

BLOG 25th June 2009 : Written by Jerry Filor

The plan was, there would be a general gathering at the Midland in Syston then to save our Melton Minis too much stress we would join up at Melton in the Wilton road car park and then go onto the county of Rutland (the smallest in the UK) to sample it's beer and the views around the Rutland Water Reservoir.

For Neil it was a bit traumatic, as he made it to Syston but at Queninborough the fuel pump failed to work so he was stuck, thus delaying the concerned fellow club members that were travelling with him... It is interesting that Jonspeed had fitted a VW Polo fuel pump to his van, so we can't get on the usual "bashing Rover Parts" bandwagon, but this opens another club discussion on the acceptance or not of Rover, VW-Audi, Fiat Group hybrids... Neil has to look for a replacement Polo, Punto or Skoda fuel pump now and it has to be mounted external to the fuel tank as the Van tank is shallower than a standard saloon version (and mounded under the rear subframe...).

It was nice to see Henry and his partner in another very well sorted mini, looking every bit a racer for the road with internal roll cage and obvious fire extinguisher.



We also now have a very original Mini 998 HL in Metallic Green belonging to Mark. This was one of those genuine "old lady owner" and is being kept absolutely standard for originality.

Mark said that when he peeled off the fluffy seat covers the seats were immaculate – like new !

While we waited in Melton I tried Callum's racing seats out, they were very comfortable but very low....talking of Butts....I think that if I had eaten anything I would have been stuck more permanently !



The decision was taken to go as the crow flies to Oakham so our little convoy set off for the Grain Store Pub, while a small group of members trekked overland and met us there. We had quite an impact on the local populace as one young man rushed over to ask us id we are a club from another planet, then said he had always wanted a mini, so he was taken a bit more seriously. In a later quieter moment Callum asked if everyone in Oakham was as Posh, the answer was of course YES !

Jon was determined to get his run round Rutland water so I became photographer and co-pilot for the evening as he led off in my car !

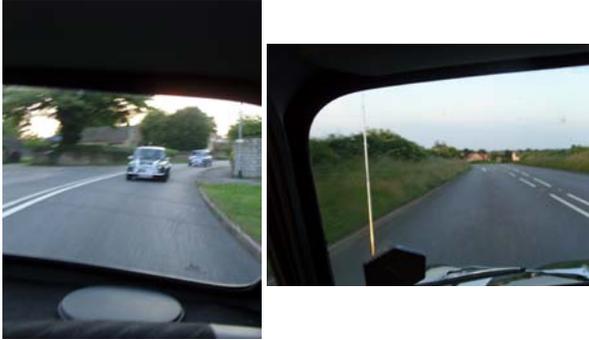
Rutland is very "proper" scooter friendly as witnessed at a recent Italian market in Uppingham when 30 to 40 scooters lined the streets, but we didn't see any this time. I am hoping that these Blog notes will be peppered with action shots from Door mirrors and roundabout and hedge shots where I missed pictures of Rutland



WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS

Water through farm gates and hedges because we were going too fast and are so low you couldn't see over the hedges....



At the Grain Store for the second time and there was further discussion about the high cost of Young person's insurance, often being much more expensive than the value of the car itself ! This situation was taken up by the Top Gear team recently where they had a fixed budget to purchase a suitable car and get insurance cover. The obvious choices for a cheap to run sub 1000cc car (mini, fiat 500, Panda etc...) were all ignored for a Hyundai S. Coupe (Hamster), Golf Match Mark 2 (Captain Slow) and a Huge Volvo estate (Clarkson).



Club members Peter and Callum went on the recent Clubman Estate Register annual "Thong Run" around the leafy lanes of Warwickshire. Peter was a bit upset because he looked at the official pictures in Miniworld magazine and sad the photographer was standing very close to his Clubman Estate when taking the shot but his vehicle isn't shown.....better luck next year.

And now to.....the Social Bit

July 14th – Classic Cars and Bikes at Ashby Folville

July 16th – Classic Cars at the Cattle Market at Melton Mowbray (£1 entry – but hard standing....)

Next Club Meeting 30th July : Swithland run to the Griffin Inn. Meet at the Midland 7.20pm for 7.45pm departure....

August 7th, 8th and 9th – The Big One ! IMM 2009.....



Rutland Water runners.....



Peter, Callum, Jeanette and Simon, Gary, Me and Jon, Henry. Then Clive, Mark, Chris and Matt on route at Oakham !