

What ever happened to Baden-Powell's Rolls-Royce?

1929



The Scout Movement celebrated its 21st birthday by holding a World Jamboree at Arrowe Park, England. To commemorate the occasion, Scouts from all over the World were invited to contribute one penny towards a gift to the Founder and Chief Scout, soon to be created First Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell. At the Jamboree, the President of the Boy Scouts of Denmark presented the Chief Scout with a Rolls-Royce Motor car, which B-P nicknamed "Jam Roll" (from Jamboree and Rolls-Royce), a caravan, which B-P named "Eccles" (after the caravan manufacturer) and a portrait of B-P in oils by David Jagger. B-P used Jam Roll and Eccles on Scouting journeys until his retirement to Kenya in 1938.

1945

On her return to the UK, following the Founder's death in 1941 and the end of the second World War, Olave Lady Baden-Powell gave Eccles to the Boy Scouts Association who have displayed it since at Gilwell Park. She then sold Jam Roll into private hands. From then on until 2008 the car was owned by eight different private individuals, occasionally being lent to The Scout Association for special occasions such as the 1957 and 2007 World Jamborees.

2007

Inspired by the sight of Jam Roll and Eccles reunited on the lawn at Gilwell Park at the 2007 World Jamboree, four Scouters, including Michael Baden-Powell, a grandson of the Founder, formed a charitable company with the aim of purchasing and conserving Jam Roll. Their vision is to ensure that, once again, she can be seen and enjoyed by Scouts, to remind them of the link between the Founder and his Movement.



2008

The company, B-P Jam Roll Limited, purchased the car thanks the generosity of donors and an interest free loan. They are now discussing with the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust how best to conserve and maintain the car. Among the many people who have congratulated the company, Derek Twine, Chief Executive of the Scout Association, said, "I am delighted that a group of Scouters has succeeded in buying Jam Roll, ensuring that Scouting's gift to the Founder remains within the Movement. I wish them well in their endeavours; to enable part of our history to play its part in supporting our future."

The Future

We would like to display Jam Roll in a suitable museum and to make her available for major events around the UK, so that she can be seen and appreciated by today's Scouts. To find out more, to leave your comments or questions or to enquire about booking Jam Roll for an event, please go to our website, www.JamRoll.org or email enquiries@JamRoll.org.

Baden-Powell's Rolls Royce - Jam Roll Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Jam Roll?
Jam Roll is a 20 horse power Rolls-Royce, chassis number GVO-40, registration OU 2938. It was one of the last 20hp chassis to be made. The car was fitted with a custom made 'D' back limousine body that was made by Page and Hunt. It was one of only a few bodies made by the coach builders for Rolls-Royce.
2. What is the significance of Jam Roll & Eccles to Scouting?
In 1929, Olave Lady Baden-Powell, was asked to ascertain from the Founder what gift he would like to celebrate the twenty-first birthday of Scouting. He replied, "A pair of braces". Scouts around the world were asked to donate a penny per member and sufficient was raised to buy a custom built Rolls-Royce car (Jam Roll), a caravan (Eccles) and the sought after pair of braces. The car and caravan were then presented to B-P on 10th August 1929 at the Arrowe Park Jamboree. B-P named the car Jam Roll, to reflect both the Jamboree and Rolls-Royce, and the caravan he named Eccles, after its manufacturer.

Jam Roll was subsequently sold into private hands following Olave Lady Baden-Powell's return to the UK after the second world war. She gave Eccles to The Boy Scout Association. The Scout Association now displays Eccles at Gilwell Park, its national headquarters and training centre.
3. How is B-P Jam Roll Limited constituted?
The company is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, registration number 6366472. The company has been granted charitable status in the UK, registration number 1124591.
4. What are the objectives of the Company?
To advance the education of the public in the history of the Scout Movement through the acquisition, preservation, maintenance and display (either directly or in partnership with others) of memorabilia and other artefacts linked to the Scout Movement as the trustees deem fit.

The first such item purchased is Jam Roll thanks to generous donations and a loan. It is intended to preserve, maintain and display the car.
5. Who are the directors?
The Hon. Michael Baden-Powell (grandson of the Founder), Tony Harvey, Steve Hilditch and John Ineson.
6. Where are the funds invested?
Funds are currently banked in an interest earning current account. Surpluses will be placed in a high interest deposit account. The directors will continue to review investment policies from time to time.
7. What will happen to excess funds?
Funds raised beyond those required to purchase and preserve Jam Roll will be invested to provide an insurance and maintenance fund for Jam Roll and Eccles, and to acquire and preserve other items of significance to Scouting's history.
8. Who owns Jam Roll and where will it be housed?
B-P Jam Roll Limited now owns Jam Roll. The company will retain ownership and loan the car to a suitable museum for display. The directors will house the car until any necessary restoration work has been completed.
9. Where will Jam Roll be displayed?
The company has informed the UK Scout Association of its purchase of Jam Roll. The company's preferred option was for Jam Roll to be displayed with Eccles at Gilwell Park, but this will not possible due to limitations of space in the planned museum. Other suitable and reputable museums are being canvassed. The company is currently in discussions with the "Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust" with a view to them displaying and storing the car until suitable accommodation can be arranged.

10. Who will maintain it?
The Company is taking advice from both the UK Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Club and the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust and will use engineers approved by those bodies. The previous owner has agreed to act as technical advisor.
11. Will it be driven, and who will be allowed to drive JR?
In keeping with vehicle Museum practice, Jam Roll will be maintained in a road worthy condition, kept taxed and insured with payments made by the company. Only selected drivers, approved by the company, will be allowed to drive Jam Roll. It is expected that Jam Roll will only be driven on special occasions, such as major Scouting events.
12. Will donations qualify for UK tax relief under the Gift Aid Scheme?
Yes. The Company has been granted charitable status. Therefore, donations from UK tax payers will qualify for tax relief under the Gift Aid scheme. We will send a Gift Aid form to all new and previous donors. This process will increase the value of contributions by a further twenty-eight percent (28%).
- In relation to tax relief outside the UK, it is recommended, all overseas Donors should consult with either their financial advisors and or Scout Association's on this matter.*
13. How will donations be recognised?
The Company has established a register of all donations received.
- *All donors will receive a thank you and an acknowledgement.*
 - *Contributions of £1,000 or more will qualify the donor to be a Patron. They will receive a signed Certificate and a thank you letter signed by the Founder's grandson. Unless otherwise requested, they will have their names and Country of residence (but not the sum contributed) inscribed on a special Honour Board. It is anticipated that the Patron Honour Board will be displayed near Jam Roll.*

7th July 2008