

## BLOG May 2013 : by Jerry Filor

Venue : GHW initially, then on to The Stilton Cheese @ Somerby.

The evening started off with a masterclass of the Mini Club support network ! I turned up in my Green Cooper with what I would best describe as "engine block slap" or drive train knock....I was about to turn around and head home very slowly when the full force of mini knowledge and spannering was unleashed onto the car ! In no time at all the bonnet was up, problem diagnosed and immediately Matt and Gary started delving into the dark depths of the engine bay to remove this and that.....to get at the offending engine steady bolt ! Basically, the top (clutch side) engine steady bolt had come loose and was not therefore steadyng the engine...hence the slapping / banging under acceleration and deceleration. Spanners and extension rods were appearing from other mini boots and tool kits....Chris provided hand cleaner and shortly after arriving the problem was fixed and the piss taking over ! it was all taken in the right spirit and being a non-spanner man I am a) used to it and b) most grateful to those who helped get my mini back on the road.....next time I'll know not to give it to a garage that has a parking spot for guide dogs outside !

Once all the drama was over we started on the spirited drive to Somerby, passing through the back of Queninborough and on though Twyford and Borough-no-the-Hill before finishing at the Stilton Cheese (where we worked out that the handbrake in "The Rat" is not up to much.....).

Matt B is back from Uni (almost) for summer and will be taking up his residential job at Formula 1 karting in Wymeswold, so agreed to look into a slot for us to take advantage of (seeing as we didn't get to Langer !). In Mini terms, Matt has given up on the idea of the Micra Engine

conversion in favour of a 1275 A-series, so is now on the hunt for a suitable replacement engine for his current 998.

Karl told me that "The Rat" now has all metro hubs and swivels (which have shimless ball joints) and has it set up really nicely now. He commented that it has never driven so well, with little or no bump steer....so very much improved ! He has also taken his green fetish to new levels with the addition of green sidelight bulbs. The Rat is still looking good in its Linden green paintwork and who knows....one day, it may well have morphed into an MGF (of same colour) without Karl noticing !

Via our facebook page, we have had an invite to attend the Derbyshire Classic Mini Owners club Peaks Ponder on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. This will be the second year that the club has run the event, following the success of last year (which Jon attended). This year a different route set round the peaks of Derbyshire is being planned and also the introduction of £5 per car, which is good value for money for a day touring the peak district ! Check out the facebook page or google DCMOC peaks ponder for more details.



Gary has been contacted by a company called Live Promotions Events Ltd to see if we would be interested in attending "Sywell Classic Props and Pistons" ([www.sywellclassic.com](http://www.sywellclassic.com)) , an event held at Sywell Aerodrome in Northamptonshire at the end of September (28 – 29<sup>th</sup>). There is an offer of up to 10 car spaces (and 2 free tickets for each

car) if we enter for a club stand. At the event there is a mix of pistons (1/4 mile sprint, autotesting, bikes, cars, vintage and classics.....), Props (vintage aircraft, wingwalkers, aerobatic displays) so plenty on ! More details to follow...

## SOCIAL BIT

**22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> June** : Brands Hatch Mini Festival

**Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup>** : Club Night : Mystery Cruise : The Gate Hangs Well 7.30pm for depart @ 8.00pm.

**7<sup>th</sup> July** : Gaydon BMC and Mini festival

**27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> July** : Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb : Mini Cooper register / DEWS series

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

**15<sup>th</sup> September** : Stanford Hall Mini Show

**28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September** : Sywell Props and Pistons.

## JERRY'S MOTORSPORT

### MAYHEM

**4<sup>th</sup> June** : I nervously attended my first Autosolo of the season in the Green cooper (with repaired engine steady !) so was all good to go.....I had been tinkering with the adjustable dampers to stiffen it up a bit, checking tyre pressures etc and mentally preparing myself for what lay ahead....so off I went to Paddy's lane near the A46 junction, meeting Jon there who agreed to be my co-pilot for the evening !

To see sheep still in the field when I arrived was a bit off putting, but they were soon moved in to the next field out of harm's way. The grass was slightly moist which I thought would favour the

front wheel drive competitors and once the courses had been laid out we took a brief stroll around the tests to get familiar with what we were about to start !

As Jon had come straight from work, and hadn't eaten we decided to get right down to business and get started on Test A. Of the three courses that were laid out Test A (the first) is usually the shortest and also the only one to have a reverse section in it. The first run through saw me pick up a maximum time penalty for not getting my rear wheels over the reverse box line....a mistake that I wouldn't repeat in a hurry ! Each of the 2 subsequent runs were showing improvements as we honed our technique and handbrake turns.

Test B was a more open affair with a longer circuit to contend with. Turns were less compact, but still required judicious use of the handbrake. The bogey times for each of the runs was set at around the minute mark, and I was pleased that, as it was my first time in the Green Cooper (having competed last year in the Blue one) that I held my own and at least made it consistently under the minute mark on the third test of the evening ! I am waiting with baited breath to see what times are posted on the Loughborough Car Club Website and will fill you all in at next months meet.....

Loughborough Car Club Summer Series Grass Autotest 4th June 2013

