

LOCAL HERO

History repeats itself

In 2004, Malcolm Case was on the lookout for a new car. As soon as the Colchester-based telecoms expert had taken a test-drive of the Mazda RX-8, he tore up the rest of the list, and put in his order for a new RX-8. "It was great to drive," he says. "The smoothness of the engine, the handling, the cabin, the looks... it had everything. It was the complete package, really."

The duo have been inseparable for more than 80,000 miles, with the car gradually transitioning from Malcolm's daily driver into a performance-focused veteran of 61 track days. "She has given me so much pleasure to drive that I want to make sure she keeps going for as long as possible," he says fondly.

Owning an RX-8 brought Malcolm, now 62, into contact with Mazda rotary clubs and enthusiasts, whereupon the rotary bug properly bit. So much so that he now also owns two 1983 Mazda RX-7 FBs, in the same colour. He's restoring one in his home garage, while the other serves as a Sunday driver and occasional entrant in car shows.

"There are fewer than 100 FBs now taxed for UK roads. Driving it takes me right back to the era. Yet you can definitely see the family heritage between the RX-7 and RX-8; they have that distinctive agility and smoothness."

This summer Malcolm plans to "just drive and enjoy them in the sun. My cars are keepers, but you know what, I'd be keen on an RX-9!"

