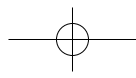
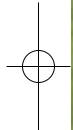


NIGHT RIDERS

Brands Hatch's Indy circuit played host to the first *Retro Cars* track evening back in July, an open pitlane affair that boasted a great turnout of modified classics...

Words: Simon Jackson Photos: Gary Hawkins





It was a dedicated evening of circuit-based antics solely for retro motors

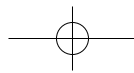
Taking to the track in a retro car can often spell disaster. Aside from the worry of mechanical breakdowns or your own over-exuberant driving spoiling your day, there's another major concern you simply can't control: the other cars on track. If you're used to cruising up the slow lane of the M1 or generally keeping your old motor away from potentially dicey situations involving far bigger, faster, modern motors, then the idea of

going head-to-head with newer and more extreme track-derived vehicles on track may well fill you with dread. From what we heard through sister magazine *Retro Ford*, who had previously run a joint track-based event with our other Ford title *Performance Ford*, that was certainly a consideration for some older car owners; let's face it, no one with an old Anglia wants to have Cossies driving around the outside of them all day...

Out of all this then came to idea for *Retro Ford* and *Retro Cars* to join forces for a combined track event at our local circuit, Brands Hatch in Kent. It was a chance for a dedicated evening of circuit-based antics solely for owners of retro motors, all set to take place in July at the height of the clear, bright and dry Summer evenings.

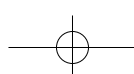
At £119 per car for the open pit lane night around the Indy circuit, the event certainly





represented good value for money. Drivers were required to sign-on between 15:30 and 16:30 ready for a briefing ahead of the track opening at 17:30 for sighter laps. After this the cars were let loose and allowed to play through until 20:00.

We have to say, though, that we were blown away by the turn-out of cars and attendees on the night – drivers, passengers, or those simply grabbing a burger and chips, fostering





contact

MotorSport Vision

website: www.motorsportvision.co.uk

Tel: 0870 850 5014

A blown Nissan Laurel was seriously rapid and had tongues wagging

a great atmosphere. As usual, cars and friends adopted pit garages, while the paddock itself looked like a mini car show with a very diverse mix of modified classics lined up, from Fords to Hillmans, some just parked to watch the fun and games.

On track a few familiar faces did their best to dodge the showers (very British summertime!), including Peter Hurst with his

'64 Anglia (RC 12/08), Ian Elliott in his stunning '73 BMW 2002 Tii (01/09), a tyre-chomping Mercedes-Benz 190E, and a white-over-champagne, blown Nissan Laurel that was seriously rapid and had most tongues wagging around the Indy circuit! Some of the *Retro Ford* fleet also made it out (unlike us, as yes, we're useless!), namely their caged 'Goldmember' Mk2 Escort project on bodies,

running passenger rides and entertaining the crowds all evening.

Aside from some iffy weather, we have to say we were very impressed by the evening, and feedback from drivers about the MotorSport Vision setup was positive, too. All-in-all a great foray into track days for *Retro Cars*, and something we hope to follow-up in the coming months – watch this space! ○

