

## Vredestein – a member's view on replacement tyres for an MGBGTV8



Mike Benton's contribution to our replacement tyre survey indicated his choice of brand of new tyre for his recently acquired MGBGTV8 was Vredestein, not a frequent choice for fellow V8 members contributing to the survey. So we checked with Mike to find out what influenced his choice of Vredestein Sprint Classic 175 R14 88H TL tyres.

Mike's reasoning for choosing Vredestein was like that of many other members – it was based on previous experience with tyres on other cars they own or advice from tyre suppliers, simply because tyres are not a frequent purchase and very rarely does a driver have the opportunity to do back to back tyre tests. In Mike's case he had previously had the Vredestein Sprint Plus fitted to another classic car, his MGA, and found they were good performing tyres. But the Sprint Plus only has a "T" speed rating and not the higher "H" rating required for a V8. An additional benefit of the Sprint Classic is it has a sidewall anti-kerbing strip. Mike adds that "I have run vintage and classic cars for all my life as a casual enthusiast and don't normally drive my cars to the limit, but I have found good tyres are always a wise investment. But the thought of paying out over £150 plus per corner for 185/70 Michelins or Avons or a similar tyre would be stretching the budget a bit too far!" "My current MGA came with a brand new set of Uniroyal Rain Expert 185/65 15s which are totally the wrong tyres. The sidewall markings are horrible but they work well, are not too heavy on the steering and they're safe, so I see no need to change them at present".

He was aware from checking out the V8 Website that Continentals were a popular brand chosen by many fellow V8 members but he found Continental didn't seem to come up on his internet searches based only on tyre size and speed rating and also they were not offered by his local suppliers. On checking with two classic car tyre specialists - Longstone Tyres and Vintage Tyres – Continentals were not offered as an option when searching their respective websites. He also found them both more expensive for Vredestein after VAT and delivery had been added.

His local Vredestein agent couldn't supply the Sprint Classic tyre, just the Sprint Plus, so Mike then went online and bought them from Camskill. The total cost for a set of four was £301.95 including carriage. Mike says Camskill are "highly recommended with excellent service, a very good price and next day delivery". Mike got them fitted locally in Redhill at RSR Tyres for £10 a wheel including balancing. They were very good about centering up the Dunlop composite wheels using the recommended method with a pair of concave faced slave wheel nuts and then they torqued them by hand. Mike of course supplied the required sockets and slave wheel nuts. So his total cost was then £341.95 or just over £85 a wheel. Once fitted Mike says the new Vredesteins provided "lighter steering, much better handling and a softer ride."

When Mike recently purchased and then collected his V8 from Bournemouth to drive it back to West Sussex, he found the wheel wobble was very bad and the car was almost undrivable from 65mph. His V8 had only 77,500 recorded miles and was fitted with 13 year old barely worn Michelin MXTs which were clearly suffering from the age effect. On getting home a quick look in the V8NOTES proved invaluable and once the wheels had been put on according to the notes so the Dunlop composite wheels were properly centered, the wobble went completely. Now with the new tyres fitted and properly balanced and with the wheels attached as they should be, the V8 feels like a different car to drive and vastly improved from when he collected it.

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### Useful online resources for further information:

Vredestein website

[http://www.vredestein.co.uk/Banden\\_Bandtypes.asp?BandgroepID=5&BandtoepassingID=0&BandtypeID=17&PageID=2&Rimsize=14&UserSessionID=64966547](http://www.vredestein.co.uk/Banden_Bandtypes.asp?BandgroepID=5&BandtoepassingID=0&BandtypeID=17&PageID=2&Rimsize=14&UserSessionID=64966547)

[http://www.vredestein.co.uk/Banden\\_Bandgroepen.asp?UserSessionID=64966547&BandgroepID=5](http://www.vredestein.co.uk/Banden_Bandgroepen.asp?UserSessionID=64966547&BandgroepID=5)

Camskill online

<http://www.camskill.co.uk>

V8 Register replacement tyre survey - report

<http://www.v8register.net/subpages/V8tyresurveyreport.htm>