

From Stone to Silverstone

— Stone based amateur driver lives the dream —

Back in 2003, Gazette reader Paul Moloney decided it was time to live out the dream he had nursed from an early age... to be a racing driver! (ED, I suspect you weren't alone in that dream!) In October of that year Paul bought a road going BMW 325i and started the job of converting it into a race car in the single garage of his home in Stone.

"I bought the car for £250 on eBay, and then sold the interior for £250!" laughs Paul.

On 13th April 2004, Paul joined another thirty two cars on the start line of one of the most famous circuits in the country, Silverstone.

"Most of the racers were new and we all had to attend a driver's briefing before the race", "We were told that when the red lights went out... GO!". Unfortunately, the seasoned racers who weren't required to attend the briefing were unaware of this recent rule change. The back of the grid set off... and the front didn't. "I hadn't even made it past the start line before I was nudged by another car, but within seconds I was racing, and hooked".

The 2004 season saw Paul race at some of the best known circuits in the country including Brands Hatch, Silverstone, Oulton Park and Donington in the Kuhnle Tyres BMW Championship.

"The 2005 season saw me far more prepared for what was to come," Paul now had the support of two local businesses helping to keep the car running smoothly and looking the part. The highlight of the season was to be the BMW Festival at Rockingham, "It was really well attended with about 6,000 people and not only did I win both of my races, I was being asked to sign autographs in the lunch break." The season finished with Paul taking the class win and a very nice trophy indeed.

Paul took the 2006 season out of racing to focus on his family, but in the latter half of the year he added a second BMW racer to the stable. The car had stood in a barn for nearly six years so Paul took it home and re-built the car to race. It turned out to be a lucky find, when



• Paul Moloney with the 320bhp BMW M3 which he has recently imported from Germany

If you'd like to keep up to date on his progress, a full calendar for the 2008 races can be found on his website at www.zonemotor-sport.co.uk

ED, Good luck Paul - and if there any local businesses that would like to sponsor Paul or get involved in his quest, he can be reached on 07801 049426 - or go to www.zonemotor-sport.co.uk for more information. Paul is also hoping to have the car on display at events across Staffordshire this year and is happy to hear from you if you'd like the car on display at your event.

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