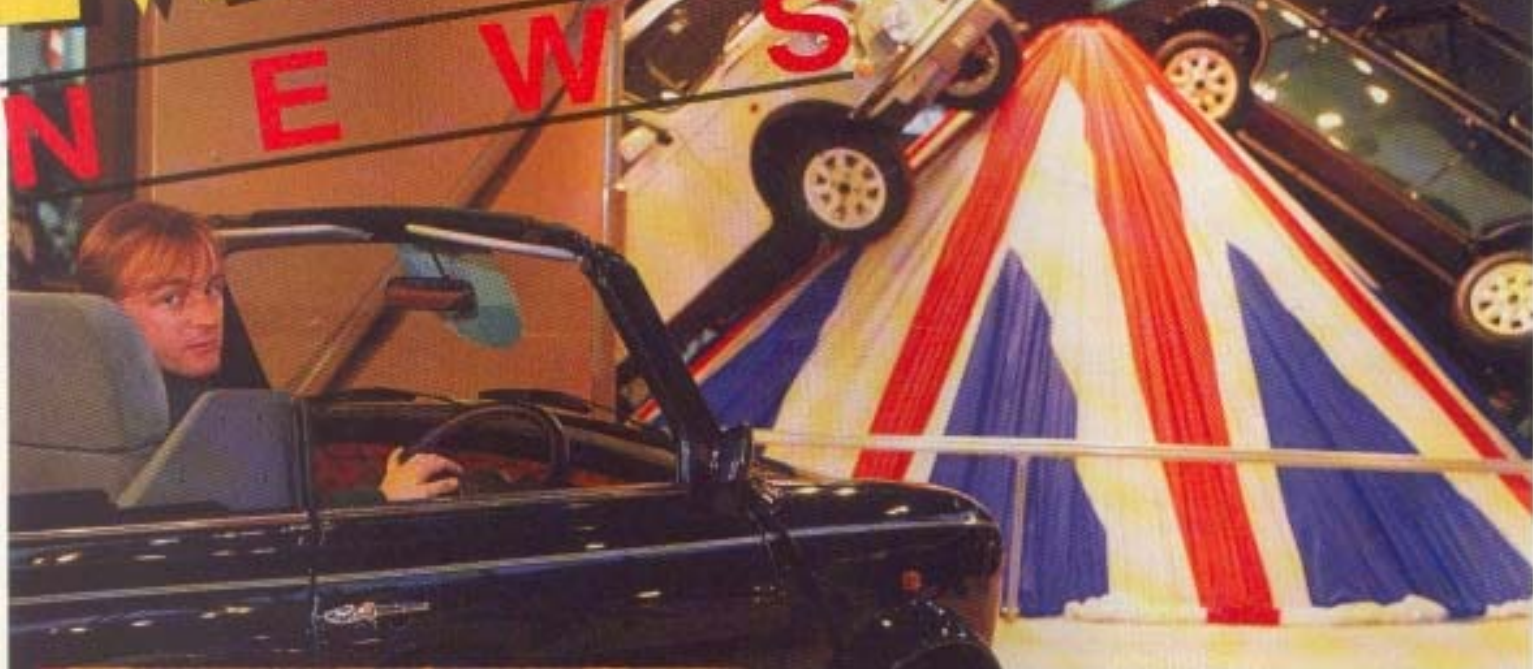


MINI

ROVER'S CABRIO ARRIVES



The official Rover Mini Cabriolet was at last launched at the Birmingham Motor Show. We say official because you may remember that MiniWorld showed exclusive pictures of the German version last year. While the German model required a special body conversion by specialists Lamm, the new Cabrio will be built entirely at Rover's Longbridge factory.

The Cabrio uses the 1.3-litre

fuel injection A-Series lump and as well as the prominent body kit features 12 inch Revolution style wheels with locking wheel nuts. Inside, the Cabrio gets specially designed sports seats, wood-trimmed door cappings, grab handles, gear knob and fascia and a leather trimmed steering wheel.

To many people's eyes the official version doesn't look quite as raunchy as the German Lamm-built car. After a bit of

debate in the MiniWorld office, we came to the conclusion that the new car sits too high and could do with the 13inch wheels that fill the arches so impressively on the Lamm car.

Pictured here, perched at the wheel of the new car, is MiniWorld DepEd Jerry Gienwright, no doubt dreaming wistfully of summer, the wind blowing through his hair and some nice young thing in the passenger seat. Well you can but dream Jerry.

Also spotted at the show was one John Cooper sporting an Italian Job cap and taking a keen interest in the new Italian Job Minis from Rover.

This latest limited edition Mini is based on the famous Minis featured in the film of the same name. The launch of the cars coincided nicely with the Italian Job Mini run and MiniWorld is driving one of these cars on the event.



While the cars are not exact replicas, they do look rather smart with their white grills and white Minilite-style wheels.

The bumper-mounted spotlights will no doubt come in useful when driving through sewers, but we're not totally convinced by those fake leather bonnet straps!

The Italian Job cars are available in red, blue, white (just like in the film) and racing