

# From the Secretary!

*Super Car Sunday may have been dropped as an economy measure by 'Mr Henry T Ford' who is now in charge at Gaydon but they can't keep the DeLorean's away that easily*

**A** big thanks to Claire Usher and the Renault Owners Club as we were invited to join them for their annual rally at Gaydon on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2003.

The weather had been very hot and dry for a couple of weeks prior to the event, with dry weather anticipated right up to the night before when "thunder'y showers" started to be forecast on the Saturday evening news. Luckily I had already got Andy Withers to commit to bring along his treasured "Auto" out of safe keeping and blow the cobwebs off her, there is no way that he would have done if he had known the latest weather forecast. Unfortunately the same can't be said of some other owners who left their cars safely at home keeping the number down.

I was originally booked to just take DeLore as I had finally sorted out its brake problems. (The RHD's are a completely different set up using two remote servos and can be difficult to set up). But following a very welcome decision from [www.sureterm.com](http://www.sureterm.com) to insure Backy it gave me the option of taking the two cars. With Simon roped in to drive DeLore and me driving Backy together with two car-less club members (at least at the moment), Mike and Stuart. We set from Quarndon Heights with Robin and his friend in his DeLorean, in nice convoy of three DeLorean's with my Backy up front.

Driving to Gaydon was very enjoyable and un-eventful, well apart from all the friendly waving and tooting from passing cars. The look on the faces as they passed by was priceless! I can just imagine some of the conversations, "Look at that in front, it's a DeLorean, I've never seen one on the road before", "Blooming heck, there's another one! They are made of aluminium you know, they also used one in a film Back to the Future and bloody hell there it is!!! Etc etc.

Our little convoy arrived and joined the rest of the DeLorean's in the top car park, making 14 cars in total. After the obligatory chatting, catching up and photographs we did our usual "doors up" drive down to the museum complex, with my Backy leading the way, this time all with our headlights on, just for a change. Gone were the usual hoards of petrol heads, to be replaced by a much smaller group of DeLorean and Renault owners photographing us on the way down.

We parked up and had a very pleasant day chatting and looking at each other cars. It was good to see so many members, who had made great efforts and driven many miles to be there. John Chapplehow and "Boeing" Vin 737 had his first proper drive to be part of the gathering especially as John had finally sorted out her teething problems only a few days before.

I had provided some prizes for a little bit of competition. Mark Bourne, now being a family man, had arrived in his new people carrier, rather than in his DeLorean. As he is a certified Concourse Judge, I roped him in to do the judging.



“ They are made of aluminium you know, they also used one in a film *Back to the Future* and bloody hell there it is!!! ”



There were originally three categories: -

- 1) Best Original Car: Won by Ian Pennington (Ian Titley's old car) in absolutely superb original condition. (You can even tell that by the 6" gap between the front wheel and the wing, no Euro springs here. Quick plug!)
- 2) Cleanest Car: Won by Claire and Dave with DGS... bit of favouritism here Mark for your old car? No not really it was a worthy winner.
- 3) Furthest Travelled Car: Jan Van De How who had covered a colossal distance from his home in Holland. (Had there been a prize for the dirtiest car, he would have won that as well! Only Kidding Jan.

Then I had a brain wave, and introduced a last minute fourth category, "Most modified car" and guess what my Bucky won!

Dave and Martin had a selection of spares on display from "DeLorean Motors" that were eagerly inspected by all present.

I was also very surprised and gratified to win "Best visiting Classic" by the Renault Club. The first proper car prize I have ever won! I had to keep switching Bucky's engine off as I progressed towards the rostrum to receive my prize as my exhaust note kept drowning out the words of the prize giver!

A nice drive home through thundery showers with neither car missing a beat, and yes, the BTTF gear stays put at 87 MPH, I tried it. I had not got the courage to do 88 MPH though; I might have ended up before I started!

Chris Parnham



John Chapelhow & Boeing