As our machines become older it is evident that fuel related problems increase. In recent times several cars have had numerous fuel starvation problems leading to replacement pumps being fitted without solving the basic problem which inevitably stems from a build up of rubbish in the tank.

This is caused from rusting metal as well as perishing fuel filler hoses. The Plus 8 is particularly vulnerable over time because both filler hoses are bent as a result of misalignment of the filler neck and tank intake. As time goes by the hose cracks with small pieces of rubber falling inside and eventually making their way into the fuel filter, if fitted, carburettor(s) or pick up tube.

There is an easy solution to the problem as follows;

1. Remove pick up tube from top of tank. It is a tight fit but will unscrew with a little extra effort.

2. Using compressed air, blow through the entire system up to the engine bay, after disconnecting the hose attached to your carburetor(s) to ensure there is no blockage.

3. Working at your garage bench cut a circular groove into the pipe about 50mm from the bottom. This is best done with a triangulated file or a hack saw blade.

4. Obtain a piece of stainless steel fly screen wire and wrap it around the intake and sides of the pipe up past the groove making sure it is not too wide to fit back in the tank. (Modern day fuels will dissolve normal fiberglass fly screen mesh).

5. Tie off the screen with stainless steel picture wire ensuring that the wire sits in the cuts to hold the screen in place. (Again fuel could dissolve thin household wire).

6. Re insert the pickup tube into the fuel tank replacing the gasket if necessary.

7. Replace your old fuel filter and connect up the system.

Several people, including me, have tried this method and have not experienced further problems.

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