEATS! FALSE-PLATE SCAM CONS KEN'S CAMERA CHARGES

by Robin Hutchinson

Dodgy drivers are using false number plates to avoid paying the London congestion charge.

One in three admits they are willing to break the law to evade the scheme - and it's costing hundreds of thousands in lost revenue. The car cheats are creating new ID's or stealing them from old vehicles and cars outside London.

Some have even cloned the numbers from vintage cars in museums and vehicles taken to the scrapheap.

Then they swap plates or fix the new ones over the top and drive past the cameras knowing they cannot be traced to pay the £5 charge.

One eye witness told the Daily Star Sunday: "I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw a driver get out before the cameras on Blackfriars Bridge and fix false plates over the existing ones.

"Once he had driven over the bridge and past the cameras, he calmly removed them again."

Experts reckon the scam is costing Mayor Ken Livingstone's Transport for London organisers thousands of pounds a day.

And traffic police admit the problem is spiralling out of control.

A senior officer said: "The number of cheats is growing by the day.

"Genuine owners are being billed for a day in London and the cheats are getting away with it. But, we will catch up with them."

The scam has caused hundreds of fines of up to £80 being sent to innocent owners.

Traffic chiefs in Swansea are so concerned they're looking at new measures including:

- *Electronic tags on number plates matching them to vehicle ID numbers*
- *Plates to carry the make and model of the car*
- *Theft-proof plate fixtures on all new cars.*

Daily Star Sunday, Sunday April 6, 2003

CAR SALES AT RECORD HIGH

New car sales hit 438,075 in March - an all-time high for the month, helped by the new 03 number plates.

Top seller was the Ford Focus, followed by Vauxhall's Corsa and Astra, with the BMW 3 series in fourth place.

New car registrations are expected to reach 2.4 million this year - the third highest total on record - said the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Small cars took 34.3 per cent of the market.

The Mirror, Saturday, April 5, 2003



COMMENT: SUCCESS ON A PLATE? THAT'S TOO MUCH INFORMATION

by Norman Harper

One of the hazards of writing for a motoring publication is that, every so often, the desk has to be cleared of sheaves of paper from companies touting for publicity. You might expect these to be new one-man businesses looking for a valuable leg-up to get themselves established, and it's true that around a quarter of the mail comprises that.

Only rarely is it possible to help them, since there isn't often any news value in the product and, I'm afraid, the mere fact of a new business having been established isn't sufficient to stop the presses any more. Would you believe, however, that one of the most relentless touters for a free advertisement is the Government?

It's a distant arm of the Government, but still it operates for and on behalf of the Treasury.

Barely a week passes without my colleagues and I hearing the latest 'news' from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and how well it's doing with selling personalised

registrations. We hear how inexpensive special plates are and how simple the process has become.

We get tips on how to buy a personalised registration as a gift. We hear how much the scheme has raised for the Treasury. In short, the whole enterprise is made to sound little short of genius.

The DVLA isn't writing to tell me this so frequently because it wants to keep us well informed. Its intention is that I share this with you, the Your Car readership, ad nauseam to encourage even more low-cost tax-raising for the Treasury. I'm afraid I stopped playing ball long ago.

I have nothing against personalised plates. I'm not one of those who sees it as vanity gone mad. If someone wants his car to sport tartan-velour car mats, a Jodrell Bank tail spoiler, a nodding dog or a distinctive registration number, it doesn't harm anyone else so it's none of my concern.

I do think the DVLA and, by extension, the Government, is guilty of double standards on several levels, however.

First, I would be delighted if the millions raised from motorists' pockets were put directly into raising the standard of the UK roads network, yet there is no evidence that as much as a penny of personalised-plates fees goes anywhere near the roads again.

Consequently, I'm one of a growing number of UK motoring writers who finds it mildly offensive that once a month a missive arrives from a Government department trumpeting how much the car-owning public have been squeezed for extra cash. The tone is one of taking you for stooges.

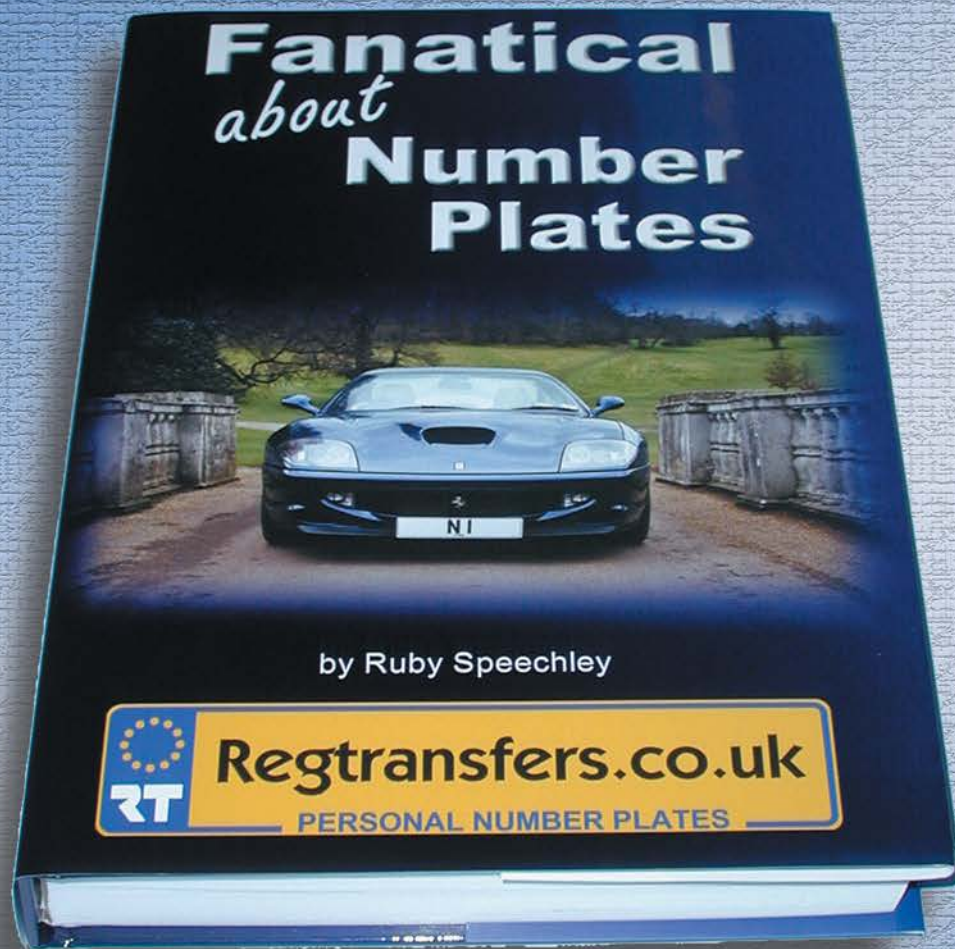
Second, I find it strange that when registration plates are meant, at least in part, to make a car as memorable and identifiable as possible to by-standers during and after an incident, legislation gets huffy about the placement of screwheads and the spacing of letters to form easily legible and highly memorable words.

I appreciate the need for standardisation and, alas, for camera legibility, but I've always had a sneaking suspicion that the real reason is that the DVLA resents the loss of control and, more important, of revenue. I'm sure I must have the wrong end of the stick. No division of Government would operate such double standards surely.

Would it?

*The Aberdeen Press and Journal,
March 19, 2003*

Book of the Century



The Definitive Guide to
The World of
Personal Number Plates

Purchase yours online at: www.Regtransfers.co.uk

Or call Angela on: 01582 606129