

# CLASSIC & SPORTS CAR

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C&SC goes on tour in a  
Mk1, visiting the major  
Mini landmarks and cars





Ex-Garrad Talbot with Steve Rockingham's Talbot Sunbeam Lotus; seven clubs plus Rootes Archive combined for superb ARCC display



Wonderful Darl'mat with Club Peugeot



Bill Ryan's DKW (centre) charmed judges



Debut for Tatra snowmobile recreation

# Record crowds for NEC spectacular

THE BIGGEST-EVER NEC Classic Motor Show defied the credit crunch as enthusiasts packed the Birmingham venue from 14-16 November. A record 76,000 visitors – some 9% up on last year's gate – were wowed by everything from a bumper selection of microcars to a Ferrari 250LM, or classic campers to a rare Darl'mat Peugeot.

Talking point of the weekend was the wild Panther 6. Taking centre stage with the Panther Car Club, the six-wheeled wonder was chosen as Car of the Show at the Classic &

Sports Car Club Awards, sponsored by Autoglym (see panel). One of two made, it hasn't been seen for nearly 20 years and was only confirmed at 6:30pm on the Wednesday before the event.

As always the clubs were the show heroes, none more so than the Association of Rootes Car Clubs with a breathtaking 27-car display marking 60 years since the Rootes Competition Department was set up. The group included the Talbot 105 driven by Norman Garrad on the 1932 Alpine Trial,

several former Rallye Monte-Carlo cars, plus Sunbeam Le Mans racers, ex-works Singers and the 1968 London-Sydney Marathon-winning Hillman Hunter.

A new addition for 2008 was the Classic Bikes pavilion. Highlight of the impressive selection of historic two-wheelers was a 1996 Triumph streamliner, ridden to 214.17mph by Johnny Allen at Bonneville. CMS tickets also included entry to the parallel MPH show, where the dedicated Classic Car Zone was headed by Autoglym's Celebrity

Concours, won by TV chef James Martin's Maserati Mistral.

Popular features on the Live Stage, hosted by Mike Brewer and Edd China, included a three-day restoration project. The 1960 Morris Mini will be given away as a prize on the first day of next year's show. A Mini also won the Meguiar's Showcase concours: Mark Wynn-Smith's 1999 Rover Mini 40LE. Other draws included a reorganised autojumble and trade area, while classic dealers reported steady business (see *Market place*).



Peerless Le Mans pit with owner Ken Wilson plus stand builders Nigel and Jake Cluley



Paul Grist's magnificent, ex-Aldo Bardelli Alfa Romeo T2Z was runner-up Car of Show



## AWARDS WINNERS



### BEST CLUB WEBSITE

www.rrec.co.uk  
Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

### MOST IMPROVED CLUB

**MAGAZINE** Sphinx Armstrong  
Siddleys Owners' Club (editor  
David Hodges)

### CLUB MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Soft Top Hardtop MX-5 Owners  
Club (editor Tracey Sparling, with  
C&SC's David Evans below)

### BEST CLUB RUN/

**RALLY** MMOG Mad  
Odyssey (right)

### BEST CLUB

**SHOW/EVENT**  
International NSU  
Treffen, NSU OC

### MOST INTERESTING

**SELECTION OF CARS**  
Classic Camper Club

### BEST THEMED CLUB

**STAND** Riley RM Club

### BEST SMALL CLUB STAND

Peerless/Warwick Owners' Register

### BEST MEDIUM-SIZED CLUB

**STAND** Tatra Register UK

### BEST LARGE CLUB STAND

Association of Rootes Car Clubs

### CLUB OF THE YEAR

Morris Minor Owners' Club

### CLUB PERSONALITY OF THE

**YEAR** Val Bridges, Panther Car Club

### C&SC SPECIAL AWARD

Bill  
Ryan's 1955 DKW Sonderklasse

### CAR OF THE SHOW

Panther 6



Show-stopping Panther 6 was presented with Solo, Kallista, Lima, 172, De Ville and Rio



In addition to the Panther 6 there were several other stunning debuts, the pick of which was a recreation of the '42 Tatra V855 Aero-saň snowmobile.

This amazing streamliner boasts a rear-mounted, air-cooled 3-litre V8 and was built by Czech restorer Ecorra for the Lane Motor Museum in Texas. Star of the Saab Owners' Club display was Chris Boffey's recently finished 95. "I bought it as a project seven years ago and have done everything bar the painting myself," said Boffey. A rather racier debutant was Duncan Bell's Ford Model B Tudor (see *Clubs*).

In 1965, a young naval officer launched his Riley RM 'Romeo' off HMS *Victorious*, following the nautical 'crossing the line' tradition of appeasing Neptune with a gift as you pass the equator. Gwyn Morris of the Riley RM Club had the idea of recreating the incident in a twist on the show's Launches theme. It nearly didn't happen, though, after an accident *en route* to the NEC. Undeterred, the team worked all night to salvage the display and raised £600 for Children in Need over the first two days. Another busy fund-raiser was the Sporting Bears Motor Club Dream Rides, which raised £25k for children's charities.

Two first-time exhibitors went head-to-head with Le Mans-themed stands. The 289 Register's 1963 pit just lost out to the Peerless & Warwick Owners' Register, whose inspired backdrop – made by Nigel Cluley in his garage – featured spectators overlooking the ex-Peter Jopp/Percy Crabb 1958 team car. "Sadly I couldn't find a '58 newspaper to cover the headlights as they did in the race," said owner Ken Wilson. In another close call, the Skoda Owners' Club narrowly lost out to the Classic Camper Club for the Most Interesting Selection of Cars. Rob Gooding's wonderful Mini-based Wildgoose Popular was swamped with visitors all weekend. The diminutive camper hadn't been used for a decade when he bought it to restore five years ago.



Rob Gooding's 1967 Wildgoose Popular

A superb little saloon stole the judges hearts to scoop the C&SC Special Award: Bill Ryan's 1955 DKW Sonderklasse 3-6. "I was more surprised than anyone on the earth," said Ryan, who grew up looking at the DKW factory in Cork, Ireland, from his bedroom window and learnt to drive in one. In his closing remarks at the awards, C&SC's Simon Taylor congratulated everyone who had helped to make it such a fantastic show, concluding that: "The classic hobby is stronger than ever."

Next year's NEC Classic Motor Show will be from 13-15 November. Call 0121 767 2772 for further details

## SAINTS ALIVE: VOLVO RETURNS

Volvo Enthusiasts' Club linchpin Kevin Price displayed his greatest project to date, the first Volvo P1800 driven by Roger Moore in *The Saint*. Price found the car – one of 20 1800s he owns – seven years ago and hopes to have the rebuild finished for February's Bristol Classic Car Show. He also has grand plans to reunite Roger Moore with the car.



## KAREN HAS DESIGNS ON OGLE

A reunion of stylist Tom Karen with the Ogle GTE prototype was the focus of the Reliant Sabre & Scimitar Owners' Club stand, marking 40 years since the design's debut at the Earls Court Motor Show. Loaned by the Hodge family, the Ogle GTE has covered just 22,000 miles and boasts a special 'screen, tinted roof panel and leather trim with cloth inserts. The prototype's retractable lights were later removed after Lady Moira Hodge suffered problems with them sticking.



## HEALEYS' RIVIERA RELAUNCH

Four Frogeye Sprites with recreated Paris plates were presented against a backdrop of palm trees in an inspired display from the Austin-Healey Club. "We found a picture of the Monte-Carlo launch on 20 May '58," said organiser Peter Dobson. "Journalists were flown down for the Monaco GP and had a few days' testing before the race. We'd love to hear from those who were there."



## REPLICAS GREAT AND SMALL

Built around an authentic Bugatti body, Brian Swann's T37-style replica on the Owen Motoring Club display had many visitors convinced. The Triumph 2-litre 'six' even had a special rocker box, with narrow Blockley tyres adding the final touch. More impressive still was the owner's hand-made scale model, with full engine detail of his pride and joy.



Best themed stand was the Riley RM Club's novel take on the show's Launches theme



## Val Bridges

How our Club Personality of the Year fell for the charms of Robert Jankel's sports cars

### What attracted you to Panthers?

My first experience of them was as a guest house owner. A boarder's secretary collected him each morning in a Kallista: I fell in love with it and asked to have first refusal if they ever wanted to sell. I bought it in October 1992 and have never looked back.

### How did you get involved with the Panther Car Club?

The details were in the car and I joined straight away. I soon became events co-ordinator, then graduated to regalia and overseas liaison. No member is safe and 'I've just been Val'd' is often heard at meets.

**What next after the P6 for the NEC show?** It's hard to follow, but there are some other rare Panthers out there. I enjoy a challenge so watch this space...

### Which is your favourite event?

It has to be the charity classic car show run by Vic Gallucci on the Isle of Wight. It's a great atmosphere, more relaxed and the public are so enthusiastic.

### What's the best run you've done?

My first drive around the Nürburgring in the Kallista was the most memorable, if a little frightening. The De Ville was just as exciting, but I was so far behind I thought I was first. My husband would never have forgiven me if I had damaged his precious bit on the side!

### Something to surprise members?

Joining the Met and becoming the first Woman Officer under integration was my first first. I became the first female physical training instructor in a male-dominated department. While I was a serving officer, I appeared in several TV programmes including *Jim'll Fix It*, *Blue Peter* and *Rainbow*. I was privileged to take part in the Royal Tournament and 150th Anniversary of the Police Force.

**And your dream car?** My Jaguar XK8 convertible: it appeared at my door on a special birthday. I love its smoothness and sleek lines. That, plus the pleasure I get from my Panther – with its manual steering and the roar of the 2.8-litre engine. I am a very lucky lady.