

BLOG February 2014 : by Jerry Filor

We welcomed back globetrotting Gary who has the fortunate position of having a jet setting daughter who last year was in the USA and now is in residence in a Ski resort in Europe, which has to be visited.....What a hardship that must be.....NOT !

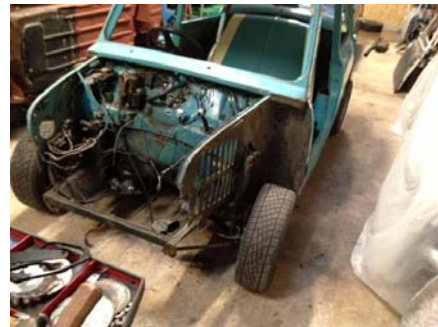
It was also nice to see James H back at a meeting, it helps to keep the average age of the group down. Just as an aside, one of the other groups I am involved with (on a voluntary basis) let me know that a quick tot up of the ages of their committee averaged out at 78 years of age ! I just make the point we are a long way off this !

Gary outlined the continuing problem we have with access to the club funds, due to changes of club officials, chairman and treasurers having left (some even moved away) without signing over the paperwork to the incumbents....something that Gary is now working to rectify. Gary has spoken with the bank and they are being quite helpful, for a bank !, and he hopes to have a face to face session very soon. Hopefully this could be resolved by the March meeting.....

When we have got access to the funds, plans will be afoot to purchase some sides for our new Club Event Shelter...



Jon's car has been officially passed to Paul for the restoration to start.....countdown to IMM 2014 ! A picture tells 1000 words so here you go :



The front wings and front panel have been removed to evaluate what lies beneath ! So far the passenger side flich panel has been replaced as well as the door jamb. Next up should be the driver's side. More next month....

We had a general natter about what we would like to do with our minis, where we might go, which shows we might attend, or trips to the seaside or closer to home....Jon had already populated the "Events" page of the website and with this additional discussion should help flesh it out some more with an exciting itinerary for the year ahead.

It was sad news to read that the Crich Tramway Museum will no longer be holding specific vehicle marquee days, such as the mini day. They say it is no longer cost effective, and they hope that Mini owners will come to a "Transport Extravaganza" being held in August, because lets be honest....everyone loves a mini !

After the meeting we gathered around Carls mini, The Rat, to hear some "Banging Tunes" now that he has finished installing MORE speakers ! Requests were made and within seconds, "Days Like These" by Matt Monroe replaced Metallica (or some other precious, sorry...Heavy Metal band), I suspect via Spotify (I didn't know what that is, but I'm told this is how it is likely to work...streaming something or other..... Whatever it was, it was most impressive !

JERRY'S MOTORSPORT MAYHEM

I have now competed in the second of the three meetings of Autosolo on tarmac, at Donington Park. It was a lot busier this time as it was also a test day on the main circuit. The Autosolo was still on the same amount of space, although this time the organisers had made the courses longer and more complicated, or should that be challenging !

At the first meeting there had been 3 minis competing, including me, but today there was only me....so all to play for ! The number of Mazda MX5's competing had increased significantly, as had the total number of competitors. The event took 2 hours longer this time as a result !

I won't lie.....I had a great time but I was a bit rubbish this time out ! the extra complications built in, and the extended length of the courses only served to confuse me, which led to a few too many mistakes. It hasn't, however, put me off at all and is really great fun ! I'm already looking forward to the last instalment and then to the summer, grass based, Autosolo series.....

SOCIAL BIT

The club calendar is taking shape on the Website with a list of events that we are hoping to attend during 2014.

Wednesday March 5th : Club Night : Gate Hangs Well : From 7.30pm

Wednesday April 2nd : Club Night : Cottesmore 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

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).

The featured Marque this year is Maserati and will feature 2 special races to cater for them.

CLUB AOB

Jon is in the process of arranging for new "Mini 55" artwork for a series of new T Shirts to be unveiled at the next meet.....

Membership Fees :

Single membership £10

Joint / Family Membership £15