

BLOG April 2010 : Written by Jerry Filor

Our little convoy of minis and assorted non-mini vehicles left Melton and headed out towards the Vale of Belvoir on our annual Tulip style circuitous route through the countryside, eventually ending up at the Dirty Duck.

Pete gave great detail on Calum's mini and their attempts to sort out the brakes on His clubbie over the last 2 weekends ! the idea of Calum taking his car off the road, and being able to use the clubbie seemed like a match made in heaven....except for a wheel bearing failure (which resulted in the wheel disconnecting) and the resulting problem brake scenario ! Everything has now pretty much been replaced in the braking department – New master cylinder, brake lines (now braided items), alloy callipers...the list went on !

I think the most annoying thing was....while Calum was out at work (and using Pete's Honda)....Pete had to stay in ! it's a hard life being a parent...

Calum is now, thanks to the help of Pete and his granddad, the proud (if that's the right word) owner of a Ford Fiesta ! Pete, have you never heard the "Fix Or Repair Daily" quote....I am sure Calum is more than looking forward to seeing his mini back on the road !

Neil unfortunately is having to put his Spi'ed Van on E.bay for economic reasons....it'll be sad to see it go, as it now looks like we are "vanless" in the club, since Simon sold his last year....

Ryan also has his mini on Ebay at the moment as he wants to trade up to a

Volkswagen Lupo GTi, which is reported to be slightly more comfortable on long(er) journeys than the 50 year old design of a mini ! Glyn mentioned that Ryan had offered it to him to keep it in the family (no doubt so he could still drive it when he wasn't looking !)...Jon mentioned, what about a whip round. The 10 of us that were at the pub could put in £300 each and have it as a track day car.....

Jon showed a proposal for this seasons club T-shirt, based on the classic Downton tuning house logo in a fetching Green or White. T-shirts will be "Forest green" (or BMC engine green) with Grey or White logo (TBC). Orders can be placed with Jon (£12.50 each) and he is hoping to a demo version at the next club meeting....



Since our attendance of the "Save Donington" day I have been keeping an ear to ground to see what is happening to the once great circuit.....I heard on the radio that the Wheatcroft Family, current owners of DP, were conducting a financial feasibility study into reopening Donington Park for racing. I think the Save Donington Day may have made a point to the owners as I read recently that as soon as the Monsters of Rock festival is over in June, the bulldozers will move in to reinstate the original 2 mile circuit with the first race meeting

WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS

planned for the Weekend of 4th / 5th September. This is likely to be from the Masters Historic Race Series, with a proposed 3 day Festival that will include track demonstrations by some of the cars from the Donington collection.....so should be good !

Mark has installed a Minisport Stage 1 kit to his Mini HL and commented that it "now sounds like a proper mini !".....but said that he has been having problems fuelling since the change. He suspects the needle (supplied with the kit) is not the right one as it he has had to set it too rich at idle to stop it stalling, but then runs out of fuelling capacity at full throttle. On a more positive note, he has managed to acquire a Snap on MIG welder for nothing at work.....needless to say it was carefully manoeuvred into his mini gone home time.....let the welding commence !

Gary and Mark made a small, but perfectly formed convoy, to Himley Hall for the BMC Mini Day on May 9th. I'll look forward to hearing all the details at the next club night.....

SOCIAL BIT :

Next Meeting :

27th May : Normanton on Soar, be at the Midland 7.45pm for depart @ 8pm ish.

24th June : Rutland water, be at the Midland for 7.20pm for depart @ 7.30pm.

Melton posse to meet en-route at Wilton Road car park opposite the Kettleby Cross @ 8pm.

4th July : Gaydon Mini Festival (Club stand), convoy time to be arranged

25th July : Crich Tramway Museum Mini Day : Club stand (Free tickets already allocated). Convoy to be arranged.

15th August : Mini in the Park, Santa Pod raceway. Convoy to be arranged.