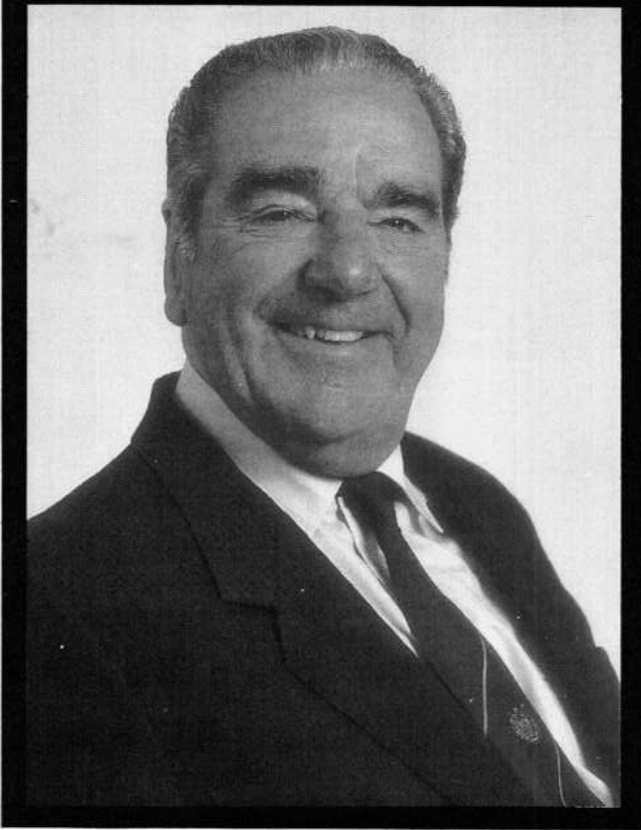


# COOPER



**I**t's interesting this month that MiniWorld should have details on the glassfibre Mini Cord from Venezuela. Interesting, because all the top guys from the Fajorca factory came over to Ferring to see us. And that even included the President, Victor Vargas. They came down to show us the glassfibre-bodied Cord. In Venezuela they are fitting the 1000cc engine in the car at the moment, next year they will take the 1300cc, so we are sending them kits to turn it into the twin carburettor model like the John Cooper Anniversary model we did originally. They have ordered a lot more which is lovely. Tim Soar of Rover, who you know has been involved with the whole project in Venezuela, 'phoned and said they were all over here and could they come down and bring a car to show us. I think about nine of

them arrived, the President of Fajorca turned up in his chauffeur-driven Grosse Mercedes. And they showed us the Cord. I drove it briefly round the block and it is very quiet. It's about the same weight as a metal-bodied car but the glassfibre absorbs the sound much better so it's quieter.

I thought it was a beautifully made motor car, you can hardly tell the difference. Very nice, I believe they are exporting them to Columbia now so that's another country getting the Mini. Anyway, we went down to the local pub - I rode with the President in this great big Mercedes - and we had some sandwiches. He was very enthusiastic about it all. While we were there, Michael took the President out in H15 FUN, the Cooper you tested last month, and he ordered one of those for himself to go in the garage with his

*Bottom left: Top guys from the Fajorca factory with the Mini Cord outside John Cooper's Ferring showroom. President Victor Vargas is fifth from left standing next to John Cooper.*

Ferrari. A very pleasant day it was for all of us, super to see them. They have invited myself and Mike to go over there and I think Mike's very keen to have a look at how they build them. So if he goes to Venezuela, we can get him to tell you all about it.

This month, MiniWorld's columnist talks about the Mini Cord,

