

COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our March Newsletter and my first after the talented Mr Morris has handed over the reins. Already the year has got off to a cracking start with January's Scalextric GP, followed by February's AGM and Quiz, committee election and the Section's 5th Anniversary meal at the Pudding club and its only the middle of March! What a flying lap to start the Centenary Year. *Mark Byatt*

Firstly I'm sure you'll join me in thanking Richard for all his hard work and support of the section over the 5 years he has been in the post, for some truly wonderful Panaramico Giro routes, including the infamous fords, and the promotion of the section events and meetings.

Richard has kindly agreed to ease me into the role so he is still very much involved and I'm sure will remain an active member and attendee of future section events. (He is doing this years Giro route perhaps including a ford?) I hope to continue the good work and to promote probably the best Area Section in the world. To quote a well know beer ad !



Richard receiving an engraved plaque for all his Section efforts.

Cotswold Section 5th Anniversary - The Pudding Club

Matthew takes up the story of The Pudding Club Visit....

The first Sunday in March saw us meet for a lovely sunny walk around Dovers Hill near Chipping Campden, the plan being to build up an appetite before indulging in Steve D's suggestion of lunch at The Pudding Club. Well actually, 4 skived off the stroll and met us there, but we just gave them grief and tried unsuccessfully to argue that they weren't allowed as many Puddings!



Who ate all the Puddings ????????

We had a great time, especially when the time came to load up with the famous final course. The men let the ladies lead, and were suitably impressed when most came back armed with two desserts! Hazel really showed us the way home though, her first (and only if I'm honest) trip back from the dessert trolley contained no less than 4 different sweets!! (Sorry Hazel)

Thanks to all who came along, we were so impressed that we are seriously looking at a return visit perhaps later in the year! *MW*



Five get lost on Dovers Hill.

Breaking News:

**Wednesday 21st July
7.30pm Blag-a-ride @ BWG.**

This year we are joining the Thames Valley section at James Wheeler's Black & White garage near Newbury, a great chance to have a look around the BWG collection as well as the usual chance to experience someone else's Alfa.

West Berkshire Classic Vehicle Show

Newbury Racecourse
Sunday 25th July 10am

Special Classic Italian Car Display area. All proceeds to Leukaemia Research Fund
Entry forms at www.classicvehicles.org.uk

AGM Update

Mark G opened the AGM by thanking everyone for their attendance and support of the section throughout the year. After quickly running through the Agenda and teasing us with the promise of this years quiz Mark handed over to Matthew to give us an update on the Section's finances.

Matthew gave a summary of the Section finances and confirmed that our financial position remained broadly in line with last year and shared with the meeting proposals in offering a small supplement towards the costs for the 2010 CAD event, along with some of the expenditure during the last year. A copy of the sections finances are available for review should anyone wish to see them, please contact Matthew or one of the committee if you do.

Steve then took to the floor to remind us of the events that took place in 2009, including the Hook Norton Brewery visit (personal favourite that one!), Prescott Hill Climb, Blag a ride night and CAD to name just a few. Steve shared a reminder of the forthcoming events including Alfaholics track day, The Churchill Classic Car Show and of course Cotswold Alfa Day at Blenheim Palace on the 5th September.

Also on Sunday 9th May the Prescott Hill Climb is recognising the Alfa Romeo centenary year with dedicated Alfa parking and Alfa only cavalcade. The Section BBQ was also confirmed as Sunday 18th August kindly hosted at John Dobson's.

Steve closed by thanking the section members for their support. He would welcome any suggestions for events or visits with the likes of ProDrive at Banbury and another brewery visit high on the list of future events. Steve also asked for anyone who wanted to contribute to our newsletters to drop us a few words,

be it about a new car, works on an existing car or Alfa experiences in general, to please do so whenever you can.

Mark then addressed the nominations for the Section committee, as Richard Morris had decided to step down after 5 years as Section Secretary. Mark took the opportunity to thank Richard both personally and on behalf of the Section for all his efforts and commitment to the Section. Richard was presented with an engraved glass plaque as a token of appreciation.

Whilst the remainder of the committee were put forward and duly re-elected, the role of section secretary saw two nominees. Mark Byatt and Mark Sweeney. Mark Byatt was elected as the new Section Secretary.

That saw us come to AOB and some discussions about the soon to re-open Roman Court Hotel, in the short term we'd remain at the Merrymouth but monitor the progression of the Roman Court. John Raper also volunteered for marshalling duties again at CAD and although Blenheim are easing the workload on the day with ticket sales his offer was welcomed. If anyone else would like to help out please let one of the committee know.

And so to the Quiz.....

Hosted by Richard Morris and his able assistant Ziggy the cat, Richard took us through challenging rounds testing the combined knowledge of the Cotswold eggheads.



Hang on a minute, I know this one !

The smart money was on Dave and Rod to continue their unbeaten run but some interesting team combinations offered a challenge to the reigning champions. From crap cars to obscure roads via an eclectic pictures round saw a close run finish won by



Quiz master Rich & Section cat Ziggy

no you guessed wrong Dave & Rod were beaten, albeit not by much, into a still respectable third place. The winning team was BertieSpider made up of Roger Lewis and Mark Byatt with the ultimate crown of Cotswold egghead going to Roger in a 3 –0 penalty shootout. Well done Roger and to all the academics and dunces in the room. Special thanks to Richard for posing an interesting and enjoyable quiz which really got the old grey matter working overtime. Roger won a calendar depicting racing berties at their best, which was perfect for Roger. - MB



Roger our quiz winner

Next Month:
Saturday 10th April Alfaholics trackday at Castle Combe

Sunday 18th April
Spring Alfa Day
Burghley House, Stamford

Sunday 25th April
FBHVC Drive-it-Day