

Club night, 10 January 2006

Graham Bailey, our Captain Cannery

31 full, 1 associate and 5 guests/social members, not quite 40, but never the less a handsome amount of enthusiastic individuals all keen and eager to snap up a bargain, and get a quality bite to eat at the same time.

With the splendid buffet provided by Sharon the stewardess waiting in the wings, we progressively attended to all immediate club affairs, with the all important recent test pass presentations being superbly handled by our very own Sally Charlton.

With bellies full, it was not too long before Brian Charlton got into the swing of things, (he always starts slow, apparently..!) and deployed one of his most practised skills, getting money out of people!! Old tight wad does it again.



SAM bar flies gather at Club Night

The Auction by now was well under way with the usual 'high spirited' bids and banter coming in fast and furious, this mayhem eventually converted to a princely sum of approx £346.00 all donated to Acorns.

'Wow' this amount of money raised from what appeared to be a limited amount of items for auction, gave a clear indication of the sheer generosity and well meaning intent of the members present. A fantastic effort you lot, well done.

So there you have it, SAM's year of 2006 has started with a level of gusto normally only associated with proud and highly gifted BMW owners!!, so bring on the good weather and lets ride some 'black top'.

CAPTAIN CANARIES CHIRPS

Budge/Di. My sincere thanks for the 'under cover' efforts towards the evenings event, rarely witnessed by the members but always important to the success on the night.

Budge (again). 'Happy Birthday' ole son, 51 ripe years of maturity, and I thought you were older!!! (Or are you aging like your riding style...going backwards!)



Happy birthday Budge!

Brian Charlton. And a 'Happy Birthday' to you too Bri, now on par with our national speed limit, which I understand will have no bearing whilst enjoying your birthday gift of a air balloon ride high up in the clouds. (Mile high club anybody!!, or is it a case of 'give me a leg over into the basket Sal!')

Martin/Angie Le Fèvre. Have been in touch recently and are both doing well, they send their regards from Castlenau Magnoac France to everyone at the club, and hope at

some stage to see at least one or two of us in the coming year.(p.s they love the mag !!)

Simon Forryan. Commiserations to young 'Hard Deck', the recent victim of another "foot slipped off the clutch mate" has resulted in a unhealthy Bandit/Simon/Ford Focus interaction with the said Ford Focus driver faring a whole lot better than Si.

Although the impact of the T-bone was pretty substantial, I am pleased to report that Simon escaped with no broken bones. However, his current and ongoing level of discomfort is still very much a pain in the A**.....(no pun intended!)

Bandit 1200. 'Hot news' low mileage, little used engine only for sale, ideal for use as outboard motor for surf board (any good Gadge!) or vicious lawn mower implant. (Not related to the above report.....'honest!')



Happy birthday Brian!

Eric Bush. 'Congratulations Eric' on your most recent achievement of being accredited with a P.D.I. (driving instructor) status, a well earned merit

and a possible ticket to better earnings may be!. (Gill's grateful anyway, she says that now she can look forward to boiled eggs rather than omelettes every time you do the shopping run!!)

Will Nicholson, Ken Campbell, Mike Newman. Just a quick hello to you all, we know you are out there, hope everyone is ok, be nice to see a face (and raffle money!) some time.

From us all here at the Kremlin. ♦

Legal matters

I'm a barrister dealing with hundreds of road traffic accident claims every year. If I could offer the following tips to your readers, it would make life much easier for them, as well as me and my colleagues.

Always opt for the legal protection insurance on your car or house policy. Never use solicitors for a claim where the arrangement involves them taking any proportion of the money you are awarded. Treat adverts for "no-win, no-fee" solicitors with the same degree of scepticism you would reserve for soap-powder commercials. Always carry a small disposable or digital camera or camera phone with you in the car. If you have an accident, take pictures of the damage to, and locations of, both vehicles, as well as any impact debris and the other driver; a picture really does tell a thousand words and

the chances of you being sued for a frivolous claim diminish enormously.

Always tell your insurers and remember the insurance form might be produced in court later - so take care with it. Saying sorry does not mean you admit it was your fault, nor will the judge think as much. It might even mean the matter goes no further than the roadside. Don't be frightened by solicitors' letters threatening huge legal bills for small accidents - it's all bluff. If the other side has solicitors involved, make sure you get one, too (via the insurance company - don't do it yourself). The insurers may nominate solicitors, but the final choice is up to you.

Don't select a solicitor on the basis that he is a friend or because he did a good job with your house conveyance. Don't believe anything your mates tell you about courts, compensation, making a claim or any other legal issues. Advice for nothing is worth exactly nothing. Don't take the claim personally and keep a sense of proportion. It's a car accident, not a Senate hearing.

Clients who tell me it's a "matter of principle" have either more money than sense or fail to understand what the court system is there for.

[Appeared in Honest John's in the Telegraph on 6 Feb 2006. See www.telegraph.co.uk – Ed] ♦