

Tony Webb, one of our team of National Observers gives his answers to the “Getting to Know you” series of questions. There seems to have been lots of interesting vehicles in Tony’s fifty-five years of driving.

When did you pass your driving test and what was your first car?

In 1965. I failed my 1st test and blamed the tester.....but seriously, he was in the local newspapers some months later for failing so many pupils! My 2nd test was taken just a couple of months later and I passed. I took the test in my father’s Morris 1100, which was quite a new model at the time.



*My first car was a 1959 Austin A40 Farina (Mk 1).
0 – 60mph was quoted as 28 seconds.
I bought it for £100, and sold it for £100.*

What particular things do you remember about your early motoring years?

The early years was about ‘freedom’. I remember regularly squeezing in 6 people to drive to the pubs around Bristol. Of course, I’d do neither now (the 6 people, nor the pub visits!). I had the car for a couple of years and regularly drove between Bristol and London without a hitch.

Can you tell us all the different cars that you’ve owned?

More than 30 after the A40 including:

Triumph Spitfire Mk1, Mini Cooper S, Morris 1100, VW Beetles, Hillman Hunter & Avenger, Ford Cortinas including a Lotus Cortina, Ford Granada, Triumphs GT6, TR6, and 2500 PI, Porsche 928, Mercedes 280SL & 350SL, Fiat 500, Renault Laguna, Citroen CX Safari, Volvo V50, Land Rover Freelander, Range Rovers, Rover SD1s, Jeep Cherokee, BMW 5 series, BMW 3 series Touring and a Gilbern Invader.



Current cars in the fleet

Land Rover Discovery HSE and BMW 330D Coupe.



What is or has been the best car that you've owned and why?

Probably the current Beemer; with a top speed of 155mph, 0 – 60mph in around 6 seconds, all mod cons, 40mpg and a roof that goes down once or twice a year in Aberdeenshire, what's not to like?

Otherwise, the Austin A40 for giving me my freedom.

Do you regret selling any particular car? Why?

I regret buying the Morris Mini Cooper S. It wasn't until I got it home that I found that it was two cars, not one. Fortunately, I managed to sell it back to the guy I'd bought it from.

Selling – Perhaps I should have kept the Lotus Cortina. I see they can fetch in excess of £30k now. I think it went for £1200!

What has been your most exhilarating moment driving?

I was in a 'special' Audi A8 on the autobahn between the Olympic Stadium and Munich Airport. The driver was an ex-professional racer. I was late from a meeting and heading for my flight home. He got me to the airport in double quick time, and for me, around 160mph was the fastest I'd ever been in a car.

What has been the scariest moment driving?

For anyone that knows early Triumph Spitfires, you'll know all about 'adverse camber'. It's the closest I've been to 'losing' the car, and me with it!

Which are your favourite roads in Scotland?

Compared to those I'm used to down south, many are pure heaven, with little traffic, long sweeping bends and the chance to really stretch the Beemer. I have it in mind to do the North Coast 500 sometime soon.

What is your worst road in Scotland?

The 'Esplanade' road along the seafront in Aberdeen - wide, but with no road markings. It's dangerous!

Thank you very much, Tony. What a great collection of classic British cars you've had.