

Hello **NIGEL**,

So, fancy this plate ? There's a section at the end about when it will go on sale (and an expectation of price).....

N1GEL

I'd wanted the registration "N1GEL" since I'd first understood that number plates weren't random, and worked out age 13 that *my plate* would appear in 1995, only it didn't, DVLA held it for several years before it finally came to auction in 1997 when I lost it to another Nigel with deeper pockets than myself....

For years I thought it was unrecoverable until one day in 2001, speaking to a number plate agent looking for a plate for someone else, as I recounted the story of the N1GEL auction, he told me that it was for up for resale ! Not wanting

to pay his commission, I broke out the newspaper clipping I'd kept since it originally sold (right), googled the appropriate Nigel, and found him listed as a director of a company exhibiting at a show at Olympia. I contacted his company, spoke to him, and as he was apparently moving abroad he offered me the plate for a modest bump on what he paid for it.

Having just sold my company I could be somewhat more frivolous, so I bought it from him and put it on a car temporarily (my mum's Mini Metro), so that it was actually in my name, and not me just listed as a named party on his retention certificate.

Nigel's number
Nigel Bowerbank, a 45-year-old Essex businessman, paid £60,000 plus £20,000 VAT and commission at the DVLA's Classic Collection auction in London for the numberplate N1 GEL, which he will mount on his Rolls-Royce. 1P fetched £51,500 and IV £48,500.

My first ever new car

My new car, my first ever actually new **new** car was (please remember I'd just sold my company) was a Lamborghini Diablo VT 6.0. The appointed day finally arrived and I took the train to Lamborghini in Acton to pick up my prize bearing the registration "N1 GEL" and drove it gingerly home through Friday night London traffic. First job was to swap "N1 GEL" for "N1GEL" without the space !!



In what on reflection was an outrageous fortnight, two weeks later I also picked up my brand new Merc S55 AMG 'family car' !



Those early years were wonderful, people smiled, gawped and photographed it whenever I used it, as the car and plate together were so wonderfully over the top ! I used it for driving to work, trips to B&Q, and of course attending Lamborghini Club events. I took it once to Lidl only for the guy collecting the trolleys to volunteer "we don't see many of those in 'ere mate !".

N2GEL

Sometime in 2008 I saw an advert in a car group looking to interview people with 'Cherished' number plates for a TV program, and I registered interest in taking part. It all seemed a reasonable proposition and they duly came with cameras to talk about number plates and film the Lambo referring to my bat cave opening

(<http://bit.ly/MyBatCave>) as 'the money shot'. As a warning to anyone else considering volunteering for a TV program, absolutely ensure you know the name of the program !! There's a link to the final program at the end too, it was called 'UR 50 VAIN'.

Anyway, that program introduced me to Nigel Walker, the owner of N2GEL, and we've become close friends since then.

The program, 'UR 50 VAIN' is here if you can stand the cringe factor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b052WtVvio>

Dinosaur !

The Lambo wasn't my ongoing 'daily' of course. For that there had been the Merc S55 AMG (on reflection an old man's car), then later two Range Rover sports (funkier than the main big Range Rover itself). I of course went for the super ecologically friendly model, the 5L Supercharged Petrol V8. I still have the second one, just too much car to sell for what I'd get for it.

Anyway, in 2019 I bought a Tesla Model S Ludicrous for my daily. 5 seats, an enormous boot, and a 0-60 time 1 second quicker than the Lambo ! Can you believe it that such is the change in technology that compared to the Lambo (literally the fastest car you could buy in 2001), an electric car carrying nearly a ton of batteries does 0-60 in 2.9 seconds, a full one second quicker than the Diablo's 3.9 seconds ?

So, with the Tesla now the fastest in my fleet of four cars (I have a RHD DeLorean too), I moved N1GEL onto it and use it as my daily. Like the Diablo I removed the space so it read "N1GEL" not "N1 GEL", and although I never got pulled in 19 years in the Diablo, within a few months I got a DVLA fine of £100 and a notification that "If I was pulled again for illegal spacing on the plate, they would

withdraw the plate". Ouch, that would be some loss, and so now it is displayed entirely legally with the required space. It does grate on me a little, when you see completely bastardised plates all over the place, but yet I was pulled for simply having the space removed. Anyway, what policeman isn't going to miss out on an easy pull ? A middle aged law abiding guy in a family car who's not going to give them any trouble !!

There's a line in Jurassic Park, where the dinosaur expert, having seen the recreated dinosaurs, refers to himself as *extinct*. I can't help feeling that electric car technology has somewhat diminished the appeal of the Supercars of my boyhood dreams. Sure they don't growl or split flames and have the evocative sound of the V12, but is that an appeal lost on today's PlayStation generation ? I feel my Lambo is now more like a T-Rex, sure of all the dinosaurs it's the one with the biggest queue to see it, but for today's youngsters a dinosaur nevertheless ?

With the dinosaur theme in mind I did look for the plate "7 Rex" (T-Rex) for the Lambo, but DVLA were characteristically unhelpful in helping me find the owner !

N1GEL is for sale !

Well everything is for sale for the *right price* of course !

I have a standing offer of £100k which I've declined and will continue to do so. If you want it today, I'd have trouble ignoring an offer of £250k should you feel you want it that badly...

At some point (probably in the not too distant future), I'm going to *pop my clogs* and my executors will have the task of selling it and

maximising it's value. To help them I maintain a list of interested parties for them to contact when the time comes.... If you'd like to be on that list, then please send an e-mail, with your name and phone number to LamboNigel@Yahoo.co.uk. By that time of course the standing offer of £100k may have disappeared (we're a dying breed you know), so even if you can't stretch to £100k today, still let me know if you'd be interested when I no longer have a need it.

Finally

There's an article from the Lamborghini Club magazine, and some older pics of "N1GEL" on the Lambo here if you fancy some automotive porn...

<http://tiny.cc/diablo2001>

Wishing you, fellow Nigel, a long, loving and prosperous life.

Nigel

PS: My good friend Nigel Walker asked me to add that his plate "N2GEL" is probably available for "*a little less than £250k*" 😊