

White Metal Big End Bearings

Having stripped the engine of my 1929 Fabric Saloon I observed the 1 1/8" crankshaft was badly worn where the rear main fits. I decided to uprate to a 1 5/16" crank so I obtained a new Phoenix crank and found a good matched set of conrods in my stock. The next problem was who to go to for the re-metalling of the rods. Having contacted all the usual specialists I compiled the following list which may help other club members in a similar position.

- *John Kirkby, 57 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 6PQ Tel 020868 812127.* Recommended by David Cochrane and Geoff Moore. Several attempts to phone got a garbled message and no answer when the instructions were followed. Also, the last job I saw that he had done for a customer of mine was very poorly machined. He has a stand at Beaulieu and his not very clear price list would indicate a cost of £50 - £95 per rod. It would appear he can also metal three bearing centre mains and line bore them.
- *Cox and Turner Engineering, Huish Farm, Yeovil Road, Tintinhull, Yeovil BA22 8QL Tel 01425 652627/01935 826816.* Engine specialists charge £200 per rod + VAT
- *South Cerney Engineering Ltd - Ashton Keynes, Swindon, Wilts. SN6 6QR. Tel 01285 860295.* They have done work for me in the past. The quality is good but they can be very slow. Quoted lead time 3 months. £907 for 4 rods.
- *Gosnay's Engineering Co. Ltd., Mawney Road Junction, Eastern Avenue, Romford, Essex. RM7 7NS. Tel 01708 748320.* Delivery and collection service. Lead time 6 – 8 weeks. £125 per rod + VAT
- *Coventry Boring and Metallising Co., Unit C, Hunter Terrace, Fletchworth Gate, Burnstall Road, Coventry. CV5 6SP. 02476 672372.* Took over from Speyer & Walker who did excellent work for me in the past. Lead time 12 weeks. £150 per rod + VAT
- *Formhalls, Parkers Close, Downton Business Centre, Downton, Wiltshire. SP5 3RB. Tel 01725 511241.* Delivery and collection service. Lead time 2 – 4 weeks. £175 per rod. This is the firm I used in the end. We had excellent service when we delivered the crank and rods to them, including coffee and a tour of the works. They did an excellent job and delivered on time to the Beaulieu Autojumble for us to collect.

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Bob also used a firm in Derbyshire that he was pleased with. (Cotterell Engineering in Clay Cross Ed)

The Greenings at Alderton Garage near Tewkesbury have recently acquired all the equipment to re-metal big ends but are not yet set up to take on work.

I am sure there are other firms that can re-metal conrods. Perhaps other members can add to the list.

..... Ray Moses.

In a recent conversation with Gerwyn, I learned that Phoenix Engineering in Hereford can prepare standard (normally white metallised) A7 con-rods to take replaceable shells, which sounds a bit interesting Ed