

BLOG December 2013 : by Jerry Filor

The lure of the Christmas Curry brought out a happy band of Wanderers, having a quick drink in the Gate Hangs Well before moving on to The Wheel in Rearsby for the meal....

The Wheel was buzzing with banter and singing from fellow diners which created a good festive atmosphere ! Our group tucked into poppadoms, starters and a range of curries from the mildest Korma's to the spicier types while having a good chat about 2013 past and 2014 future prospects for our minis.

Jon is fast anticipating the work starting on his mini restoration in the New Year. He has been working on interior styling for the dashboard area and is considering the "works" dash style to tie in with his proposed Rally replica theme.

Matt's project is progressing well. Once the bodywork is completed (front end + small boot floor repairs) it will be prepared for spraying and mechanical fitments will follow. The gearbox is already completed (straight cut gear set, windage plate and central oil pick-up...) and is in "storage" waiting for the block to be plugged and re-drilled to accept the BMW K1100 head.

During the meal it was an opportune moment to talk about the future direction of the club and ideas were thrown into the hat for discussion....Initial decisions taken included spending some of the club funds on the side pieces for the new event shelter and also moving the club night to the first Wednesday of the month.

The decision to move the club night to early in the month was 2 fold.....Gary has "marking duties" at the end of each month and so his availability to come to the club night was much reduced, and also it was noted that our current meeting day (last Thursday of the month) is

generally AFTER most of the shows or club commitments. Hopefully it will be easier to arrange club activities for the month going forward !

Gary asked that we reintroduce the "run to the sun" or seaside or East coast chip run into the calendar for 2014. This could be in late spring or early summer (to blow the cobwebs off...) and would be good to start again, as previous runs have been very good.....it was most memorable eating our meal on the roof top terrace in Hunstanton all those years ago (when my Sean the Sheep mini was still going....)

I would like to think that we could link with another club for an activity of sorts, like the Derbyshire Classic Mini Owners Club Peaks Ponder, which Jon attended 2 years ago. Something like a run around the Peak district with its spectacular scenery would be good ! thinking caps on.....

There appears to be a last Friday of the month car gathering in the centre of Melton, in the market place, which I thought the club could attend in the summer. Being central to Melton there are a number of pubs and eateries nearby. Katie was in town on the 22nd December and said that 2 young lads were displaying their minis at the last one....certainly an opportunity to raise the profile of the club locally, with little or no expense !

Katie has also had a Facebook message from Mark in Cornwall, saying he was pleased that the club was still in existence !

Clearly the potential first meeting of 2014 has now gone as it would have been New Years Day, so I suspect it wouldn't have gone ahead anyway.....The date is now set for Wednesday the 22nd, as a regular meet at the GHW to

WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS

discuss Bingley on the 26th. Remember, advanced tickets (are well worth getting !) are £9 or its £10 on the day to queue in the cold and wet....no contest really !

Then to start the new Wednesday meetings in February, on the 5th at the Gate Hangs Well. Subs are due for most members now, so Jon would appreciate that you bring along an extra £10 to cover whats due ! (you know who you are....)

And finally, in the Mini's 55th Year and celebrating 50 years of Paddy Hopkirk's Monte Carlo Rally win in 1964 lets have a Minitastic Year !

SOCIAL BIT

Wednesday 22nd January : Club Night : Gate Hangs Well from 7.30pm

Sunday 26th January : Mini Fair @ Bingley Hall (Staffordshire) : Meeting time to be discussed on 22nd.

Wednesday 5th February : Club Night : Gate Hangs Well from 7.30pm

Saturday 1st to Monday 3rd May : Donington Historic Festival

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd August : International Mini Meet : Kent, a must attend for Mini 55 !

JERRY'S MOTORSPORT

MAYHEM

My 2014 motorsport career kicks off on the 25th January with an Autosolo event at Donington Park. More to report next month !