

“soon the fun will really start, as the Elephant takes centre stage and starts to undress”



white Elephant gains momentum!

Since Peter Wheeler entrusted the safe keeping of his Tasmin Holden Prototype, the White Elephant, to Howard Bryan earlier this summer, interest in this ground-up restoration project has slowly been growing.

Club members from Blackpool, Cheshire, Yorkshire and of course West Lancashire are all signing up to have a hand in this important and historic rebuild. Having been rather taken aback by the numerous kind offers of help from members of the North West Clubs and TVR enthusiasts everywhere, Howard has been further overwhelmed by several offers of assistance which have come directly from the motor trade.

Howard explains: “Having taken the White Elephant to a West Lancs Club meeting on the back of a trailer for all to see, Stuart Davidson, the Marketing Manager of HL Gorner, our local TVR dealership, happened to mention that if I was to need any specialist workshop time for the restoration, then HL Gorner would be glad to help out by way of some sort of sponsorship deal for this important and locally based project.

Gorners standard of workmanship is superb, so I gladly accepted Stuart's kind offer. I then happened to mention the project to Richard Thorpe at RT Racing in Sheffield who stated that he would like to personally prepare the chassis for us, finishing it with his hard wearing specialist nylon chassis paint. He has also offered to supply the new shocks and springs for the restoration and set the whole thing up for us!”

The car is eventually to go back to the factory for most of the interior trim to be fitted, but the rotten and cracked veneers present a bit of a problem. Malcolm Hall from London Carriage Craft who specialise in manufacturing and repairing veneers for such marques as Rolls Royce, Bentley and Ferrari have offered to custom make a full set of brand new veneers for the prototype TVR using samples of the existing material to make a perfect match and keep the car fully original.

The 16 inch OZ Racing wheels fitted to the White Elephant were also presenting a problem as the 3-way split rims do require a full rebuild before once more gracing the road. Having recently collected his fully refurbished 400SE wheels from Pristine Wheels in Woburn Sands near Milton Keynes, Howard approached David James, MD of Pristine Wheel Refurbishers to ask his assistance with the project. Pristine Wheels are regularly seen working on various TVR models and happily accepted the challenge of helping Howard along by restoring Peter Wheeler's old alloys for him.

The Power and Passion in Cardiff proved again eventful for the White Elephant. Having been dragged down from the North West on the back of a trailer, the car was surrounded by TVR fans and motoring enthusiasts all day.