

MINI

Mini Car Club of Auckland



JULY 2015



CLUB CONTACTS

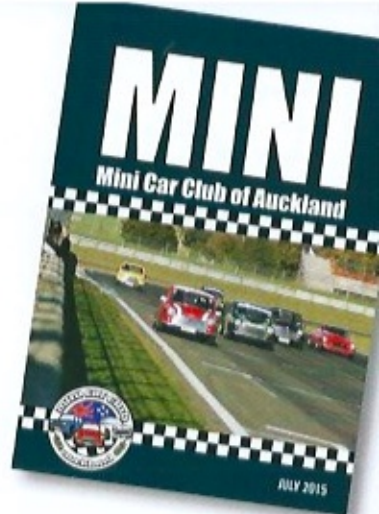
President:	Murry Grant – 09 537 0165 president@minis-auckland.org.nz
Captain	Chris Roper – 09 817 4080 club-captain@minis-auckland.org.nz
Secretary	Vic Hayes 09 413 9011 joynvic@paradise.net.nz
Treasurer:	Kevin Taylor – 021 121 8363 treasurer@minis-auckland.org.nz
Committee:	Kevin Patrick – 021 993 324 kpminimad@gmail.com
	Warwick Robinson – 021 186 5520 bearsfour@xtra.co.nz
	Phil Walters – 022 473 6947 phillipw@holmesgroup.com
	George Gray ngairestephens@xtra.co.nz
Web Monkey:	Gavin Agnew – 09-2980046 web@minis-auckland.org.nz

CLUB ROOMS

Northern Sports Car Club
Mt Richmond Domain
Great South Road
Otahuhu
Ph: 09 276 0880

Meets 7.30pm 1st Tuesday of each month
Committee meets every 3rd Tuesday each month.

Address correspondence to:
Mini Car Club of Auckland Inc
P.O. Box 72-970
Papakura 2244
Auckland New Zealand



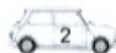
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Don't forget to touch base with:
<http://www.minis-auckland.org.nz>

Events Calendar

Sunday 26th July	Caffeine and Classics. Smale's Farm, Takapuna. Meet at the show around 9:45am.
Tuesday 4th August	Club Night and Annual General Meeting. AGM held at the Northern Sports Club, Mt Richmond Domain. Entry off Great South Road at 7.30pm.
Sunday 30th August	Caffeine and Classics. Smale's Farm, Takapuna. Meet at the show around 9:45am.
Sunday 6th September	Father's Day @ Motat Details to come.
Date to be confirmed	MCCoA 21st Birthday Bash. Details to come.
Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th October	21st Mini Nationals. The 2015 Mini Nationals will be based in the Masterton Region, an area untouched by any club. The weekend will consist of Registration and Scrutineering, Show n Shine, Navigation Trial, Saturday Evening Nibbles and get together, Regularity Single Car Sprint and Sealed Motorkhanas followed by a Prizegiving Dinner. Most of the events will be based from the Copthorne Hotel. See here for more details.
Sunday 13th December	Christmas Display, St Heliers. The MG Car Club runs an annual Christmas Display at Vellenoweth Green in St Heliers. This year it will be on Sunday 13th December and the MCCoA are invited. They are planning to run a display to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the BMC Works team, which comprised MG, Austin Healey and Mini. Details to come.
Saturday 19th March 2016.	Off The Beaten Track! Alan and Shelagh Murie are putting together an 8 day excursion off the beaten track. Join for as much or as little as you like. This journey will not be limited to minis. We will say which motel we will be staying at - you make your own booking at same or accommodation of your choice. Outings to breweries, wineries, museums, places of interest, etc. will be suggested with no compulsion to do any at all. Feel free to make suggestions.





Club Points

As of 4-9-2013

Name	Clubnights	Minimeet	Trials	Shows	Events	Visits	Visits	Runs	Duties	totals
Mike Bates	7	31		12	1					51
Kevin Taylor	8	26				2	1	2		39
Lee Norman	8	29					1			38
Graeme Wing	5	6		22	1	4				38
Rob Apanui	9	1	11	11						32
Rex Coubray	7	22				1	1	1		32
Christine Roper	5	1		12	1			1	12	32
Ben Fitness	1	23		1			1	1		27
Alan Murie	7	10	1	6	1	1		1		27
Tony Maulder	9	6		1	1	8		1		26
Chris Roper	6	2		2	1		1	1	12	25
Shelagh Murie	8	2	1	9	2	1		1		24
Phillip Walters	4	11						1	6	22
Murray Grant	9	1		7	1	1		2		21
Trent Dixon	5	6			1		1		6	19
Gavin Agnew	8	2		1	1	5		1		18
Kyle Apanui	6	1	9	1	1					18
John Mannion	7	1		9		1				18
Pykett Mitchell	1	17								18
Warwick Robinson	6	11					1			18
Nic Apanui	4	1	11							16
Joy Hayes	2	2		10				2		16
Dave Cotty	6			1	1	5				13

President's Report.

Well.

Winter is upon us, I hope everyone is staying dry! And your minis/MINIs aren't too tucked up and warm.

It's been unfortunate I have not been able to get to many events over the last few months. But from what I have seen and heard it is good that members are supporting the events that are organised. If you have some ideas for future events please talk to the committee members so we can fit them into the calendar.

One of the events I did take part in with 10 other teams from our club and 57 minis/MINIs in total. Was the Pork Pie Charity Run. A great job was done by all the teams having raised \$202890.94 for KIDSCAN. Shirley and I thought the run was as much fun as the first one we participated in 2009 but a little more relaxing.

Another event was a day in the country at Sandra & Phil Walters' new property. Thanks guys for opening up your home and collection for all of us to view, not to mention the BBQ lunch.

There have also been interclub Autocrosses/Motorkanas, I think Minis Waikato has taken out the winner's prize this year.

Coffee and Classics on the last Sunday of every month is well attended by our club members also. Check the web site or contact Tony Maulder for more info.

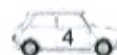
The Club's Go Kart event was held a Formula E again this year. This time we held the June club night there as well not a great turn out, with the lightening, thunder and rain. Lucky it was inside! Andrew Carter drove up from Taupo (and drove back that night) to see if he could defend his last year's title. Did he?? You will have to wait until the AGM prize giving.

The Club's AGM and Prize Giving are being held on Tuesday August 4th club night. Also club subscriptions are due end of June. You need to be a financial member to vote at the AGM!

One thing I would like to see more regular is the club magazine. As I keep getting told by Mike and Trent (who do a fantastic job) we can't print a magazine if we don't have articles to publish. The magazine is the member's magazine! So if you attend events please put fingers to the keys (or pen to paper) no matter how small or large, with or without photos. Send the articles/correspondence direct to editor@minis-auckland.org.nz.

Well that's it for now!
Keep the rubber side down

Murray





MINI CAR CLUB OF AUCKLAND INC

NOTICE OF AGM 2015

The Mini car Club of Auckland Inc hereby gives notice that the 2015 AGM will be held on 4th August 2015 at 7.30pm in the Clubrooms, Northern Sports Car Club rooms, Mt Richmond Domain.

Your President, Murray Grant; Vice President, Phil Walters; Club Captain, Chris Roper; and Secretary, Vic Hayes; have all advised that they will be retiring with effect from the AGM, and will not be available to continue in those duties in the coming year. It is imperative for the Club that those positions be filled, so please give some consideration to standing, or nominate someone you consider suitable. Your Treasurer, Kevin Taylor has indicated a preparedness to continue for a further 12 months.

Also to be discussed is the matter of annual membership fees. Currently they are a very modest \$45 per single, (\$55 per family) membership for 6 to 12 months, or for a 1 to 6 months period \$25 and \$30 respectively. NOTE – the concessionary 6 month fee only applies on a once off basis to new members joining in the second half of a year. Motorsport NZ have recently increased their affiliation fee from \$5 per member to \$10 per member. If we retain our fees as they are the MANZ fee increase will become additional cost to the club, and

if we do nothing, will gradually erode Club Funds. A remit will be put to the AGM proposing an increase of a very modest \$10 to the family membership, and \$5 to the single membership, being purely a recovery of the MANZ increase. This increase to apply to each of the full year, and part year fees.

Murray Grant
PRESIDENT

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Minutes of 2014 AGM (circulated with notice of meeting)
- Matters arising from previous minutes
- Presidents Report
- Treasurers Report
- Election of Officers and Committee
 - > President, Vice President, Secretary, Club Captain, Treasurer, and Committee required.
- General Business
 - > Membership Fees
- Prize Giving

MINI CAR CLUB OF AUCKLAND INC

AGM 2015 NOMINATION FORM

I,

Being a financial member in full standing, of the Mini Car Club of Auckland Inc for the financial year ending 2014, hereby nominate

also a financial member in full standing for the position of

This nomination is seconded by me

also a financial member in full standing.

Signed on

By the Nominator

By the Seconder

And by the Nominee

As acceptance of the nomination



MEMBERSHIP AND SUBS RENEWAL FORM

OWNER DETAILS

Surname

First Name

Address

Ph Home

Mobile

Email

Date of Birth / /

Occupation

VEHICLE DETAILS

Model

Rego No.

Capacity

Year

Colour

Mileage

PAYMENT

Paid by: (please tick one)

- Direct Debit
- Cheque
- Cash

Signature

Date / /

CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscriptions are set at the AGM of the Club. Our financial year runs from 1st July to 30th June. Club Subscriptions Information

	SINGLE	DOUBLE
July – August	\$45	\$55
January – June	\$25	\$30

For new members only, joining from January the subscriptions are reduced as per above

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Direct Credit:
ASB **12-3024-0496171-00**
Mini Car Club Auckland Inc.

Please use your **NAME** as reference
treasurer@minis-auckland.org.nz

Or Post a Cheque payable to:

Mini Car Club Auckland Inc.
Mini Car Club Auckland Inc.
PO Box 72-970
Papakura
Auckland
New Zealand

Club Captain

> Chris Roper



Hi all you mini nuts.

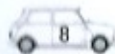
Hope you are all keeping warm and staying out of the cold.

Winter is now upon us so keep those minis serviced for those cold morning starts.

Our annual AGM is fast approaching in August. We are looking for new blood to serve on the committee to keep your club moving forward. Please think about giving it a go. Our club is some 125 members strong and it should not be left up to a few to run it. I took on the role of Club Captain for a period of 2 years. Time flies and it is now time to hand the reins over to someone else. We are also looking for a President, Vice President and Secretary. If you want to know what this involves, please contact any of the committee members who will be only too pleased to help. This is your club, not the committee's. Without your participation and ideas, this club can not go forward.

Remember the next Nationals are fast approaching. They are to be held in Masterton over Labour weekend. Check out the clubs web site for a link to register and book cheap accommodation deals.

Cheers,
Chris
Club Captain





16 Mt Richmond Domain
Whuhu, Ph. 09 276 0880



Hi everyone!

Well, as you've already seen, the theme for this edition of the Club magazine is the Annual General Meeting we'll be having on Tuesday, August 4th. The Committee has a lot to get done to make that happen, but every club member should take a minute to think about some of the things they can do too. Later in this magazine you'll find a bunch of forms; those aren't just for someone else, or for some obscure bureaucratic function that general club members don't need to worry about. Everyone should consider nominating an officer or committee member, or filling in a voting form if you can't make it to the AGM.

On a more general note, thanks to everyone who's submitted articles for this magazine! Please, send your articles through any time during the year. It's always best to write them when your memory's still fresh. And it's not so bad to get duplicate articles: often it's interesting to read about an event from a couple of different viewpoints, even. Not only that, but pretty much everyone has a camera on them most of the time these days, snap away at every event you go to, and send them through! You can give photos to me, or to Trent Dixon, whose excellent layout work you're looking at right now.

Regarding timing of magazine content, generally, my time is a bit short, and receiving everything just before it's due inevitably delays the magazine a bit. So, the earlier the better really. We're looking at three editions per year at the moment, but I'd be very happy to take that to four or more if we can get enough content. Give it a go, and don't worry about getting all your spelling and grammar perfect – that's what I'm here for, to be your editing minion!

On a more personal note, I'm almost at the stage where I can start work on my next project, the 1963 Mini Traveller. I'm hoping that soon, I'll have an article in here on this barn-find! So, have a good winter – it's unseasonably warm, in my opinion, so make the best of it!

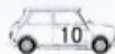
Cheers,


Mike van Bokhoven

Kevin Taylor

TAUPO FUNDAY

16TH MAY 2015





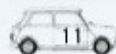
The usual suspects gathered at the Papakura Service Centre on Friday afternoon ready to head south for the Annual Taupo Funday.

Around Waharoa the heavens opened up and the roads turned to rivers but we all made it safely through to Tirau for a well earned cuppa or coffee. Pressing on to Taupo the weather cleared and we dropped our gear and trailers etc off at our accommodation and headed into town to meet up at a local Indian restaurant. What was the weather going to do tomorrow ?

Up early and off to the track to get registered & scrutineered before the first runs at around 9.30am. It was a cold day but not frosty or foggy or wet so we were happy with that. Last minute checking of tyre pressures and a quick clean of the windscreen and we were off and running and we kept running all day. There was the occasional stop for fuel – most of us decided to stop in the pits but Rex chose to stop out on the track and wait for the AA to bring him a can of petrol but they were busy so he had to be towed back to the pits while we all waited patiently.

There was the odd off course excursion – Craig Luxmoore came back into the pits with grass and dirt hanging out from under his Yellow Clubman – too much power from the Nissan engine maybe

WARWICK GETS A HURRY UP FROM THE ORANGE RACER – NICE PHOTO VIV.



He was an early retirement as he had clutch or gearbox issues that had him back on the trailer early in the afternoon.

Warwick and his daughter Wendy were keeping the engine and tyres of the de Joux hot all day swapping driving duties/fun in the hot seat. Likewise Lee & KP had the Minibitz Mini circulating constantly as did Rex & Lloyd who were sharing the Aquacut Mini.

Ben Fitness and I were happy to make up numbers on the track anytime someone said "want another run" and away we would go again. We set up a group run so that Viv could get some pictures of all the MCCoA Minis on the front straight but she wasn't sure who was in what but did manage to get some great shots for us.

Ben had his video camera set up in Purplemin and got some great footage and he also set it up in MINTED for one run so that we could get some footage featuring said purplemin – and what footage that turned out to be with Ben turning on a tank slapper on the corner before the front straight, but with superb car control he recovered and continued on (I had visions of Ben spinning right

around and taking out the camera car – that would be have been ME).

Great fun and that clip was replayed in the Cossie club later in the evening – again and again.

Trent Dixon was doing hot laps all day taking passengers out for some seriously fast laps – they came back into the pits with big smiles on their faces and their knees shaking.


So another great day was had on the track, for many of us it is the highlight of our Mini Year.

As usual the MCCoA Team gathered at the Taupo Cossie Club for Saturday night dinner and the telling of tales and awarding of prizes for deeds done during the day.

Thanks to Taupo local Andrew Carter for making arrangements for us with the Cossie Club.

And a big thanks to the Mini Racing Drivers Club for putting on the event again and inviting us back to join in their FUNDAY.





**BEN AND TRENT
FIGHT IT OUT
ON THE FRONT
STRAIGHT,
GUESS WHO
WON!**

WAIT ON BOYS, HERE I COME! WHAT'S THAT YELLOW MINI DOING PLAYING WITH YOU GUYS, YOU COULD HAVE WAITED FOR ME. THE AQUACUT MINI HAD STOPPED ON THE DUMMY GRID AND WOULDN'T RESTART, REX QUICKLY FOUND THAT A WIRE HAD BROKEN OFF THE COIL, REATTACHED IT AND SPENT THE NEXT COUPLE OF LAPS CATCHING UP WITH US.



**HERE COMES BRENT TO JOIN
IN THE FUN, WHAT'S THAT
STARCAR DOING TRYING TO
PUSH INTO THE PHOTO**



**THERE WE GO, WE'LL JUST LET THE
STARCAR THROUGH SHALL WE?**

INTERCLUB AUTOCROSS HELD AT AKA AKA

SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2015

After such a great event last year at Aka Aka we all wanted to do it again so Keith asked Tony Vazey if we could have another event in his paddock. No problems there so Paul Crispe stepped in again as Clerk of Course and got the Permit organized. This year we were using the clubs own Timing Gear (kindly donated by MCCoA Member Richard Atkins) which has a large remote display panel so everyone can see the time in progress without having to peer over the timing officials shoulder.

We meet the small but perfectly formed Minis Waikato crew at BP Bombay and with the MCCoA team in convoy we headed out to Aka Aka.

The advance party of Murray & Trent had already pitched the tent and Ian G had dropped off the Porta Loo and Paul & Gary were setting up the first course.

With a smaller number of competitors this year (MCCoA = 7 vs MW = 4) registration and scrutineering was taken care of quickly and Paul held the drivers briefing and explained that because of the small turn out we would all get to do more runs and

Ben Fitness (MCCoA)
Winner of Aka Aka
Autocross 2015

1st place.





Keith Hargraves (MCCoA)
finished in

2nd place.

there would be 3 runs of 2 laps on each course. We finally stopped after 4 courses (12 runs).

Your best times from each course were added together to give your total time – lowest time wins.

Paul did a demo lap of the course in his Commodore then it was time for "Gentlemen (& Helen) start your engines, let's go and make some dust!!"

There was no holding back as Keith set the track alight with a great first run with Ben T (MW) hot on his heels and Ben F showing that his form at the Nationals was no fluke but by the third run I'd managed to get MINTED flying and edged Keith out by 0.056sec with Murray G storming into 3rd, 0.115sec behind him. The new timing gear became the focus of attention – this was going to be a great contest – and yes we were having fun too. Test 2 – this time Trent threw down the

driving glove in the Aquacut Mini he was sharing with Murray, and he set the fastest time closely followed by Ben F who just pipped Ben T.

Time to fire up the BBQ for lunch and have a cuppa and compare notes.

Test 3 – more of the same, some courses flowed better than others but it was Fast & Furious – the cuppa had worked for Chris R as he was now a contender. Chris was having a guest drive in his Son in laws Purplemini and set the fastest time narrowly edging out Ben F (the son in law!) by 0.090sec who was just ahead of Keith by 0.181sec. We told Chris that it was not cool to beat the time of the cars owner or he might find that it was a long walk home to Huia.

Last test of the day – Test 4 – Keith ran before me and clocked 56.020 sec, I managed to just pip him with a 56.011sec run and we watched the timer

as Ben F did his last run, did he have anything left ? I think he'd just been foxing us old guys as he stopped the clock at 55.220sec and blew us both away. Great run Ben, and a great way to finish the day.

There had been 4 different winners of the 4 tests during the day – how close was that.

We tidied up and put the Mini's back on the trailers etc while the Timing Crew - Catherine & Michelle (thank you ladies) with assistance from Trent sorted the results in the laptop – and the winner was announced (Chris R) but unfortunately there was an error in the results spreadsheet (too many tests ?) and it wouldn't be until later in the week after resorting the times that the winner was revealed.

I rang Ben and asked him to break the news to his Father in Law Chris that there had been a change in the event placings and to let him down gently. I'm sure he did !

INDIVIDUAL PLACES WERE:	TOTAL
1ST BEN FITNESS (MCCOA):	191.692 SEC
2ND KEITH HARGRAVES (MCCOA):	193.304 SEC
3RD KEVT (MCCOA):	193.686 SEC.
4TH BEN TAYLOR (MW):	194.629 SEC.
5TH TRENT DIXON (MCCOA):	195.533 SEC
6TH CHRIS ROPER (MCCOA):	196.416 SEC.

So a Round win to MCCoA but incredibly close results throughout the day. If there was a Ladies prize, the trophy would have gone to Helen again. (If there was a Ladies prize, would more Ladies turn up to compete for it I wonder ??)

Thanks again to Tony Vazey for the use of his paddock.

Thanks Waikato Mini for joining us again at Aka Aka.

Thanks also to Paul for running the event, Keith & Gary for scrutineering, Catherine & Michelle for timing & results (assisted by Trent), Murray & helpers for cooking the BBQ and Ian Gillanders for fetching and returning the Porta Loo. And thanks to everyone else that turned up to compete or spectate.

KevT & MINTED



KevT (MCCoA) finished in
3rd place.

Ben Taylor (MW) finished
in 4th place sharing the
drive in his father's Mini

4th place.



Trent Dixon finished in 5th place in
the Aquacut Mini

5th place.



Lloyd Clark had a good run in his
Clubman

GO KARTS

The Go Kart meeting was held after the normal monthly meeting. Eight keen members volunteered to race at the renowned track, of the eight only two members had not raced there before. We all knew that things got serious when one member (Andrew Carter) turned up with his own personalised helmet with a camera attached. He had driven from Taupo to ensure he would not lose his title, he won it last year with Alan and Kevin 2nd and 3rd respectively.

It all started with 5 laps to get familiar with the circuit. Then we had 4 lots of 10 lap heats to determine the fastest times, so that would be the starting order for the grand finale race of 15 laps.

The starting order was Andrew Carter, Rex Coubray, Alan Murie, Kevin Taylor, Brendon Powley, Tim Sinclair, Phil Kane and due to a very slow car Murray Grant.

After some big hits and a few sideways manoeuvres, we all made it across the finish line as follows, with fastest lap times recorded alongside each name:





NZ's FASTEST INDOOR KARTS



WINNING ORDER:

1. ANDREW CARTER	23.575
2. REX COUBRAY	23.667
3. ALAN MURIE	23.709
4. TIM SINCLAIR	23.690
5. KEVIN TAYLOR	24.164
6. BRENDON POWLEY	24.152
7. MURRAY GRANT	24.171
8. PHIL KANE	24.178

We all had a lot of fun and interesting racing lines taken to jockey for best positions into the corners. It was also a compliment to hear from the Formula E Team that they would welcome us back any time, as we acted like gentlemen on the track!!!!

Let's look forward to next years event, I am sure we can muster some more drivers to participate and knock Andrew off the top shelf.

Cheers,
Tim Sinclair.

THE HEART OF DARKNESS

MINI CLUB NIGHT TRIAL, SAT 20TH JUNE, 2015

As usual, we met at the Papakura Motorway BP, after 4 days of cold wet weather, and no moon. Au contraire, heavy cloud darkened the sky, when it wasn't raining. Managed to waterproof the electrics with a cut-down milk bottle, so it was very much a night of, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going". Car-clubbing at its best, yehaaa!

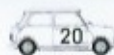
Upon our turn, it was south onto the motorway, and off again at Drury. As per instructions, left and 2L again, so that we could all go past Hi-Tech Motorsport, en route for sniffing the country air. Winding around some tight bends, drivers couldn't help their navigators by taking their eyes off the road - too dark. Three questions so far: "What was under Jesmond Br.?" - Water, something about clearance under a bridge, and something about honey-bees.

By now, we were on a road used by Targa (Gary's favourites), except we couldn't go fast! Too damn dangerous! So cool it Chris, and do what you're told. Anyway, winding around, up and down, and we found ourselves west of SH 22, heading for Waiuku. Ah, but were we going there ? Not on your Nellie ! Another question

about someone's 50th, but we couldn't see anything at all. Not to worry, when all else fails, improvise! Let's see... Patumahoe Rugby Club, yep, seems possible, and it just might be right??

Moving right along, yes, you guessed, we were on another Targa road. Well, they are the best ones: Hunter Rd, remember that? The steep drop from either side, with the awkward bend in the middle? Yes, that one! Not a bad rollercoaster. Anyway, hook a right after that, and we found ourselves in Mauku, leading for some quite wet, quite narrow, quite dark roads. You know it's dark when sealed-beam headlights light up the landscape.

About now, rain began, just entering Bald Hill Rd. The rain got heavier, and the hill got steeper, so the car got slower (1st



gear), just pelting down. Bless that milk bottle. Of course, the moment we got to the top, the rain stopped.

We skirted the lights of Waiuku in the distance, hoping that instructions were bang on, because some of the street signs were missing. Reminds me of that Welsh rally, the Press-On-Regardless, O ye of little faith!

The next clue to our whereabouts was the instruction to turn on to the Waiuku-Akaaka Rd, and shortly after that, the instructions had a warning: "ACUTE, WATCH GRAVEL". Well, I watched the gravel, as I threw the wheel round.

Bless the Targa, we soon got on to Forestry Rd., very much a confidence-course in daylight, never mind darkness. Once down off the hills, rumour has it we followed the Waikato River, until turning back inland, into the hills.

More black skies, more rain, more road-names missing, and more intersections with no street-lights. Good stuff! A few more dark, winding roads, and we saw some taillights in the distance, together with a torchlight beam being shone on gates and fences, doing exactly what we were doing. Seeing who was not home, perhaps?

Unfortunately the local Neighbourhood Watch saw this, and a pair of headlights appeared in the mirror, right behind, and probably took our name, BYGGLS. This car passed us and did the same with the taillights in front of us, so BYGGLS

and one other car are probably now the subjects of a police computer check. Mind you, this wouldn't be the first time, regarding Mini Club nocturnal outings.

Down towards Puke, over to Buckland, over the railway, and into some more dark, narrow, winding roads. Beaver Rd, for instance. Must tell Targa about this one, or would the "offs" be too numerous

This event is a classic one for any car-clubbers worthy of the name. It has everything: tricky roads, tricky weather, tricky questions, and some tricky navigation. This forces entrants to drive slowly – roller coasters, hairpins, 5-road intersections, nosey locals, and empty roads, except when I get to an intersection! Forget the World Cup! If you weren't there, you missed a really great club run. Who won it, I hear you ask? The Muries, of course! Well done, and many thanks to Gary and Cath for the reconnaissance. And the Franklin District.

Kevin Taylor

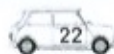
INTERCLUB AUTOCROSS HELD AT SCHICK'S YARD, TE RAPA

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2015



Ben Taylor (MW) was the
fastest on the day -

1st place.



The 3rd round of the Interclub Series was a sealed Autocross held in the yard of Schick Transport in Te Rapa, Hamilton, organized by Minis Waikato.

The MCCoA Team meet at BP Bombay to convoy to Te Rapa lead by Gavin who wanted to take his Mini Cooper Sportpac for a run (obviously hadn't done enough Mini motoring in the last couple of weeks doing the Pork Pie run !!)

The Minis Waikato crew had set up the course before we arrived so after registration and scrutineering it was time to walk the course to see where it went. Very interesting - turn left between the buildings and head toward the line of parked trucks and then turn around and head back between the buildings and towards the block wall before heading back to the start line and going around again for a second lap. Plenty of cones to show where not to go and what not to hit. The sealed surface was nice and smooth with a light covering of sand, just enough to make it slippery.

The MCCoA Team of Chris Roper, Ben Fitness, Ashley Bennellick, Paul Crispe & KevT were ready to go. The mornings runs were to be done clockwise and after lunch it would be anticlockwise.

I can't remember who was away first but we quickly got down to business and it was pretty exciting making sure that you gave some cones a bit more space as you knew that they were hiding some solid bollards. I managed to overcook my second run and had a go at a cone but

stopped (stalled) just in time, it would have been better to have hit it and take the 5 second penalty as I lost 30 seconds restarting and reversing away from the cone. The results show that Paul picked up a couple of cone penalties and Ben F got lost on his first run but got it sorted after that and was in the 50's with Paul & I but the Waikato guys were flying and BenT & Brent were in the 48's after 4 runs.

Must be time for lunch, thanks Colin for the BBQ and cuppa and a quick check of the Mini before the afternoons runs. Chris withdrew from the afternoon's runs as he had tickled up his back problem in the morning and didn't want to do anymore damage.

I drew the short straw as first away after lunch and got about half way around the course before remembering that I was meant to be going the other way (anticlockwise) and that would be why the flag marshalls were all laughing and pointing in that direction !!

Paul was flying and was showing us his drifting moves in MY MINI which may have been something to do with the old hard tyres he was running on. Great to see Paul back behind the wheel of the Crispe Mini and enjoying the competition. BenF & Ash were still trying hard but none of us could keep up with BenT who clocked 46.41secs to finish 2 secs ahead of Brent. Gavin Bowring and I were within fractions of a second of each other all day but Gavin put in a great

final run to beat me into 3rd place (which makes me 4th again and writing another report). I missed seeing it but it was reported that Kevin Dwayne (WM) lost it in his last run and took out all the cones on the way to the finish line, too many penalties to count but he went out in style.

FINAL RESULTS FOR THE DAY WERE :

	TOTAL
1ST BEN TAYLOR (MW):	95.17 SEC
2ND BRENT MIDDLEMISS (MW):	96.70 SEC
3RD GAVIN BOWRING (MW):	99.53 SEC
4TH KEVT (MCCOA):	99.89 SEC
5TH DAVID MIDDLEMISS (MW):	100.69 SEC
6TH PAUL CRISPE (MCCOA):	100.71 SEC
7TH BEN FITNESS (MCCOA):	102.06 SEC
11TH ASH BENNELICK(MCCOA)	110.24 SEC

So a Round win to Minis Waikato this time – congratulations.

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Helen Middlemiss picked up the Ladies prize again.

Thanks to Brent for securing the use of the Schick Yard.

Thanks Minis Waikato for organizing a great event and turning on the sunshine.

And thanks to the MCCoA Team who turned up to compete & have fun.

KevT & MINTED





Brent Middlemiss (MW)
finished in 2nd place

2nd place.

Gavin Bowring (MW)
finished in

3rd place.

(that's me in the
background realising that
I've just been pushed
back to 4th place – but
fastest Aucklander !)



KevT (MCCoA) happy to
finish in

4th place.





Paul Crispe back in action in the Crispe family Mini, great to see Paul & the Mini back in action.

Ben Fitness lost the nut off his engine steady bar so went back to try and find it.



Ash Bennellick chasing his reflection



Chris Roper had some good runs in the morning but retired from the afternoons runs because of a back injury



TARGA RALLYSPRINT

PREPARATION

Gary Ashton, BYGGLS, and I had been looking forward to the 8th of March for some months, and as we were both heavyweights in a one-litre car, we did not expect any world records. We knew we badly needed torque.

Due to budget constraints, there wouldn't be a dynamometer session. So early January, into the Vizard book, and see what we could find. Gas speed, exhaust and induction, was what we needed, plus optimum combustion. Well, we knew that, but David Vizard knew more.

Check the tables to see where the Cooper sat, in the levels of preparation: worked 12G295 head, twin one and a quarters, lightened and balanced, sports cam (Kent 266), and long centre-branch extractors.

Vizard naturally had a few suggestions: fettle the carbs, the present M needles (Cooper S rich) would do, install clean filters, and then take it to a garage to get the charge mixture optimised against the exhaust mixture. We kept the Cooper air-box because it induces a stable air-flow into the SU's, and changed the oil. Due to queuing at the special stage start line, and expecting to do all of the special stages in 2nd & 3rd gears, some "hot" sparkplugs were added, to reduce the chances of temperamental behaviour. Swap in some competition brake-pads, & that was that.

The only other adjustments were to the



suspension settings: ride-height and hardness. The former needs compromise between a low setting for handling and a higher setting to absorb undulations in the road surface, while the latter needs to be just a tiny bit softer than racing, but still hard enough for stability of unknown camber on unknown corners. Budget rallying, here we come.

Early Morning

The day dawned with pools of water on the ground after overnight rain, so a quick decision about the tyres: A032's were already on, so they would remain there, with the A008's available if the day became really warm. It didn't. We unpacked some cans of petrol, jack, axle-stands, brace, assorted tools, checked tyre pressures, and left it at that.

So to documentation, and checking our depart time for stage 1. The briefing consisted of a roll-call, with a lot of banter, an emphasis that the 2 Clevedon stages would run as Legs 1 to 4, plus the usual safety info, rather like Taupo.

The familiarisation run behind the zero car was led out by the Mustang Club. Those of the Mini Club who have done the Night Trials will have traversed the roads in the Clevedon area. Stage 1 began on Monument Rd, & ran to the far end of Skyhigh Rd. Stage 2 ran up Garvie, Jones, Creighton, & Ardmore Quarry Roads. But

coming down Ardmore Quarry Rd, one of the Mustangs put itself down a bank on a damp, shadowy, mossy corner. A serious wake-up.

We were first up on the startline in Monument Rd. Gary had the drive for the day, while I rapidly trawled through the safety (read pace) notes for anything we needed to know. We had a worked 911 right behind us, with a 240Z behind him. Boy, would the pressure be on!

RACING THIS TIME

With the usual 5-4-3-2-1-go! , we were off, hard out, but not too hard on the bends due to cold tyres, and moreover because we had no intention of drying the puddles for the other 35 cars. Anyway, "kick it in the guts, Trev".

Neil Allport's safety-notes (pacenotes) worked beautifully, oh joy! Corners came up at just the right time, at just the right angle, even over the crests. Because they describe the road, these safety notes work equally well for a Mini or a hot 911.

With a very good drive by Gary, nobody got us, coming up the hill. However no such luck on Stage 2. The startline leads uphill for 1200m, and a Mini with front engine/front drive is precisely the wrong configuration. Not surprised then, when the 911 got us at the top, somewhere along the rollercoaster of Jones Rd. Unfortunately, the 240Z got us as well, in Creightons Rd, just past the T-corner with the narrow bridge and the ditch.

We hooked a 3 Right into Ardmore Quarry Rd (funny how crowds gather at the corners), but sit up, this was where the Mustang caught it. Brake-pads get hot, since this road is very technical: squirt, brake, squirt, brake. Brake-fade or getting

it wrong can put you into ditches, fences, banks, and gullies.

Somewhere down the bottom, some dry pine needles all over the road gave us cause for caution. We trod carefully over them, knowing that the next time around, 35 other cars would have swept them. A couple more 6 rights & a 5 left, and that was Stage 2.

Returned to Ardmore, topped up the dashpots and added a little petrol. Catherine Ashton passed us each a quick feed, and out the gate to Monument Rd, again, Stage 3.



STAGES 3 & 4

This time, we knew better how the corners flowed, and managed faster times with dryer roads. Wiggly curves became straight lines, as we steered a straight line from one apex to the next. We started to really use the width of the road to flatten the approach to apexes, and floored the throttle the moment we saw the exit running into the next bend, and set our line accordingly. The pace-notes gave us the tightness, but instant assessment of each bend's camber was our job.

THE ROADS

Monument Rd is fast, with tight 3 & 4 lefts & rights mixed in, and a couple of off-cambers for good measure. Skyhigh Rd is very fast, providing the way is clear. Garvie Rd is a tough climb for a 1-litre motor, and has some 5Left climbs over crests on a narrow surface. It requires precise co-ordination over the intercom to set up the car for each coming bend. Jones Rd begins with a 3Right off-camber bend leading straight into a 2nd gear climb, and is the toughest climb of the route. It then has some roller-coaster stuff, leading into a final patch of hard downhill braking for a 3Left into Creightons Road. This latter is generally fast, a couple of crests, and finishes with a sharp 3right, off-camber corner. Ardmore Quarry Rd is tricky, all the way down. If you're going to go off, chances are it'll be on this one. And the 911 behind us did. Trying too hard. Hah !

STAGES 5 & 6

Going around once more, our times improved yet again. Gary was really getting a feel for the car and the roads. And the ride in the co-driver's seat was just enthralling! This time around, we got passed by a 2-litre Escort, but not the 240Z. We found out later that he'd put his front end into a ditch, coming down Ardmore Quarry Rd. Tough, eh.

STAGES 7 & 8

Some more 98 & some oil in the dashpots. By now, we knew we weren't in the lead, so we went out to just thrash the special stages, which Gary proceeded to do in fine style. By now, we'd got the hang of that bloody corner at the top of Garvie Rd, which you have to do, to have any real speed up the immediate gradient. We positively rocketed past the trig at the top into that long 6Left, but others were equally improving. This time, two 2-litre Escorts passed us, plus a Nissan GTR, showing just how out-gunned we were. But by then, we didn't care.

ROUNDUP

Thanks are due to the Targa volunteers who manned the start/finish/timing crews, and who gave up their Sundays, so that the competitors could have a yippee around the Clevedon hills. The car performed brilliantly on the day, pulled like a train, handled the corners well, and went exactly where it was steered. This was a much more technical competition than last year's at Paerata/Patumahoe, and the mechanical demands on the Cooper were higher. Thanks must also go out to Minibitz, Lynn Rogers, & Maraetai Automotive, for assembling a pretty bullet-proof little package. Room for improvement? -Yeah, I reckon...

Chris McMurray

Photos by Howard Youngs

