



READY FOR THE OFF: Michael Caine and Ian Sims with the classic Mini they intend to drive to Italy

MP071004-1

Story: RICHARD ALLEN
Picture: MIKE PROUDFOOT

MICHAEL Caine is resurrecting his role in the classic Italian Job movie, but this time he's starting in the Isle of Man.

OK, it's not THE Michael Caine.

This one is a 49-year-old company director from Onchan.

With his friend Ian Sims, 54, from Baldrine, he will be travelling to northern Italy in a classic Mini where they will meet up with 200 fellow 'Jobbers' from all corners of the globe.

They aren't going to do a real robbery, but hope to get people to hand over cash in aid of charities that will benefit from the event.

It is organised by The Italian Job organisation (www.italianjob.com) in aid of the National Children's Home and, in Mike and Ian's case, the local Isle of Man Children's Centre too.

The organisation has put on this event every year since 1990 and up to the present day has raised just short of £2 million.

Unlike Sir Michael Caine, Mike was born as Michael Caine, whereas the movie star changed his name from Maurice Joseph Micklewhite.

Sir Michael is one of the patrons of The Italian Job event, alongside Langness resident and Top Gear star Jeremy Clarkson.

The vehicle Ian and Michael are using is a 1993 Mini Classic 1275 which is being prepared for the 2,500-mile round trip. They will travel at their own pace to northern Italy to meet up with the other 100 cars for scrutineering on October 26.

Michael Caine in re-run of the Italian Job . . .

. . . and he's from the Isle of Man,
not a lot of people know that

Following part of the original Italian Job route the Minis took, there will be a rally day in the hills overlooking Stresa and one or two around the Veneto region.

This will be followed by a lap or two of the Formula One circuit at Monza, a day of sport at the Adria raceway and, of course, a spin or two on the famous Lingotto.

En route there will be fundraising fancy dress events and an auction of goods brought by the 'Jobbers'. They will return to the UK on November 3.

To start their fundraising Mike and Ian are at present selling prize draw tickets to win a new 2007 specification Mini.

Mike and Ian are funding their own expenses, hotel, food and other costs and have managed to fund the entry

fee and fuel through family and friends.

Any money donated, raised from supporters, or via the prize draw tickets or advertising space on the Mini, will be for the benefit of the charities.

The money raised by the 'Jobbers' will be split as follows:

Fifteen per cent will go to the Italian Job Development Fund, 5 per cent to a local Italian children's charity and 80 per cent to the NCH.

However, Mike and Ian have negotiated with the organisers that half of their 80 per cent will be donated to the Isle of Man Children's Centre.

If you would like more details, or have any offers of support, contact Michael Caine, on 07624 462182, Ian Sims, on 07624 496879, or go to www.italianjob.info