

# *Still Living with Acclaims*

by Caroline & Barry McGrath

We have added to our car collection since our last article, and the driveways and the garages are now very full. Shaun was a cheap and cheerful bronze Acclaim L with a blue HLS interior from North Yorkshire, which we couldn't resist. He's named after the sheep-in-jumper air freshener on the dashboard. Sadly, after some work on him to get him through the MOT, we have decided he really has to go. Following the recent addition to the McGrath household, we have decided to buy a "modern" car for all the safety benefits that brings when transporting a child around. In particular, the baby seat really doesn't fit in the back of the Acclaim very well, unless the front passenger doesn't mind their knees in the glovebox, potentially obscuring the driver's view of the door mirror. Putting the baby in the front seat gives the rear adult passenger even less leg room, i.e. none. You will find the details for Shaun in the classifieds of this magazine.

We also picked up Trev, a Nautilus Blue HL from Barlborough in August. The bodywork wasn't good, but he has provided a number of spares for our cars and other people's. We took a number of spares to the Triumph World picnic in September. Thanks to a fellow Club member for finding us some excellent local accommodation. Of the four other Acclaims at the event, we sold parts to three, including a wing mirror to the editor of *Triumph World*, Tony Beadle, who drove into our "garage" for it to be fitted while he waited!

Barry drove the New Acclaim (now with a massive 13,000 miles on the clock) into the arena to discuss the merits of the car. It should be noted of course that this 20-year-old Triumph has internally adjustable headlights, headlight washers and electric windows all round! The picnic was an excellent opportunity to meet other Club Triumph members, in particular those who had also completed the 10CR – in most cases easily identifiable by their 10CR T-shirts.

Rupert (the red Acclaim) completed the 10CR in September, driven by Barry with Keith Bennett and Dean Martin as co-drivers.

Preparation work included a new drive shaft gaiter, cam belt and checking the brakes. Unfortunately the brakes needed rechecking during the run, but the car ran well throughout requiring no other work. You will of course have read a number of articles on the run, so we will not duplicate here. The fuel bill came to nearly £190, which over 2,300 miles works out at a very comfortable 41mpg.

We still have a lot of spare Acclaim parts if anyone is interested. The other Acclaim we are breaking is a manual red CD with 38,000 miles on the clock – all corners downwards on the body need serious welding, but the rest of the car, including the doors, are in very good condition. Our new son does take up a lot of our time, but if anyone wants any bits please call us on 01274 640330, leaving a message if required, or e-mail us at [caroline\\_r\\_mcgrath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:caroline_r_mcgrath@yahoo.co.uk) and we will do our best to respond as soon as we can.

