Whatever happened to the ‘Oasis’ Rolls-Royce in the swimming pool?

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Did the ‘Oasis’ Rolls-Royce end its days on a banger racing track?

Robin Roberts (WheelsWithinWales) reports…

Flying Spares, the world’s largest independent supplier of Rolls-Royce and Bentley parts, has uncovered new evidence suggesting that the 1972 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow from the Oasis album cover ended up being banger raced.

Neil Arman, Director of Flying Spares, said: “Supplying the car in the swimming pool for Be

Here Now is part of Flying Spares folklore, and people often ask us what happened to it. We sold it at a music memorabilia auction back in the 90s, but this summer we heard that the photographer, Michael Spencer Jones, was trying to find it, with a view to buying it. We put some feelers out in the trade, but no one seemed to know anything. It was a mystery, so we did a press release appealing for information.



“The story went crazy and got picked up around the world! As a result, a few leads came in, mostly clearly false trails. By far the most promising was from motoring journalist Dan Williamson. He explained that there’s mythology in the banger scene about famous cars like the KLF’s Ford Galaxie police car and the Jaguar from Shaun of the Dead. He recalled that the Oasis Rolls was linked to a Kent-based banger racer called Danny, so we did some

detective work and managed to get in touch.

At first, Danny was a bit reticent because he's taken stick from classic enthusiasts over the years. We are very familiar with that thorny issue, but sometimes once-great cars, even Rolls-Royces, are beyond repair. By breaking one you can keep another six on the road. To be clear, the Oasis Rolls was a wreck, totally undriveable, it didn't even have an engine. We fixed it up to look the part, but it was basically a prop.

Back to the story. Danny sent us a photo of a black and red banger – a car he raced once, at a big Firecracker event at Essex Arena in 2003. He was told when he bought it that it was 'the Oasis Roller'. That really got our attention. It was certainly the right model and Danny knew a lot of details about the work we'd done to get it ready for the photoshoot, things hardly anyone would know.

If this was the Oasis Silver Shadow, it had a different grille, axles from a Series 1 Jaguar and a V6 engine from a Ford Granada… and it got smashed to pieces at Firecracker! That seems a suitably rock n roll ending, but it isn't definite, there's no paperwork to prove it conclusively, so it could still be out there, maybe."

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As well as the cover for Be Here Now, Michael Spencer Jones also shot the covers for the first two Oasis albums, Definitely Maybe and (What's the Story) Morning Glory?, The Verve's Urban Hymns and Suede's Stay Together. Bespoke portfolios and museum standard limited edition prints are available from www.michaelspencerjones.com.

More about Michael Spencer Jones:

As well as the cover for Be Here Now, photographer Michael Spencer Jones also shot the covers for the first two Oasis albums, Definitely Maybe and (What's the Story) Morning

Glory?, The Verve's Urban Hymns and Suede's Stay Together. Two of his cover photographs – Definitely Maybe by Oasis and This Is Music by The Verve – featured in Q magazine's Hundred Best Record Covers of All Time. Michael went on to produce a series of acclaimed portraits for the permanent exhibition Children in War at the Imperial War Museum North. For enquiries, contact: msj.spellbound@gmail.com

More about Flying Spares:

They tell us: Established in 1995 by Ben and Lucy Handford, Flying Spares is the world's largest independent supplier of new, recycled and reconditioned Rolls-Royce and Bentley parts. Initially operating from a single portacabin, the business has grown year-on-year. It now employs 50+ people at a 30,000 sq. ft. facility in Leicestershire, operates 24/7 and distributes worldwide. With an exceptional commitment to sustainability and the preservation of original Rolls-Royce and Bentley engineering, Flying Spares is synonymous with quality. Notable recent developments include acquiring the Peter Hepworth Components brand in 2018, embracing Employee Ownership in 2020, and introducing an industry-leading 3-year warranty in 2022.

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