



**P6 ROVER OWNERS CLUB**

# Check Your Tyres!

## An almost Fatal Experience



Driving 'BEASTIE' in normal circumstances is quite an exhilarating experience, but returning home from the P6ROC National Show at Waddesdon Manor, this turned out to exceed the norm.

The preparation for our run down from Yorkshire was fairly normal. Beastie had all the usual lavish attention given to him as we all like to do when attending an event in our classics, wash, polish etc., then tank up with fuel. At this point I thought it wise to check all four tyre pressures, all okay and off to Waddesdon without a hitch.

However the fun started on the return home, Ian and Deborah led the way, we both had set our GPS units for Huddersfield after some 20 miles Ian made a right turn where as my Tom Tom said go straight on. This was my first stroke of good fortune on that Sunday evening because I followed Ian but could have easily gone my own way. 10 miles short of the M1 we stopped to fuel up, I said goodbye to Ian and Deborah and took off on my own, prepared for a fast trip up the M1 with 4.5 litres in front of me.

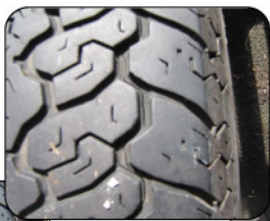
Driving in the centre lane at 65mph my rear offside tyre blew out. This has never happened to me before in over

50 years of driving and hundreds of thousands of miles, so it was scary as the motorway was buzzing in all 3 lanes. I managed to get over to the hard shoulder. You will have seen a Formula 1 tyre shred, well that is exactly what my tyre looked like. My second piece of luck, I managed to contact Ian and just like Sir Galahad he pulled up behind me on the hard shoulder, in minutes the spare was on. Oh! if only I had checked my 5th tyre! In all 6 years owning Beastie I have never thought of it and the spare had only 9lbs of air.

We limped 8 miles to the next services. Now I know that us Yorkshire men are known to be tight with our money but I can tell you that I was never more happy to fork out £1 to inflate the spare. I detected a strange wobbling on the steering but managed to get back home okay. The following day the search for new tyres began and I purchased 5 ToyoTEO plus at £82 each, from just [www.mytyres.co.uk](http://www.mytyres.co.uk) When they were delivered I took Beastie out of the garage and to my horror found the front o/s flat as a pancake, with no spare! So I grabbed the portable air pump and fortunately the tyre inflated, the tyre fitter then pointed out the radial cracks as you can see in my photographs. He then explained how to check the year of manufacture and in my case they were made in Germany in 1983! and still had a tread depth of 5mm and only 6,000 miles use which is the reason that I had not given them a good inspection as they looked okay, but what if on that return drive home both o/s tyres had gone off simultaneously?

Please don't have a similar experience as Beastie and me, have a close inspection of those old tyres before they possibly let you down. Glad the car and I are still here to tell the tale.

**Trevor Denton**  
PS. Thanks to  
Sir Galahad!



*Note the good tread left and above but cracks in the gaps. New tyres right.*

