

# PREWAR *Special*

From time to time we get new members with vehicles that are not original in specification, yet are certainly original in concept. One such new member we welcome is Mr. C. A. Bowers of Epsom, in Surrey. In 1937 Mr. Bowers bought a 1931 side-valve Morris Minor 5 cwt. van from a car breakers in Smallfield, for the sum of £9. It was locally registered "PN 7459", and he still retains the receipt. From February of that year until about twelve months later, Mr. Bowers worked on the van to convert it into a very neat and professional looking four-seater sports tourer. One of the more ingenious parts of the design is the use of the van's front roof and peak section to form the rear panel of his tourer body. Parts were also obtained from other cars to complete the project, such as the headlamps from a Hillman 2.6 litre straight-eight, side lamps from a Ford vee-eight, tie-bar and supports from a Lagonda, and from a Wolseley Hornet came the windscreen, four-speed gearbox and front bucket seats.

"Heinz", as the car was nicknamed (for a variety of reasons!), served Mr. Bowers well in those pre-war years. After the war, braking was improved by fitting a hydraulic arrangement from a 1935 Morris Eight and at the same time Eight type Magna wire wheels were added; the car continued in daily use until 1963. Thirteen years later it was



back on the road again in the Summer months, although the engine is now showing signs of being a little tired with low oil pressure when hot.

(Photos: C. A. Bowers)

