

University challenge: with the Giulia GT in Barbados.



CLUB OF THE MONTH
OXFORD UNIVERSITIES MOTORSPORT FOUNDATION

Oxford union

A club for students promoting practical engineering

Kee an eye out for a group of young students campaigning a Riley 1.5 in Historic Racing Drivers' Club events and other competitions this year. Because they're likely to be members of the Oxford Universities Motorsport Foundation.

The group, founded in 2005 to provide hands-on practical experience of motorsport for those across the Oxford universities spectrum, has only just finished the Riley as a thoroughbred circuit racer. It was previously seen in 'naked' form at Race Retro in February, after being completely stripped using pyrolysis and acid dipping by Enviro-Strip UK.

This isn't the first classic the group has brought back to an action-packed life. Previous ones have included another Riley 1.5, which had Neil Campbell on board as a crew member in Barbados (PC June 2011), and an Alfa Romeo Giulia GT.

The target with the choice of project cars is to inspire, provide plenty of learning opportunities and give the widest possible

end use, from grassroots local events to international rallies. This has enabled the students to take part in events as diverse as the Goodwood Revival and Classic Le Mans. The foundation also exhibits at static shows such as the Birmingham NEC Classic Motor Show and Race Retro.

The OUMF aims to provide a thorough grounding in car preparation, component



The OUMF team with its latest 1.5 Riley project.



Federation students getting their hands dirty.

fabrication and team management and also does its best to help students find experience, work placement and jobs in the motorsport industry. The OUMF relies on contributions of cash, time and parts.

Foundation co-ordinator Ding Boston says: 'I can see how important what the OUMF does is to the lives and careers of those who are and have been part of it.'

'I also see the hope, interest and inspiration it stirs in those youngsters who see the OUMF students in action – getting involved, learning skills, going places and having fun. It's a hell of a powerful message to those who think engineering is dirty and motorsport is boring.'

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