

Owners Club News

February 2002 Newsletter



UK Owner's Club

A word from the President

If you've been a club member for a while, you'll have noticed a welcome increase in activity in the last few weeks – especially if you're on the UK email list. Since the club was formed it has relied on two or three people to organise events, and the level of activity has always been directly proportional to how much time those people had to spare. In some ways, it's always been a club for people who wouldn't normally have anything to do with a traditional car club!

A glance through this newsletter proves that we start 2002 in a much stronger position. At last, we have enough volunteers to justify calling ourselves a committee, all those good ideas we've had for meetings, merchandise and other club benefits are really being implemented, and this year's International meeting at Portsmouth will be outstanding. Now it's up to you – the members – to respond. Enjoy the meetings and the merchandise, make use of the knowledge and contacts available in the club, and feel free to make suggestions. Just be careful – if your suggestions are good, you could end up on the committee too!



The programme will begin at 10am on Saturday and finish after lunch on Monday and will include visits to the New Forest, Beaulieu National Motor Museum www.beaulieu.co.uk (celebrating its 50th anniversary), the Historic Dockyards of Portsmouth www.historicdockyard.co.uk and the beautiful Hampshire Coast.

Due to the hotel's cancellation policy, bookings must be made and payment received by **Friday 15th March latest**.

Places are limited to 40 cars so please book early to save disappointment - and so that I start sleeping at night again! Bookings and payment details are available at:

<http://www.fiatbarchetta.com/club/uk/intmeet2002/intmeet.html>

Alternatively, see the booking form at the end of this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you all soon - From the whole UK Committee

Booking Options

	What is included	Sterling Cost per person
Choice 1	Arrive Saturday morning by 10am, full programme leaving Monday after lunch (approx 3pm).	170 Double 220 Single
Choice 2	Arrive Saturday evening (meeting at hotel in time for dinner), leaving Monday after lunch.	155 Double 205 Single
Choice 3	Arrive Saturday morning by 10am, leaving Sunday late afternoon.	105 Double 130 Single
Choice 4	Arrive Saturday evening, leave Sunday late afternoon.	90 Double 115 Single
Friday Night Option (only with Choice 1 or 3)	If you wish to stay Friday night. Bed and Breakfast	Choice 1 or 3 plus additional 42 Double 60 Single



Bruges



Bruges played host to a UK organised International Christmas Meeting in December last year. This is Ruud Besems review.
[with thanks to Martin Chohan for the organisation]

A relaxed way to get ready to attend yet another International Barchetta Meeting

As always we've planned this meeting way ahead of this date so no rush in packing etc...

Or maybe not... the real version is that after working until noon I picked up Jolande (aka Jolly) got home at 12.45 hrs switched cars packed our luggage stuffed it in the back of the Barchetta and off we went. After a few miles the doubts start entering our minds haven't we forgotten anything, we ran the checklist in our minds and kept driving.

Traffic was reasonably okay so after about two hours we reached Bruges and received a text message from Martin saying he'd be a wee bit later because a certain person who shall remain nameless for now had a hangover and needed some Tea.

Our first thoughts were... YEAHHH Right he's probably gotten lost again but his story was backed up later on by several other meeting attendants.



On a side note ever heard someone from the UK order three Tea in France must be a bit 'Allo 'Allo-ish since they received three cheeseburgers .

So we parked the Barchetta in the hotel parking checked into the hotel got our key and then I found out our luggage was missing. No worries since it was a 4 star hotel I assumed someone already took it upstairs but NOPE it turned out Martin and some others had arrived and he had moved it ... the beginning of a fun weekend.

We all said our hello's and went up to the rooms to refresh ourselves and got down around 19.00 hrs for dinner in the hotel's restaurant. By now everyone had arrived and although I knew most of the Barchettisti Jolly met a few of them for the first time and as usual at Barchetta meetings this was no problem at all soon enough everyone was eating and discussing various topics.

After dinner we went for a walk of about an hour but it was just too cold to stay out too long so off to the bar we went and we talked some more unfortunately we couldn't drink too much since Brian and Caroline, who were in the hotel the weekend before ours (what a coincidence or...), had drunk the bar dry:-)

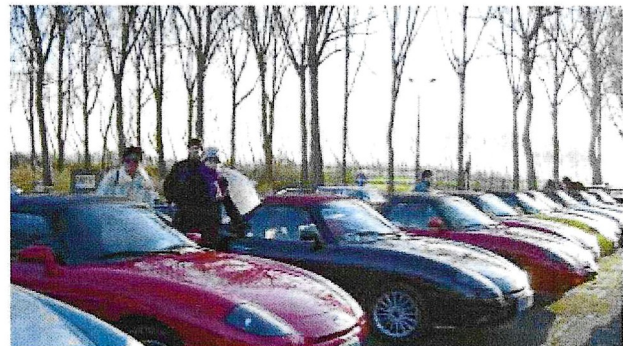


Okay it might also have been the fact that everyone was pretty tired that we turned in rather early...

The next day Saturday was reserved for Christmas shopping it turned out that Bruges is not the place for Christmas shopping or at least not for those of us who have to pay for the shopping... shops enough presents enough but the francs were flying out of my wallet. :-)

We only bought three boxes of chocolate though some people bought up to NINE kilograms which was not just for themselves they claimed...sure that's what I would say too....

After a lot of shopping we came back into the hotel where some others had arrived. The group was now at complete strength time to go into Bruges again for dinner at a nice quiet restaurant that had already been picked by Rubila and Martin it was quiet until we got there I still feel sorry for the old couple that sat there as the only other customers in our section. The food turned out to be excellent as was the beer they served I opted for a medium white beer which turned out so big that I almost needed two hands to lift the glass. Richard ordered a Kwak beer which came in a beautiful glass with a wooden stand drinking the Kwak turned out more difficult then ordering it .. let's just say that some of the beer actually made it into his mouth...



We walked back to the hotel and drank a little in bar yet again and everyone started worrying about the drive that was planned for the Sunday, No not because of the cold of course but because of that fact that Martin would be guiding us. Some people tried chickening out by saying it was too late to get up in time to join the Barchetta Belgium Winter Wonderland tour but in the end everyone was



there in time. Although one strange looking Barchetta turned up actually the President of the Dutch club turned up in his Lancia needless to say that the Revolution will start soon and his reign will not last long :-)

Everyone except Freek of course went Top Down yeahhh even Marc was Top Down (he had removed his Wiesmann especially for the meeting). It even turned out that whilst doing average speeds of 50 Miles an hour it was warmer inside the Barchetta then outside. We took some pictures on the beach but were almost arrested for animal abuse since Francois dog was almost freezing to death. We reached Damme without getting lost and found ourselves in yet another perfect restaurant for the closing lunch of the meeting.

I must say even after all the teasing we always do about Martin getting lost. We were extremely impressed by the fact that Rubila and Martin organized this meeting in Belgium with such a beautiful drive along very narrow roads and great restaurants. I think it's about time he organizes a meeting in Holland. :-)

Once again Rubila and Martin, a big big thank you for going through all that trouble of organizing this Christmas meeting.

See you soon Jolly & Ruud

Heat Shield Replacement

Overview by John Turvill.

The purpose of the heat shield is to keep the under bonnet temperature down and also to protect the surrounding parts of the engine bay from heat soak, the first one affects performance. The cooler the engine bay the better the car runs by allowing cooler more dense air to enter the engine giving a better burn and hence better performance. The shield also protects surrounding ancillaries from heat soak or radiated heat which will soak into the nice black plastic induction box heating up your intake air which causes the first problem mentioned. You will see the effect of this if you take out your dipstick (which passes between the exhaust headers) you will notice that there is a dark patch in the middle of the dipstick that is incinerated oil stuck to the dipstick due to the heat soak from the headers.

Tools

10mm spanner
medium screwdriver
patience

For help with your latest technical project on your Barchetta - visit the technical pages on:

<http://fiatbarchetta.com/btech>

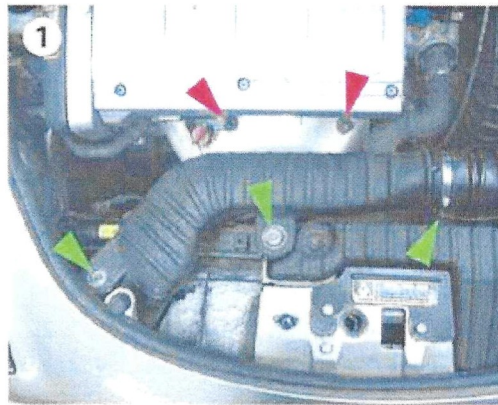
Warning! - Many parts of the engine bay become extremely hot every time the engine is used, make sure the car has not been used recently before attempting this project.

Remove the screws retaining the air duct (marked in green).

Remove air duct.

Remove 3 nuts from heatshield (red, pictures 1 & 2)

Pull heatshield up and out, levering the left side forward and away from oil feed pipe.



This shows the likely extent of damage, symptoms being severe vibration noise.



Fit new heatshield pushing it through from above, bending it to avoid various obstructions!

Once in position it may need bending out a little to fit correctly on all 3 studs.





Winter Meeting January 2002

Words by Geoff Bowles, pictures by Ian Barnett.

Friday. A delayed start (after forgetting the passports) meant an unpleasant drive down an M25 clogged with Friday afternoon traffic. We met Ian Barnett at the tunnel terminal and boarded the train together. During the crossing, we were delighted to be joined by UK club members Robert & Clare Stokes: they were on their way to Calais for dinner but had seen our cars boarding, and searched the train until they found us!



We were soon heading down the A16 towards Beauvais on a dark, wet night with the cars twitching as we passed trucks in the gusty crosswinds. We knew our hotel was near junction 14, so were disappointed to find that junction 14 doesn't exist for southbound travelers. After driving an extra 50km to junction 15 and back, we were relieved to find the hotel, and pleased to see Luke Rochester who had traveled from Jersey earlier in the day.

Saturday: we had planned an early start, but some of us (!) overslept, so we breakfasted quickly and set off down the autoroute at unmentionably high speeds. Congested roads and dodgy navigation delayed us in the Industrial areas near Paris so there was no welcoming party when we arrived at Disneyland. Fortunately, the staff were expecting us and they directed us to the VIP parking where we found a row of recently parked barchetta. Fred Fatoux met us with our tickets, and led us up Main Street to book places for the first roller coaster ride and to meet up with our friends, old and new. Disneyland is hard to describe in a few words, so let's just say that it somehow manages to rise above the tacky plastic scenery to be a "fun" place, where people of all ages are determined to have a good time...

By 5pm we had all had enough fun, so we went back to the cars and drove to Reims. We parked the cars and walked into the centre of town to see the start of the historic Monte Carlo rally. There was a good range of interesting cars, and it was nice to see plenty of British classics including minis, Lotus Cortinas, and assorted Triumphs and MGs.

Back at the hotel we just had time to sample the local champagne before dinner in the hotel restaurant. The food was superb, there was an ample supply of excellent wine and the company was convivial. Thoughts of plastic theme parks, whiplash roller coaster rides, dark drives on murky motorways and navigational nightmares quickly faded in the memory – this is what barchetta meetings are all about !!!



Sunday: a short drive across town brought us to the Reims car museum, which specialises in cars of the 1950s and the work of local auto designer Charbonneau. After an introductory talk by the manager, we had the museum to ourselves to examine some very interesting cars. A short drive in the country helped us to work up an appetite for a memorable lunch, which lasted for several hours with an endless succession of courses. Our end of the table was truly international, with natives of Belgium, England, Jersey and Sardinia - not forgetting Susan - an American living in Switzerland - who is now a fully paid up member of the UK club! We finally left the table for the final drive of the meeting – a tour of the Champagne vineyards through some very attractive scenery. The meeting finished on the start-finish line of the old Grand Prix circuit, surrounded by the sad, crumbling remains of the pits and grandstands. It was an atmospheric end to another memorable meeting.

