



The Pavilion Gardens (85)

Wed, 22nd Nov 2006, The Pavilion Gardens

Lot 19

Estimate: £3000 - £4000 + Fees

1972 Rover 3.5 Litre Saloon

Registration No: NMC111L

Chassis No: 84008957D

Mot Expiry: Aug 2007

Although a marriage of expediency, the union between Rover's stately P5 model range and the ex-Buick 3528cc all-alloy OHV V8 engine resulted in an unexpectedly fine motorcar. Launched in 1967, the Rover P5B (or P5 Buick if you prefer) was conceived to stave off increasingly refined competition from the likes of Jaguar and Mercedes-Benz. Available in saloon and coupe guises, the big Rover was built around a sturdy monocoque chassis equipped with independent torsion-bar front suspension, a leaf-sprung 'live' rear axle and disc / drum brakes. Fitted with three-speed automatic transmission and power-assisted steering as standard, it proved a relaxing drive. Though, with a reputed 161bhp and 210lbft of torque on tap, it boasted surprisingly strong performance (contemporary road tests recording 0-60mph in 11.5 seconds and 115mph). Well appointed in the best Rover tradition, its 'gentlemen's club' interior made it a firm favourite with businessman and politicians alike (Harold Wilson's car was reputed to have a pipe rack in the back). Finished in green with tan leather upholstery, this particular saloon example is described by the vendor as being in "good" condition with regard to its 3528cc engine, automatic transmission, electrical equipment, interior trim, chassis, bodywork, paintwork and wheels / tyres. Eligible for historic class (free) road tax as a pre-1973 vehicle, 'NMC 111L' was reportedly treated to a Holley carburettor, stainless steel exhaust and engine / gearbox overhaul by its previous owner. Further benefiting from a full-length Webasto sunroof, the P5B is said to "drive very well". A practical classic full of old-world charm, the Rover is offered for sale with MOT certificate valid until August 2007.

PLEASE NOTE: This vehicle has an MOT until August 2007 and not 2006 as in the catalogue description. The vendor has also informed us that the vehicle comes with a complete tool tray.