



COTSWOLD ALFA DAY **TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE**

There are three ticketing options for **Cotswold Alfa Day**, which takes place on **Sunday June 29th**.

Option 1. These tickets give you the full Giro Panoramico and Cotswold Alfa Day experience! You will receive a tea or coffee at the Norman Knight, a Giro Panoramico window sticker, the Giro Panoramico route plan and entry to the grounds at Blenheim. These tickets cost £11.00 for adults and £6.00 for children aged 5 to 15. Under 5s are free.

Option 2. These tickets give you access to the grounds at Blenheim Palace but do not include Giro Panoramico. These tickets cost £8.50 for adults and £4.00 for children aged 5 to 15. Under 5s are free.

Option 3. Tickets bought on the gate at Blenheim Palace on the day. People choosing this option will be required to pay the normal Blenheim prices of £12.50 for adults and £6.50 for children. Under 5s are free. Obviously these tickets do not include Giro Panoramico.

None of the above options include entry into the Palace itself. However, for an additional fee payable at the main Blenheim ticket office on the day, you will be able to upgrade your ticket and thus gain entry to Britain's finest stately home. Then, at no further cost, you can convert your ticket into an annual pass so you can return again and again free of charge!

For Options 1 and 2 two we are asking you to fill in a simple booking form. The form can be found on the diary page of our website. It will also be available at all of our meetings and events between now and June 29th.

Hopefully you'll go for Option 1 which offers the most fun and the best value for money.

EVENTS

April

Saturday 5th. Alfaholics Trackday at Castle Combe.

Sunday 6th. Our season-opener. Shelsley Walsh Breakfast Club. See below.

Wednesday 16th. Regular meet at The Fox.

Sunday 27th. Drive-it-Day. Details overleaf.

May

Saturday 3rd. Auto Italia Italian Car Day at Brooklands.

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th. AROC 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend. See Club magazine for details.

Sunday 18th. Breakfast at Twynning.

Sunday 18th. Classics in the Crescent. A classic car show in Bath with Royal Crescent as the backdrop. Details here,
www.classicsatthecrescent.co.uk

Wednesday 21st. Monthly meet at the Fox.

June

Sunday 1st. Defford Air Day and Classic Car Show www.defford-croftfarm.co.uk/deffordairday.htm

Sunday 8th. Churchill Classic and Vintage Show. Application form on our website.

Sunday 15th. Breakfast at Twynning.

Wednesday 18th. Monthly meet at the Fox. Mid-summer drive.

Saturday 21st. Classic Alfa Track day at Goodwood.

Sunday 29th. COTSWOLD ALFA DAY.

Shelsley Walsh Breakfast Club

Sunday 6th April

Our seasoner opener and it's FREE! Join our early morning convoy at Worcester. Full details in the February Newsletter available on our website at www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds

Alex Payne reports on an Auto Italia photo shoot he and his Spider recently took part in.



A few weeks ago I spotted a request on the AROC forum, for a Phase 1 916 Spider and GTV in original condition for a photo shoot for Auto Italia magazine. I replied that my car was available and to my surprise it was requested. After a bit of 'spit' and polish (well a whole day actually!) my 'bella' looked resplendent, and so myself and Alex G found ourselves driving down to the Longcross test track near Cobham. On arrival, and rather sadly, a GTV was not present so the guys on the magazine re-worked the schedule and we had three generations of Spider instead. An S4 in Alfa Rosso, my 916 and a 939 also in Rosso.



The moving shots on the track were great fun, following a Fiat Multipla camera car, we took it in turns to

be at the centre with the other two cars on the flanks level with the rear wheels of the middle car. To spice things up a bit we also had to look out for two McLaren MP4/12's that were being test driven for customers at speed. The sight and sound was something else!

After the static shots were over we were let loose on the track and it was a pleasure to open things up without a pot hole in sight! Chris, the journalist on the shoot drove my car and was pleasantly surprised to declare it 'very tight' and superb for its age. He also managed 120mph on the banking with a somewhat concerned passenger, me!

My thanks to Phil, Mike, and Chris from Auto-Italia, and also Alex G for the company and photos.

Alex P.



Drive-it-Day

Sunday April 27th

Drive-it-Day is organised by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs. The idea is to encourage owners of classic vehicles to dust them off and be seen driving them by the general public. To be honest interest among our members in Drive-it-Day has not been great and so we have taken the decision not to organise a specific Section event. However if you do fancy joining in with Drive-it-Day there are events planned at the Cotswold Motor Museum in Bourton-on-the-Water and the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon. There is also a large gathering of classic vehicles expected at the Royal Oak in Bishopstone, near Swindon.

SKITTLES

See page 3 for a full report on the Section Skittles night



COTSWOLD SECTION AGM

At our AGM in February we said thank you to Mark Grimshaw and Steve Dymoke as they both stepped down from the committee. Both were presented with commemorative plaques. Mark, as one of our founders, was also given a hamper of Italian goodies as an extra thank you.



Left: Section Secretary Mark Byatt (right) presents Steve Dymoke with a commemorative plaque.

Right: Mark Byatt presents Mark Grimshaw with a hamper of Italian food and drink as a thank you for all his hard work as Chair and Webmaster since the Section was founded in 2005.



Photos by Matthew Willmott

A rather rambling report on our

Section SKITTLES night

by Richard Morris

On Saturday March 12th around 25 Cotswolders gathered at The Coach and Horses, Ganborough for an evening of full-on Skittles action.

Gazing down the alley for the first time initial thoughts were along the lines of 'piece of cake'! However a few practice throws/bowls/balls... whatever the terminology is, soon demonstrated that the balls had a nasty knack of squeezing between the nine wooden skittles or drifting inexplicably down the side of the alley and missing the damn things altogether!

With everyone arrived and business at the bar completed we were asked to organise ourselves into teams of four. Sounds simple doesn't it? Believe me it wasn't! Friendships and marriages were stretched to breaking point before we finally settled on who we could tolerate and who we couldn't!



Above: Dave Hood launches his first salvo.

Eventually the action commenced with player 1 from each team taking a turn to hurl the three balls down the alley while Hazel Mills and Ray Byatt kept a watchful eye on the scores - which were low. Ones, twos and threes were common. Fours and fives were average. Sixes and seven were rare enough to produce cheers. Eights sent the crowds into fits of unbelieving hysteria. And when local hot-shot John Raper pulled off a nine the jubilation was worthy of an England world cup win! Thankfully zeros were almost as rare as nines.

But when some poor soul did suffer the indignity of failing to hit any of the targets their embarrassment was compounded by a kind of hushed pity usually reserved for someone who tells you they've just had to have their aged and much adored cat put down.

Anyway after 5 rounds of all four team members giving of their best we stopped for a bite of supper. The Coach and Horses laid on a spread of open bread rolls topped with prawns or goats cheese or Parma ham or egg mayonnaise, plus a huge trough of chips.

While most of us were tucking in Hazel and Ray concluded their maths and as last remaining crumbs were dispatched Section Secretary Mark Byatt read out the results in the time-honoured reverse order. So the first team to get a mention was that of Mark and Joanne Knight and Mark and Jane Grimshaw. The winners, and thus the last on Mark's, list were... John and Helen Raper and Alex and

Fran Payne. Well done you four. Best individual score went to Dave 'dead-eye' Parker, while the Barnes Wallace award went to Alex Macfie who's technique could have given 617 Squadron and their Lancasters a run for their money!

Having concluded the presentations Mark then



Above: Dave Parker, the top individual scorer, receives his prize from Mark

informed the multitude that we were going to play something called 'Killer' and handed over to John Raper to explain the rules. It sounded complicated but turned out to be incredibly simple, hugely enjoyable, and highly dependant on the person bowling before you! The game started with all nine skittles standing and each player having three lives. Each of us then proceeded to take it in turns to chuck a single ball down the alley. Any player who failed to knock a skittle down lost a life. However the key point is that once a skittle is down it is not put back up until all nine are down. So inevitably some unfortunate mug gets left with just a single skittle to aim at. If you are following someone who is capable of knocking down a single skittle all well and good because you then get all nine to aim at. Anyone who loses their three lives, i.e. fails to knock down any skittles three times, is out. So you end up following someone different as the game progresses. Hitting a solitary pin is actually not easy as we proved time and time again. One single pin survived just about everyone having a crack at it before it finally succumbed. The numbers were eventually wittled down to just four; Mark Grimshaw, Ray Byatt, young Will Morris, and his Dad - yours truly. I was first to drop out, followed closely by Mark. That left the young pretender and the glamorous Rayanne to battle it out in an edgy finale.

There were two skittles standing. It was Ray to bowl first and she bent elegantly to send the ball on it's way. As the ball slipped from her fingers it was clear she'd blown it. It's trajectory was clearly going to take it directly between the pins.... or so we all thought. As the ball trundled skittlewards, with just a few feet to go, it began to curve. The change in direction was microscopic but it was enough and the ball caught one of the pins the finest of glancing blows. A huge ovation rocked the alley! This was the stuff of sporting legend! Olympic curling had nothing on this! Up stepped the 'boy wonder' looking tense but determined. He composed himself, glanced skywards, looked to his anxious father for reassurance (saw none), and began his approach. His subtle run up and graceful swing sent the ball on it's course down the wooden slipway to stardom. But after all that it was a complete balls-up and the shot slipped hopelessly wide of the mark! Victory belonged to Ray. Sadly there was no prize for this bit of fun! Hopefully the glory of victory is enough.

Everyone appeared to have a great time and the whole evening was a huge success. It is something we will aim to repeat in the future, either amongst ourselves again or perhaps with another section or club.

On a final note I've since heard from a reliable source that Ray was mortified to beat Will, as she felt claiming victory over a mere child was a heartless act that showed her in a very poor and uncharitable light. She claims to have tried her utmost to miss that last skittle. Did she? We'll never know. But one thing is clear; Ray will have to live with what she did for many years to come. Hopefully it won't eat away at her. Hopefully Will's endless tears, bouts of depression, self-harming and inevitable slide into delinquency will not play on her mind. Hopefully she'll eventually forget the day she dashed the hopes and dreams of a young man on the verge of greatness. :-)

RM



Above: Mark B (in the centre) with the winning team (l-r) Fran, Alex, Helen and John.



Left: With their wooden spoons are (l-r) Mark K, Jo, Jane and Mark G