

## Rear View



Have you ever wondered how to fit a freezer in a Minor? This is our Stewart showing you how.

In the hope of losing some weight before Christmas, in November last year, I replied to an ad, that guaranteed weight loss between 10 –20lbs, with a noticeable result within just 72 hours, or your money back. I should have paid attention to the old adage “if it looks too good to be true, then it is”.

I drew up a chart and weighed myself every morning. Needless to say, that after three weeks, I was exactly the same as I started. I tried to contact the supplying company to ask for a refund. The e-mails just dropped into the ether and I couldn't get through on the telephone. After Christmas, I sent a

recorded delivery letter to that company and heard nothing.

Last week, I wrote to the editor of the magazine where I first saw the advert. On the same day that I received a letter back from the magazine editor, I had a telephone call from the company, saying they would refund my money and 10 minutes later I had a call from the Customer Service Manager of the magazine asking if I had heard yet from the advertisers. This morning there was an e-mail confirming that my money had been refunded to my account!

So if you can't get any response from the supplier contact the magazine editor where the advert was placed (in this case My Weekly). They take these complaints very seriously.

I hope that this helps some other members.

Jackie Walker

## MORRIS MINOR REGALIA - DORSET BRANCH

Our Branch Regalia stock is managed by **John Jenkinson** and is available at clubnights and our outdoor events. (The illustrated stock list is shown on the website [www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk))

Morris Coasters	£ 0.50	Single Cards (not Morris)	£ 1.35
Mugs	£ 3.00	Single Cards	£ 1.35
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Small Models	£ 3.75	Money Boxes	£ 5.00
Model Van (Morris)	£ 3.50	Fleeces	£ 20.00
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Dorset Ice Scraper	£ 0.50	Grille Badges	£8.50
'Zoodies'	£20.00	DMMOC Key Rings	£ 3.00
Waterproof Coats	£ 15.00	Weather Vanes	£39.50



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## The MMOC Dorset Branch

was founded in 1977 by Graham Melly and chaired in the early days by Aubrey Batt. It is a Branch of the National Morris Minor Owners Club but has its own accounts and organisation (see Constitution for further details) **We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (7:30 for 8:00)** at the **Bournemouth Electric Club, Broadway Lane, BH8 0AA**. We have an active calendar of events throughout the year – particularly in the Summer months when we attend many rallies and other shows. The monthly Clubnight is an opportunity to meet the other enthusiasts and enjoy a presentation or other activity organised by the Committee. Please note that the Dorset Branch MMOC will accept no liability in respect of goods or services provided by advertisers. No recommendation is implied.

**Membership currently costs £10 per year, £12.50 for joint membership.**

Please ask Branch Secretary if you require a copy of the Dorset Branch Constitution. (Also available on website.) For more details contact Laurie Blewer on 01202 522673 or John Jenkinson on 01202 576690

Advertising: Cars or spares for sale or wanted £5 per entry (Free to members).  
Traders advertisements: £30 per year.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013-2014

(01425 476634)

Newsletter / Website Editor: Brian Wood

(01202 573501)

( brian@dorsetmmoc.co.uk )

President: Graham Jarvis (07914 637429)

Chairman: John Jenkinson (01202 576690)

Secretary: Laurie Blewer (01202 522673,

07947 525884)

Non Committee posts:

Raffle Coordinators: Chris Tilly and Margaret

Pateman

Treasurer: Jacky Wood (01202 573501).

Spares Manager: Brian Wood

(07411 116336)

Membership Secretary – Des Waller (01202

573403)

Regalia Manager: Richard Cyster

(01202 526660)

Events Organiser/H&S Supervisor – Neville

Gerry (01202 747687)

Product Development Mgr: Brian Ford

Catering Executives: -Sue Blewer, Lyn Gerry

Welfare/Technical Adviser: Eddie Pateman

### FRONT COVER

Two of the many Morris cars at Brooklands for Austin Morris Day recently. Nev's white convertible demonstrates the new 2-stage bonnet prop. ('Open Wide')

**Dorset Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club**  
**Helping to preserve the post war Morris Minor in the Dorset**  
**area and beyond**

## Forthcoming Events (see also [www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk))

Aero/Autojumble & Classic Vehicle Rally & Fly-in

### 2015

28th March - Bodytech 4th Annual Brunch (10:00—13:00) Salisbury  
1st April—Clubnight—CPR Talk by David Grice  
10th-12th April—Sidmouth Weekend  
16th April—Inter-Club Quiz at Hamworthy Club 19:00 for 19:30 start  
26th April—Drive it Day / Swanage Charity Day  
3rd May—Classic Cars on the Prom—Highcliffe Castle  
4th May— Popham Classic Vehicle Rally and Fly-In  
6th May— Clubnight -Talk on 'History of Dodgems' by Kay Townsend  
10th May— Breamore Steam-Up  
16-17th May—MOGGY FEST (at Beaulieu Spring Autojumble)  
24th May—Chairman's Run to Tynesham Village (meet Lytchett Craft Centre 10:30)  
28-31 May— Bournemouth Wheels Festival  
31st May—Classic Cars on the Prom (Christchurch Quay)  
3rd June— Clubnight—Talk on 'My Trip to Australia' by Phil Traves  
7th June— Wessex Car Show—Breamore, Fordingbridge  
7th June—Classic Cars on the Prom (Christchurch Quay)  
14th June—North Wilts MMOC Branch Rally  
14th June—Hampshire Rally, Bursledon Brick Museum  
14th June—Classic Cars on the Prom (Highcliffe Rec—just past Castle on left)  
20th June—Sandleheath Summer Fete. (Rockbourne)  
1st July— Clubnight—Skittles at Bloxworth  
4th July—Burton Scout Carnival— Burton Rec, Martins Hill Lane.  
5th July—Classic Cars on the Prom—Highcliffe Castle (plus Road run to Pier)  
10-12 July—DORSET BRANCH RALLY  
18th July—Holdenhurst Fayre  
19th July—Classics at Sherborne Castle  
19th July—Poole Bay Classics, Breamore, Fordingbridge.  
1-2 August— By-Gone Days—Brooklands Farm, S.Gorley, nr. Fordingbridge  
2nd August—Lymington Rotary Show  
5th August—Club night Gardening Competition  
7,8 & 9th August —Purbeck Rally  
8-9th August—Morris Vehicles Association Rally—Thoresby Pk Nottinghamshire  
15-16th August—Forest Fayre with Steam, Brockenhurst.  
23rd-August - Mid Summer Saunter—Meet at Avon Heath—Road run 10:30 depart for Classic Cars on the Prom (Christchurch Quay). Finish at Dave & Jackie Walker's (High Tea)  
30th August Brockenhurst Carnival and Fun Day, Brockenhurst College.  
2nd September —Clubnight—Pub Quiz  
5-6th September —Isle of Wight MMOC Rally, Havenstreet Railway, IOW.  
5-6th September—Beaulieu International Autojumble  
19-20th September—Holnest Country Fayre  
20th-Sep—Classic Cars on the Prom (Christchurch Quay)  
7th October—Clubnight AGM

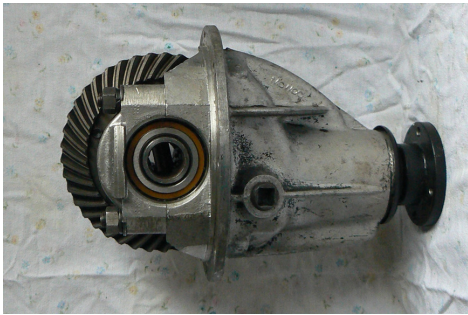
### BRANCH REBATE SCHEME

You may be aware that the branch receives a financial rebate according to the numbers of national MMOC members who attend the monthly clubnights. We therefore need to update our records so that we can take advantage of this scheme. Please would you advise Des Waller (or any Committee Member) of your **MMOC membership number** and renewal date and make sure that you sign the attendance sheet at the clubnights. Thanks.



## For Sale & Wanted & Club Notices

Please mention where you saw the ad when you respond, thanks



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## ORIGINAL CLASSIC PLATES FOR YOUR MORRIS MINOR

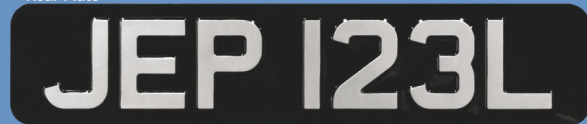
*"It's nice to know that someone does a plate that fits the back of a Morris Minor. It's a lovely plate and the service was very prompt. I'm very pleased with the finished result"*

John Jenkinson, Chairman  
Morris Minor Owners Club, Dorset Branch

Front Plate



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# Dorset Branch Newsletter

April 2015

**MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB**

**Volume 18 Issue 5**



**CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:**  
CPR Talk By David Grice

## Inside this issue....

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**NEXT CLUBNIGHT**—Talk on 'History of Dodgems' by Kay Townsend

The Dorset Branch Newsletter is published on the first Wednesday of the month and sent by post to paid-up members. It is also available for download from the Internet usually about 10 days before the clubnight.

## Editorial

A busy past month—with the trip to Brooklands followed by the Mothers Day visit to 'Milestones' Museum in Basingstoke. Thanks to Colin for organising that one. Bournemouth Wheels Festival organisers have asked us for a list of entries so we would be grateful if you could submit your entries with name, email and registration number back by 8th April please.

We have not one, but *two* new products for your Minor available from the Spares Shop from this month. The first is an inner wing protective shield to protect new front wings from the corrosion that attacks the rear vertical edge. These are £24.99 for the kit with full instructions. The other is a two-stage bonnet stay. This allows you to increase the height of your raised bonnet so that you don't catch your head on the front corners of the bonnet—as usual! (See photo of it in action at Brooklands on the front cover). This will cost £27.50 but will be reduced to £25 to Branch Members only for a limited time.

The Branch Charity of the year is LEAF (Lukaemia Education and Fundraising) following the vote at last month's Clubnight. Speaking of last month's club-night, you will recall we had the cake baking competition. The response was brilliant with about 24 entries (including the void filler foam entry—which did actually look quite convincing!). Thanks to all those who took part and congratulation to the winners: 1st Dee Houghton 2nd Tracy Chivers. I rather liked the one with the Minor on the top—good effort all round. Grateful thanks to Roger Kellow for his contributions this month. There is an update on the bio-ethanol fuel issue. It would seem that the majority of petrol sold in both 'Regular' and 'Premium' grades now contains up to 9% ethanol! Tesco seems to buck the trend with even more in the Premium graded than the Regular. The notable exception, however seems to be Esso which appears to be still ethanol free in the Premium grade. Good news indeed. Now I shall do an internet search for the nearest Esso stations! Both Roger and I have had no luck



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We have obtained some new Minor 1000 door pulls for sale to Branch Members at the favourable introductory price of only **£7.50** each.

These are available in four colours: Green, Blue, Black and Grey (as shown). (Branch Spares) (\*Currently £11.88 from ESM and £10.78 from Bull Motif)

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[www.precisionclutch.co.uk](http://www.precisionclutch.co.uk)

SAMPLE PRICES: Rebuilt/Exchange clutches for Minor  
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**The Village Collector**

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## Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to April clubnight. I would like to thank all the members who spent hours in their kitchens baking their Victoria Sponges for the completion last month. I thought the turnout was great.

The committee has changed some of this years dates so check the forthcoming events in the newsletter and on the club website. Also the Classic Cars on the Prom starts on 12th April at 4:00pm to 6:30pm. Also the Sidmouth weekend is coming up soon. The Beaulieu Weekend in May is going to be well supported this year with over 70 booked in for the dinner on Saturday night and over 100 cars so far—so Branch members please get your forms in to Laurie as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. I have been looking for a folding caravan with help from Dave Walker but all the ones on eBay and Gum Tree seem to be up north or in Scotland. After a few weeks of looking, we found one in Wimborne so Dave and I went to have a look and bought it. I have not yet got it home yet to fiddle with it, it is at Dave's.

The Branch is still looking for a Regalia sales manager—please speak to me if you are interested. One of the dates that has been changed is the run to Tyneham Village. I spoke to Paul (the Ranger) and he is OK to come along and tell us the story of what happened to the village in the 1930's. Then I thought it would be nice to go down to Kimmeridge Bay for a picnic. So all we need for that weekend is some good weather. The new date is 24th May and there will be a small charge of £3 per car for a donation to the Tyneham Village up-keep fund. Happy Motoring, John.



## Editorial (continued)



with Murco who seem impervious to our enquiries. They will be getting a phone call from me soon! Roger has also penned the second in his articles in the 'A-Z' of British Industrial Legacies.

Our Silverstone correspondent (Dave Holton) has sent us a write up of his adventures at Brookland and the slight 'mishap' on the way home!

Some of you may know Roy Halsall (ex-Roy's Welding). Apparently he suffered a stroke at Brooklands a few weeks ago. We hope he recovers soon.

## DORSET BRANCH SPARES NEWS



For the benefit of newer members who may not be aware of it, the Branch operates a Morris Minor New Spares service. The financial surplus goes back to the Branch to help keep subscriptions low. We usually have some spares at the monthly branch clubnights and we have a presence at some shows (particularly the Branch Rally and the Beaulieu Autojumbles). Spares are available most other times from Brian on 07411 116336. The spares are mostly sourced from ESM (East Sussex Minors—who support our branch rally also) and the prices charged generally reflect their prices. The advantages are availability of parts and *usually* no postage charges. Some locally reconditioned items are also available, such as fuel pumps, car-

burettors and radiators. . .

**We now have the inner wing liners (above) at £24.99 for the front wings kit complete with all fittings and instructions.**

**We also have the improved 2-stage bonnet stay (right) which allows the bonnet to be raised almost vertically!**

**On special offer £25 each to Branch Members only. (£27.50 normally) (Postage-add £3.50)**



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"At Woodies we specialise in the Morris Traveller but we can fabricate timber frames for all classic cars. We have completed many Morris Travellers over 30 years, as well as many other wood framed vehicles."

**New Morris Minor Spares**  
are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. **We can also order other items for you—usually saving the postage cost.**  
**Brian. 07411 116336**

## Secretary's Report

Good evening and welcome to the April clubnight. I hope you all enjoyed last month's cake competition. Many thanks to all those members who entered a cake and well done to Dee and Tracy for taking home the top prizes. Tonight we will be having a talk by club member David Grice from Southampton.

Plans are coming together well for Moggy Fest now so please make sure that you get your entry in to me as soon as you can. We have had a very good response to the event with entry forms dropping on my doormat every day. We will be setting up the BMC showroom, workshop and parts department again this year so if any member has anything we can borrow to "dress " the set we would be very grateful. I have managed to get us a Million for the showroom this year which will look fantastic. Don't forget that we will require lots of marshalls to help with the parking in the morning. This is only a job for first thing though and then you will have the rest of the day to yourselves.

Don't forget to get your entries in for this years Dorset Branch Rally. You should have received flyers for lots of events over the past couple of months – Bournemouth Wheels Festival, Classics at the Castle, Chairman's Run etc. Please get these returned to Jacky so that we can collate the numbers for each event.

We have been out and about during March. Four cars made the trip up to Brooklands – us, Brian and Jacky, Nev and Lyn and Ian, Tracy and Ethan. We had a good run up on the Saturday and stayed overnight at the Travel Lodge in Woking where we even managed to get the cars parked in the underground parking area. Morris and Austin Day at Brooklands was extremely well attended helped somewhat by the fine weather. A superb selection of vehicles was on display with a strong contingent of pre-war cars and, of course, an excellent turnout of Minors. I was particularly taken by a very fine Morris 8 tourer which was fitted with an Alta Overhead Valve conversion.

The following weekend we joined the 2CV club at Rownhams for a run to the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke where we spent a very enjoyable mooching around the exhibits. Louise was particularly taken by the Lego displays that were on that weekend and we joined in by making up a panel for the various pictures they were making.

I hope everyone who is taking the trip down to Sidmouth this month has a good weekend and a safe trip there and back.

The Austin has finally gone off to a new home having been sold by vintage car dealer Robin Lawton on my behalf. If anyone is looking to sell a really good quality vintage or classic vehicle I can thoroughly recommend Robins services.

That's all from me for this month so until next time

Happy Minoring, Laurie.



Bluemels soon completely outgrew the Stepney site and the search was on to find a suitable larger factory site. This finally came in 1902 when an old, failing artificial silk weaving factory situated near Coventry became available. Coventry was favoured because it was then an established major manufacturing area for cycles, motor cycles, and also seen as rapidly becoming rather important for motor car construction at the time. Apparently the brothers were taken aback by the sheer size of the premises and plot at first. They need not have worried as over the years the space was easily grown into, as particularly their cycle accessories became even more known and in greater demand worldwide.

Selected motor car and additional motor cycle accessories rapidly followed incorporating celluloid in specific items used as electrical insulation (i.e. separators within the Bluemels accumulator) The policy was always to produce a quality product and this included Bluemels spark plugs, motor cycle and side car windscreens and fittings, larger vehicle size tyre pumps and in the 1920's a successful range of car steering wheels (celluloid coated) mainly supplied direct to car factories.

This led to the famous Bluemels 'Silverstone' and 'Brooklands' steering wheels within the 1950's that various models of MG cars had factory fitted.

Experimentation of various formulas of their plastics used for making parts were gradually improved at the Wolston site. From the 1930's Bluemels vehicle number plates demand increased to become the industry choice and by the late 50's and 60's most retail showrooms were fitting Bluemels either the raised individual number and letter de-luxe version or the standard stamped alloy flat sheet type. The vast majority made up for the newly ordered car on the garage premises using one of the patent Bluemels number plate jig assembly machine

(and I can say my set is still in place and looking very much in harmony with my Morris Minor)

Bluemels Brothers Ltd. factory, Wolston, Nr Coventry. closed down operations in the 1980's. There is no doubt that Bluemels Brothers were one of the few early pioneers in producing such a popular range of specifically marketed lightweight products at the time utilising a modern new alternative material with such success.

The brothers would no doubt be amazed at the many diverse types and forms of 'Plastics' that are now so widely used and such an every day part of our lives.

The old Bluemels site has now been used partly for housing with the remaining area another one of our many 'business parks'. The only mention of the old company is one road named within the complex - 'Bluemels Drive'

(British industrial history research, material courtesy [www.gracesguide.co.uk](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk))





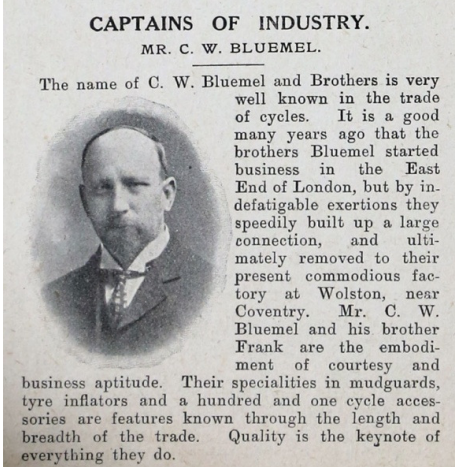
We continue our look into the past at recognisable accessory and parts manufacturing companies found listed as exhibitors during the London Motor Shows during the 50's and 60's (during the hey-days of Morris Minor production). Company names very often that had much earlier beginnings and can still be found today and on original items. Old names that are very familiar to the present day Morris enthusiast

Following 'Armstrong Patents' last time, we now find listed, looking next under the 'B's, in our A-Z guide copy of an original Earls Court London Motor Show guide, another name, one that I know to be on a part on my own Minor. The name is **'Bluemels'** stamped on the black/silver number plates and like many others, I am pleased to say, are still on my Minor Saloon - obviously having been fitted by the Morris retailer who originally supplied the car in the latter end of the 1960's.

Bluemels Brothers originally set up business in Stepney London in 1860 as cycle dealers. The brothers were soon experimenting with methods of shaping and moulding celluloid producing their own range of lightweight cycle mudguards, this led to other useful items such as chain and dress guards, mud guards and also tyre pumps etc. etc. All were immediately found to be extremely popular and to have the main advantage over competitor's products as being so lightweight but adequately strong.

Bluemels exhibited regularly at all the prominent cycle and motorcycle exhibitions starting from the latter half the 1800's onwards. Such was the demand that followed for their innovative celluloid touring cycle, racing cycle and motor cycle accessories, with substantial orders from other cycle builders and dealers, who all wanted to fit the 'No Weight' brand Bluemels accessories, including trade customers from the continent.

Given that at the turn of the century, 'our' William Morris had been a racing cyclist himself for a while, an early progressive cycle builder, then a motor cycle builder, it is easy to assume that in this capacity, he most probably would have been very aware of the famous early Bluemel's products at the time. W Morris also went on at that time to exhibit his own latest models of cycles and then his Morris Motorcycles at the same type of London Cycle and Motor Cycle Shows that the Bluemels Brothers frequented later within this same era.



Classics from various clubs assemble at Rownhams Services.

(Photos by Roger Blakeley and Editor)



An early Portsmouth Leyland Titan open topper at the Museum



Model of the Queen Mary made entirely of Lego! >>





## Ethanol Update by Roger Kellow

Here is the info we discussed re those oil companies contacted over the last few weeks re the situation regarding bio-ethanol present in their brands of regular and premium unleaded petrol, sold at the pumps at this present time :-

**Texaco** - Both Regular & Premium unleaded have 5% ethanol added.

**BP** - Regular contains 5% & Premium - "is liable to be variable within our supply chain & we are unable to quote any universal content figure at this time, only that the situation is at present evolving "

**Shell** - Both Regular & Premium unleaded grades contain 5% ethanol

**Tesco** - Regular unleaded contains 'up to' 5% ethanol & the premium grade contains 9% ethanol.

**Esso** - Regular unleaded grade contains 5% ethanol

However our premium grade does \*NOT contain any ethanol at present including Dorset (\* please note, with the exception of the following areas - Cornwall & Devon , Teeside areas, and the whole of Scotland where 5% ethanol is at present added - We are not intending to otherwise add ethanol to our premium grade, with the exception of these areas until legislation is in force to require this higher grade of unleaded petrol to contain ethanol in a specific percentage.)

Many thanks for your reply to our enquiry clarifying the position re ethanol within your Esso 'super' grade of unleaded petrol. Our many classic car club members now know that there is a grade of fuel that they can definitely purchase within our particular area if they have an issue in the use of Ethanol within certain classic models at the present moment

## Treasurers' Top Tax Tips- Jacky Wood

HM Revenue and Customs are bringing in a new Marriage Allowance from the start of the Tax Year 2015-2016. Married or Civil Partners can transfer part of their tax allowance to their partners.

You can register an interest on line at <http://www.gov.uk/marriage-allowance>. If you don not have access to a computer, you can also apply over the phone later in the year. The allowance will be back-dated to the start of the tax year 2015-16. Telephone number is 0300 200 3300.

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**New Morris Minor Spares**  
are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. *We can also order other items for you— usually saving the postage cost.*  
**Brian. 07411 116336**

## 'Austin/Morris Day (28th March) by David Holton

Had a great time this year with a nice dry day although a bit chilly in the afternoon. A lot of variety with some beautiful cars and vehicles in attendance as usual. Rather down on numbers for Morris LCVs though - I counted 14 vans and pickups. When I think of the number who used to attend I guess we are all getting to be 'old gits' .

As usual Historic Brooklands held an auction on Saturday 7th March with some good quality vehicles coming under the hammer , one of which was the Millionth Minor built. Word has it the hammer price was £23,000 but including buyers premium was £25,000 + .Personally I think it was sold for plenty of wedge as it wasn't perfect and had visited a hedge and ditch in the '70s.

Brooklands has just benefitted from a £4.68 million lottery grant so it is onwards and upwards for the Surrey venue - good for them as all these venues must be kept. Now for something different , the B.P. fuel station near home that I use has temporarily closed for refurbishment. My other alternative is Tesco but I'm not that keen on them. But Rupert (my trusty van ) and I set off for Brooklands with a nearly full tank of 97 octane with it in mind to top up at the Shell station near Brooklands as I don't buy the overpriced fuel on the motorway. So we arrived at the Shell garage and that's when I had a serious senior moment ! I topped Rupert up with £8 worth of fuel (last of the big spenders ) and continued to the event with no trouble.



Come 3 o'clock I start Rupert up ready for the home journey but he parps at me and then spits and farts . He is not at all happy but runs OK when we reach the motorway and get up to 50 mph. We manage the M25 and then onto the M40 where he pinks at steep hills.

I am still thinking have I put something in his tank that shouldn't be there or is it something more sinister developing ? Anyway we continue on our way keeping up as much speed as possible until we leave the M40 at J9 and quickly find a

layby to stop and investigate what is wrong and yes I can smell diesel ! I continue home for the last 12 miles , it is dusk now and Rupert is well lubricated by now. His diet in future will strictly be petrol, grease ,oil AND NO MORE DIESEL The next morning with the aid of the drain plug in Rupert's tank and a 2 gallon top up from my jerry can all is well . A test run of about 30 miles and he is back in top form.

I honestly never thought I would make a mistake like that , thank god it was only one and a half gallons of diesel. I will be ultra careful in future . I do just wonder if the nozzles had been put in the wrong sockets - I have known that to happen before . But I will take care not to have any more senior moments in future. And Rupert was such a star to get us home despite being badly treated. Happy Minorng, Dave.