

BLOG June 2011 : Written by Jon (guest blogger)

A small but perfectly formed bunch of wanderers turned out for the Mystery run to ?!?!? Mark in his freshly re-built HL, Chris in his freshly fettled Matchbox special with Neil co-driving, me in BRU and a friend of Marks brother, (sorry didn't catch your name) in his Mini Checkmate ! There was also a support crew of Clive in his Ka.....

I was given the task of pathfinder and quickly set a pace to Somerby.....via Queniborough, Twyford, John O'gaunt and Burrough on the Hill. The prize at the end of the trail was the Stilton Cheese pub !

Mark filled us in on Pete's clubbie and shared some pictures of the tinworm that had had a veritable fest on various parts of it ! with it's rear subframe disconnected the two holes that used to fix it to the car were very large ! Pete is undecided on what to do at present, with Mark pricing up the needed panels, welding and other sundries....here's hoping that it gets what it deserves...

Chris filled us in on his tales of woe, of not making the IMM in Switzerland. A few days before the off it was thought that the head gasket had expired.....however on closer inspection it was still in one piece and it actually turned out to be an issue with the newly upgraded electronic distributionthis was causing major over fuelling and an undriveable car, certainly one that wasn't capable of getting to Switzerland. Chris managed to recycle his ticket to a friend of his brothers who took up the road trip in a Cooper Sport 500 with an unknown (at least at the start of the journey) companion ! this journey too wasn't without incident when apparently the

Cooper's alternator gave up the ghost 20 miles out of Folkstone....at least it was the UK side !

Neil is looking to sell his van, which has been tucked up in the garage since 2010.....and has turned into quite the storage cupboard ! he needs to free up some space, although would also entertain another cooper.....Clive expressed an interest as did Mark.

Clive has now delivered his MPi to "The Mini Hospital" in Northampton, who have been given the task of welding in new cills, rear wheel arch, a panels, scuttle and a few other small(er) jobs.....this has freed Clive up to start thinking about colours and finishing touches ! he's currently undecided over a flip or fixed front.....but has decided on W&P Arches.

It was Gaydon Mini Festival on Sunday 3rd July (after our club night) and we had 6 car passes and 12 support passes to dish out.....unfortunately there weren't many takers, well not on the night anyway !

On Sunday the group which consisted of Jerry, Jaffa (+1) and myself (and Ben) in Mini's, Chris with his daughters and mother in law and Carl and his son as support crew in "non-mini" vehicles...

The run across to Gaydon was a mix of Motorway and b road specials....which managed to split the pack up with the 3 mini's turning up in convoy and support vehicles trailing behind.

The weather was excellent, which brought out a good mix of cars and displays and also a Sci-fi character exhibition (including Star Wars props and various superheroes...batman, spiderman, iron man).

We were positioned discretely on the concrete apron to the left hand side of the exhibition hall.



Mini celebrity Paddy Hopkirk gave a good natured interview, singing the praises of the new BMW Mini Rally car (of which Danny Sordo's was on display) and how it brought back a lot of memories for him when he rallied 33EJB. Also on display at the Minisport trade stand were the new Paddy Hopkirk range of products....all very nice they were too ! Red Billet alloy bits a plenty....



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Aston Martin for an impromptu photo shoot veering off the roundabout and onto the grass

On the way home from Gaydon, the mini crew took the liberty of parking outside

Random Gaydon Shots :

Also on my flickr page :

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/38287160@N06/sets/72157626983863359/>



SOCIAL BIT :

28th July : Rutland water : 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 @ 7.50pm

31st July : Crich Mini Day : meeting time / convoy details to be discussed at next meet.