

LOST & FOUND

# MG coupé stages revival



David Rouse at the wheel of the Dick Jacobs '53 MG coupé, at Brands Hatch in '70s

The coupé-bodied MG YB built by Dick Jacobs could soon be back on the road, 21 years after it was last used. In 1953, Jacobs planned to build a GT version of the MG TD/TF for which the works supplied him with an MG YB chassis. It had a tubular frame and a very pretty for those days coupé body. Sadly, it did not go into production because this turned out to be the last YB chassis produced by the factory. Jacobs went racing in it instead, with blown and unblown 1250 and 1500cc TF engines and had many class wins including one at the 1954 Daily Express International Sports Car Race at Goodwood.



Rebuilt GT could be back on road in '05

In 1972, after several owners, the car was bought by David Rouse of Halstead in Essex. The previous owner only wanted it for its number plate XNO 1. At that time Rouse and his wife were running a YB saloon but the idea of a lighter YB

special appealed to him. He explained that he soon realised what he had bought and started using it for his everyday business transport, covering 20,000 miles a year.

"I raced, sprinted and hillclimbed it extensively," Rouse recalled, "in MG Car Club T-Register and Historic Sports Car Club events as well as historic all-comer events at Snetterton and elsewhere through the '70s. The most notable success was winning the T-Register New-comer Award for '74 and just beating a Formula Junior single-seater for second-from-last place in a Snetterton all-comers 10-lap race!"

"She was as happy on a circuit or on a fast dual carriageway as she was pottering around lanes or shopping," he added. "Quite remarkably flexible and seemingly unbreakable considering that the compression ratio was over 10:1 and that she revelled in pulling 6000rpm through the gears. Usable maximum speed was a shade under 100mph with her unblown 1250cc XPAG engine.

"Later, my wife used it as her everyday car until an overhaul was due. This has taken longer than expected due to being distracted by Vintage and pre-war Alvises, Vintage Singer Juniors and Morgan three-wheelers but I have re-tubed the body where necessary and it is awaiting finishing. Mechanically, it will take little recommissioning once the body is finished."