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Couple 'Carcoon' The Last Mini

A couple who have won one of the last classic Mini Coopers ever to roll off the production line have vowed never to drive it.

Instead, they have put it into a special temperature controlled plastic cocoon at their depot in Dyfed, South Wales as a showpiece.

Alan and Hilda Bowen won the classic Mini Cooper after their express parcels depot in Crymych, Dyfed, came top in an inter-depot incentive competition run by Amtrak Express Parcels, one of the UK's leading parcel delivery companies.

A delighted Alan and Hilda were presented with the keys to the gleaming Mini Cooper at Amtrak's annual conference in Birmingham. The next day the car was safely in its air conditioned bubble in South Wales where, says Alan, it will not turn a wheel. "It is one of the last of its kind every made and it would be a shame to ruin it by taking it on the road," Alan said.

"It's a beautiful car and Hilda and I love it. We did all our courting in a mini many years ago so it's great to have one of the last ever made. The temptation to drive it is huge but every time we feel the urge to get behind the wheel we clean it. It will appreciate in value as long as we keep it in perfect condition. That's why it's in the cocoon," Alan added.

A leading classic car expert says the Bowen's 'cocoon' approach could net them thousands. "Enthusiasts and serious collectors would pay serious money for one of the last ever Mini Coopers. If Mr and Mrs Bowen manage to resist the urge to drive it and keep it in its plastic cocoon for a few years they could hit the jackpot," said expert Peter Granville.

The Crymych depot scooped the Mini Cooper after being named the depot which had won more new business through its own efforts than any among the 106-strong Amtrak depot network. After hearing news of the win Alan said: "It's great to win but the real credit goes to everyone here at the depot. They all worked very hard."

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News of the Bowen's decision to keep their star prize 'cocooned' has delighted Amtrak Express Parcels. Marketing Manager, Sally-Ann McCusker said: "Alan and Hilda are a determined couple. They proved that by winning the prize in the first place. I think it's a great idea to preserve the Mini Cooper in a plastic bubble. I'm sure it will prove worthwhile. Good luck to them."

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After hearing the Bowen's story, George Page, chairman of the company which manufactures the protective 'Carcoon', has offered to supply Alan and Hilda with a free sample. "We are delighted to add another very special vehicle to the long list of Carcooned legends," he said.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Amtrak Express Parcels Ltd., is a dynamic, fast growing organisation that is a major force in overnight parcel collection and delivery in the UK and worldwide. It operates over 100 strategically located depots and more than 1,000 delivery vehicles that cover the whole of the UK. Amtrak is known within the carrier industry for its outstanding quality and value for money and surpasses the BSEN ISO 9002 Quality Standard.

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