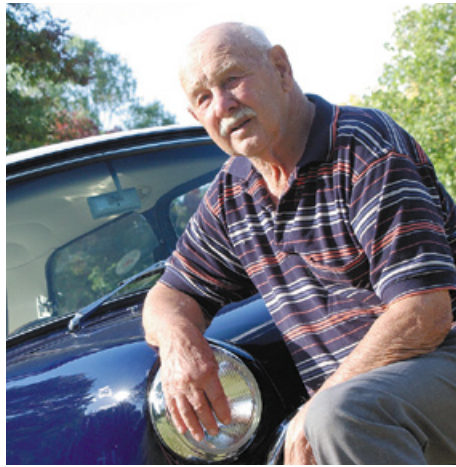




In the first of a new series, George Seymour talks about his local race track, where his daughter taught him the quickest way around.

George was a founding member of the Albury and District Car Club and recalls how the club, and the track, got started. "It was in 1954. We all met down at what was going to be the depot for the Ampol Trial, at a bloke's by the name of Harry Woods, and we just got together and thought we ought to have a car club. So we started the club and we only ran motorkhanas and things like that at first."

"Then we got a lease of the land from the Water Commission, and we built just a dirt circuit, and raced out there. We eventually got it bitumenised and we had Jack Brabham and Moss out there in this big Australian turnout. Len Lukey put a lot of money into that, and that was when we put in the Lukey Bridge."



That first international meeting took place in March 1961, with the big-name drivers returning numerous times over the next decade.

The circuit was built on the floor of an old quarry and was very flat. The quarry walls came close together at a spot about a third of the way along the track, called The Narrows, where cars passed in opposite directions, separated by a concrete wall. Although only a short track, it was considered quite technical and difficult to master. It was also a track well-suited to Minis.

George had bought a 1969 Cooper S when it was virtually new, and competed in that at club level events for many years. "I did one rally in it, and I just reckoned I was too old to get used to driving it on dirt. Motorkhanas I was alright, and on the track."



Above: Julie in about 1973.  
Left: George in 2005 .

George's daughter Julie started competing with the club in 1971, at 16 years of age, and soon was up with the winners. As George proudly continued: "Julie started when she only had a learner's permit, and went on to clean us all up. She got that good."

Although George continued competing in the Mini, he said Julie virtually took it over. "It was always my car, but Julie was doing real well in it. We called it Julie's car because she got more publicity than me."

If you would like to read the rest of this story, then grab your copy of The Mini Experience from your local newsagent, or subscribe today.



Start of a race in 1969. Inset: The pit area in the same year.

Photos: Autopics



The Narrows - circa 1961



The pits - circa 1961