

[Resto Cal]

turkweiss

What's yours called? I'd like you to meet Giles, a rather well behaved Beetle belonging to Helena Stylianou from East Barnet in Hertfordshire. Giles has been at Helena's side for quite some time and has undergone a lot of changes in her company. He's also been the cause of more than a little grief!

At the beginning of the decade, Helena's mind was captivated with Beetles. Despite not owning one or having the licence to drive one, she was assessing a look for her little imaginary Bug. In time, the licence was hers and the hunt began for a suitable machine.

ACKWELL LTD






£375 seemed like a good buy for a 1967 1300 model from a gasser in West Hampstead. Helena was now on her way! She joined the Barret V4 Club and "Giles" strutted his stuff on the rough over a couple of years whilst a few rust problems showed their ugly faces. It was time to sort this out and that's when Helena's boyfriend David Picher stepped in, sprague in one hand and breathing mask in the other - presumably with a big light

shining behind, low camera angle, dry look... you get the picture? So Giles ended up in two-tone blue and white for a trouble-free year until some die-wit shortened his tail-pipes and put him out of action. From then it was just a matter of waiting for the insurance pay-out and then, with gentle persuasion from David, Helena decided to put Giles through a complete restoration nose and for all the troubles were soon to begin.

The love for Giles was certainly more than superficial as every panel was replaced or treated comprehensively in order to eradicate the abundance of tin-worm, and there was a hell of a lot of that! With the pre-'67 Resto-Cal vogue decided upon, early panels were collected as well as another Bug, a '72 1300 for £195 to act as parts chaser and daily hack.

David took care of the bodywork, cutting out chunks of rot and welding in virtually a complete catalogue of spare panels from the charnais upward with rust free doors and deck lid also being fitted. The car was coming together so nicely and then the bomb shell. The site of the garage (rented) was to become a housing development which meant it was time to leave - pronto. The only option was to put Giles into storage for a couple of



 Helena Skylesse	
VEHICLE	VW 1300
AGE	78
OCCUPATION	Sales Assistant
CLUB	Slow Pull Away V-Dub Club
YEAR	1968
COLOUR	1300 Turis, 1289 Green Web
ENGINE	1300cc
GEARDOX	"1300"
BRAKES	Disc & Drums
EST HHP	500HP
WHEELS	Early 5 bolt solid rims
TYRES	Michelin
INTERIOR	Green and white
SPECIAL FEATURES	Lowered, wheel adapters, early panels, pop-roof, double-chrome travel lifts
TIME OWNED	Since December 1987
PURCHASE PRICE	£575

[The love for Giles was certainly more than superficial]

months and then re-site to another garage. There it sat with no work being done and the bare panel work slowly rusting. It was December 1996 and the spray-work, this time to be carried out by a recommended garage in two tone Turis Blue and White, was booked up. The first attempt didn't look too good so a second one began. Again, this wasn't up to scratch and to make matters worse, some of the items required for the re-fit were missing from all the tooting and froing between various garages. The account was settled and the car left with the garage to finish.

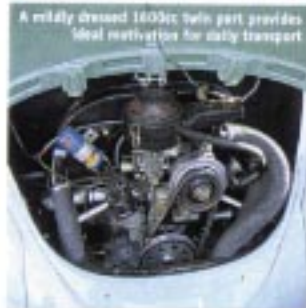
By April 1998 the car was still not complete and by now much money had been spent running into thousands. Helena was at her wit's end and a decision

just had to be made. Crystal Clear Motors of Sunnyside Road, London N19 took on the task, re-spraying it excellently in Helena's chosen colours using Guxarite 2 pack and re-building Giles for the road. At last there was light at the end of the tunnel.

The engine received some attention by way of new pistons and cylinders plus a pair of twin-part heads, a brand new alternator and Bosch distributor. The upholstery detail was left in the capable hands of Sid Phillips of Kentish Town who also recovered the black sunroof with white cloth and fitted the headlining. The white inserts within the green seats give a minty-clean appearance to the inside, a bit like a packet of Pacers (remember those?). The dark green carpet that Sid also tucked into place has been echoed in the solid wheel rims, bringing a tri-colour feel to the whole car.

Inside lives an early steering wheel and column and early wide trim dissects the dash. Forward of the windscreen sits a pre-'67 fuel tank with internal filter and below that the original front beam (lowered) with disc brakes and wheel adapters to accept 5-lug solid rims. The rear drums have been drilled to accept the 5 stud rear.

It was at Bug Jam '98 when Helena first got involved with the Slow Pull Away V-Dub Club, meeting up with Caroline Harding, the club's back-bone. Total VW spotted Helena's Beetle at the Slow Pull Away VW show at the beginning of February '99 and set up an impromptu photo-shoot. Well, we could hardly refuse. Shortly before manoeuvring the car into place we noticed the front beam seemed loose and there was a petrol leak. It turned out that one of the beam bolts had fallen out (!) and the resulting "floating beam" had knocked a small hole in the petrol tank! With a little hunting around at the show, everything was soon put right and the photography could begin. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the four Type2 owners from V.M.A. V-Dub Club for moving their buses from the picture postcard back-drop. Cheers guys, Helena would also like to thank David, Crystal Clear Motors (the saviour) and Sid Phillips for all their hard work. If you're on the net you might like to check out Helena's Beetle details by dialling in <http://www.angelino.com/au/helena-beetle>. Certainly one nice car, but what a road to travel along to get there! Still, you always look back on these things and laugh when the time's right, and right now I bet Helena's laughing the loudest of all.



A nicely dressed 1600cc twin part provides ideal motivation for daily transport



Early panels, light units, wide trim and 4-to-5 wheel adapters help create the convincing pre-'67 guise