

COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER



Well the scalextric GP went down a storm and special thanks to Rod Ashton and Dave Hood for all the efforts that went into the evening, rumour has it that plans are afoot already for next year! Race Retro at Stoneleigh is just around the corner and our visit to Prodrive in early March kicks off the events for the year. I know some of you have braved the salt and weather but It feels as if we are only weeks away from a glorious Alfa Spring. - MB

Arese Saved!



As you may have seen the Alfa Museum at Arese has been under threat. The collection was to be broken up and destined to be locked in a warehouse depriving Alfisti the chance to see such a magnificent and historic collection of cars. However it has been reported that a challenge to the protection order afforded to the collection has been rejected. The extract below holds great hope and must surely put an end to FIAT's moves to close Arese.

*'The news had already leaked yesterday, and was confirmed today by the official notice: the Superintendence of **Cultural Heritage** has confirmed the constraint on the **Alfa Romeo Museum in Arese. Under protection.** The collection of cars and buildings that house are now under the protection of the Ministry of Culture. The property, therefore, can not dispose of them freely'*

Having been fortunate to visit last year, I cannot imagine never being able to visit the spiritual home of Alfa Romeo once more - MB

Youngest Section Member

You may recall that I won the Brera pedal car in the raffle at last years visit to the Blade Alfa dealership. Well the lucky recipient of that splendid car was my nephew Jake. He's already a confirmed petrolhead and doesn't go anywhere without a toy car close at hand. I'm doing all I can to make sure his first real car will be an Alfa. Here he has braved the cold to take the Brera out for a spirited drive! One future AROC member in the making. MB



Spring Alfa Day

Press Release from AROC UK, Spring Alfa Day, Imperial War Museum Duxford, Cambridgeshire, CB22 4QR - Sunday 17th April 2011

The AROC 'season opening' event will be held at Europe's premier aviation museum. More than 1,500 Alfa Romeo owners and enthusiasts are expected to 'touch down' at Duxford on Sunday 17th April. The venue houses one of the finest collections of tanks, military vehicles and naval exhibits in the country.

Spring Alfa Day will see iconic and evocative examples of this famous marque from the past 70 years on display. A real opportunity to see the changing style and sophistication of Alfa Romeo in one place.

For **Cotswold Section members**, we will be organising a couple of rendezvous points for anyone wishing to convoy to Spring Alfa Day and in view of the fact that this date is also the FBHVC Drive it Day the convoy will be used to mark this event as well. Full details of the RV points will be available on the section website or in the section monthly email a bit nearer the day. - MB



Cotswold Scalextric GP

The Section's now slightly tweaked-up pair of Scalextric Ford GT40 models had another strenuous test at January's Merrymouth Inn gathering, when 16 members turned out to race on a 19.8m (65 ft.) 2-lane circuit with 6 bends, 4 long and 2 short straights, and a flyover. The track looked easy but racing revealed its subtleties.

Racing started with a series of timed heats with each driver spending two minutes on each lane trying to drive as far as he could in the time. The distances achieved in each driver's part heats were added together and then all were ranked in order of distance covered. The top 8 who went forward to a seeded knockout were:-

8 Competitor KO		Total distance run. (Laps and % lap)	Qual. Ranking
Dave	Hood	35.34	1
Richard	Morris	33.19	2
John	Dobson	31.42	3
James	Dobson	31.37	4
Mark	Grimshaw	31.08	5
Mark	Byatt	30.90	6
John	Mills	30.50	7
David	Parker	30.26	8

Nik Lawson deserves a mention here, with no practice he finished ninth, missing the "cut" by a mere 2% of a lap. Then came the pizzas and a 45-minute break to eat, natter, damage noggins, out psych the rivals, all the usual things.

The quarter-finals were run against stop-watches as pairs of 10-lap heats with a lane swap after the first heat. Race times were added to determine the winners. The first race was a good scrap with Dave Hood eventually shading an on-form Mr Chairman Grimshaw by 1.3 sec. In the second race John Mills beat John Dobson by an even closer 1.1 sec. In the last two quarter-finals spectacular late-race efforts by Mark Byatt and David Parker entertained the marshals, so brisk runs by Richard Morris and James Dobson took them into the semis.

The format was repeated for the semis but with 15 lap heats. Dave Hood put in a 7 sec. lap average in the first heat to eliminate John Mills. In the next race James Dobson went a little faster than even that to beat Richard Morris by an aggregate 2.8 sec.

The final was an eyes-on-stalks pair of 25-lappers, with very little difference in between Dave and James in either heat before Dave's very brisk but contained efforts induced James to excite the marshals a time or two in each heat. Dave made a lap's lead that way in each heat and then cruised swiftly on to win both heats and the event. Both Dave and James did 6.0 sec. laps during the final.

Many thanks to Bill, the landlord and all who helped, lent kit, joined in to race, marshal, time, tidy up afterwards and make the first time in "30-plenty" years that I'd acted as race director a pleasure.

Rod Ashton.



Race Control !



Weekend Away

We are hoping to arrange a night away in a hotel (possibly in Derbyshire) around September /October time. We would leave on a Saturday, overnight Saturday at the hotel and then after some sightseeing in the area, make our way back on the Sunday afternoon. If you are interested in this please contact one of the committee so we can start to make plans. - MG

COTSWOLD ALFA DAY



BUSCOT PARK
SUNDAY 26TH
JUNE 2011