



RUGBY CLASSIC MOC NEWSLETTER

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SHOW REPORTS

Our second show of the season attracted a small group of members, and most of these were in need of spare parts. I was pleased to note that we all managed to get to the Mill on time. We did manage three Minis and two insignificant others!!



After a short breakfast stop in Railway terrace, John led the convoy on an enjoyable run to the NAC, which took us around the current road works on the A45. Once at the show ground, the Minis were directed off towards the "Mini Only" parking and the normal cars were sent to a separate area.

All members managed to regroup just past the ticket gates, and the frantic shopping began. Although the show was very similar to the Stafford Mini-fair in January, it was a lot smaller and attracted around half as many people. In many ways attendance figures are a good way to rate the success of any show, but personally I found the lack of huge crowds made this a pleasant show to visit.

With the show season advancing fast, the club will soon be back on the club stands again. That's when the "real" shows start!

MINI OF THE MONTH



Chris Franklin's Clubman Estate was finally awarded the title of Mini of the Month in March. Unfortunately this was just after he finally decided to sell the car so he can move on to other projects. This car had been a regular on the club stands throughout 2004 and will be sadly missed. The Mini of the Month voting is getting a bit thin on the ground again! Come on; get your votes in.

NEW MEMBERS

We have another new member this month. The red Mayfair in the show reports picture belongs to Sam Lowe, who has been following the club on the Internet. With the membership renewals happening over the last few weeks we have lost around ten members. Just for the record, I will release the new membership figures next month.

MID MONTH MINI RUN

The March MMMR was a big success and attracted quite a large group of members. The pub was called The Dusty Fox. With the clocks changing at the end of March, I think it would now be a good time to move the run back to 7.30pm. A decision will be made at the April 4th meeting. We also need some good pubs nominating as destinations preferably with an interesting route.


1st ANNIVERSARY GRAND PRIX

A date has been set for the go-cart grand prix, Sunday 24th April at 1.00pm. The price will be around £20 per driver and Sarah has asked for a £10 deposit from all interested members. This seems more than fair to me, as our members have been known not to show up for things in the past. Although we have a personal contact with the track owners we still have to make a formal booking!! The good news is that we may have some real competition on the day. Two other local mini clubs have been asked to come along and join in. As soon as I get a definite price and address for the track I will post it on the web site.

RCMOC CURSE ?

I'm beginning to think that there may be some truth in the rumours of a curse on the club. In the last twelve months we have had four separate crashes, one lost wheel and two lost wheel arches. Take care, you have been warned!





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The Mini was at one stage going to be called the Austin Newmarket !



IF YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO:

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WIN WIN WIN

I have also added a new feature to the notice board. You will now have the chance to win club merchandise and other small items, by answering a Mini related question. This month, Webmaster John managed to win one of the brand new RCMOC mugs. Future prizes include club fridge magnets and key rings. There are two more mugs to give away as well. The reason for this addition is to get club members viewing the site on a regular basis. Some very sad members are even logging on a couple of times a day!! (Yes, ok that's me). The questions will appear at random times and will not always be easy, so a bit of web searching may be needed (that's how John managed to win). The next chance to win will be on soon.

A WORD OF WARNING

By the time you get to read this, I should finally have my Mini back on the road. It's been a long six months since I decided to do some minor repairs, and as they say, one thing really did lead to another. From the repairs that I had to carry out, I can now issue a word of warning. Don't think that just because you have an MOT certificate that covers a twelve-month period, your car will remain safe to drive for that amount of time. To be fair, I bought the car for a bargain and chose it because the shell was in good condition. I didn't really pay much attention to the mechanical side. Buy the end of the last MOT the car really was too dangerous to drive!

Now before you all panic, let me explain. The three main areas on your Mini that keep you safe are brakes, wheel bearings and ball joints. By the time your Mini reaches its tenth birthday, these components will be in need of a major overhaul, and you can expect to have to replace the rear sub-frame as well.

Your brakes are the first things to suffer. As your brake pads wear out, the pistons that push them against the disc move further out of the brake calliper and are then exposed to the muck and wet of the road. They will rust, and when you fit new pads, they get pushed back into the calliper. The worst that can happen is they will cease up, like on my car; so if you change your pads, check the pistons.

Next are the wheel bearings, these will wear out and can get very hot if not in good condition, mine had actually gone copper coloured due to over heating. Sports pack Minis are known to eat wheel bearings and a failed bearing can be disastrous!

Last but not least, ball joints. Does your Mini shudder when you brake? If so it's probably your ball joints. These allow your front wheels to turn and are all that hold them onto the car. They are fitted with "shims" and are designed to wear out. They should be greased every six months. When was the last time you did yours?

All these things are MOT fail points, but they can go wrong at any time.

Please be safe and get them checked!

The 35th anniversary Mini was available in which three colours?

MINI QUIZ?

Last months answer:
The four london themed limited edition Minis were, Mini Ritz, Mini Chelsea, Mini Piccadilly and Mini Park Lane.

NEXT SHOWS

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL– MONDAY 2ND MAY

MINI WORLD RIVIERA RUN

London to Cornwall.

A whole weekend of Mini fun and games!

SUNDAY 8TH MAY

BRITISH MINI DAY- HIMLEY HALL, DUDLEY

Our first club stand of the year.

We will have around ten places on the stand so book yourself a place NOW.

SUNDAY 15TH MAY

LONDON TO BRIGHTON MINI RUN

Yes, it's traffic jam time again. We do have some members who want to go down to Brighton, and at least one who's hoping to join in the run. Come on, be brave, and join in the fun. (Ok, it's not really that much fun to be in a traffic jam all day, but you know what I mean)

MR WASH IS ON LINE

Yes it's true; I've finally got connected. Now there's no excuse for not registering for shows and runs. My E-mail address is at the top of the page.

CLUB WEB SITE

There has been a major upgrade added to the notice board this month. All members can now add pictures to their posts, straight from their home PC. Please remember to consider the content of your pictures before you attach them, the web master will remove anything considered to be offensive. It's also a good idea to blank out any registration numbers on pictures of cars. Vehicle identification fraud is a real threat, especially with cult cars like the Mini. Because of this new feature, I can now post show pictures as soon as they become available, even on the same day if possible. I will title everything "latest pictures" so you can spot them easily. This does mean that the monthly web gallery now becomes out dated and therefore will be scrapped as of now.