

BLOG 29th October 2009 : Written by Jerry Filor

September 26th – Castle Combe Mini World Action Day

I pre-bought my tickets and set off early on the Saturday morning for Castle Combe for the Miniworld Magazine sponsored Action day. I went the pretty way down the Fosse way, unfortunately, the tree leaves hadn't started to turn but the real intention was to have breakfast at the world famous "Greasy Joe's Cafe" in Cirencester. It took me about 3 hours in all but was a nice stress free drive down through the Cotswolds then turn right at Chippenham.

The circuit was a typical clubby circuit, from a good vantage point on a grassy bank about half of the track could be seen with a long straight, an interesting right hand high speed corner through the start and finish area then away to the far side of the circuit. The far side (or should that be "the dark side" seemed to be where the most accidents took place !

The serious track day warriors had booked their period of track time, which was run very effectively by the Castle Combe circuit staff.



It seem to be luck of the draw if you got in with like minded track attendees or

you had people sorting bona fide race cars or just people out enjoying very fast minis, whether they were saloons, vans, pickups, Marcos and Midas kit cars for good measure.

There was a high attrition rate with 5 or 6 cars per session not making it home entirely in one piece be it with bodywork or engine damage.

Also, during these sessions they had Super Mighty Minis for hire with a driver (or should that be chauffeur) for the modest fee of a contribution to charity ! The chance to have 3 or 4 laps at speed was too good to miss....it was great fun even as a passenger and the racing minis were let out before the ordinary track cars and their own sprint race between them. One of the minis was the car raced by one of the contributors at Mini Magazine.

Later there was a parade lap session but the lead car kept it very tight and didn't allow any real speed down the straights, but enjoyable it was all the same !

There were quite a few clubs represented, mainly from the South West and also the club that supplied the FAB union jack minis at Goodwood. There was also a good mix of trade stands and autojumble. I stayed overnight on Saturday and didn't rush back on the Sunday, just enjoying driving a mini through beautiful countryside.

Langer Karting

Gary invited all comers to take him on at Langer indoor kart centre yet again...and yet again he was triumphant. Even so, a good time was had by all !



Gary, Chris, Clive, Mark, both James', Glyn, Ryan, Peter, Calum, Malcolm and a friend of Clive's made up

the 12 car grid. Gary took the honours with Mark runner up (or first loser) in Second and Clive (second loser) in Third.

Fortunately, Gary is good at Karting but he is not unbeatable, as has been proved over the last couple of years....

Club Meeting – 29th October @ The Midland, Syston

Apologies from Gary.

Chris, who enjoys karting, said he wouldn't mind doing a bit more karting and I know Gary has mentioned about doing a long track karting session at an outdoor circuit like Stretton 2000 at Stoughton, So perhaps a date for the summer next year...

An update on James' V-tec clubman project – he has car and engine but a sticky problem during these economically challenging times is the £1800 custom subframe and the further expense of 6 pot disc brake set-up on all 4 wheels...

Out of earshot of Calum, Pete told me that recently Calum probably set a club record of breaking down and being repatriated twice in one day ! He broke down in his own mini and was towed home, then borrowed his dad's clubbie estate and broke down in that as well and was once again towed home ! You don't get "mini adventure" like that in a BMW mini (unless of course you are really unlucky...)

Nice entrance from Jeanette !!!

Clive has a new project – a box of bits which when reassembled he hopes will be a 1964, Mark II, Riley Elf in Almond Green ! He parted with a paltry £350 for it, complete with collapsed hydroelastic suspension set-up. Clive will be spicing it up with the K series engine he has (that was going to grace his 850 mini), and will replace the suspension to a dry set up with coil over shocks and a rear beam axle. The

donor for the K series will now revert to a standard 850cc set-up. Clive also said that he plans to keep the Elf all steel for the front end as the Transport ministry are taking a tougher line on the SVA assessment on flip front cars.

A general discussion on the costs of visiting and using the classic Nurburgring long circuit (the nordschleifer) AKA "The Ring" was in full



swing. The circuit is 13 miles and has over 70 corners to negotiate. The costs for

breaking things, like the Armco barriers and penalties associated with track closures is incredible and so insurance is essential....

I think it said in Mini Magazine that there will be no more "Silver ring rallies" from Silverstone to Nurburgring, after 4 years of trips. Clive mentioned that he had been to the Ring and had in fact spun on the circuit, luckily not hitting anything ! How envious can you get, 4 parade laps around Castle Combe don't quite measure up).

The person who brought Katie's Mini Rose has unfortunately lost his job and can't now afford to do up the rusting hulk. Can someone please buy it before a certain daughter of mine has a mad idea like buying it back as an investment. We all know where it would end up, and it won't be at her house..... Before it was sold and still on my garden a lady once asked me if I kept the two minis as status symbols : this was when the Rose looked really scabby !

John has been warning me that he has been in

training playing  with his

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MINI WANDERERS

son Ben, trying to beat him on the family race track. As defending champion, he is hoping for a good turn-out at our next club meeting at The Station Inn Public House in Loughborough to beat everyone again. The next meet is on Thursday 26th, meeting at the Midland at 7.15am prompt. The cost is £5 for racing and the pub is next door for refreshments !

And now to the social bit....

November 26th – The 2nd Annual Wreake Mini Wanderers Slot car Cup (currently held by Jon). Meeting at the Station Inn, Loughborough. Cost is £5 per person for a good competitive night out. Meeting at the Midland is 7.15pm for prompt departure at 7.25pm.

December 20th (Sunday) – Mini Club show @ Stoneleigh Agricultural college. The show is open from 10am – 3pm and could be a good time to get those last minute Christmas bargains or presents...

AOB :



If you were planning to take advantage of the 10% discount at Mini Sport, the offer doesn't start until after the 14th November.

Also, if you happen to know anyone that happens to have a Volvo 440 track day car, then I know someone that has a set of four 15" wheels and track day tyres.....