

BLOG January 2014 : by Jerry Filor

Fortunately the fields around the pub had extra water in them, but it had not extended into the car park. This was a special meeting to sort out the arrangements for Bingley Hall Mini Show (on the 26th January). As only Matt, Jon and Paul were planning to go they sorted it amongst themselves...Carl's excuse of having a wedding to attend was probably the best excuse ! I would be competing in my first motorsport event of the year the day before, so wouldn't be able to make it...more of that later !

We welcomed Chris Read and his Dad who had just purchased a Red 1985 Mini Mayfair and came to see what the club had to offer ! they found us through the internet and are local to Wigston. The Mayfair is their second mini, the first had a wonderful red and cream leather interior but the bodywork was rotting away, so it was sold on and trailed away....

We talked about the problems of high priced insurance premiums for new and young drivers. Chris said that he had been offered an old Toyota from a relative, but because it was over the engine size of a regular moped he had received a quote of £7000 to insure it ! hence the purchase of a 1000cc mini !

Carl is turning his car into a portable sound system, with the introduction of an amp, sub woofers and midrange installation. This, he hopes, will drown out the noise from the rear suspensionless Kermit green mini....or was that Linden Green ! During the night, Carl was keen to show us where his customising genes came from and with the help of his "Phablet" (large phone to you and me !) he showed us some pictures of the cars his father had built....ranging from scratchbuilt pre-second

world war cars to 70's hot rods, with flared fenders and flame paintjobs....a good mix !

Jon is getting ever closer to the start of the restoration of his Mini and is making the final decisions before handing it over to Paul. He was especially looking forward to Bingley to pick up some of those hard to find period and



essential bits....Wallet at the ready...

Since the club night (and Bingley) Jon has started the stripping process and the car now resembles a stripped out track day car with only the drivers seat, steering wheel, pedals and switches in situ ! the rest of the interior trim has been



removed, not for lightening the car, but for storage ! Paul awaits the car later and the dipping and stripping process

can begin ! the target for completion is IMM 2014....only 7 months to go !

Paul was giving us a flavour of what it is like to be a restoration specialist and the types of people he meets through the scene....he said that mini owners (present company accepted) can be quite secretive really ! he goes to the classic car meet at the Gliding Centre at Husbands Bosworth regularly and met a mini owner there recently with a very nice example....it turns out that he only lived a

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MINI WANDERERS

couple of streets away from Paul and he had never seen the mini out locally ! there must be some gems hidden away all over the county !

JERRY'S MOTORSPORT MAYHEM

I am now a third of the way through a winter Autosolo series being held by Loughborough Car Club at Donington Park. This is my first attempt at Autosolo on tarmac, which was held on the whole of Paddock 2 at Donington, near the Pit Stop Café.....The learning curve of Tarmac was certainly steep, compared to the grass Autosolo of summer 2013, but I gave it my all ! results next month and I will do a full round up of the success, failure and fun factor after the final competition in March...

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

February 21st to 23rd : Race Retro : Stoneleigh. (www.raceretro.com)

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 burnt out 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).

This is an excellent festival that has the best of pre '65 racing across a number of disciplines..... it also included a number of parade laps around the hallowed circuit. This year the even it adding an extra day on the Friday (for qualifying) so a full 2 day race program is possible.

I will also be organising the Mini Cooper Register attendance of DHF this year and hope to have some good display cars with racing or rallying pedigree !

CLUB AOB

At the next meeting, for those still that haven't paid.... club subs are due.....as a reminder.

Single membership £10

Joint / Family Membership £15