



# CLUB

Newsletter - August 1997

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MINI 850 MINI 1000 WOLSLEY HORNET RILEY ELF MINI SPECIAL MINI COOPER MINI COOPER S MINI VAN MINI PICKUP MINI CLUBMAN MINI 1275GT MINI MOKE MINI ERA TURBO

## **! CONGRATULATIONS !**

To Chris and Rebecca Hill on the birth of their son, Parry Thomas, on Thursday, 3rd July, 1997 at 8:30pm. Parry weighed in at 7 lb 12 oz, and mother and baby are doing well.

## **IMPORTANT: NEW VENUE**

On Wednesday, 6th August ,1997 we are organising a Mini run to find a new pub, and we need suggestions.

The reason for this move is that now its summer and we have some new faces in the club (some much younger than others) we need a pub which can cater for families/ It would be nice to be able to chat, and not have to shout, to the person next to you for a change!!!!

The pub must have:

1. Easy access from Southend through to the Hornchurch area, i.e. somewhere in between.
2. Facilities for children, i.e. a family room.
3. A well lit car park
4. Garden for outside meets
5. A willing publican!

Please can we have your suggestions ASAP and we can organise a few to go to. Please arrive early (7:30pm), as we will be leaving at 7:45pm, and pass on the info to anyone you know who isn't here tonight! We need everyone to come. Please see Jonathan, Liz or Chris with ideas

## **BASILDON RETRO '97**

At last a superb event in ESSEX. It turned out to be lovely sunny day, perfect for showing off gleaming sports cars to perfection and they were just that..... "perfection".

Wes and myself were to be stewards, so after being dropped off at the Basildon tractor plant courtesy of Chris (Hill) we were crammed in a mini-bus, given fluorescent jackets and a Mobil cap and were off to a short briefing. "Keep back those crowds" the policeman warned, though due to lack of advertising there weren't too many people as maybe had been expected!

After this we had a lovely hour and a half to drool over the cars. There was a good mixture of classic and modern supercars, though of course the 1967 Monte Carlo winning Mini Cooper outshone all the others. There was also a spotless electric blue 1275GT, though whether it was part of the show was another matter, as it was right on the end next to a Maclaren M8.

At 1pm the roads around Basildon all ground to a halt, and Wes and I took our places on the side of the road to "keep back those crowds". At 2pm the fun really started with Stirling Moss leading off in a Maserati 250F. Then the time trials started. Group after group whisked by. Speed restrictions were lifted for the races.

The Jaguars were stunning. The Cooper Climax overtook everyone (surprise, surprise!) and the Lister took everyone by *Storm*.

A really good day, and a definite must for next year, hopefully with a chance for a club stand. Until then, I can just dream of driving a driving that the Frog Eye.....

## The Quest for a Mini

In December 1995, Jacky and I bought OXE 380L, an early 1275GT, coloured Ford Sea Green. This had no wheels, no seats or trim, no ignition switch, no gearlever and no engine, but did have Hi-Lo's all round, adjustable Spax, front negative camber bottom suspension arms, and adjustable rear camber brackets!

On supplying a set of wheels, we pushed it home, and left it, intending to break it for spares for the black GT. Things turned out a little differently....

It transpired that there was still 8 months MoT left on the car - Jacky could have her own Mini!

I then got my job in Basildon, so we left OXE 380L with my parents in Yorkshire (lucky them!). We bought another Mini in Stanford-Le-Hope for spares (mad fools), and stripped this of it's engine, interior, steering lock, and one or two other bits. We hired an estate car, and went on "Holiday" to my parents in May 1996. 1275GT driveshafts, a new exhaust and new front shock absorbers were needed, and the drivers door hinge post required a welded repair (thanks to my dad and a friend!). We were mobile! I collected OXE 380L at the end of May, and drove it straight down the A1, home. Boy does it handle!

Of course, two weeks later, it promptly let go a rear subframe mounting, so off with the subframe, and with some frantic welding in father-in-law's garage, and help from Chris (Hill) and a friend, OXE 380L was once again rendered driveable.

OXE 380L passed it's MoT in August 1996, to the surprise of all concerned (if you know the car, you'll see why!).

Jacky and I bought a flat, and we really needed a safer car, with less ventilation, so the quest to replace OXE was started in May 1997. Chris Hill (thanks Chris) and I have looked at loads of Mini's here, and my dad has looked at a couple in Yorkshire, most of them overpriced, unloved, and poor specimens. One chap wanted £1500 for an S-reg clubman, which was advertised as 90% restored, with disc brakes and an MG Metro engine. Hah! It had a poor respray 3 years previously, was rotten through and through, and worth nearer £300! I daren't even tell him (well, he was bigger than me!)

## EVENTS

| DATE        | Event  |
|-------------|--|
| 1 - 3 Aug   | Southern Mini Days, Kent *<br>Southern MOC.<br>Tel.: Sue Cuff (01622) 884418<br>after 6pm. Closing Date, 20/7/97 |
| 17 Aug      | The Great Western Mini Day,<br>Bristol. Northaven Mini Drivers<br>(0117) 969 5465                                |
| 23 - 25 Aug | BMC Mini Mayhem, Apsley<br>Guise, Bedford MC (01234)<br>240047   |
| 25 Aug      | Cooper Car Show and Test Day,<br>Curborough. Cooper Register<br>(01703) 560073                                   |
| 14 Sept     | Stanford Hall<br>National MOC (01543) 257956   |

## SALES

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1100 Cylinder head - needs decoke   | £10      |
| 1000/1100 gearbox, 3.44 final drive | £35      |
| MG Metro starter motor (new)        | £15      |
| 1 x Mk3 rear light cluster          | £10      |
| Clubman indicator lenses (1 pair)   | £7       |
| 2 x HS4 1½" carbs.                  | each £10 |
| Standard exhaust manifold (x2)      | each £5  |
| Lucas coil (new)                    | £8       |
| Peco big bore exhaust, rear box     | £20      |
| Standard flywheel                   | £15      |

Plus loads of other bits, inc. Ducellier coils, dizzy caps, steady bars, bottom arms, water pump (one new), 1100 special sill strip (x3); Clubman rain shields, dipsticks, plastic fan, odd headlamps etc., etc. - silly money.

Tel.: John Collins (01268) 776990

Mk1 petrol tank, 5½ gal. - bolt-in sender £5  
Tel.: Jonathan (01375) 676798

## WANTED

Two 5 x 12" silver Minilights (as on my 25) with 145 tyres; MG Metro door bins with speaker holes, in black plastic; K&N filter element for std airbox; good quality stereo, W.H.Y.?

Tel.: John Collins (01268) 776990

All early 1275GT (pre-'74) bits.

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