

## BLOG February 2010 : Written by Jerry Filor

**V**enue – The Midland

Let's start with the tales of Woe...then it will only get better !

Malc still has a problem gearbox with an annoying jumping out of second gear. I think this was on his mind when he first approached the group on our pitch at Gaydon last year. Gearbox problems invariably mean it's an "engine out" job...

Calum's mini is in several pieces at the moment, so he arrived in Pete's Clubby estate. The jigsaw is gradually being put back together with the addition of a subframe refurbishment to complete the job.

Neil's van is currently SORNED at the moment.....

James still hankers after a Honda VTEC conversion in his Clubbie.

Chris too has a gearbox problem, this being a split in the casing leading to a heavy oil leak. At least it is off the car at the moment....

Carl hasn't decided yet whether he wants to sell "The Rat". He was after a large Humber Snipe or Super Snipe as a daily runner (and family car), so not a huge difference in size then !?!?

**O**n a more encouraging note (see I told you it could only get better !), Clive obtained a Heritage panel, a new heel board, for his "St"Elf project. It didn't fit initially, so he had to modify the floor panel to encourage it to line up. Clive was reminded that having a pile of green bits was fine but there was a very reasonable WHOLE Wolsey Hornet on sale at

Bingley Hall for about £1700...it even looked like it had been driven to the event !

### The BIVA Test (basic Individual Vehicle Approval)

**A** little while ago i can recall Clive and Carl talking of flip fronts....."The Rat" has one, and Clive was looking to fit a clamshell design flip front to his then Mini "K" series project. Clive had mentioned the effect of having a flip front in relation to the SVA (Single Vehicle Approval) test for Kit cars which is especially stringent.

Just recently in Classic Car Weekly there have been two articles on this subject and it provoked a good discussion. Taken from the article :

"Every year thousands of classic car enthusiasts modify their vehicles to seek improved reliability, performance or comfort. But now, many of their activities could make their cars subject to a £450 safety examination under a 27 year old regulation supervised by the DVLA. The BIVA test takes between 6 and 8 hours to conduct and is held at only 21 test centres in the UK. Unlike the MOT test, vehicles can't be driven to the test ; they have to be trailered / transported there.

If work on your vehicle's monocoque chassis involves cutting into it, this could make it subject to the BIVA test. Even if a car with a modified monocoque passes the BIVA test it will be stripped of its original registration and issued with a "Q" plate, and pre- 1973 registered cars would lose their Historic Vehicle status, thereby cancelling their current Historic (and hence Free !) road tax status.

If a discrepancy shows up at the MOT of your car, you could be called in for an inspection, and if the DVLA don't like the standard of work done they can cancel your V5 registration document and order the car off the road.

## The BIVA rule

For the last 27 years a points system has been in place to ensure that a car is what it claims to be. Points are earned for having original body, engine, transmission and suspension components. Five points are awarded for an original body, but points are lost if the monocoque shell is modified in any way and the car must then undergo the BOVA assessment.

Links : [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) and [www.the\\_ace.org.uk](http://www.the_ace.org.uk)

Some likely BIVA triggers :

1. Fitting a 5 speed gearbox to a Mark 1 Ford Escort or Anglia
2. replacing an SU carburettor with a Weber on a mini (and hence fitting a weber bulkhead box).



3. Fitting a Rover K series engine to a Spridget
4. Any engine swap that requires bulkhead modification
5. Pick-up conversions

All this technical stiff has put Gary off flip fronting his daughters project mini.

He doesn't like the idea of being landed with a possible "Q" plate.

If we are having a Club Day during the summer with a treasure hunt (I'm sure we are Simon and Jeanette), we could raise some charity funds from it by an entry fee or extending it to family and friends etc.....?!? Neil has offered a suitable recipient for any monies raised – "The Cystinosis Foundation UK". This foundation conducts research into why persons inherit the symptoms of growth retardation, kidney failure and crystals in the corneas of the eye.

## SOCIAL BIT :

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March – "Save Donnington" car gathering and Autojumble.

Next Club Night : Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March at the Midland : 8pm onwards

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Crich Tramway Museum Mini Day, Derbyshire. Cavalcades and tram rides at a lovely venue.

