

I'm the NEW CUSTODIAN

By David Laing

A committee member of SCCA who doesn't even own a Sprite/Midget stablemate?

I do NOW – it's the Rob Allen, Colin Dodds built Lenham GTO



I'd been casually looking at Sprites and Midgets at Concours's, All British Days, eBay, Carsales, Unique Cars etc. and just generally googling to see what was on offer. I say "casually" because most of you would know I have an immaculate - even if I say so myself! - 1977 Minivan – the Brooklands green one – so to own another "old" car seemed an unnecessary expense/investment, particularly for a retiree!

Whilst I admired many examples of various model Sprites and Midgets, there was always something that didn't "press the right buttons" – I'm just too practical!

The Lenham GTO was featured on the Sebring website that I stumbled upon when googling Sebring. I knew the bonnet shape, that was somewhat different to a standard Sprite/Midget, was a Sebring. Then there was the usual websites for car sales, and low and behold, there was this 1971 MG Midget that featured on the Sebring website – "contact Colin at Dural". Well, there is only one Colin at Dural I knew, who could possibly be connected with a car like that! I was right. The car was at Rob & Sharon Allen's – fellow SCCA members - at Glenorie – a couple Bev & I knew particularly well from our recent stint at "The Nationals" in Goulburn & prominent All British Day organisers, so everything was starting to fall in place. Now to convince "The Minister of Finance" who threw up every manner of resistance and of course, common-sense logic! I prevailed and we decided to sus it out further. A test drive with Colin, then further discussion and viewing with "The Minister of Finance", more web searching showing further details about this unique vehicle, a list of 14 questions & soul searching "was this the car for me/us?" over the next couple of days. Then an email from Colin, alerting me to a very serious enquiry, so the pressure was on, however, I was 95% convinced that this was going to turn out ok in my favour, as long as the price was right.

The deal was done and I officially picked up the car on 10th May 2016, and promptly left it with Colin to sort historic plate rego, whilst I worked frantically at home clearing space around the 2 minivans, tool chests, sand blaster etc.



Then on Sat 14th May, Bev dropped me off at Colin's, saw the "palindrome" rego plates 59895H - a nice touch, care of Colin (he's like that) - and off home to safely garage her and become familiar with all aspects and determining what I would do to put "my stamp" on this beautiful piece of machinery, of which I regard myself, as

"The new Custodian"

Photo – Bev & I on our 1st run, Sun 15th May 2016, National Motoring Heritage Day, Museum of Fire, Penrith.