

## BLOG May 2014 : by Jerry Filor

Chris and his Matchbox Mini (just back on the road) followed me out of Wilton Road car park for a run out on to the leafy Leicestershire lanes with a final destination of The Royal Oak public house at Great Dalby. Taking the Saxby Road, turning to Wymondham, through Edmondthorpe, Ashwell, Whissendine and Little Dalby, to our final destination the Royal Oak we had a spirited drive through some traditional country lanes....that were made for the handling of the mini !

The Royal Oak is now under new management and has recently been refurbished to a high standard, so made for a nice setting for this evenings meeting.

Banter continued as use was made of the pool table in the background. Matt and his friend, Gary and Paul met us at the pub. Gary unfortunately still not in his mini yet ! Gary said that due to his family obligations he had not had much time to devote to his cars, but was hoping to get Pinkie back on the road for next month....and in preparation for IMM and the late show season !

Chris was concerned that his car continually seemed to want to spin. We had seen evidence of this as he had completed a neat 360 at Asfordby the last time we had seen the car, before its winter (and gearbox leak repair) lay-up. Matt had a cursory look at the rear of the car and was of the opinion that the tracking and cambers at the rear needed looking at.

Gary spoke to us about a work initiative to try and pass on car repair and restoration skills to a younger generation via apprenticeships. The "collective" of gentlemen interested in sponsoring such a scheme were very much into historic cars of a certain ilk ! E-types, Ferraris, Maserati's and the like....

Gary handed over the latest bank mandate for Jon and myself to complete so that Club funds can be accessed by current officials of the

Club. Once this is sorted I think we might be looking at some sides for the new Club event shelter, which will be a welcome addition for those of us planning to go to IMM and more locally, Stanford Hall.

Jon's mini is now well and truly in the primer stage and is waiting for final prep before the new Surf Blue and OEW paint is applied....he has his new wheels mated to their sticky Yokohama tires and is readying himself for a mad rush of parts cleaning / refurbishing prior to the re-build.

Matt's clubman estate project is also taking shape nicely now, with all but the doors and bonnet painted. This should be complete in the next few weeks and then the engine assembly can start at pace ! The build of the his Specialist Components BMW conversion is set to be a club first.....so no pressure !

Paul is making some changes to his Mk2 998 cooper with the planned addition of a Supercharger...which is certainly not a common sight on a 998....or a Mk 2 ! He's currently in conversations with Stuart @ VMAX Scart and also a local (Northamptonshire) crew of engineering nutters who run supercharged ¼ Mile cars.....such as MGB's and Land Rover discoveries ! Paul is hoping to have the installation complete in time for IMM.....and from there maybe the potential to develop his own kit !

Matt, Paul and Jon went to Himley on Sunday and picked up some of the smaller bits to help completion of both projects...Most of the main traders were in attendance and there was a reasonable selection of autojumble. The weather was mixed, although it didn't actually rain while they were there. The club scene at Himley was good with a large selection displaying their cars.

There were some interesting cars, including Sir Alex Moulton's private Cooper S (GMR 350D)



JA Pearce shod 1960



Hot Rod Elf



BMW 16v 1380cc Pick-up

## JERRY'S MOTORSPORT MAYHEM

The Autosolo season is nearly upon me, it all starts again in May on the grass at Paddy's Lane.....running right through until the end of

the year. At the moment I need to replace my front subframe mounts (diagnosed by Matt) before participating. This will have to wait for the moment and will be completed when funds allow ! In the mean time I'll be marshalling some of the Autosolo events to keep my eye in.

## SOCIAL BIT

Next Events :

**Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup>** : Club Night : 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 @ 19.50pm. Depart @ 8pm

**Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>** : National Mini Cooper Register National day @ Beaulieu

## CLUB AOB

Membership Fees :

Single membership £10

Joint / Family Membership £15

Mini 55 T-Shirts now available for £12.50, sizes Small, Medium, Large and XL. Front chest print and large backprint. See Jon for details.

