Cars in the Park 2026

I know that the heading might be misleading, please read on – I think you will understand later.

About 4 weeks ago, I bought an Alpine that stood in a hanger for more than 10 years. Body resprayed and all good. Few items missing but would be able to get all in time. No battery but engine was moving. All good.

Got it home and then left for the UK for 2 weeks. The goal to take it to Cars in the Park and brag with my new Alpine.

Got battery but always scared to start an engine for the first time. So, check for all visible problems. Took sparks out – oil in cylinders and cranked – no explosions. Sparks were very black, so I thought the engine was running rich. Time to look at the carb.

When I took it off, I saw a spring stuck in the secondary butterfly. (Weber 36 DCD). After some investigation saw it is part of the "start enrichment passage". Put everything together and decided it is time to start.

Once again, very relieved that there was no explosion, and the engine started. Very rough but good. The first thing I noticed is that the previous owner fitted an exhaust without any muffler - just a pipe from engine straight to the back. Quite an interesting sound!

Next step – the brakes. Could not see any visible leaks and was working. Decided a good bleed will be good enough. This was now the Saturday before the Cars in the Park.

Sunday, I woke up with the flu. I thought it was a combination of Varkgriep, Ebola and the Rhino virus. Let's just say I was man down. DOWN. Friday was the first time that I got out of bed and obviously pressure was building. I discovered a small leak at the clutch slave cylinder but decided with a good supply of brake fluid I will be able to make it.

Saturday evening, I packed the club's gazebo in the "back" seat, chair in the boot together wit all my tools, 3 bottles of brake fluid, 5l of water and about a ton of tools.

Sunday morning drove to church in my suite – got a lot of stares along the way! The engine still rough but I was confident nothing could stop me now.

After the sermon, changed into more appropriate clothes for a car show and hit the road. and then it happened. You know that smell of hot water from the radiator – thank goodness for that smell. You all know that the heat sensor is positioned in such a way that it will show overheating a bit too late.

I stopped next to the road and yes, you guessed right, with the flu I did not check the radiator hose. I big straight cut at the bottom. I was very lucky that I stopped in time and that the engine was still turning.

What to do next? Decided to call my friend Cor with his bakkie to come and help me tow the car. He said fine, his on his way. Put the phone down and open the boot to get my tools out. When I opened the boot, my phone that I put on the boot, slide down and fell into the space between the soft top cover and the car. No problem- will phone Herman to tell him about my misfortune.

Then another disaster! While trying to open the soft top cover with the gazebo still in the space between the seats and the rear, I broke the cable. So, there I was, phone ringing inside the cover and no way to open the cover. My friend Cor needing a pin to come and tow me and I am unable to get the phone.

I think I will do a follow up story on how he found me – he was not very impressed with me not answering my phone!

Regards,

Andrew

