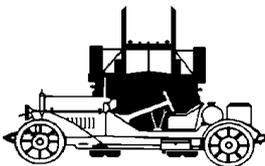


Miniature Auto

A publication for and by collectors and builders of model vehicles



Lledo Vanguards VA6304 Morris Marina
A Hidden 'Treasure' indeed!



February 2002 Issue 196

Miniature Auto is the bi-monthly newsletter of
The New Zealand Model Vehicle Club (Inc)

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Please address all correspondence to the Secretary.
Magazine articles and related correspondence to the Editor.
Change of address to the Secretary.

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PRESIDENTS PIECE

Presidents Report to the AGM

I want to begin by thanking all those members who have made the trip to attend, and also those members of Wellington Branch who have managed to squeeze the organising of this meeting into already very crowded lives. Before I carry on I would like members to take a moment to remember those club members who passed away over the last twelve months.

2001 was another quiet year for the club which should please those who only want to get on with the hobby side of things. Judging by the lack of business tabled for this AGM it looks as if 2002 will follow the same trend. This does not mean that nothing is happening or that things cannot be improved. During the past year I have asked several questions of the executive in an effort to find out where the club is and what direction it should take in the years ahead. While the consensus seemed to be that the club has survived the 'Mainland' schism there is a need to build the numbers especially in the branches outside Otago. There has been some growth in the three southern Branches but the situation in Marlborough and Wellington is serious with both branches teetering on the edge of extinction. The executive will update and unify all of the club's promotional material before the year is out, however the prime effort in turning these situations around must come from the members within the Branches.

The other two problems the Executive need to tackle, and for which there are as yet no apparent solutions are Club Direction and How to Establish More Branches in the North Island. The problem of direction becomes more urgent with each passing year as better communication and easier access to models replace the original reasons for the club's existence. Without a new focus the club will gradually wither away. Extra branches in the North will I suspect have to await the outcome of the Wellington situation or a sufficient change in my job circumstance to enable me to put in the effort to get a branch up and running in either Auckland or the Waikato

Normally during this report the President thanks the Editor for doing a wonderful job with MA during the year, but not this year. However I believe I speak for the editor when I say that the continued relevance of MA to the members is reliant on input from those same members. I am not a bus collector, or a commercial fan, kit builder, nor even a 1:18 collector. I am also sure that you are not all race car collectors. So, with thanks to the few whom have contributed over the last year, how about others sharing YOUR passion with the rest of us. The magazine

will be a much better read for the variety. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Garry and the team at Acorn Models for their generous support in the prizes for the competition.

Finally I would like to wish all members of the club and happy and successful 2002.

Lee Tracey

CARVILLE'S CAPERS

Although I have not always agreed with those who have claimed that there was too much 'politics' in our club, it is true that some past Annual General Meetings have been bogged down with innumerable remits, with the expected heated and emotive discussion of them diverting attention away from the prime activity of the club. However, the AGM recently held in Wellington confirmed that such criticism is no longer valid. The AGM was nothing more than a reporting session, with all the formalities over in a little more than two hours. This included some very worthwhile discussion on the future direction of the club, and how the needs of members can be better realised. Good Stuff! It was a pity that Wellington's weather was not all that welcoming, but that would have been the case in any New Zealand centre given the fickle weather on this Summer. I thoroughly enjoyed another look at that remarkable collection of real vehicles in the Southward Museum at Waikanae, and the opportunity to have a 'free day looking around Wellington (the weather was fine on Friday!). It was my first visit to Te Papa, which I also enjoyed, despite the number of children that were there as well. I have been to many museums around the world, and was pleased to see that ours is children friendly with lots of buttons to push, things that move and bangs, crashes and general noise. I was struck with how lucky collectors are in Christchurch, as the city has four good model shops that allow you to at least see models, even if purchase is not on the mind. Wellington has two, and I hope the Wellingtonians won't be too upset if I say that they don't cater to model collectors anywhere near as well as the Christchurch shops do. Both my Cook Straight crossings were very calm, and of course, Marlborough was greener than I have ever seen it - remember that just a year ago it was brown or burned black. Many thanks to those that organised the meeting - mainly Ian Cousins I suspect. Now its back to work, back to collecting, and paying the Visa account.

Carville Stewart

BRANCH REPORTS

Not so much a report as a reminder to all members of when Branch clubnights are held

Wellington: None

Marlborough: 1st Thursday of each month at Blenheim RSA 8.30pm start.

Canterbury: New schedule for 2002. Contact Delegate for times and venues.

Otago: 4th Tuesday of each month at Otago Underwater Club, Corstorphine Rd, Dunedin 8.00pm start.

Southland: 3rd Wednesday of each month. Contact Delegate for venue. 8.00pm start.

MODEL MARKET

WANTED

1. 1971 Hemi Cuda – 1:24 Monogram
Front and rear suspension, front and rear windows, body, headlights, taillights and rear panel, or a complete kit.
2. 1964 Chevy Impala Low Rider 2'n'1 1:25 Revell (Kit 2574)
Body required, or complete kit.
3. 1964 Chevy Impala SS Hardtop – 1:25 AMT/ERTL (Stock No 6564)
Body required.

Please Contact Stephen Kelly, 92 Mavora Cres, Invercargill

Members are reminded that Model Market is available to any member wishing to buy, sell or trade models or model related information

COMPETITION

Only one correct entry by cut off date means that Graeme Robertson takes away the Ford Escort Mille Miglia winner and the 'Kraus' sponsored Gp 5 Capri. Two very colourful cars. Well Done Graeme.

The correct answers were

1. Corgi
2. 24241
3. 1970
4. It is the 1966 Le Mans winning car of Chris Amon & Bruce McLaren
5. Grease

This Month Garry and the team at Acorn Models (37 Manchester St Christchurch Ph.03374 6000 & 381 Gt North Rd Auckland Ph. 09 360 0233) have given us a nice road car in the form of a 1994 Ferrari F355 Targa in of course Red.

The Questions

1. Which Ferrari model is Minichamps best seller ever?
2. Which company currently holds the exclusive licence to produce diecast Ferraris?
3. Which New Zealander was a works driver for Ferrari?
4. The F355 replaced which model in the Ferrari range?
5. Prodrive run the Ferrari 550 Millenio in Sports car racing. What F1 team is Prodrive owner David Richards now involved with?

Entries should be addressed to The Editor (PO Box 5453, Hamilton) by 16 March. All correct entries will go into the editorial hat from which the winner shall emerge.

Good Luck

AGM COMPETITIONS

Class 2 Dinky Diorama Award

1. Ian Cousins Motorised Dream City set

Class 12 45/55 Trophy

1. Barry Voss Ferrari/Corvette
2. Barry Voss Mercedes W196/ Jaguar D Type
3. Lee Tracey Jaguar C Type/ Talbot Lago GP

Class 13 Dinkum & Shunt Diorama Award

1. Ian Cousins Garage/Showroom

Class 14 10th Anniversary Trophy

1. Ian Cousins VW Servicing

Class 16 Titan Plant Services Ltd – Construction Vehicle Trophy

1. Eric Brockie Joal Caterpillar IT18F
2. Xena Cousins Kentoys Rail Crane

Class 18 Todd Motors Trophy

1. Lee Tracey Matchbox Beefeater Artic.
- 2.= Lee Tracey Matchbox Ford Snow Plough
- 2.= Eric Brockie Matchbox Jim Beam Artic.
- 2.= Paul Alcock Corgi Low Loader and Train Load

Class 19 Champion of Champions

Eric Brockie Joal Caterpillar IT18F

Class 25 Restored Diecast Trophy

1. Eric Brockie Micro International
2. Ron Ford Dinky Peugeot Van
3. Eric Brockie Arcade Model T

Class 26 Best Diecast Fire Engine

1. Eric Brockie Franklin Mint Ahrens
2. Ian Cousins Hess Fire Truck
3. Ian Cousins Hess Fire Pick Up

Class 27 Diecast Trophy

1. Lee Tracey Exoto Cobra Daytona Coupe
- 2= Eric Brockie Gate Chrysler PT Cruiser
- 2= Ian Cousins Maisto '99 Mustang GT

Class 28 Vintage and Veteran Trophy

1. Eric Brockie Franklin Mint Deussenberg
2. Barry Voss Dinky Deussenberg
3. Barry Voss Dinky Bugatti

Class 29 Autoway Under 16 Years

1. Xena Cousins Matchbox Cadillac
2. Xena Cousins Matchbox Porsche Turbo
3. Xena Cousins Matchbox Corvette Grand Sport

Class 30 Clyde Wright Memorial Trophy

1. Ron Ford Bedford 'Mobilgas' Artic
2. Eric Brockie Fun Ho! Bus

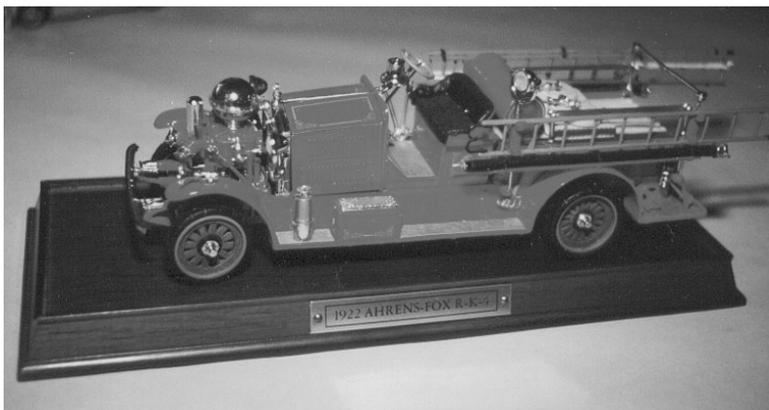
Class 31 Smaller Diecast Trophy

1. Lee Tracey Revell Creative Masters Cobra
2. Lee Tracey Trax Superscale HG Monaro
3. Lee Tracey SMTS March 701

Notes

No Kitset Entries
26 Entries in Class 31

Nice to see more



Class 26 winning Ahrens Fire Truck of Eric Brockie

MODEL SCRUTINEER

Ixo CLC006 Lamborghini Countach LP500S

When the Vitesse group collapsed last year many of its moulds were acquired by a Chinese company who are relaunching them using the brand name ixo. The models are being released in the following ranges; Classic Le Mans, Modern Le Mans, Classic Road, Modern Road, Modern Rally, Classic Rally, Street Motorcycle, Race Motorcycle.

The Lamborghini Countach in its various forms is a staple amongst diecast manufacturers. The only surprise about the ixo release is that Vitesse did not release a version well before their collapse. (Mind you Minichamps are only just releasing their first version). Introduced as a styling exercise at the 1971 Geneva Motor Show, the first production Countach hit the road in 1974. The car went on to become Lamborghini's most successful model staying in production in one form or another for over 20 years. The original show car was one of the sleekest vehicles ever designed but with each new upgrade the design became less sleek but more aggressive with the addition of seemingly ever more bulges and wings. Though the original show car had a 5 litre V12 engine the first versions of the production car had only a 4 litre V12. The rising tide of power robbing emissions regulations finally saw the introduction of a 5 litre production engine in 1982 with the launch of the LP500S model. It is this model that most people think of when they envision the Countach.

Ixo have captured the aggressive looks of this car very well, though the micrometer brigade would no doubt complain about the overscale radiator scoops and engine louvres. Though overscale these features 'look right'. All panel lines are crisp and well defined. The paint, a lovely shade of red, looks good except for a slight blemish above the left headlamp on my example and some very light cleaning scratches on one of the radiator scoops. The detail painting of indicators, window frames and inside scoops is very well done. The front park/indicator units look good with the orange just visible through the not exactly crystal clear covers (which is as per the original). The front bumper includes a set of driving lights, two inlets with silver detailed grills and a German licence plate. The four inlets in the front spoiler are well picked out in black. The Lamborghini emblem on the bonnet shows up well under the magnifying glass, perhaps not quite as crisp as some but good enough to give the viewer the right idea. The large twin armed wiper is nicely moulded in plastic and sits flat on the windscreen. Mirrors are separate pieces securely mounted to the doors. The rear end of the model is

dominated, like the real car, by the huge wing that was surprisingly not standard equipment but rather a Factory Option. Below this the rear panel features very well done tail lights which feature three square light units within a translucent red panel. The tampoing of the badges is also high class, very crisp even under the magnifier. The rear licence plate takes up a lot of the space under this panel and is bracketed by the quad exhaust pipes.

The wheels are not so impressive with deep dishing and good holes. Unfortunately bright metal discs back them with no attempt to depict the brakes or calipers. The tyres are good depictions of the huge Pirelli P7s. The interior is described as tan, but the seats look much paler than that with only the carpet looking tan to me. With the limited view of the interior afforded by the design of the car it is almost a surprise to see the good detailing of the seats and the dash panel. The instruments are depicted by very crisp decals behind a finely moulded steering wheel. The separate gear lever looks too tall at first sight, but this is correct for this version.

Overall a very nice model of this most iconic of supercars which will I believe stand up well against the impending release from Minichamps.

Lee Tracey



ROTARY REDUCTION

After producing several domestic market only Rotary models, Mazda finally went international with the revolutionary 'new' engine with the release of the Familia Rotary Coupe in 1970. This tiny two door rocket certainly made the street light drag brigade sit up with its 982 cc 10A engine producing 100bhp at 7000 rpm rising to 120 bhp and 110 lbft of torque by the end of production in 1972. Coupled with a very light weight it embarrassed more than one opponent at the lights. The prevailing attitude towards all things Japanese in the early 70's meant the sales volume of the R100 was pretty small which coupled with the hard life many of them endured at the hands of enthusiastic owners resulting in few of these little jewels being left.

Being such a small selling car the R100 did not attract much attention from the model companies of the time and none since. In fact I am only able to find 3 kits and two diecast models of the car. All are contemporary with the real car.

The three plastic kits are I believe from only two moulds. Fujimi brought out a 1:48 scale model as part of their Mini Pet series. I have no other information about this kit whatsoever so would be grateful of any from members. The second and third kits are both in 1:20 scale and were produced by Bandai and Imai. Both kits carried the catalogue number 3306. Both are long out of production. I have seen two different boxes for the Bandai version but never the Imai. The Bandai has appeared twice on ebay that I have seen the first time fetching US\$771 and US\$305 the second. It is highly unlikely I will be adding one of these to my collection.

The Diecast models take the form of a 1:40 scale Model from Diapet (No 173) which features opening doors and bonnet and was available in red, white and silver colours. The other Diecast R100 was the 1:60 scale toy made by Playart (No 7148) available in red, white and orange versions. The accompanying picture of the Diapet is as close as I have come to either of these.



Lee Tracey

SCALE SEEN

This new regular or semi regular column is intended to be a sort of notebook of hobby related things seen by the editor either in the shops or on the web.

Noticed in MAR 158 News Digest that Oxford Diecast have some interesting issues coming up. First is the very unPC Cigarette range featuring schemes for a wide range of ciggy brands such as Woodbines, Players, 555, Pall Mall etc.

Also noted in the two bus ranges from this company were
RouteMaster RM14 New Zealand 6000 (The 6000 being the edition size)
Open Top Bus B59 New Zealand 6000

Does anyone know anything about these?

New Zealand Model shops are starting to catch onto the web with the following new sites online;

www.modelcraftsandhobbies.co.nz – Modelcrafts & Hobbies in Wellington

www.toymod.com – Toymod model wholesalers

www.diecast.co.nz – NZ based online modelshop. Noted on their site at the moment is a 1977 NZ Rally winning Fiat 131 Code 3 on a Trofeu base \$125

One of the model news sites that I follow had a translation of a recent interview with Herr Lang of Minichamps as published in a French Model magazine. Interesting points of note. Expect Minichamps to regain some of the F1 licences lost to Mattel. No more Rally cars from Minichamps. No Bentley EXP8 from Minichamps. Best selling models ever in the Minichamps ranges. 1:18 1996 Ferrari of M. Schumacher (200000 units) 1:43 of same (100000) 1:43 VW Karmann Ghia (100000 I kid you not!)

While checking the Corgi website for the new releases to include in That's News? I noticed that the nice line of French vehicles in the Collection Heritage had disappeared. Disappointed in this I whipped off a quick e-mail to Corgi asking what had happened. The reply was that the range had gotten onto the website in error as they were not officially released yet and they would return to the website after that release (Next month). In which case I am left wondering where an Auckland store got the large numbers in that range which are on display now.

THAT'S NEW? THAT'S NEWS!

Latest arrivals at TOYMOD

ixo China 1:43 Diecast

LMC001 Jaguar D Type 1st LM 57
LMC005 Jaguar C Type LM 53
RAM024 Skoda WRC Schwarz MC01
STB005 Honda VTR 1000 SP1 1:24

LMC004 Ford MkIV 1st LM 67
RAB001 Yamaha R7 Deletrang Bol D'Or
RAM025 Skoda WRC Thiry MC01

From Manufacturers info

MINICHAMPS Germany 1:43 Diecast Late January releases

402109798 Jordan Set (197 & 198) 430990098 Williams FW21 'Michelin Test'
400010115 Arrows A22 Bernoldi Winglets 400010114 Arrows A22 Verstappen Winglets
540414341 McLaren MP4/8 Senna Coll 400010903 Audi R8s LM01 #3
400010904 Audi R8s 'Gulf'LM01 #4 430991601 Toyota GT One LM99 #1
430991602 Toyota GT One LM99 #2 AC4011463 Corvette C5R LM 01 #63
AC4011464 Corvette C5R LM 01 #64 400011457 Viper GTS-R LM 01 #57
400011458 Viper GTS-R LM 01 #58 343100021 Williams Refueller Set
343100022 Williams Tyre Change Set 343100023 Williams Tyre Change Set
400014104 Opel Coupe DTM01 Schieder 400014111 Opel V8 Coupe DTM01 Bartels
400011122 Audi TT-R Ekstroem DTM01 400013109 Mercedes CLK DTM01 Maylander
400013110 Mercedes CLK DTM01 Huismann 400013724 Mercedes CLK DTM01 Lamy
400013742 Mercedes CLK DTM01 Turner 430055106 VW 1303 Red
400061360 '90 Porsche 911 Targa Black 430017224 '98 Audi TT Coupe White
430028234 BMW Z3 Roadster Yellow 430065665 '69-73 Porsche 914 Red
430068005 Porsche GT3 Green 431028494 BMW X5 Green Metallic
431028940 BMW Z8 Convertible Blue 400016983 Porsche 911 GT3-S #83 LM01

MINICHAMPS Germany 1:12 Diecast Late January releases

122011211 Ducati 996 Superbike Xaus 122011221 Ducati 996 Superbike Bayliss

MINICHAMPS Germany 1:18 Diecast Late January releases

180067722 Porsche 904 GTS 100010014 Arrows A22 Verstappen
100010022 Prost AP04 Alesi 318100021 Williams Refueller Set
318011022 Williams Tyre Change Set

KYOSHO Japan 1:18 Diecast

KYOV0121 Toyota Supra Red KYOV0183 Nissan Skyline 2000GTR #15
KYOV00903 BMW 328Ci Cabriolet KYOV0150 Austin Healey 3000 Mk 1
KYOV0194 Nissan Fairlady Z432R KYOV0151 Austin Healey 100/6 Yellow
KYOV0911 BMW2002 Tii White KYOV0912 BMW 2002 Turbo Silver
KYOV0915 BMW M3 Cabriolet Red KYOV0916 BMW M3 Coupe Yellow
Datsun 240Z 2 colours Nissan Fairlady 240ZG 2 colours

BMW 325 ti Compact 2 colours

KYOSHO Japan 1:43 Diecast

KYOV1506 Lotus 26R British Racing Green
KYOV1127 Nissan Fairlady Z432R Orange
Nissan Fairlady ZL 3 colours

KYOV1252 '84 Lancia Rally Martini
KYOV1050 Lamborghini Jota SVR Red
Nissan Fairlady 240ZG 2 colours

CORGI UK 1:50 Diecast (Release Date)

CC12802 Scania T-Cab Tipper 'Stobart' (4) CC12505 Atkinson Borderer Tautliner (3)
CC12801 Scania T-Cab Tanker 'Hayes' (2) CC12409 Volvo FH Reefer 'McBurney' (2)
CC12702 ERF ECS C/side 'Stoford' (3) CC12506 Atkinson Venturer L/Loader(3)
CC11607 Albion LAD D/side 'Richards' (2) CC10601 Leyland Octopus Sh/Load BR(4)
CC11403 Bedford KM P/form Trailer (3) CC13001 Dennis F15 Rear Pump (3)
CC6301 Daimler Ambulance Birm'ham (av) CC20103 Showman's Loco 'Harris's' (2)
US53504 La France 700 2 Dr Pumper (4) US55705 Kenworth W925 Crusher Load(3)
US51403 Intn'l Transtar w/ King Trailer (2) US55706 Kenworth W925 Culvert Load (4)
US50504 Seagrave Safety Encl. Pump (2) US53804 Mack CF Tower Bethpage NY (3)
US55022 PCC Streetcar Budweiser (4) US55021 PCC Streetcar LA Fruit Salad (2)
US53405 MCI 102 DL3 Greyhound (4) US50803 Seagrave 3 Co54 Chicago FD(3)
US52007 Mack CF Pump Chicago Eng 35(4) US51902 H13 Bell Heli. US Army Medic(3)
US51003 M4A3 HVSS POA-CWS-H5 Sherman Tank USMC (2)

LLEDO UK 1:43 Diecast

VA6900 Rover P5 Mk2 Grey/Green (2) VA5205 Ford Granada Ghia Wh/Bl(3)
VA6303 Morris Marina 1800 White (2) VA6101 Ford Zephyr Mk2 Aqua/White (2)
VA7100 Morris Minor Conv. Cream/Maroon VA 4406 Austin A60 Blue/White (3)
VA7200 Ford Popular Dorchester Grey (4) VA00119 Anglia Super Venetian Gold (4)
VA6607 Transit Mk1 Diesel Blackpool Trans. VA7600 Land Rover S2 Midland Red (3)
VA1118 Minor Van Oxford Motor Services(4) VA4405 Austin A60 Cardiff City Police (2)
VA4105 Cortina Mk2 1600GT Lancs. Police VA4603 Ford Zephyr Mk3 Police (4)
VA6705 Spitfire Mk3 S/Top White/Red (2) VA5701 Austin Healey Mk2 Blue/Ivory (3)
VA6304 Morris Marina Blaze 'Hidden Treasure' (3)

ORIGINAL OMNIBUS CO UK 1:76 Diecast

OM40502 Feltham Tram Leeds City (3) OM43702 Q1 Trolley Cardiff (2)
OM42405 Leopard/Panorama 1 Ribbles (2) OM43908 Daimler CW Util. Bus Belfast(3)
OM41905 Leyland PD3 Open Southdown (3) OM45109 MCW Metro. Mk2 W. Brom. (2)
OM43401 Plaxton Beaver S/coach Ribble (3) OM43504 Balloon Tram 'Eclipse' B'pool(4)
OM44004 Bruce Railcoach 'Mystique' B'pool OM42901 Optare Delta Metro B'pool (4)

CODE 3 USA 1:64 Diecast

ALF Eagle Pumper Wood River IL (3) FDNY Bureau of Investigation Fire Scene Unit
Freightliner Pumper Chicago (4) Pierce Dash SM Pumper Kentland MD (3)

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