

BLOG July 2013 : by Jerry Filor

It was a spirited ride round Rutland Water this month, following meeting at the GHW and a rendezvous with the Melton Contingent at Wilton Road Car Park, before the eventual off....

A disappointing 4 minis left for Rutland Water (and the finishing post at the Grainstore Public House). Cars from Jon, Carl, Chris and myself plus co-pilots Carls son, Matt and Katie made the 25 mile circumference of the reservoir.....before heading to the pub !



Carl was in his element when we arrived at our final destination as it was full of road cyclists. Carl will soon be as green as The Rat, as he extends his own time spent on his road bike preparing for a charity ride to Skegness. The wonders of modern technology, Carl was demonstrating his "phablet = Samsung Note" and it's GPS capability. He uses it, not only to shoot HD video of driving the Rat, but also tracking his cycling. The array of information is very interesting....especially comparing gradient to speed to heart rate !



Jon has recently "won" a clubman shell from a well known auction site and went to collect it with Matt from Ringwood a few weeks ago. It is

currently with Paul Preston (Mini Restoration) in Market Harborough where it is undergoing sandblasting before an assessment of what needs doing



Jon is already starting to consider the external colour of the car, wanting a period "70's" colour. Instrumentation is also being thought about....even though it will be a good 6 months before it is needed !

Before all this there is the little problem (or challenge depending on how you look at it !) of getting his blue mini through an MOT as the rear subframe is very bad ! Jon is currently amassing the parts for a subframe replacement. More on this next month....

There is a rumour that Clive's K-series project is running and on the road, albeit a bit noisy from the Miglia twin exhaust....progress is definitely being made ! maybe we'll see it in all its glory next meet !?!?

Matt's garage is full of Clubman estate bodyshell and pieces of new metal (ready to be welded in), as well as engine and gearbox bits. When I was there on a mercy mission (my green cooper wasn't playing ball again), I was very envious to see his garage....solely for car use with space to get round the shell and still get to all the benches and tools. Heaven ! it certainly beats lying on the floor in the road for repairs !

I was there as I was having a fuelling problem on my green cooper. It would start, go into the automatic choke mode allowing you to pull away and start your journey only to cut out at the next junction when you pulled up to give way ! Very annoying to say the least, but maybe the first step to introduce the new "stop / start" technology to the classic mini ! Fortunately it turned out to be a 15 minute job to find the split rubber tube and re-connect it to an anonymous black box in the engine bay. Job Done ! Thanks again Matt.

SOCIAL BIT

11th August : Mini in the Park : Sunday admission £15 on the day or Saturday evening pre-show party and camping + £10

Sunday 25th August : Derbyshire Classic Mini Owners Club : Peaks Ponder 2013 : See Facebook page for details.

Thursday August 29th : Club Night : Vale of Belvoir Blast : Meeting at the GHW, depart @ 7.30pm. Melton posse to meet en-route at Wilton Road car park opposite the burnt out Kettleby Cross @ 19.50pm. Depart @ 8pm

15th September : Stanford Hall Mini Show

JERRY'S MOTORSPORT

MAYHEM

I wasn't able to attend all of the Loughborough Car Club Autosolo events but I felt I had made good progress in the ones that I did attend !

Last year, my first foray into competitive motorsport, saw me finishing the bottom of Class A (15th) and overall....32nd out of 33 competitors.

This season has been a revelation with very definite improvement.....

4th June 2013 : 14th in class out of 19 competitors and 20th overall from 32.

2nd July 2013 : 8th in class out of 18 competitors and 17th overall from 32.

Progress had been made !

Competing again on 6th August, after some suspension / ride height changes could have been a disappointment....I know I went wrong on one of the 3 test circuits twice so I wait to see how that has affected my score.

The summer events are now finished and the winter Autosolo season starts in September. Just enough time for me to continue the work on my car craft.....The winter series is on loose gravel / tarmac this time, so it most certainly will pose new challenges !