

Wembley Classic Car & Restoration Show

by Jim Webb

Club Triumph was allocated a stand at the first Wembley Classic Car Show to be staged for a decade. The theme was to be 'Restoration' and as such we felt obliged to be seen doing just that, so I asked Bob and Richard if they could help and we discussed the possibility at our meet in the Air Balloon. It was soon decided that we should use Bob's Herald project. Problem number one was born of the fact that it was far from being ready at that point, and if as was suggested, we turn a bare chassis into a rolling one over the weekend, then a good deal of both cash and effort would be required in the run-up to the show. Bob decided to commit the cash as he felt that things were falling behind anyway and with Richard's help they got all the parts required whether new or refurbished to get the chassis finished. A couple of evenings were set aside for 'trial fitting' all the parts so that the project would not be jeopardised once it was started at the show (as well they did because it highlighted some problems they had not thought of).

Ok, ready to go, but now problem number two arose

in the form of transportation to and from the show because the van that was to be used, now couldn't be used, as the owner wanted to use it himself. We were now committed to the show so there was only one way left and that was for Richard to tow a trailer behind his Vitesse with the chassis strapped to it and for me to carry as many of the 'heavy' parts as possible in my Sprint as this car formed part of the show. Bob couldn't get time off on the set-up day of Friday 5 December so Richard and I trundled round the motorways and North Circular en-route to Wembley whilst Bob came via train and tube in the evening. The three of us wore overalls and T-shirts in Club colours for the duration of the show and built up the chassis over the two days and dropped it onto its wheels just before the end of show on Sunday 7 December 2003.

The saga didn't end there as Richard broke down on the way home, but perhaps he will tell you about that himself.

Our Club was awarded third best Stand and was suitably rewarded with a small trophy and a donation to Club funds.

