

BEV WR5 Baby Jane restoration / recommissioning - Andy Kemplen – Control Box Latest Report

In the last instalment I was left with some uncertainty as to which main cable was which with regard to R1 and R2. Further investigation was needed; As you can see below one summer Sunday whilst I was Shedmaster, I set to and had a deeper look.



With its weight taken on the overhead crane the battery box was easily slid to the side and then lowered to the ground, giving clear access to all the cable runs as can be seen in the following image.



.... it was then easy to trace and see which cable went to which resistor. The electric motor is also clearly visible along with its cables, as is all the running gear.

The other thing left over from the previous instalment was that I had started work on the 'bulge' to the lid for the control box so as to clear the arc chutes that have been added to the new Schaltbau contactors within it. This had left us with an open cornered bulge with the sides tacked into place, as below –



.... well, a lot of life has got in the way and is still affecting my world, but you will be pleased to see that I have done a little towards finishing of the bulge.

Earlier in the year I made one of the corner pieces and welded it (not very well) into position. This had left me a little frustrated, as to me it was not a good enough job, I was not overly impressed with my welding, using my dad's old MIG welder but when it was ground back it had done the job of fastening it together, just ! – this can be seen below.



I was not totally happy with the result – I used to be able to weld better than that, even with that old MIG welder.

A little depressed about my welding exploits I let it sit for a while over the remaining summer as family life got in the way, then when some time had passed some good fortune arose and the opportunity came for me to get hold of a small inverter arc welder presented itself – would it be any better ?

When I got it and tried it out on some scrap metal of a similar thickness to the control box lid, the welds were not quite right, no matter what power setting I used, but it seemed quite easy to use. After some thought and research, I realised that it was the rod size that was the problem and that for the control box lid I would need some different welding rods. I got some better, larger size rods and I had a go at some of the other edges on the bulge with surprisingly better results as you can see below, my weld was nowhere near as slaggy, as with the MIG welder and that only a small amount of grinding would be needed to get it looking more acceptable, in my eyes.



Although I now have better tools to finish the welding, unfortunately I still find myself without the time to have a good session on it to complete it fully, it does not seem such a daunting task now - as we see this year out things will hopefully calm down and I will get it completed ready for the new year.

Andy.