

Motoring

New Mini

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■ **GIUSEPPE** Gattuso, from Langley, on hand to make sure that the fleet of 10 Mini's was in tip-top condition at its UK media launch earlier in the week.

2099/a

WHEN Alexander Arnold Constantine Issigonis roughly drew the outlines of a small, box-shaped car on a serviette in a restaurant one lunchtime in 1957, he could not have known that he was actually starting a revolution.

His creation – the Mini – turned everything that people then knew about car design on its head.

So many people hold an affection for the Mini – a car that is so much more than a car. The Mini has always been a concept for an individual way of life.

The new Mini loses none of that. On the contrary, it builds on the good things in the Mini and launches it energetically into the new Millennium.

Marketing the Mini is the responsibility of the Mini Team in Bracknell.

This team has been working hard to introduce the new car to a public that has at times been cynical of a new Mini in a new era.

Earlier this week, the Mini Team presented the Mini to regional and specialist publications.

Subjected to a punishing schedule, a specialist team was on hand to care for a fleet of brand new cars about to be tested to the limit.

One of the team, Giuseppe Gattuso, from Langley, was on hand to make sure that the whole fleet was in tip-top condition at all times.

Giuseppe has worked for BMW since he left school, first at local dealers, and lately at BMW

The all-new Mini is about to hit the streets. Richard Hill was one of the first to drive the new car at the UK media launch earlier this week. In the first of a two part feature, he looks at the launch and lifestyle of the Mini.

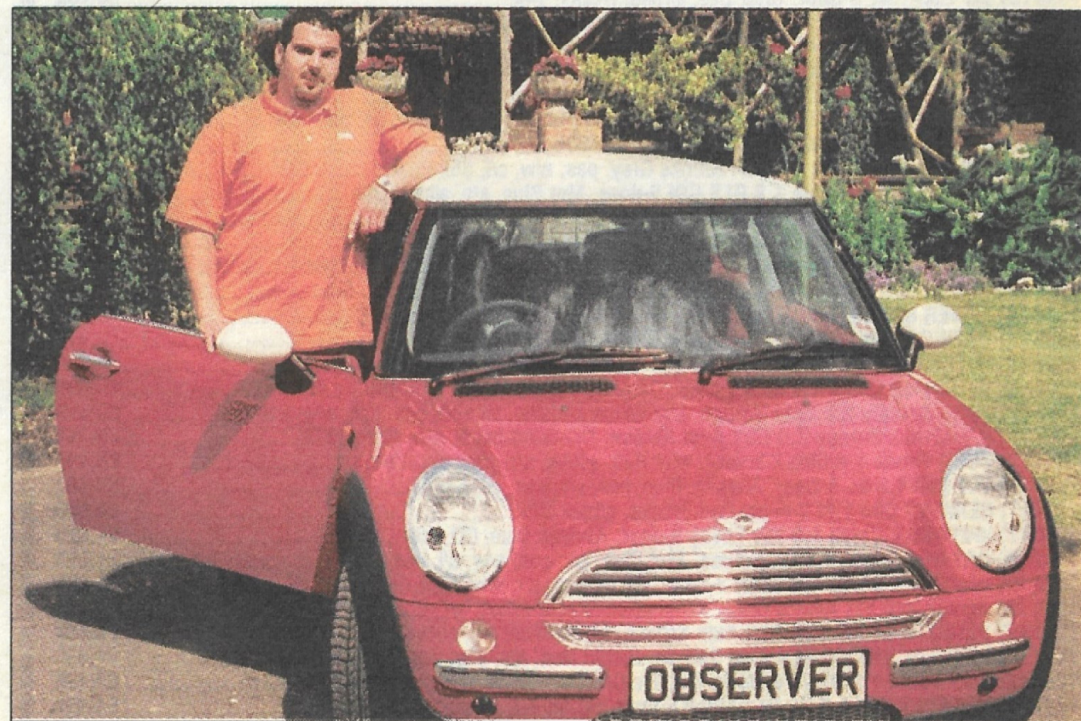
headquarters in Bracknell.

"To get fully familiar with the new Mini, I worked for three weeks at the factory in Cowley, Oxford," he says. "I've since been working in the Mini development and test centre in Bracknell and I'm now involved in the launch. We've run-in the Mini launch fleet and made sure everything continues to be 100 per cent perfect.

"We also keep them clean and checked."

So thorough are the technical team, that at every stop on the launch, each car is cleaned and visually inspected.

Next week Giuseppe and the rest of the technical team do it all again – in Cardiff, Leeds and Bristol.



Giuseppe has probably driven the new Mini more than anyone else in the country.

"I think it's a brilliant little car," he says. Biased

or honest? Read Richard Hill's test drive report in the second part of his Mini feature next Friday.

The Mini goes on sale next Saturday, July 7.