

## RV8 seen in a Ruth Rendell TV series



David Knowles has sent in a screen grab from the Ruth Rendell TV series showing an RV8 with the registration plate L 251 CDU. He had responded to Paul saying "it seems this was a three-part drama filmed in Hampshire first shown in the UK in March 1995." David added "I can now fill in some gaps - for one thing, the leading male heart-throb is the late Mark Frankel who also drove an RV8 in the forgettable rom-com film 'Solitaire for Two'. Mark was killed in a motorcycle accident about a year after this programme was made. Now L 251

CDU does not exist – at least according to the DVLA records in the UK – but K 251 CDU was a Le Mans Green dealer demonstration car (VIN 900006) which appears to have disappeared off the radar in 1994. Could this be that car? Perhaps the makers of the programme wanted a false plate, and maybe they thought that a 'K' prefix was already 'too old' in 1994/5 for something that is supposed to represent a new gift from bride to her groom. Ron, your next mission, should you choose to



David Knowles sent in this photo from the series with "the groom and his bride driving off from their wedding."

accept it, is to find the episode of ITV's 'Peak Practice' featuring an RV8. It is almost certainly the same car, but possibly wearing its real number, K251 CDU. "

Victor Smith added "Yes there is a K 251 CDU (Le Mans Green VIN900006) ADDVA113 on the V8 Database which is recorded as a "customer viewing and dealer support car" and that it was "used in the Peak Practice TV series" in the UK back in the 1990s. So it seems it has been used as a TV prop before. I think David is likely to be on the right track in suggesting MG Rover used a false plate changing the ageing prefix "K" for an "L". Yes this car seems to have vanished as we have no record of its whereabouts."



David Knowles has traced this photo and says "the car is being driven aggressively through the town where the filming was done with much engine roaring and screeching of tyres."

Ron Toothill traced a YouTube link to the programme, "Vanity dies hard":  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=My3OoRU3iQ4&feature=autoplay&list=PL00E59F77D911F4EC&lf=results\\_video&playnext=10](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=My3OoRU3iQ4&feature=autoplay&list=PL00E59F77D911F4EC&lf=results_video&playnext=10)