

PYTHON

NEWS

ISSUE NUMBER 2
WINTER 1991

● Published by Unique Autocraft for people everywhere interested in the Kit Car industry ●



A FESTIVE FAREWELL TO '91.

Well what an exiting year it has been, this year we have introduced more new customers to the Python than any previous year. This is mainly due to the significant number of changes within the company.

Firstly we have invested a great deal of time and expense in developing a brand new body mould. Peter Gottlieb our fibre glass expert has introduced a number of time saving features which has cut the preparation time by half and improved the quality to a stage where we can run cars in self coloured gel. All this adds up to a great saving when it is time to have the final finish applied by a paint sprayer.

Other fundamental company changes which have been introduced in 91 include the new exhibition stand, open days, V12 engine option and a unique oil cooling system featured in 'Technical Tips.'

Well that was what happened this year and with the aid of this new publication we hope to keep you fully aware of any future developments as they happen via Python News.

May I wish you all a very festive building time and a Merry New Year.



SHOW SCENE - BOTH HOME AND AWAY

The 1991 show scene has been very successful for the Python. We have been lucky enough to meet you all at either one of the national events or at one of our open days.

"well what for 92" I hear you ask?. We will be attending the usual national shows and holding our follow up open days plus some interesting additions.

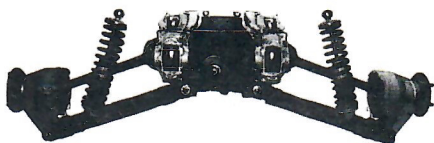
Firstly it was pleasing to see the NEC has been moved forward giving a much needed break prior to the ever popular Stoneliagh show. Personally we found the NEC to be a welcome step in the

Show Scene

Cont...

right direction towards a professional exhibition venue. We also believe that a greater number of major manufacturers will be in attendance this year which will be of great benefit to everybody concerned.

WARDS ENGINEERING



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Following these first two shows we will be holding open days two weeks after each event. Here at Unique we look forward to our open days. They give us the much needed time to discuss with you, your requirements away from the busy exhibition. We also get the chance to view the new arrivals and catch up with our long standing favourites. So don't be bashful, show off the car you have lavished so much attention upon while locked up in the garage. Blast it down to Harlow so we can appreciate it.

Well that is the plan for the first half of the year. In the second half (and hopefully the sunnier half) we have taken a slightly different approach. Having not attended Newark in previous years we thought there was a need for a change. We were all ready to attend in the usual manner when it struck us it may be more fun to attend in a more informal capacity. Therefore we will be joining you in the club enclosure for an informal social weekend. This

will give us the opportunity to talk at length without the added pressure associated with the exhibition. Plus the fact that it gives us a chance to wander around the shows. We look forward to seeing as many Pythons as possible, should this prove to be a success it could be the start of an exiting new social side to the Python.

Following Newark we will again be trying a new option. Although previous open days have been a resounding success, and in some respects over subscribed. We therefore intend to hold a NEW two day openday, the final plans are yet to be finalised but it threatens to be a little bit special. Once we know a little more you will be the first to know when we release the agenda in the next edition of Python News.

STOP PRESS *Due to the success of our open days this year, we have decided to start them early in '92. Our first is on Saturday January 18th 1992. We shall look forward to seeing you between 10.am and 4.pm at the factory.*

New for 1992 -

The Unique Autocraft Seal of Approval

To add to the extensive service already offered by Unique Autocraft, we aim to introduce 'The Unique Seal of Approval' in 1992.

To help you maintain a high standard of build quality, we are offering a free 90 point after-care check. This is designed to augment the existing M.O.T. Test that the vehicle will have to undergo, and is not designed to replace it.

One of our Engineers will check areas such as braking, steering and suspension as well as visually inspecting the whole vehicle. An extra pair of eyes may spot something inadvertently overlooked in the build up of your Python, as well as giving you a chance to query any small problems you may still have.

The aim of the service is to ensure your peace of mind and not to find fault with your workmanship.

To take advantage of this service you will have to book an appointment and allow approximately half a day for the test. Afterwards, we will issue a 'Unique Seal of Approval' certificate and photograph you and your pride and joy for our records and possible inclusion in the Python News.



LONDON KIT BUILD Quality Kit and Replica Car Specialist CONCOURS WINNING CAR BUILDERS

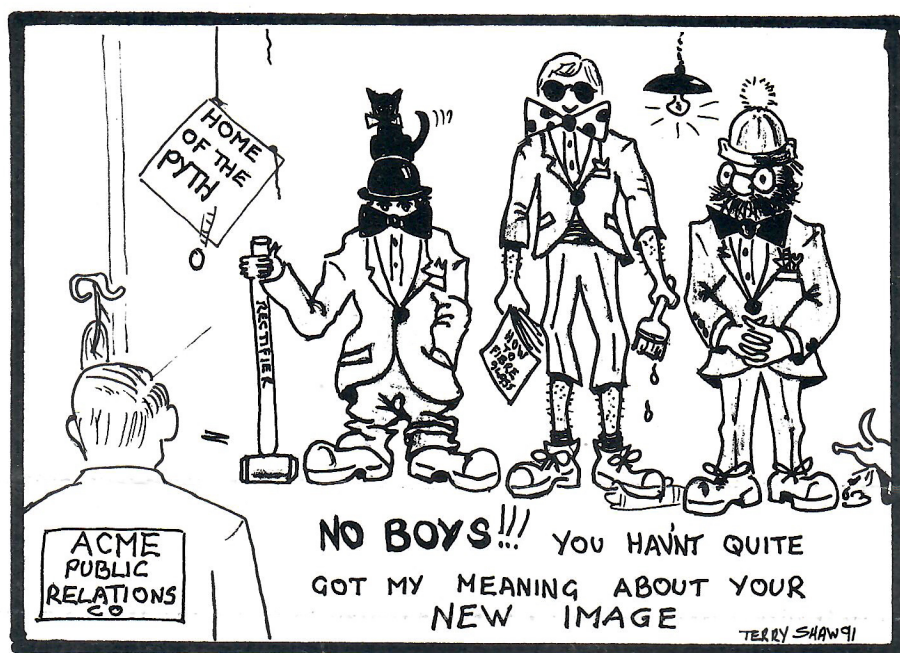
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THE 'UNIQUE' TWIN OIL COOLER KIT

In a similar vein to the article on controlling heat damage in the last publication of Python News we have continued the 'theme', by describing the essence of our "Unique" twin oil cooler kit.

This recently developed kit was initially put together to fulfill the need of a particular customer who is using a substantially modified Chevrolet smallblock V8 connected to an automatic gearbox. This modified engine produces a large amount of heat which needs to be dissipated and yet the normal position for the oil cooler was already occupied by the transmission oil cooler. This coupled together with the fact that the car was occasionally circuit raced necessitated the need for large capacity oil cooling, and if possible improved front brake cooling.



Thanks again to Terry Shaw - 'our Manchester Man' for another great cartoon -

The above criteria was amply catered for by providing a remotely mounted oil filter, further removing heat directly from the engine and facilitating oil filter changing, on the lower front suspension crossmember, and mounting twin oil coolers, one each behind the side ducts either side of the mouth of the radiator opening. Each oil cooler is then fed air from the duct which is enclosed by a "Unique" fibreglass casing which has a rear opening, gauze covered to prevent flying stones damaging the oil cooler, encouraging the air exiting to flow into the braking components, thus fulfilling our aim of brake cooling.

The whole system is then plumbed in 1/2" I.D. stainless steel braided hoses connecting to the engine via a take-off plate in replacement of the engine oil filter. All hoses that are provided in the "kit" are ready to length and ends are correctly angle set. Incorporated with the two forward hoses are, plastic spirally wrapped protectors to prevent chafing where the hoses pass each side of the water cooling radiator.

Systems may be simplified to delete the remote oil filter or where a transmission cooler is not required a single centrally mounted oil cooler may be used. In addition "oil stats" may be fitted to prevent over-cooling of the oil in cool running conditions and, of course, the system is suited to all makes of engine.

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The Unique 'T' Shirt Competition Winners.

The winners of our T-shirt competition should by now have received their prizes. A list of the lucky winners appears below. Thank you to everyone who entered and better luck next time.

1. Mr S.A. Bacon
2. Mr P.A. Marie
3. Mrs E. Montague

What is STATUS?

STATUS - The Specialist Transport Advisory and Testing Utility Society - was set up in early 1988 with monetary help from the Department of Trade and Industry. We had fifty founder members who joined in 1988 and this number included Unique Autocraft. The membership is now **ONE HUNDRED!**

The Society was set up to help improve all aspects of the industry - there is plenty of scope for improvement!

STATUS owns legislative material such as EEC Directives, ECE Regulations and the German and Japanese Regulations. We advise members on the whole legislative framework in which kits are built and have contacts with Government agencies which should help to ensure that nothing nasty happens to the industry!

We are helping individual companies all the time. Two recent examples are material suitability of a polymer for use as a petrol pipe and the precise interpretation of the Lighting Regulations. STATUS can also ensure manufacturer's welders are certified -so to speak!

We cannot think of a caption for this photo! if you can, please send it on a postcard to the editor. A small prize will be awarded for the best one.

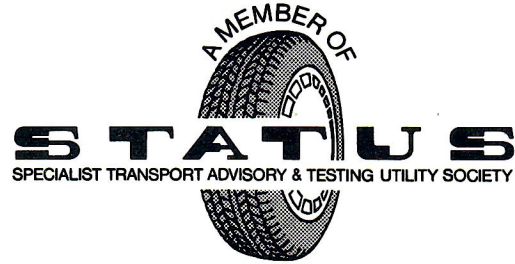
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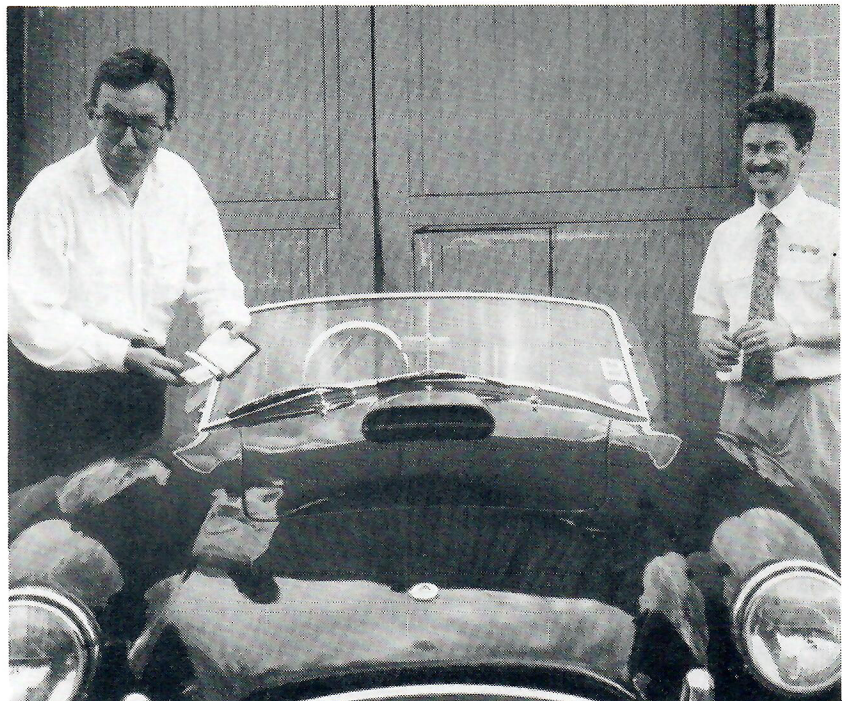
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Seminars for members are run on a regular basis and these have covered a range of subjects from copyright to welding methods. At our seminars we have had speakers from the Department of Transport and we have on many occasions asked questions in official circles on behalf of the membership.

What we don't know - which is plenty! - in most areas we know a man who does. We sometimes get difficult questions from people thinking of purchasing a particular kit - perhaps a Python - and we do our best to be completely straight-forward.

We like to think that the industry is slowly improving and that STATUS makes a useful contribution. You, the customers, are the judges of our work!



The car belongs to Neil Arnold of Chelmsford (shown on the left) with Rob Whitwell at one of our highly successful open days this year. Neil has one of the first of our new body's on his car, and is running it in the gel coat finish during the running in period. The car is fitted with a 350 cu. inch Chevrolet engine and a Turbo 400 auto gear-box.