

Motor Industry News Leyland Australia

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SON OF COOPER 'S'

One of the few things we don't claim for the Mini Clubman GT is that it can talk.

But that doesn't stop owners talking to IT. It's that sort of car.

It's a thoroughbred. The Son of Cooper S. By Demand out of Racing.

It's a wonder Mini GT's don't let out a disgusted whinny (roar?) every time one of those be-striped family cars in full masquerade GT costume slides up alongside at the lights.

To the owner, a Clubman GT is not simply a car with 78 BHP, power disc brakes, bucket seats and four on the floor.

There's a helluva lot of cars on the road that would qualify for a similar description and not be within light years of the Mini in roadability or performance. Or Character.

As a company, we can advertise that the Mini is fun to drive. But then, we're self-interested, right?

Recently, Wheels magazine ran a series of articles on what it is like to own a Clubman GT for the first 12,000 miles.

The factors were cost to the owner, economy, driveability, durability - the lot. It was billed as a consumer test.

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CARS	AUSTIN	BUSES	COACHES	FOUR WHEEL	TRACTORS	ROAD ROLLERS
ROVER	MORRIS	LEYLAND	AB DENNING	DRIVE	LEYLAND	GRADERS
JAGUAR	MG	TRUCKS	PRESSED METAL	LANDROVER		AVELING-BARFORD
DAIMLER	TRIUMPH	LEYLAND		RANGEROVER		

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Quote: "In this report, first of a three-part series, we cover the manufacture, registration, running-in and first 1000 miles." It was obviously going to be a very hard-headed evaluation.

Quote: "With 975 miles on the clock, the Clubman - which by the way has been affectionately named Shamus by our staff - went in for his 1000 mile service."

How many cars are there around today that people can feel enough about - or that deserve - a name? Or that when you refer to the car you say "his" instead of "its"?

Quote: "With 4000 miles now on the clock of our Consumer Project Clubman GT, we find we could hardly have made a better choice for cheap town/fun transport.

"What's more the car's handling is so precise, its brisk performance so usable and the safety margins so high, our staff finds it totally refreshing."

"Refreshing" suggests to us the car is something unique from the rest of the herd - particularly some so-called sports cars.

Quote: "After driving a Formula 5000 racing car and things like the Abarth 2000, Ferrari Dino and Miura (we don't mean "so-called" sports cars in this case!) I find that the Mini is quite easily the closest sedan to them or a racing car in terms of steering and handling precision".

We're almost blushing. But we told you so.

Quote: "It is also the cheapest performance/handling car available both in terms of price and running costs. Basically, it is better value than ever."

Amen.

