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WHAT'S YOUR
FAVOURITE
SPORTS CAR?



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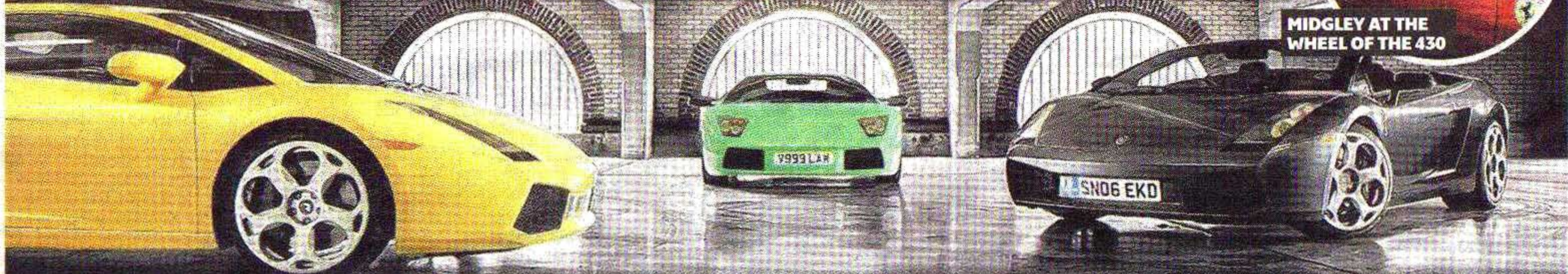
ROMINA KENNEDY



MIDGLEY AT THE
WHEEL OF THE 430

WHO SAYS BOYS DON'T SHARE THEIR TOYS?

A slice of mean machine



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THERE'S never been a more unfashionable time to own a supercar. In these green-aware days it just isn't cool to commute to work or nip to the supermarket in a gas-guzzling Ferrari.

But there is a way to soothe your conscience without cutting back on horsepower: join a super-

car club. Since former F1 world champion Damon Hill helped set up Surrey-based P1 International in 2000, the idea of investing in an automotive time-share has really taken off.

For Londoners, one of the most convenient clubs is [ecurie25](http://www.ecurie25.co.uk), named after the French word for stable.

It is based by the Old Street roundabout, near Shoreditch, and has a fleet

of 17 cars. For a one-off joining fee of £750 and an annual subscription of £9,200, members are entitled to an average of 40 supercar driving days a year.

Today, the company has 172 members, with an average age of 40. It's no surprise that most members work in and around the City, and earn more than £100,000 a year.

In order to research this

article, I thought it was important that I sample the experience of driving the sort of car that most of us can never hope to own.

After perusing the list of available models, I passed over the Bentley Continental GT convertible and the Porsche 911 Turbo in favour of a Ferrari F430 Spider F1.

Apart from having a 4.3 litre engine, 483 brake horsepower and a top

speed of 196mph, it has one of those buttons that you press to put the roof down. Naturally, it was everything it promised to be.

"Many of our members have sold their sports cars," says marketing director Flora Heathcote. "They either use smaller cars for everyday use or public transport. They use us when they need something a bit more special."

HOW TO JOIN THE FAST SHOW

www.ecurie25.co.uk
Based in central London, it costs £750 to join plus subs of £9,200 p.a. for 40 driving days a year

www.p1international.com
Based in Surrey, it costs £2,500 to join. Subs vary based on location for 50-70 driving days a year

www.clubgt.co.uk
Based central London, it costs £250 to join plus with subs from £2,250 for 10-50 driving days a year

www.passion7.co.uk
Based in Stanmore. Joining fee £500. Subs from £3,500