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MIDDLEBRIDGE SCIMITAR 21ST BIRTHDAY PARTY NOTTINGHAM CASTLE, NOTTINGHAM

Owners of Middlebridge Scimitars recently bought their Reliant successors back to Nottingham, the city where the cars were first built, to celebrate their 21st birthday. The glassfibre-bodied sports estates went on display alongside one of Nottingham's other famous residents, Robin Hood (or rather his statue), at the foot of the castle and attracted a great deal of interest from the residents and visitors alike.

Thirteen cars, all sporting the newly-launched Middlebridge badge (see *CCW's Club Spotlight* story last week) turned out, which isn't a bad total considering that only 77 production models were built from 1989 to 1990. Special guest at the event was John McCauley, Middlebridge's managing director, who revealed that, had the company survived its financial problems, there were plans to develop both an electric version and a model with an aluminium body. **RICHARD GUNN**

George Sampford's Middlebridge No 63 is used as an everyday car and is testament to the strength of these glassfibre cars, after recently having survived with little more than a damaged bumper after being hit from the rear at 50mph – the modern steel vehicle which attacked it was a write-off



Mick Gaughran, Middlebridge registrar of the Reliant Sabre and Scimitar Owners Club, with his Titan Gold No 33 car. It is believed this car was originally owned by the managing director of Cadbury's, sponsor of the Middlebridge Formula 1 team, and was painted a very bright purple! It was repainted into its present colour by Mick in 2004



This pre-production prototype belongs to Dan Mitchell of Leamington Spa. "Usually, pre-production cars are smashed up but, luckily, mine wasn't," he says. He's owned it for 21 years and, in that time, it "has never gone wrong – and some years I was doing 18,000 to 20,000 miles a year! Princess Anne drove this example for about two weeks before taking ownership of her own example, No 5



RIGHT: Showing off the distinctive rear end of Middlebridge No 67 is Mark Beedham from Morecambe. He's owned it for four years and previously had No 60, which was the chairman's car. This one started off as a manual, was converted to an automatic, and has now gone back to a manual