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Rowan Dixon

Car and Adventure Enthusiast

Driving History

- 2019** **West Africa** (*London - The Gambia - London*)
As a car geek and lover of extreme travel I have always wanted to get into overlanding. In mid summer of 2019 I proposed an idea to a friend to buy a beaten up Landcruiser and to drive down the west coast of Africa. Just 6 weeks later we had bought a 2002 95 series and were heading south through France and Spain to Africa. Over the following 24 days we drove to The Gambia and back, crossing the sahara Desert and covering ~17,500km.
- 2018** **MKI MX5**
As a student back in 2018 on a tight budget there was one clear vehicle that I should buy as my first car purchase. I spent months hunting down an MX5 that had not had any work done to it. Eventually I found a BRG NA MX5 which had been garaged for most of its life and hadn't been welded. I have since done road trips to Scotland and northern France.
- 2017** **Motorbikes**
I always have wanted to go fast, the problem is when you are a student you live on a very limited budget, so there was only one solution... get a motorbike. Over the summer of 2017 I worked at a bar to be able to afford a motorcycle test and bought myself a 900cc Triumph. For the money nothing comes close to the feeling you get riding on country roads in the summer on a bike.
- 2014** **Passed Driving test**
Being 100% open, I didn't pass first time, not for lack of driving ability but for doing 32 in a 30.... downhill. I was gutted.
- 2010 - 2013** **Under 17 Car Club**
As a member of the Under 17 Car Club (U17CC) I was very fortunate to learn how to drive properly from a relatively young age. Normally driving a 1.2L Polo I quickly learnt how to handle a car in all road conditions. However, the really exciting aspect of the U17CC was being able to drive a wide variety of exciting vehicles, such as a Caterham 7, Ford Galaxy, Lotus Elise and even a few lorries. I was also able to take a Mercedes C class out on a skid-pan, learnt how to J-turn an MX5 (rear diff was welded) and also got to try to drive an original Mini on two wheels (with scaffolding).
- Pre 2010** **Pottering about**
Growing up I got my mum's love of cars from an early age. When driving I would always want to be in the passenger seat so I could change gears as she taught me the basic theory of a clutch and engine's transmission system. I was very fortunate to grow up on a small farm, so used to be able to take my parents old estate car around the fields when helping to move wood or fencing. Being able to do this from an early age gave me a very good sense of space as I manoeuvred the car (often with a trailer) through gates and tight spaces to park.

Responsibilities

- 2019 - 2020** **Chair of Design Engineering Society - Imperial**
Managed a team of 13 to organise academic and social events for 500 members of the society and help direct the future development of the society.
- 2016 - Present** **Expedition Leader**
I have led and organised expeditions to remote parts of the world, including crossing the Sahara desert twice and a 3 week mountaineering expedition to the Alps summiting 5 peaks.

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About me

I am a car geek, adventurer and product design engineer. My first word was "Tactoor" (Tractor), and growing up I always loved playing with hotwheels and going to car shows. I was one of those annoying kids who learnt every manufacturer and model of car and would point them out whenever we drove somewhere to my parents. From the age of about 8 my parents would put me on their lap when driving around our farm fields, and when I could see over the steering wheel with the aid of cushions I was taught how to drive.

Outside of work I love to climb, run and travel to remote places, like the Russian Caucasus, the Alps and Western Africa. Whenever I can I try to incorporate vehicles into my travels, most recently buying a Landcruiser to cross the sahara desert with the view to drive all the way to Cape Town in the Summer of 2020, but then covid happened.

Work/Education

Sept 2020 - present

Tewke: Product Design Engineer

June - Sept 2020

Microsoft: Product Design/Engineering

2016 - 2020

Imperial College London:
Design Engineering

2015 -2020

Numerous factory floor and bar jobs

Extra Curricular

Awards:

2019 - P&G Product Innovation Award

2018 - Grantham Institute Sustainable Water Bottle Design and Brand

2018 - Dyson School of Design Engineering - Finalist

2014 - RAF Flying scholarship

2013 - RAF Gliding scholarship

Sports:

Imperial Mountaineering Society
Climbing

Trail Running/Ultra marathons

Ski Racing (2x National Champion)

Triathlon

Volunteering:

Contributor to University Newspaper

Young Scout Leader

CCF Young Officer

Youth Ski Instructor