

motorists **FORUM**

A good idea

A recent letter to the British CAR magazine told of a guy who sold his VW Polo and bought a BMW 3-Series.

He said he was not an aggressive driver but since he had started driving the BMW, he had been tailgated, cut up, sworn at and even been spat on. As time went by, he decided to wave and smile at the perpetrators but this made matters worse. Two guys in a van actually chased him and he managed to escape a confrontation only because his office car park is boomed and manned by security guards.

Now I believe that this is the way we should treat our local BMW drivers. It might make them realise that they do not own the road and we might even get them to use their indicators and to switch those bloody fog lights off.

NORMAN CUMMINS

Randburg

Consumption? Who cares?

Your wonderful magazine gives me great pleasure but I do not understand why you guys and girls pan the petrol consumption on the Porsche GT2. If one can afford a car costing almost R2,7 million, why would one worry about the fuel consumption or how far it can go on a tank of fuel? The buyer would simply just stop at the next petrol station and fill up, without counting the cents. It would not be a concern to someone owning a car of that stature. A normal 4x4 uses the same amount of fuel, sometimes even more, but does not have the performance

LESLEY KIECK

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Road safety website

The official count of deaths on our roads during December 2002 was 1 216. Blame was laid at the doors of the Ministry of Transport, taxi in-

dustry, reckless drivers etc. One of the most important ways to increase road safety is to create a better public understanding and provide information on basic road safety hints. This can be achieved through various forms of media, including the internet. The website is a private effort to enhance road safety. It includes various useful sections on aspects of road safety, and has been developed through the combined efforts of many individuals. The driving idea is that we can not all contribute financially, but we can all add intellectual capital through ideas, recommendations and taking part in discussions on road safety. CAR readers are invited to visit www.arrivealive.co.za and make their voices heard in a joint private effort to create public awareness on road safety.

JOHAN JONCK

By e-mail

Calling Mini Marcos fans

I am trying to get in touch with other Mini Marcos owners in South Africa (and neighbouring areas) with the idea of setting up an owners' club or even just a reg-

ister. There must be many proud owners of these lovely little cars around who would enjoy an occasional get-together to show off their vehicles or simply share ideas over the internet. I am in contact with the Mini Marcos Owners' Club in the UK and they are very keen to get in touch with all owners and have offered any assistance that they can.

INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER

I can be contacted at clippa@mwweb.co.za or on (033) 345-3600(w), (033) 396-6844(h) or (083) 459-8177(ceil).

IAN ALLBON

39 Hesketh Drive,
Pietmaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal

Where's that Austin?

The centenary of the Austin Motor Company, Longbridge, Birmingham, will be in 2005. I am one of a group of former Austin apprentices trying to trace certain old-timers for the celebration.

One of the vehicles in question is a 1912 Austin 10 hp (UK registration AY 734), that was loaned to

BMC South Africa, but which was shipped back to England about five years ago. We're still trying to locate it. We also want to put together the history of these cars. A former BMC SA employee (now in England) tells us that this car was entered in a major rally in South Africa around 1968.

Does anyone have any info on the 10 hp and its entry in the rally, for us to copy?

BARRY WALKER

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Only in CAR...

CAR appears to be the only magazine that states more relevant in-gear acceleration figures. It includes almost all the different ratios tested at certain speeds (eg, 40-80 km/h tested in three different ratios.) Other magazines, however, only test 80-120 km/h in say, fourth gear. This makes performance cars with automatic gearboxes fitted (like the E55 AMG) look a lot faster from 80-120 km/h than, for instance, an M5. The reason being that the M5

remains in fourth gear from 80-120 km/h, whereas the Mercedes kicks down to third. My point is that this comprehensive coverage shows why CAR is the best selling mag by far!

JAN PRINSLOO

Cradock

Maintenance shocks

How about a series of car tests of a totally different type -- repairs and maintenance on new cars! Being in the car electronics repair side, hardly a day goes by without my being totally shocked at the ridiculous price of electronic com-

FOSTERING TIES

Kenyan High Commissioner Professor Ciarunji Chesaina (centre) was the guest of honour during a tour of Delta Motor Corporation's high-tech production facilities. She was accompanied by Michael Orwa (left), the commission's commercial attaché, and Delta Motor

Corporation's director of planning, John Cuming (right). The Kenyan delegation visited Port Elizabeth to foster stronger business relationships with South Africa and with the Eastern Cape in particular. Delta Motor Corporation hosted the delegation in conjunction with the Port Elizabeth Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

