

BLOG April 2014 : by Jerry Filor

An anticipatory wait in Melton for our April run out proceeded the arrival of three minis, sorry....2 Real minis and a BMW impostor, to Wilton road car park.

Sadly there were no Melton minis to meet them there, Jon's and Matt's are well into their restorations and approaching the painting stages. Then there is of course the inevitable "putting the bits back on without damaging the fresh paint" stage. A nail biting experience for the inexperienced I am sure !

My mini story is easier to report, the blue cooper I managed to damage on a concrete post at the bottom of the drive and am awaiting an insurance decision. My green cooper has an electronic / air / mixture problem when you haven't got any mechanical know how or an old Rover diagnostic kit makes it difficult to rectify. Knowing that it wouldn't pass the MOT emissions test, the green cooper is currently MOT less and the blue cooper is SORNED, so I am miniless....

The roll call for the mini drivers this month were Glynn in his eldest's BMW Cooper S (chilli pack edition), looking straight out of the show room with its shiny wheels and lustrous paint....it certainly looks good for an early 03 plate example. Second up was Ashley, Glynn's youngest....who was giving his 96' MPI Sprite a run out. It is a nice example of mild tuning with new Minilight alloy wheels, 165/50 profile tyres, an RC40 exhaust and some custom "Sprite 1.3 " sidewinder stripes.

Glynn had also brought along his neighbour Nick, who was piloting a nice 1964 "Cooperised" super deluxe. This is one of two sixties minis that he owns and was a nice "used" example resplendent in Island blue and snowberry white roof. Cooperisation included a breathed on engine, roll cage and larger 12" Dunlop D1 alloy wheels, while retaining its super deluxe accessories such as the boot board and single fuel tank. I tested the opening of the boot to see the classic

numberplate dangling down.....a true period piece ! Nick said that he also has another Copper from the sixties and that he can get both in the garage nose to tail. What is must be to get not one, but two cars in the garage ! Due to their age Nick is hesitant to take them out in the wet....luckily for us tonight it was dry !

As we had a bit of a later start to proceedings, waiting for extra members to turn up (but didnt !), we decided to go to Oakham and the Grainstore pub instead of Cottesmore. We arrived just as they were getting ready for a charity pub quiz, so kidding ourselves that we had a winning combination of youth and experience we morphed into the "Mini Minors" and battle commenced with the other 6 teams in the pub. From the Beatles to Bolivia, from Paraguay to palindromes we attempted to answer the 80 questions, picture round and number quizzes. Unfortunately pitting our whits against hardened quizzers we didn't win, coming a creditable 5th out of 7 teams.....we weren't downhearted by this (except the losers won a mars bar each !), as it was a thoroughly enjoyable night and a good laugh ! Not even losing out on the jackpot draw by one number could dampen the spirits, and hearing the first of the 3 additional questions to win the accumulated £170 prize pot would have been beyond us mere mortals anyway....

To mini matters and the show scene.....Stanford hall has now been confirmed as 14th September and I have sent off an application form for a club stand, so plenty of advanced notice to get your minis fettled for at least one outing as a club this year ! I will be organising the Mini Cooper Register presence again this year so will see you there !

The next club outing is Donington Historic festival running over the May Bank holiday. ...Saturday 3rd to Monday 5th. We have a special discount code for advanced tickets giving buy 1 get 1 free when bought in pairs.a real bargain !

WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS

JERRY'S MOTORSPORT MAYHEM

Unfortunately the problem with the engine of my Green Cooper started the day before the third Winter Series Autosolo at Donington Park, so I had to pull out. However it all starts again in May on the grass at Paddy's Lane.....right through until the end of the year, so there will be plenty more opportunities for me to compete.

As part of my membership to Loughborough car club I also participate as a Marshall and will be doing some this season for 12 car rallies, Greenpower electric vehicle endurance races at Mallory park and Rockingham and also a special stage for a 1000 mile around Britain trial for pre-WW2 vehicles at Belvoir castle in July.

SOCIAL BIT

Next Events :

May Bank Holiday 3rd to 5th : Donington Historic Festival. : We have a club stand booked and advanced ticket offers to get a 2 day ticket for £18 (when purchased in pairs). Discount code must be used before 25th April...contact Jerry for code if ordering tickets.

Wednesday May 7th : Club Night : Mystery Cruise : The Gate Hangs Well 7.20pm for depart @ 7.30pm. Melton posse to meet en-route at Wilton Road car park opposite the Kettleby Cross @ 19.50pm. Depart @ 8pm

Sunday May 11th : Himley Hall Mini Show, Himley Park, Dudley, Staffordshire DY3 4DF 10am – 4pm, £8 entry.

Wednesday June 4th : Club Night : Rutland Water : The Gate Hangs Well 7.20pm for depart @ 7.30pm. Melton posse to meet

en-route at Wilton Road car park opposite the Kettleby Cross @ 19.50pm. Depart @ 8pm

CLUB AOB

Membership Fees :

Single membership £10

Joint / Family Membership £15

Mini 55 T-Shirts now available for £12.50, sizes Small, Medium, Large and XL. Front chest print and large backprint. See Jon for details.

