

BLOG May 2012 : by Jerry Filor

We set off in convoy to what was a very quiet Foxton Locks with 5 minis and when we got there picked up another 2 ! For a change we weren't punted off into the "other room" this time and until we arrived there seemed to be more staff than punters !



Our small but perfectly formed convoy snaked its way from the Gate Hangs Well, through Queninborough, Barkby, Barkby Thorpe, skirting Beeby and Scraftoft before a quick blast along the A47 before turning down towards Billesdon and hooking up to the B 6047 and onwards to Foxton !

Once the corner of the pub had been taken over with the wandering crew the conversation turned to James G's clubman project and its impending Turbo / supercharged A-series. Clive was pointing out the total cost of his K-series engine / gearbox / subframe combo will just about top £500....and that gets him 110 Bhp as standard and a 5 speed box to boot ! The gearbox on James' alone was priced at £2500 + ! (which is also £1850 more than I paid for my total mini – Jon !). Progress is now coming along with James having booked the car in for the MOT and engine set up mid-June.

James also had a clubman rolling shell, on a 78 / 79' plate that is pending an engine re-fit for a daily driver or selling on to offset the cost of the turbo project.....the shell had been partially de-seamed at some point in its life, which sparked a brief discussion on the art of de-seaming and the need to strengthen the missing seam area ! it isn't just a case of grinding the seam off and adding a bit of filler you know !

Carl was showing some pictures of James H's Sprite, now that it has been de-bumpered at the rear, the re-build is taking shape now and here's hoping we see it in the flesh before the end of the show season ! The Ratw as looking in good shape with a new set of boots....13 x 6 Superlights, replacing the previous 5 spoke design.....Custom centre caps, with the Rat motif certainly topped them off nicely ! Also installed was 6 point roll cage (courtesy of James H).....



Talking on the show season.....I have booked at least a dozen car spaces for Stanford Hall in September, so please get those project minis finished and on the road...no pressure, but you've only got 3 months ! I'll be arranging the Mini Cooper Register stand, and hope to have another fine selection of ex-works and interesting coopers.

WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS

Gary had been hoping to spend some time on his spare mini (Pukka) but ended up giving his Sportpack cooper Pinkie some TLC instead.



A minor patch for the drivers side footwell and a replacement doorstep were neatly installed prior to its fresh MOT. The MOT tester (one of Gary's trusted friends) said that to get it to pass the emissions test he pulled the choke cable out...which I would love to see on an MPi.

SOCIAL BIT

23rd – 24th June : Mini Cooper Register : Cotswold Caper @ Prescott Hillclimb track near Cheltenham.

28th June : Club Night : Mystery Club run : The Gate Hangs Well 7.20pm for depart @ 7.30pm. A magical mystery tour of the county.....

1st July : Gaydon Mini Festival : Advanced Entry fee is £8 per car for mini drivers (so cram in as many people as you can).

29th July : Crich Mini Day, a lovely setting and one that a number of members have attended over the last few years. Applications for free entry for car, driver and up to 1 passenger to Jerry (registration of car and named driver to jfilor@talktalk.net). This year

BMW minis will NOT be admitted to the "show area" as a change to the event format, so it will be classics only ! www.tramway.co.uk.

12th August : Mini In The Park : Santa Pod, more RWYB drag strip action from the Northamptonshire ¼ mile.....

4th September : Minifest 2012 : Uttoxeter Race Course

9th September : Stanford Hall