

Members Cars - Andrea & Ken Hider

1997 XJ X300 Sport

We purchased the car in 2004 from the former car wholesaler, Emacord Autos on Grange Road. We were looking for a 1995 model XJR, the first supercharged XJ and happened to see this car in the car lot.

The previous owner purchased the car from new and had bought the X300 as a demo from Solitaire Motors. He commuted from Largs Bay until he traded it in.

Although it has the normal XJR livery, it is in fact, an XJ Sport which we were told had been mocked up as a demo to sell new XJRs. It has a much firmer ride than our XJR and was built in August '97. The sport package has much stiffer springs and without all the electric accessories, it is somewhat lighter than the XJR.

The normally aspirated AJ16 is much more responsive than the supercharged XJR and is much livelier to drive. The car was one of the last 6-cylinder X300s off the production line as they changed to V8s that same year.

The car has been basically trouble free apart from an unusual head gasket

problem resulting in a valve grind, occasional ignition coil failures, etc.

All four wheels had to be re-rolled, as when we test drove it, it felt like it had square wheels.

Front seats have been recovered and the head lining has been replaced. It has been repainted its own special

green, slightly bluer than the normal British Racing Green. It is great fun to drive and drives like a go-cart.

Cheers
Andrea & Ken

Editor: Thank you Andrea & Ken for the informative story. While Andrea drives the X300 Sports, Ken drives an X300 XJR It is hard to tell them apart.



Andrea's X300 Sports on the left and Kens XJ6R on the right. Or is it Kens on the left and Andrea's on the right?