

Seasons Greetings from Fiat Coupe Club UK !

As the end of another year approaches, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect upon the changes this past year has brought us and look towards the future and where the club hopes to go in 2009. I also have some news of some **additional Club Benefits** that have been negotiated.

Summary of 2008

The Club was relaunched at the start of the year under the guidance of a **new Committee** with a mission to bring **more value to club members** and move the club on a step from its previous incarnation.

Under the new team, the club business has been made more transparent to its members with minutes of any Committee meetings being available to view (via the members section of the forum) and the first ever Club AGM being held in conjunction with the Summer Event. It's been a learning period for all, but we feel that the Club now operates on a much more open basis, and with **upwards of 250 members** this year we are definitely moving in the right direction.

One of the main changes this year has been to the running of the FCC uk Forum. Whereas in previous years the club provided towards the hosting costs for the forum to be run by others, the forum is now **operated by and under the control of the Club**. This has meant a move to a new UK based host, which has reduced the hosting overheads and also increased our allowable bandwidth. This host has a tremendous reputation and is the same used by the Pistonheads amongst other car related forums. Therefore you should start to see some changes on the forum.

First amongst these is the **recognition** shown against members posts on the forum. Now members' names are in a different colour and the profile includes your membership number. Other changes are in the pipeline but at present we are just learning about all the capabilities of the forum software.

Another thing we have been working hard at this year is to increase our visual presence at car shows and events and generate more opportunities for like-minded coupe fans to get together and have a chat about the cars, go for a drive or even just enjoy a nice meal together. Part of this process has been to recruit **regional event co-ordinators** to support club members in their respective areas and as a focal point for any of the larger automotive events on the calendar. It is intended to have a **good**

Club calendar
limited **numbered** production run
for club members

£ 14,99

+ P&P
available only
through the club



read more on page 2

club presence, including gazebos at all the events we can during 2009. Anyone attending Auto Italia events should have noticed an increase in the club presence; we even had a Coupé winner at the Stanford hall concourse competition.

Press Coverage

You may have noticed an increase in coverage in the Press. We have had two major coupe articles published in **Auto Italia** magazine and there is soon to be a **buyers guide** published too. Many thanks go to Phil Ward, at Auto Italia, for sourcing these articles (and of course for his part in organizing the Auto Italia Events during the year).

Auto Italia magazine has come under a new publisher and is all the better for it. I recommend it to any Italian car fan. In fact a **monthly subscription** would make an ideal **Christmas** or **Birthday Gift (and if you are interested in this please let us know as we are negotiating a discount and the more numbers we have the better!)**.

Club Calendar

For the first time ever, the Club has produced a **calendar**. All the images have been submitted by Club members and after a tough selection process (in which Phil Ward, editor of Auto Italia helped out) some of them feature as the main calendar months. Everyone who submitted a photo has them featured somewhere though, in one of the montages on the front and back covers. So far, the feedback on these has been excellent.

You have to hurry to claim your calendar - there's only about 25 examples left at £14,99 each (excl. postage and packaging). So get in touch and e-mail... calendars@fccuk.org



The Future !

Looking forwards to 2009, we hope to continue to build upon the work we have begun in 2008 and **bring more value to our members**. We have plans to put in place a **Club Shop**, organise and attend **more local and national meetings** than ever and generate some interaction between the UK based coupe community and the wider community on the Continent. We also have the long-awaited Club Homepage refresh in the final stages of tweaking prior to it's launch in the New Year. This will be a much more feature- and content-rich **repository of Coupe information** than previous versions: everything from **early sales brochures** to **fully imaged how to guides available as PDFs**. We also hope to get off the ground a **Club Newsletter** to be issued quarterly; featuring updates on the Club, a calendar of upcoming events (as well as reports on those held last quarter) and articles written by members. If you have any ideas for articles or would like to help with the Newsletter we would love to hear from you.

Member Benefits Update

I will take this opportunity to update you on some new Member Benefits that have been established since you joined.

1 / We have a **5% discount** on all parts via one of the major part suppliers for the coupe; **Alternative Autos**. All you need to do to take advantage of this discount is to tell them your membership number when you place your order.

2 / We have developed links with **Fiat UK**, which has resulted in all club members being included in the **Fiat Staff affinity scheme**. This offers **generous discounts on new Fiat models** (better than you can negotiate in any of the dealerships).

3 / We now have hosted a **full version of the Workshop Manual** covering all version of the Fiat Coupe. This is available to club members only and is not the low-quality, sections-missing version you might have seen previously on the web or advertised on ebay.

Keeping in touch

We would encourage all members to **register on the forum** to keep up to date with what is happening in the Coupe Community and to access details of all the benefits mentioned above via the members only section of the forum (to access the workshop manual you will need to be registered on the forum as the secure login access uses the same database).

So there you have it; one year and a lot of work later and we think that things are heading in the right direction, but the year ahead brings us a whole host of new challenges to be met. Please remember that this is **your club** and we love to hear **feedback** on our progress, things you'd like to see, or anything you think we can help you with. **Contact us via the forum, email or come and chat to us at any of the meets we attend.**

So it only remains for me to thank each and every one of you for your continued support; wishing you **all the best for the festive season and into 2009**. We hope you have a happy and trouble free year of motoring.

Yours faithfully,



Alexis Grant
Fiat Coupe Club UK President